

There are judgments that merely disappoint.
Then there are judgments that desecrate

JURISPRUDICIDE

“Great cases, like hard cases, make bad law.” Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.:



THE JURISPRUDICIDE OF THE HIGH COURT: Why the Gachagua Judgment is a Constitutional Catastrophe

By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

There are judgments that merely disappoint. Then there are judgments that desecrate. The decision rendered by Justice Frida Mugambi, Justice Antony Mrima, and Justice Okumu Ogolla in the matter of the impeachment of the former Deputy President, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, belongs defiantly to the latter category. It is not a judgment that erred at the margins or stumbled at the edges of legal interpretation. It is a judgment that, with breathtaking composure, drove a dagger into the very ventricle of the



Justice Antony Mrima, Justice Frida Mugambi, and Justice Okumu Ogolla

Contd Page 10

Letter Of Unspoken Tell-Tale P4

Motivation Page 8
Why Engineering Brilliance Needs a Social Megaphone
News Backpage
Rural stars head to Botswana for elite trials



WHEN NAMIBIA SPEAKS TO THE WORLD

On 13 May 2026, an announcement echoed from Geneva to Windhoek, from the marbled halls of the World Health Organization to the dusty kraals and sun-baked communities of Namibia's north: H.E. Monica Geingos had been appointed as the new Board Chair of the Partnership

for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the world's largest alliance for women's, children's, and adolescents' health and well-being. In an era when global health governance is being reshaped by fiscal pressures, ideological contestation, and deepening inequities,

this appointment is more than a biographical milestone. It is an institutional declaration, a continental affirmation, and a deeply personal signal to every African woman who ever dared to imagine that the seat at the global table could belong to her. For a small country of just under

three million people, perched at the southwestern end of the African continent, this moment carries extraordinary symbolic and practical

Contd Page 14

Musk crosses the trillion-dollar threshold

SpaceX
America



Page 12

India beats growth forecasts but war clouds gather

Economy
Asia



Page 16

Clashes erupt in Congo's capital as opposition resists constitutional changes

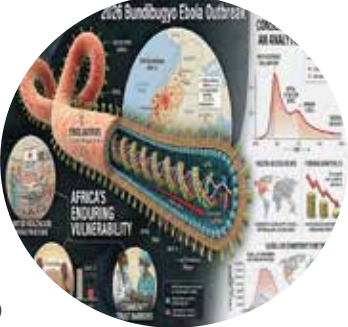
Democratic Republic of Congo
Africa



Page 18

THE VIRUS THAT WAITS

Ebola, Africa's Enduring Vulnerability
Health



Page 20

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401
business@exponentialinternational.com



SCAN TO REGISTER



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

Africa's Largest Bank Backs Dangote Refinery IPO

By: Wangechi Wahome
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Speaking after touring the facilities, Tshabalala described the refinery as a transformational industrial project with far-reaching implications for Nigeria and Africa.
- "We are here because the Dangote Group is a large and important global player and a significant force on the African continent," he said.
- "Standard Bank is the largest financial institution in Africa and we have partnered with Dangote on a variety of initiatives. We are here to lend support, to see this magnificent refinery and to discuss Vision 2030 and how we can continue supporting the Group's growth ambitions."
- Tshabalala disclosed that Standard Bank intends to play a leading role in the refinery's planned Initial Public Offering and future growth initiatives.

Africa's largest financial institution, Standard Bank Group, trading as Stanbic Bank in Kenya, has reaffirmed its commitment to support the growth of Dangote Industries Limited, pledging backing for the planned listing of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery while expressing readiness to finance future expansion projects across the continent.

The commitment came during a strategic visit by Standard Bank Group Chief Executive, Sim Tshabalala, and senior executives to the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Dangote Fertiliser complex in Lagos.

Speaking after touring the facilities, Tshabalala described the refinery as a transformational industrial project with far-reaching implications for Nigeria and Africa.

"We are here because the Dangote Group is a large and important global player and a significant force on the African continent," he said.

"Standard Bank is the largest financial institution in Africa and we have partnered with Dangote on a variety of initiatives. We are here to lend support, to see this magnificent refinery and to discuss Vision 2030 and how we can continue supporting the Group's growth ambitions."

Tshabalala disclosed that Standard Bank intends to play a leading role in the refinery's planned Initial Public Offering and future growth initiatives.

"As Dangote lists, there is an IPO coming up and we are a leading player in that process," he said.

"As the Group continues to expand in Nigeria and across Africa, there will be opportunities for financial advisory services and balance sheet support, and we stand ready to provide both."

He described the refinery



Standard Bank Group Chief Executive, Sim Tshabalala

as "a wonder of the world," noting that its impact is already being felt through stronger foreign exchange earnings, improved balance-of-payments performance and enhanced energy security.

"This is a wonder to behold. It is massive, productive and transformative. It is already making a significant contribution to Nigeria's economy through its impact on foreign reserves, the balance of payments and the lives of ordinary Nigerians," he said.

Group Vice President, Oil and Gas, Dangote Industries Limited, Devakumar Edwin, said the visit repre-

sented a significant milestone in a partnership that began during the refinery's construction phase.

"The bank visited us during construction and understood the scale of what we were building," Edwin said. "Today, the refinery is fully operational and they can see what their support has helped to create. It is like nurturing a tree and eventually seeing it bear fruit." He added that both organisations are exploring opportunities to deepen collaboration as Dangote expands its industrial footprint across Africa.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of

the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, David Bird, said the visit highlighted the importance of long-term partnerships in delivering large-scale industrial projects. "Standard Bank has been one of our strongest supporters throughout the history of the refinery and the broader Dangote Group," Bird said.

"This visit was an opportunity to demonstrate what that support has enabled. Seeing is believing, and it allows our partners to appreciate the scale of what has been achieved."

The visit also coincided with a major operational milestone for the refinery,

which has now exceeded its original design capacity. Bird disclosed that the refinery recently completed performance test runs at 700,000 barrels per day, above its nameplate capacity of 650,000 barrels per day.

"We have always believed there was engineering flexibility built into the design," he said. "Achieving sustained production of 700,000 barrels per day is a testament to the technical capability of our people and the strength of the systems we have built."

Reach Editorial Team on:

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Diaspora Times Global



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



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



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



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



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

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



FREE
REGISTRATION



SCAN TO REGISTER

Contact Us:



+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438

+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Unspoken Tell-Tale

Letter Of Unspoken Tell-Tale



By: Tajalla Qureshi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Yet, my believe was to serve mortality, to live and love, to be seated and eavesdrop. The time conceded swiftly, it was still continuous and I was still fleeting myself through it, like am whirling along the waves of a profound ocean.
- All of sudden? no it was fated. Yes. It was artistically fated. The spring knocked at my door, the flowers bloomed up, the fragrance swung and the rainbow came over. The sizzling summer was shifted away.
- The breeze enfolded me up in saccharinity, mellifluousness, I was someone who forget the sensations of delightfulness and keenness.

My Dearest Tewksbury,

I hope this letter makes your heart overwhelmingly relish and embellish with glory and grace. It's something especial and unsaid, unheard, I'm going to tell-tale. As, it wasn't that beloved to me right before I stuck into a soul with a reflection of my own self, the missing piece I often reckon. And you know, what's that beloved thing is? That's this month of June. The melodious, the start of sizzles, the fumes of togetherness. While right back in February, the month of love and fragrance, I was where I meant to be, something that was fated and desperately fated for a fragile. I often astonished that the gap in my academia was up to fill once again. The space that was injurious that way. I was on the place where the fate clutch tightly but still barrenness, emptiness was a profound stance stitched to my soul. I was still under wrenching psychological dismantledness, but I breathed and leered. I was a wondering falcon, searching for tranquility, wrenched my veins were, stiffed my eyes were under that twilight. Yet, my believe was to serve mortality, to live and love, to be seated and eavesdrop. The time conceded swiftly, it was still continuous and I was still fleeting myself through it, like am whirling along the waves of a profound ocean. All of sudden? no it was fated. Yes. It was artistically fated. The spring knocked at my door, the flowers bloomed up, the fragrance swung and

the rainbow came over. The sizzling summer was shifted away. The breeze enfolded me up in saccharinity, mellifluousness, I was someone who forget the sensations of delightfulness and keenness. One who was nearly drowned nevertheless then one who embraces my existence, my entire presence. One who become the dearest of all chosen spirits, I attached with. I choose spirits. I select the most selected ones, I believe in authenticity, worth-engaging sensibility. I clipped someone sweet as honey, soft as pearl, blink as bright, more than that was exceptional, intellectual and disciplined, one who envelops in a well enthralled appearance. One who becomes arena. Moreover, become the eyes when I glimpse and glance, the lips when I whisper and murmur, the heart when I breathe and beat, the ears when I hear and ear, the strokes when I used to live and love, the words when I move my jaws and gums, the name when it is recalled and called. Often think of you. Questioned. Are you a fragrance, I sniff infinitely? a color that colored my uncolored voyage? Are you a cloud, that shelter my effected rays? Are you a skin care, I applied intensively? Tewksbury! You are for sure something comes from heaven, you are for sure something comes from heaven, fated for an acquitted petal. I'm not demanding flowers, for me, you the precious, and pure scented-flower. I haven't desire for luxuries because I have something worth-expen-



sive. Yes. You are the worthiest. One I write immediately, one that remains in my expressions as a breathable stance, one that wisps with the confrontations and imageries, I inculcate and

elucidate in my poetry. My muse, my melody, my reflection. Tewksbury. You, the blessed blessing, the bright brilliance, the identity I got, the name I want. For you, a thousand times

over. For you, a thousand times over.

-Tajalla

Written By: Tajalla Qureshi

The Diaspora Times Global

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



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

Digital **MARKETING** **EXPERTS.**

Grow your business
with us

SKYVIEW
Smart Solutions



OUR SERVICES:

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



Call us on

+91 811 576 6421 +966 53 879 2285



Visit our website

www.skyviewads.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

WHEN PERSONAL POSTS BECOME PROFESSIONAL RISKS: Why Social Media Content Can Cost You Your Job

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Introduction

In the digital age, social media has become an extension of personal identity: a space where people share opinions, experiences, photos, and news instantly and freely. For millions of young people worldwide, platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, and WhatsApp are primary channels for expression, connection, and information sharing. However, a widespread and dangerous misconception has taken root: that content posted on personal accounts, outside working hours and from private devices, remains entirely private and cannot affect one's professional life. This assumption is legally and factually incorrect. Across Namibia, South Africa, and globally, courts and labour tribunals have repeatedly ruled that what you post online, even on your own time, with your own device, on your own page, with your own data, can constitute serious misconduct, damage your employer's reputation, breach trust, and lead to fair and lawful dismissal. This article examines the legal principles, landmark cases, and real-world events that define the boundary between personal freedom and professional accountability. It explains clearly why and when personal social media activity becomes a workplace issue, supported by judgments from Southern Africa, Namibia, and beyond. Its purpose is to inform, educate, and warn: in a connected world, nothing you post is truly isolated from your employment, and unverified, offensive, or damaging content can end your career before you realize the risk.

Legal Framework: The Core Principles

The central question in every dispute is: Does this conduct, though private or off-duty, have a sufficient link to the employment relationship? If yes, employers are entitled to act, and dismissal is often justified. Labour law across jurisdictions rests on three foundational concepts:

1. **Duty of Good Faith and Fidelity:** Every employment contract carries an implied obligation that the employee will not act in a way that harms the employer's legitimate interests, reputation, or business operations. This duty applies 24 hours a day, not just during working hours. You are seen as a representative of your organisation at all times, especially if your profile identifies where you work, or if your role is public-facing or carries authority (e.g., police, teachers, healthcare, banking, government).

2. **Public vs. Private Distinction:** Courts consistently hold that social media is not a private space. Even with privacy settings, posts can be shared, screenshotted, and circulated widely. As the South African

Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) stated in *Sedick & Another v Krisray (Pty) Ltd* (2011): "If employees wish their opinions to remain private, they should refrain from posting them on the internet, because the internet is, by its nature, a public forum". Privacy settings do not create legal immunity.

3. **Reputational Harm and Operational Risk:** Conduct is disciplinable if it: (a) Disparages or insults the employer, management, colleagues, or clients; (b) Spreads false, unverified, or defamatory information about the organisation or its people; (c) Expresses views that contradict the organisation's values, policies, or legal obligations (e.g., hate speech, discrimination, harassment); (d) Causes actual or foreseeable damage to the brand, trust, or business relationships; (e) Makes it impossible or unsafe for the person to continue performing their duties.

These principles are consistent in Namibia under the Labour Act, 2007, Act 11 of 2007 as amended, in South Africa under the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995, and in international jurisdictions including Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Philippines.

Southern African Case Law: Defining the Rules

The clearest guidance comes from judgments in Namibia and South Africa, where the courts have set firm precedents that apply across the region and are cited internationally.

1. **Hate Speech and Incompatibility with Office – Dagane v SSSBC & Others** (2018) (South Africa)

Facts: Mr. Dagane was a police officer, a role requiring impartiality, protection of all citizens, and adherence to constitutional values. Off-duty, from his personal Facebook account, he posted highly of-

fensive, racist, and inciteful statements, including threats of violence and genocide against white South Africans, and expressed hatred toward specific groups. He was clearly identified as a police officer in his profile. He was dismissed and challenged the ruling.

Judgment: The Labour Court confirmed the dismissal as fair. It ruled that: a) Even though posted privately and off-duty, the conduct was completely incompatible with his office and the values of the South African Police Service. b) Speech that constitutes hate speech, incitement, or discrimination forfeits constitutional protection; an employer has a duty to distance itself from such conduct to maintain public trust. c) Where an employee holds a position of authority or public trust, the standard of behaviour is higher, and less direct impact is needed to justify dismissal.

Key lesson: If your job requires integrity, neutrality, or public confidence, extreme or hateful views online will almost certainly cost you your job.

2. **Disparaging and False Statements – Sedick & Another v Krisray (Pty) Ltd** (2011) (South Africa)

Facts: Two employees worked in a retail store. On their personal Facebook pages, they made derogatory, false, and insulting comments about their employer, calling the business unprofessional, exploitative, and dishonest. They did not restrict access; the posts were visible to colleagues, customers, and the public. Management became aware, dismissed them, and the case went to arbitration.

Judgment: The CCMA upheld the dismissals. It explicitly rejected the argument that "it was my private page." The Commissioner ruled: "Employees must realise that when they publish statements on social

media platforms, they are effectively publishing to the world at large. When those statements attack their employer, are untrue, and are likely to harm the employer's reputation or business, they constitute serious misconduct. The fact that they were made outside working hours is irrelevant."

Key lesson: Criticism crosses the line when it is false, abusive, or made publicly, even on your own profile. Honest, private feedback is protected; public attacks are not.

3. **Identifiability and Reputational Risk – Makhoba v CCMA** (2021) (South Africa)

Facts: An employee posted racist comments on his personal Facebook profile. He did not name his employer, but his profile clearly stated his workplace and position. The posts were shared widely, and people commented linking the views to the company. He was fired and argued his account was private.

Judgment: The Labour Court ruled that the dismissal was fair. It clarified the test: "The critical question is not whether the post was made on private time or a private account, but whether there exists a reasonable link between the conduct and the employment relationship. Where the employee is identifiable as belonging to the employer, and the conduct brings the employer into disrepute or conflicts with its values, discipline is justified." It further confirmed that privacy settings do not negate this link; what matters is whether the connection is obvious or likely to be made by others.

Namibian Perspective

4. **Government of the Republic of Namibia v Shipena** (2020)

Facts: A senior government official posted critical, unverified, and politically charged statements on social media regarding government

policies and leadership. The posts were public, widely circulated, and interpreted as representing an official stance, causing confusion and embarrassment to the administration. He was dismissed for breaching the code of conduct and failing to uphold the integrity of the public service.

Judgment: The Labour Court of Namibia upheld the termination. It emphasized that public servants are bound by the Public Service Act, 1995, Act 13 of 1995, which demands loyalty, neutrality, and protection of the state's reputation. Even personal opinions, when expressed publicly by an identifiable office-bearer, are deemed to reflect on the employer and undermine trust. The court noted that freedom of expression is protected, but not at the expense of one's contractual and statutory obligations.

Key lesson: In Namibia, as elsewhere, public sector employees face particularly strict standards; online behaviour is treated as part of official conduct.

5. **False Information and Damage – Ndzimande & Others v Didden NO & Others** (2019) (South Africa)

Facts: Three employees participated in a protest and gave an interview on a public radio station and posted extensively on social media, making serious, unsubstantiated allegations of corruption, unfair labour practices, and financial mismanagement against their employer. All claims were later proven false. They were dismissed.

Judgment: The Labour Court refused to overturn the decision. It held that knowingly spreading false information about your employer, whether online or offline, is a fun-



WHEN PERSONAL POSTS BECOME PROFESSIONAL RISKS: Why Social Media Content Can Cost You Your Job

Contd from Page 6

xxxxxxxxxxxx

damental breach of trust. It damages the business, disrupts operations, and destroys the employment relationship entirely. Dismissal was the only appropriate sanction.

International Examples: The Rule Is Global

These principles are not unique to Southern Africa. Courts worldwide have reached identical conclusions, reinforcing that this is a universal standard.

Philippines: Sanchez v St. Luke's Medical Center (2018)

Nurses posted disparaging, insulting remarks about hospital management and patient care standards on Facebook. The Supreme Court of the Philippines ruled their dismissal valid, stating: "Employees are expected to uphold the dignity and reputation of their profession and institution. Public criticism, especially when unprofessional or false, constitutes a breach of trust and confidence, which is a valid ground for termination. Healthcare workers are held to high ethical standards, and online conduct is treated as part of professional duty."

Canada: Metrolinx v ATU Local 1587 (2025)

Bus drivers used a private WhatsApp group to make highly sexist and demeaning comments about female colleagues. Though the chat was small and "private," messages were shared. The employer dismissed them; the Court of Appeal upheld the decision, noting that conduct that creates a hostile environment, violates anti-discrimination laws, or undermines workplace respect is actionable regardless of platform or time. Privacy does not protect harassment or discrimination.

United Kingdom: McKee v Royal Mail (2017)

An employee posted offensive and racist comments about immigrants and refugees on his personal Facebook page. Royal Mail dismissed him. The Employment Appeal Tribunal ruled: "Where an employer has a clear policy on equality and diversity, and the employee's views are fundamentally opposed to that, dismissal is fair. It does not matter that the posts were made at home."

Why You Can Be Fired Even If It Is "Your Own Page"

From all these cases, we can identify five solid legal and factual reasons why your personal social media is never fully separate from your job: (1) You identify your employer: If your profile says "Works at [Company]," "Employee of [Organisation]," or lists your job title, you have voluntarily linked your personal identity to your professional role. The law



treats you as a representative; people naturally associate your views with the organisation. You cannot claim separation when you created the link yourself. (2) The internet is inherently public: No setting makes content truly private. Screenshots, sharing, and forwarding mean that that anything you post can reach your boss, colleagues, clients, or the media. Once released, you lose control. Courts treat it as public speech, and public speech carries public consequences. (3) Reputational harm is real and measurable: Businesses, governments, and organisations rely entirely on trust and reputation. One damaging post can cause lost revenue, lost partnerships, bad publicity, or regulatory scrutiny. You are legally responsible for the harm you cause your employer, even unintentionally. Courts do not require proof of actual financial loss; reasonable risk of harm is enough. (4) Breach of trust and confidence: The employment relationship is built on trust. When you attack, lie about, or embarrass your employer online, you break that bond. If the trust is gone, the employment relationship cannot continue. This is universally recognised as a valid reason for dismissal, regardless of where or when the conduct happened. (5) Alignment with values and laws: Every organisation has policies, values, and legal obligations (e.g., anti-discrimination, safety, integrity). You agree to follow these when you accept the job. If your posts violate these values or break the law (hate speech, defamation, incitement), you are in breach of contract. Personal views are protected only as long as they do not conflict with your professional duties.

Common Misconceptions Debunked

1. "It is my personal account, so they cannot touch me" False. The law looks at impact and connection, not ownership of the account.

2. "My profile is private; only my friends can see" False. Privacy settings are not legal protection; content can still leak, and the link to your work may still be visible.
3. "I didn't name the company, so it is fine" False. If people can easily guess or identify where you work, the link exists.
4. "I was just joking/expressing my opinion" False. Opinions are protected, but abuse, lies, hate speech, or damage are not. Context and effect matter more than intent.

The Danger of Unverified Information

A specific concern highlighted in recent times is the rapid sharing of unverified, unsubstantiated, or false content. Young people especially tend to repost news, claims, or rumours without checking sources or facts. This is extremely risky for two reasons:

1. Defamation and Libel: Spreading false information that harms the reputation of a person, company, or institution is a civil wrong and, in many countries including Namibia and South Africa, a criminal offence (e.g., Cybercrimes Act). If you share such content, you become legally liable alongside the original poster. If the affected party is your employer, a client, or a colleague, dismissal is almost inevitable.
2. Professional Competence and Integrity: Sharing fake news or harmful rumours shows poor judgment, lack of responsibility, and disregard for truth, qualities no employer wants. It demonstrates you cannot be trusted with information, decision-making, or representing the organisation. In Ndzimanze (above), the falsity of the statements was the deciding factor for dismissal.

Real-world example: In 2023, a bank

employee in Windhoek shared a post claiming a major financial institution was facing collapse. The post went viral, causing public concern and a temporary dip in share prices. The information was completely false and traced back to her WhatsApp status. She was summarily dismissed for spreading false, harmful information and breaching the bank's code of ethics.

Advice: How to Protect Your Career

The law is clear, and the cases are consistent: what you post online is part of your professional record. To avoid losing your job and damaging your future employability, follow these non-negotiable rules:

1. Assume everything is public: Post nothing you would not be comfortable seeing on the front page of a newspaper or saying in a meeting with your boss. There is no such thing as "private" online.
2. Separate your identity clearly: If you use social media for personal use, do not mention, tag, or identify your employer, workplace, or colleagues. Keep professional and personal lives distinct.
3. Verify before you share: Never repost news, claims, or allegations unless you have confirmed the facts from reliable, credible sources. If in doubt, do not share. Unverified content is dangerous.
4. Be respectful and factual: Express opinions freely, but keep them civil, respectful, and legal. Avoid insults, threats, hate speech, discrimination, or abusive language. Criticism is fine; abuse is not.
5. Read and follow policies: Every organization should have a social media or code of conduct policy. Read it carefully and adhere to it. Ignorance is not a defence in labour law.

6. Remember your role: If you work in government, healthcare, education, law enforcement, or customer-facing roles, your responsibility is higher. Your conduct is held to a stricter standard.

7. Think long-term: Everything you post stays online forever. Future employers will check your profiles. A mistake made today can affect your career years from now.

Final Warning

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right, but it is not absolute. It exists alongside your right to work and your employer's right to protect its business, reputation, and values. You cannot use your right to expression to destroy your employment relationship.

For youth especially: social media is a powerful tool, but it can also be a trap. A single post, made in anger, excitement, or without thought, can undo years of education, training, and hard work. It can lead to dismissal, legal claims, and lasting damage to your reputation.

Refrain from posting anything you have not verified, anything offensive, or anything that could be linked to your work. When in doubt: do not post. Your job, your livelihood, and your future are worth more than a moment of online attention.

This article is based on established labour law principles, reported judgments, and verified events from Namibia, South Africa, and international jurisdictions. It is intended for educational and informational purposes and does not constitute legal advice.

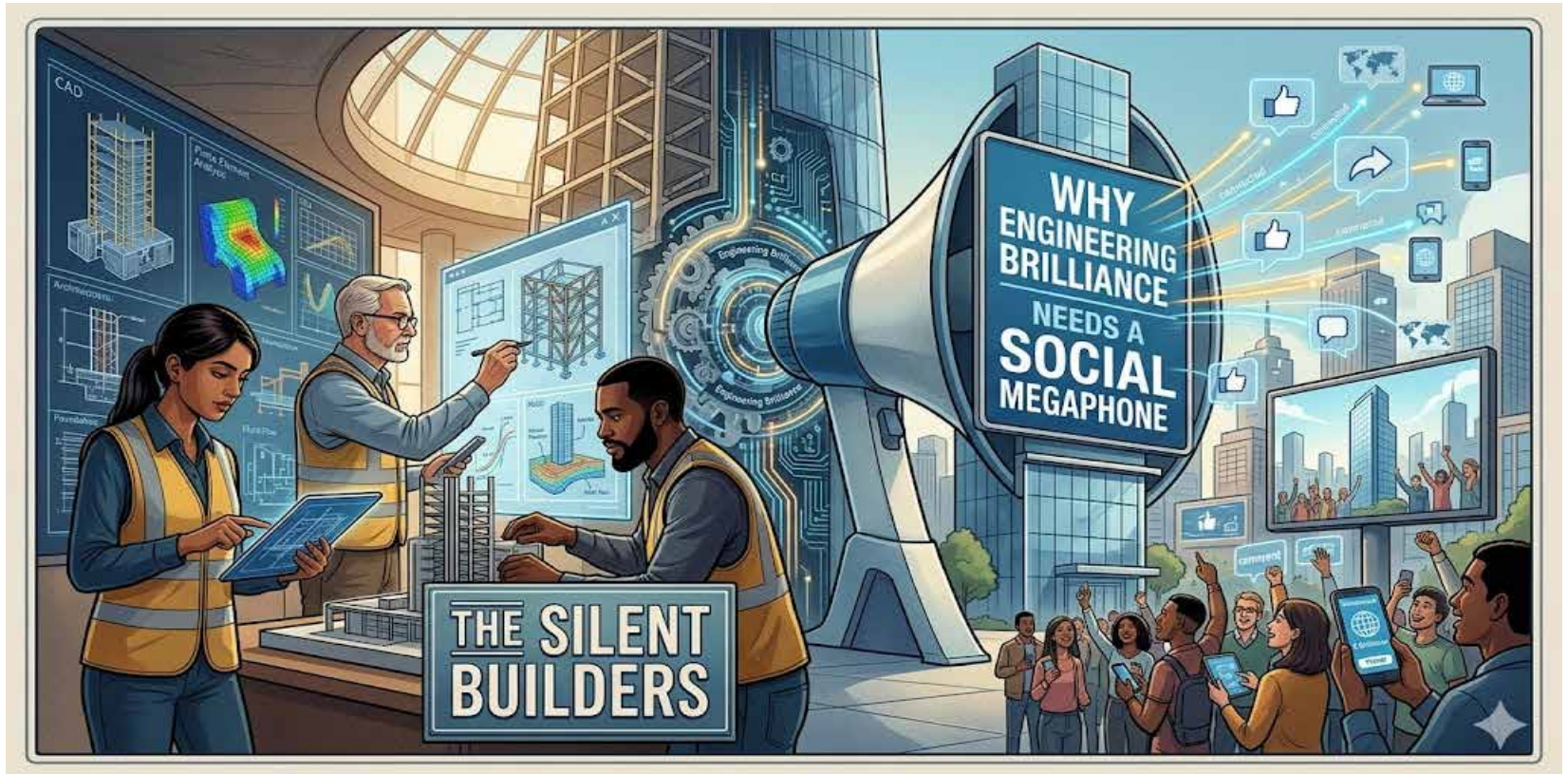
Motivation

The Silent Builders: Why Engineering Brilliance Needs a Social Megaphone

By: David Nyaga
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- That dignified silence carries a real professional cost. When talented structural, civil, or systems engineers stay quietly in the background, they leave a gap in public understanding. And gaps do not stay empty for long. The digital world fills them quickly with voices that may have far less technical depth but far greater comfort with communication. The consequences are concrete: consulting contracts, senior appointments, and industry influence tend to flow towards those who remain front of mind. The wider industry suffers too. When public conversation and policy are shaped by skilled communicators rather than experienced practitioners, critical infrastructure and technology lose the grounded, expert stewardship they genuinely need.
- The answer is not for engineers to suddenly become influencers. It is something more purposeful than that — a shift in how professional visibility is understood. Rather than seeing it as self-promotion, engineers should recognise it as public education. Sharing expertise is not so different from writing technical documentation; the audience is simply broader.



Engineering is the invisible scaffolding of modern civilisation. It is a discipline where precision mathematics and the unforgiving laws of physics give us resilient infrastructure, seamless digital systems, and power grids that keep the lights on. Yet a striking paradox defines today's professional world: the very people who build it are often its least visible inhabitants. Brilliant minds capable of solving the most complex physical and digital problems are, almost as a rule, reluctant to talk about what they do. They tend to operate under what might be called the "Build It and They Will Come" fallacy — the deeply held, if quietly mistaken, belief that technical excellence speaks for itself. In a true meritocracy, it would. But in today's attention-driven economy, the market does not automatically reward the most capable engineer. It rewards the most visible one. To understand why this happens, it helps to look honestly at the engineer's instinct to avoid self-promotion. That restraint is rarely born of indifference. More often, it is the product of years of rigorous, evidence-based training. Engineers live in the world of objective reality — a structural beam either holds its load or it doesn't. In a discipline governed by physical laws, personal marketing can feel unscientific, even vain. There is also what is sometimes called the "curse of knowledge." Surrounded by colleagues who

instinctively understand the complexity of daily work, engineers assume, understandably but wrongly, that everyone else does too — that clients, policymakers, and board members naturally grasp the significance of what has been achieved. So they say nothing, retreat to their models and code repositories, and wait for recognition that never quite arrives. That dignified silence carries a real professional cost. When talented structural, civil, or systems engineers stay quietly in the background, they leave a gap in public understanding. And gaps do not stay empty for long. The digital world fills them quickly with voices that may have far less technical depth but far greater comfort with communication. The consequences are concrete: consulting con-

tracts, senior appointments, and industry influence tend to flow towards those who remain front of mind. The wider industry suffers too. When public conversation and policy are shaped by skilled communicators rather than experienced practitioners, critical infrastructure and technology lose the grounded, expert stewardship they genuinely need. The answer is not for engineers to suddenly become influencers. It is something more purposeful than that — a shift in how professional visibility is understood. Rather than seeing it as self-promotion, engineers should recognise it as public education. Sharing expertise is not so different from writing technical documentation; the audience is simply broader. Engineers do not need to invent compelling stories. Their working lives

already contain them. Every time a team finds a way around unexpected soil settlement, or resolves latency in a server architecture, there is a lesson worth sharing — for junior colleagues still learning the craft, for stakeholders who need reassurance, and for an industry that benefits from accumulated real-world knowledge. That is not boasting. That is contribution. Doing this well requires the same systematic thinking engineers already apply to their work. The most effective approach is straightforward: describe the problem, explain what was done, and show the result in measurable terms. Outcomes speak louder than claims. Beyond individual stories, engineers should also think about their broader digital presence as something worth maintaining deliberately —

a live, accurate reflection of their capabilities, supported by concrete evidence: site documentation, published papers, project records. Think of it as the professional equivalent of a digital twin: a faithful, up-to-date representation of the real thing. The era of quietly doing excellent work and hoping the world will notice is over. The modern engineer needs two toolkits: the technical ability to build the solution, and the communication skills to explain why it matters. Stepping into public professional life is no longer optional or uncomfortable — it is part of the job. The industry's sharpest minds deserve the recognition, influence, and opportunities their work has earned. The first step is simply deciding to be heard.



DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

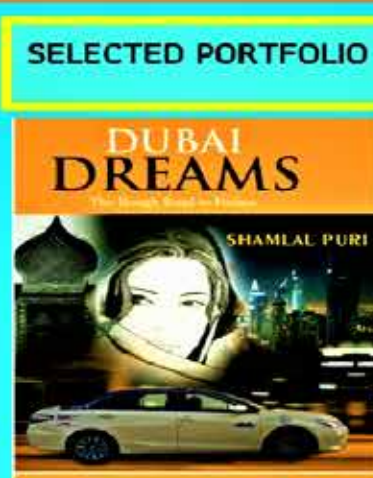
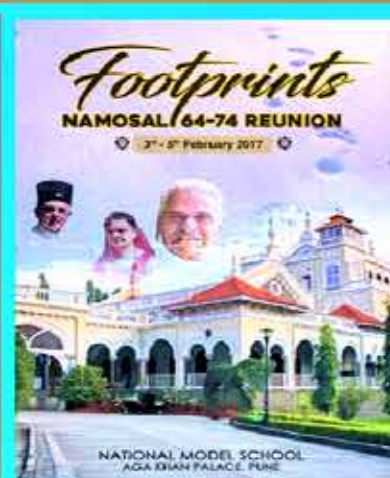
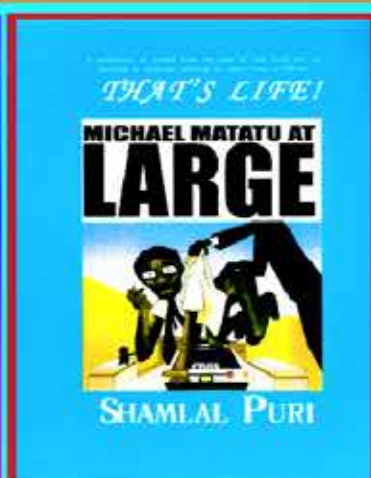
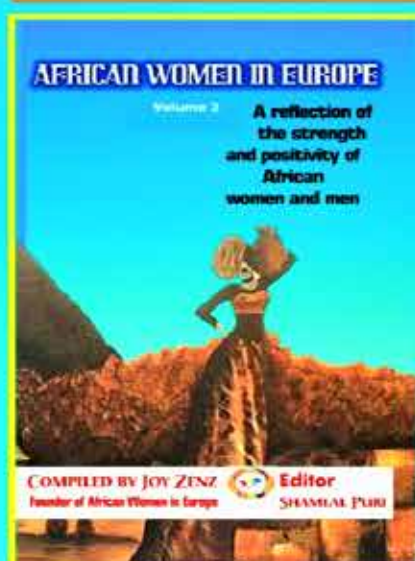
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

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

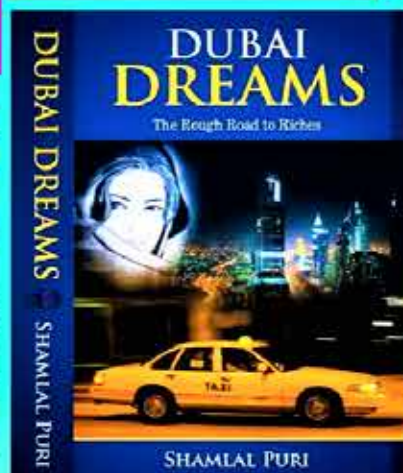
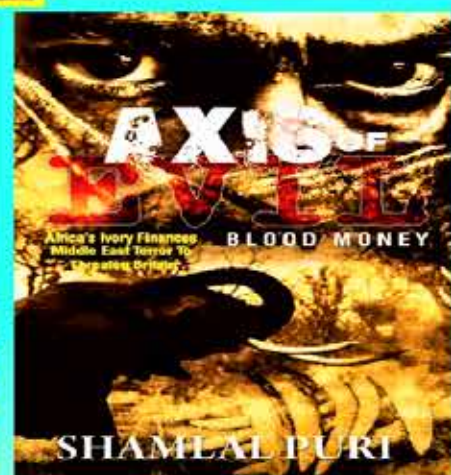
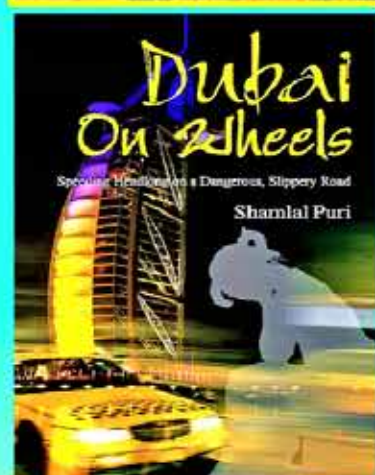
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs.

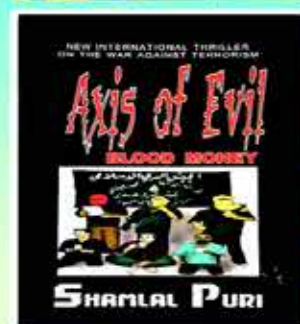
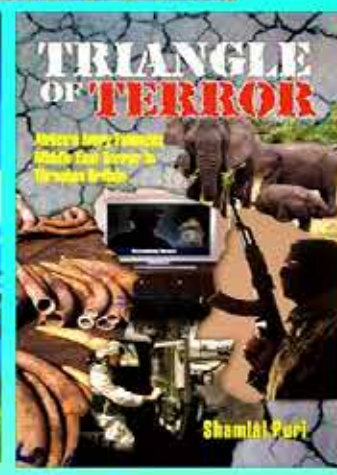
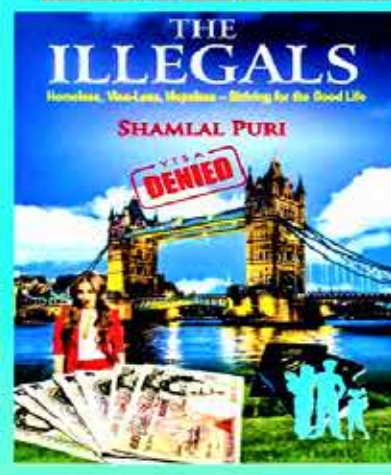
We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



SELECTED PORTFOLIO



BEST SELLER NOVELS



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

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



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

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

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

African News

THE JURISPRUDICIDE OF THE HIGH COURT: Why the Gachagua Judgment is a Constitutional Catastrophe



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo

@themtkenyentimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

• Now, a simple interrogation follows, and I put it to the bench directly: if the violation was serious enough to attract Ksh. 50 million in damages, was it not serious enough to vitiate the proceeding from which it arose? The court cannot simultaneously hold that a constitutional infirmity occurred and that the fruit of that infirmity stands unblemished. That is not law. That is not logic. That is what I will call constitutional prestidigitation the sleight of hand by which a court makes a constitutional violation disappear while keeping the unconstitutional outcome in full view.

• In Anarita Karimi Njeru v. Republic [1979] eKLR, the High Court held, in a passage that has reverberated through decades of Kenyan constitutional litigation, that a constitutional petition must set out with precision the constitutional provisions alleged to be violated and the manner of their violation.

Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and then had the extraordinary audacity to declare the patient well.

Let us state the matter with precision that admits no equivocation: the three-judge bench found, and found clearly, that the Senate violated Hon. Gachagua's right to a fair hearing under Article 50 of the Constitution specifically by declining to grant an adjournment when he was unable to attend the proceedings. The court acknowledged that violation. It issued a declaratory order. It awarded Ksh. 50 million in constitutional damages. And then in a feat of jurisprudential gymnastics that would make even the most limber legal acrobat wince it upheld the impeachment itself. If this is justice, then words have lost their meaning. If this is constitutionalism, then the Constitution has lost its soul.

This piece does not come to mourn silently. It comes to call out, by name and by conduct, an act of judicial delinquency or what I shall coin herein as jurisprudence: the systematic killing of constitutional jurisdiction from within its own chambers. It comes to argue, without flinching and without qualification, that this judgment is a treason against the foundational architecture of Kenya's constitutional order, and that every officer of the law every advocate, every scholar, every citizen who reads it bears a civic obligation to say so.

I. The Paradox That Condemns Itself

Begin with the logical architecture of the decision, because the court itself has furnished us the instrument of its own demolition. The bench held that the Senate's refusal to adjourn constituted a violation of Article 50 the right to a fair hearing. It found that this right was violated in the context of proceedings whose sole and irreversible consequence was the removal of a constitutional officeholder from the second highest executive seat in the Republic. It awarded Ksh. 50 million, presumably because the violation was serious enough to warrant monetary recompense from the public purse. Now, a simple interrogation follows, and I put it to the

bench directly: if the violation was serious enough to attract Ksh. 50 million in damages, was it not serious enough to vitiate the proceeding from which it arose? The court cannot simultaneously hold that a constitutional infirmity occurred and that the fruit of that infirmity stands unblemished. That is not law. That is not logic. That is what I will call constitutional prestidigitation the sleight of hand by which a court makes a constitutional violation disappear while keeping the unconstitutional outcome in full view.

In Anarita Karimi Njeru v. Republic [1979] eKLR, the High Court held, in a passage that has reverberated through decades of Kenyan constitutional litigation, that a constitutional petition must set out with precision the constitutional provisions alleged to be violated and the manner of their violation. The implication was clear: constitutional violations are serious matters. They are not decorative findings. They carry consequence. How, then, does a court of equal constitutional stature in 2024 find a violation of a non-derogable right and proceed to immunize the outcome of that violation?

II. Article 25 and the Heresy of Derogable Non-Derogability

The most intellectually scandalous dimension of this judgment is its treatment or rather its mangling of Article 25 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Article 25(c) is unambiguous. The right to a fair trial shall not be limited. Not in peacetime. Not in a national emergency. Not in the crucible of political expedience. Not in the face of Article 145(7). The framers of the Constitution, alive to the temptations of power and the elasticity of judicial interpretation, chose the language of absolute prohibition. They did not write 'shall not ordinarily be limited' or 'shall not be limited except where necessary'. They wrote: shall not be limited. Full stop. Period. Kabisa.

What the bench has done whether it admits it or not is to introduce an alien doctrine into Kenyan constitutional law: the concept of a derogable non-derogable right. This is what I will



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

name rights-nullification by judicial comportment: the process by which a court, while paying lip service to constitutional rights, proceeds to render them meaningless in practice by decoupling the right from its remedy. The doctrine is dangerous precisely because it operates under the cover of legal reasoning. It dresses impunity in robes.

The Supreme Court of Kenya in Communications Commission of Kenya & 5 Others v. Royal Media Services & 5 Others [2014] eKLR was unequivocal that the Bill of Rights must be interpreted in a manner that advances its purposes and values. In that decision, the apex court invoked the transformative character of the Constitution its ambition to reshape society, redistribute power, and protect the individual against the overreach of the state. To find a violation of Article 25(c) and then decline to set aside the impugned action is the very antithesis of transformative constitutionalism. It is, in fact, its funeral.

III. Article 145(7): The Constitutional Provision That Swallowed the Constitution

The bench leaned heavily on Article 145(7), treating it

as an impenetrable fortress behind which the impeachment could be shielded from constitutional scrutiny. But let us read that provision carefully. Article 145(7) states that the decision of the Senate on an impeachment motion is final. Finality, in law, means that the Senate's political decision is not subject to appeal to a higher political or parliamentary body. It does not and cannot mean that a constitutionally infected process is beyond the remedial reach of the High Court exercising its supervisory jurisdiction under Article 165(3)(d).

The Court of Appeal in Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission v. Maina Kiai & 5 Others [2017] eKLR held that finality clauses in electoral legislation cannot oust the constitutional jurisdiction of the courts. The Supreme Court reaffirmed this principle in Raila Amolo Odunga & Another v. IEBC & 2 Others [2017] eKLR, holding that where a process is constitutionally tainted, courts retain jurisdiction to intervene notwithstanding statutory finality provisions. If political finality cannot insulate an electoral process from judicial review, by what strange constitutional alchemy does Article 145(7) insulate an impeachment

process from the same? The answer, of course, is that it cannot and it does not. The bench's invocation of Article 145(7) to defeat Article 25(c) is, at its core, an exercise in constitutional cannibalism — using one provision to devour another. The Constitution of Kenya, as the Supreme Court noted in *In re the Matter of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission* [2011] eKLR, must be read as a holistic document. No provision may be used to render another nugatory. That principle, fundamental to Kenya's constitutional jurisprudence since the dawn of the 2010 Constitution, has been quietly interred by this bench.

IV. The Conservatory Order Contradiction: A Bench That Forgot What It Said

Here is where the intellectual dishonesty of the bench becomes not merely apparent but spectacular. This is the same bench, the very same three judges, that lifted the conservatory orders earlier in these proceedings. In doing so, they communicated a clear and solemn message to the petitioner, to the

Contd Page 11

African News

THE JURISPRUDICIDE OF THE HIGH COURT: Why the Gachagua Judgment is a Constitutional Catastrophe

Contd from Page 10

xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

public, and to the legal fraternity: the court could remedy any constitutional harm that the continuation of the impeachment might cause. They said, in effect, trust us if the impeachment is found to be constitutionally defective, we can undo its consequences.

And now, after finding precisely such a defect a violation of the non-derogable right to a fair hearing they say their hands are tied. That Article 145(7) forecloses the remedy. That the outcome stands. One must ask: when the bench lifted those conservatory orders, did it believe what it was saying? And if it did not, what name do we give to that conduct? I shall give it a name. It is judicial double-speak: the practice by which a court makes representations to litigants about its remedial capacity, and then, having thereby influenced the course of proceedings, disclaims that very capacity at judgment. It is, to put it in terms that require no legal training to understand, a breach of the court's own undertaking. The Court of Appeal have held that courts are bound to be consistent in their pronouncements and that a court cannot resile from a finding made in the same proceedings without adequate explanation. The silence of this bench on the apparent contradiction between its earlier assurances and its final orders is not merely an oversight. It is a disservice to the litigant and to the integrity of the judicial process.

V. The Employment Law Analogy: When Simplicity Exposes Complexity

Let us descend, briefly, from the constitutional heights to the more familiar terrain of employment law, because the bench's difficulty in fashioning an appropriate remedy becomes even more perplexing when viewed through that lens. The Employment and Labour Relations Court have in the past found that an employee's dismissal if found to be unfair procedurally they award compensation without ordering for reinstatement; a remedy entirely within the court's arsenal and regularly deployed in employment jurisprudence. Courts routinely find terminations unlawful without restoring the employment relationship, particularly where the breakdown of trust is irretrievable or where reinstatement is impractical. Now, if the remedy of setting aside can be withheld on practical grounds in employment law, one might one might, charitably understand a court's reluctance to order reinstatement in a politically charged impeachment context. But

that is emphatically not what this bench said. It did not say: the violation was real, but reinstatement is not an appropriate remedy in these circumstances for the following reasons. It said the outcome stands, full stop. It converted a remedy question into a rights question, and then answered the rights question incorrectly. That is not judicial restraint. That is rights abandonment dressed up as restraint.

VI. Comparative Embarrassment: What the Courts Have Said

The Kenyan courts have, in more principled moments, spoken clearly on the inviolability of fair hearing rights in proceedings of grave consequence. In Kenya National Examinations Council vs. Republic Ex parte Geoffrey Gathenji Njoroge & Others [1997] eKLR the Court of Appeal held that denial of the opportunity to be heard vitiates any decision made in those proceedings. The principle was not expressed as a soft aspiration. It was expressed as a hard rule of administrative and constitutional law.

In Trusted Society of Human Rights Alliance v. Attorney General & 2 Others [2012] eKLR, the High Court held that the right to a fair hearing is not subject to limitations, and that any process that violates it is fundamentally flawed. In Judicial Service Commission v. Mbalu Mutava & Another [2014] eKLR, the Court of Appeal held that procedural fairness is not a technicality but a substantive constitutional requirement, and that its breach in removal proceedings goes to the root of the decision. The Court of Appeal has in the past reaffirmed that parliamentary and legislative processes are not immune from constitutional scrutiny where fundamental rights are involved. The Supreme Court in David Ndii & Others v. Attorney General & Others [2021] eKLR the Building Bridges Initiative case was categorical that constitutional amendments and processes initiated in violation of the Constitution are void ab initio. The principle: constitutional contamination of a process taints its outcome. That principle, articulated at the highest level of Kenya's judicial architecture, should have governed this bench's reasoning. It was ignored.

VII. The Graveyard of Jurisprudence

It has become fashionable in some legal quarters to speak of Kenya's High Court as the guardian of the Bill of Rights, the custodian of the Constitution, the sentinel of liberty. That language, borrowed from comparative constitutional jurisprudence and worn like a badge of honour, is beginning to ring hollow. What we are witnessing slowly, incrementally, and now with increas-

ing velocity is the transformation of the High Court from custodian to crematorium: a place where constitutional rights are brought for burial, presided over by judges who issue death certificates dressed as judgments.

The Gachagua judgment is the latest and most egregious exhibit in this morbid trend. But it is not unprecedented. The creeping deference to political outcomes, the increasing willingness to find violations without providing remedies, the selective application of transformative constitutional principles these are symptoms of what I shall term constitutional entropy: the gradual dissipation of constitutional energy within a judiciary that was designed to be its primary source. Each such judgment normalizes the next. Each such ruling makes it easier for the next bench to find a violation and do nothing about it, citing the precedent of its predecessors.

This is the institutional danger that transcends the fate of any individual litigant. Hon. Gachagua will, in due course, find his place in the political firmament by the mechanisms of democracy. But the jurisprudential damage wrought by this decision will outlast him, outlast this bench, and outlast this political moment. It will be cited. It will be distinguished. It will be misapplied. And in each such citation, the proposition that a non-derogable right can be violated without consequence will be quietly laundered into the mainstream of Kenyan constitutional law.

VIII. Naming the Judges, Naming the Problem

Justice Frida Mugambi, Justice Antony Mrima, and Justice Okumu Ogolla are not anonymous figures. They are named judges of a named court, exercising the sacred public trust that the people of Kenya reposed in the judiciary through the Constitution of 2010. Their names will appear in the law reports. Their reasoning or the absence thereof will be scrutinized by generations of constitutional lawyers. They deserve to be called out, not out of personal animus, but out of constitutional accountability.

Their intellectual dishonesty, in the name of what some might charitably call judicial craft, lies in this: they knew they must have known that the logical consequence of finding a violation of Article 25(c) is to vitiate the process in which that violation occurred. They chose, instead, to find the violation and withhold the consequence. They used the form of constitutional judgment to produce an unconstitutional outcome. That is not jurisprudence. It is jurisdiction laundering: the use of the court's authority to give constitutional respectability to a constitutionally indefensible result. One is reminded of the words of



Justice Frida Mugambi, Justice Okumu Ogolla and Justice Antony Mrima

Justice Albie Sachs of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, who observed in S v. Makwanyane 1995 (3) SA 391 (CC) that a court which finds a constitutional violation and then does nothing about it has not upheld the Constitution it has simply given the violation a longer name. The Gachagua bench has given this violation a Ksh. 50 million name. The Constitution deserved more.

IX. The Mock-Worthy and the Mockable

Now permit me a moment of candour that the gravity of this decision, paradoxically, compels. The bench awarded Ksh. 50 million for a rights violation and upheld the act that violated the right. Let us pause and appreciate the theatre of that outcome. In any other jurisdiction with functioning constitutional courts in South Africa, in Germany, in India such a finding would be the subject of incredulous law review articles bearing titles like 'When Remedies Become Rewards for Perpetrators.' Here, it is simply the High Court of Kenya doing ordinary Wednesday business.

The real mockery, however, is not the sum of money. The real mockery is the suggestion embedded in the judgment's architecture that a litigant whose non-derogable right to a fair trial was violated should be grateful for Ksh. 50 million and go home quietly while the unconstitutional removal that arose from that violation stands. What kind of constitutional order tells a citizen: yes, your fundamental right was violated, here is your consolation prize, now leave? The bench has, without intending to be funny, produced the most darkly comic constitutional outcome in recent Kenyan legal history. One half-expects a footnote: 'The Court acknowledges the irony but finds itself constitutionally unable to address it.'

X. Conclusion: The Constitution Demands Better

The framers of the Constitution of

Kenya, 2010 the many thousands who participated in the constitutional making process, the civic educators, the advocates, the ordinary Kenyans who voted in August 2010 did not bequeath us a Constitution so that its courts could find rights violations and leave them unremedied. They did not make Article 25 non-derogable so that a bench could degrade it through constitutional prestidigitation. They did not write Article 165(3)(d) so that the High Court could disclaim its jurisdiction at the moment of its greatest necessity.

The Gachagua judgment must be reversed, not because of who Rigathi Gachagua is or what he represents politically but because of what the Constitution says and what its courts are obligated to do. A judgment that finds a violation of a non-derogable right and upholds the act that violated it is not just wrong in law. It is wrong in conscience. It is wrong as a matter of constitutional philosophy. It is wrong as a matter of institutional integrity. And it is wrong as a message to every future litigant who will stand before a Kenyan court and wonder whether the rights in their Constitution are real. Until courts learn that the Bill of Rights is not a menu from which they may pick selectively, serving rights but withholding remedies at will, the constitutional project that began in 2010 remains incomplete. The custodian of that project is, with this judgment, looking increasingly like its undertaker. The Constitution of Kenya deserves better. The people of Kenya deserve better. And the legal fraternity, with one voice, must say so loudly, clearly, and without apology.

The writer is a legal researcher and writer.

America

Musk crosses the trillion-dollar threshold

Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire on Friday after SpaceX made its Nasdaq debut in the largest initial public offering in stock market history — a milestone that has thrilled investors, minted thousands of new millionaires, and reignited a fierce global debate about wealth, power, and inequality

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Musk's net worth from SpaceX and Tesla combined stood at roughly 1.05 trillion dollars at market open, with his SpaceX stake alone worth more than 766 billion dollars. The SpaceX IPO added more than 180 billion dollars to his fortune in a single day. He is now worth more than the next five richest people on earth combined, and his personal net worth exceeds the gross domestic product of Taiwan, Ireland, or Sweden.

- The company raised 75 billion dollars from the IPO, which valued it at 1.77 trillion dollars at the time of pricing. That figure was already a record before trading began. The day's gains pushed the total valuation considerably higher. Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet subsidiary, which drives as much as 80 per cent of the company's revenue, was widely credited as the commercial engine behind investor confidence.

Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire on Friday after shares in his rocket and technology company SpaceX surged during the largest initial public offering in the history of financial markets, pushing his personal net worth to approximately 1.11 trillion dollars and cementing a concentration of individual wealth that has no precedent in recorded history.

SpaceX shares opened at 150 dollars, rose as high as 176.52 dollars during the session, and closed at 161.11 dollars — up 19.34 per cent from the IPO price of 135 dollars set the previous evening. The company's market value stood at around 2.26 trillion dollars within hours of its debut on the Nasdaq, placing it on track to become the sixth most valuable publicly traded company in the United States. By any measure, it was a day that rewrote financial history.

Speaking from Texas, where he helped ring the Nasdaq's opening bell, Musk reflected on the journey that brought the company to this point. "It is certainly hard to believe that a little company that started in a warehouse in El Segundo is now going public with the largest IPO ever," he said. It was a rare moment of evident sentiment from a man not typically given to public reflection — and one that carried genuine weight. SpaceX was incorporated in 2002 with a mission that most of the financial establishment at the time regarded as fantasy: to make humanity a multiplanetary species.

Musk's net worth from SpaceX and Tesla combined stood at roughly 1.05 trillion dollars at market open, with his SpaceX stake alone worth more than 766 billion dollars. The SpaceX IPO added more than 180 billion dollars to his fortune in a single day. He is now worth more than the next five richest people on earth combined, and his personal net worth exceeds the gross domestic product of Taiwan, Ireland, or Sweden.

The company raised 75 billion dollars from the IPO, which valued it at 1.77 trillion dollars at the time of



Elon Musk

pricing. That figure was already a record before trading began. The day's gains pushed the total valuation considerably higher. Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet subsidiary, which drives as much as 80 per cent of the company's revenue, was widely credited as the commercial engine behind investor confidence.

The listing also created wealth beyond Musk himself. More than 4,400 current and former SpaceX employees are expected to become millionaires through shares they received as part of their compensation, and several executives are understood to have joined the billionaire class. For the engineers and technicians who spent years building rockets in the knowledge that their equity would one day be worth something, Friday was the realisation of that long bet. And yet SpaceX remains, by conventional standards, a company that loses money. Despite the spectacle of a two-trillion-dollar valuation, SpaceX posted a loss of nearly five billion dollars last year and generated only a fraction of the revenue brought in by similarly valued technology giants. Its IPO prospectus is candid about the uncertainties

ahead, acknowledging that many of its most ambitious initiatives "involve significant technical complexity, unproven technologies or technologies that do not exist, and such initiatives may not achieve commercial viability." Investors on Friday did not appear troubled by that admission.

The sceptics, however, were not silent. Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club, observed that Friday's rally was "being driven as much by hype and scarcity as fundamentals." Nancy Tengler, chief executive of Laffer Tengler Investments and a buyer of SpaceX shares, was more pointed still, describing the company's artificial intelligence division as a "cash incinerator." "It's important to take some of the projections with a grain of salt," she said — before adding that she was investing anyway, with a horizon of three to ten years. That combination of caution and commitment perhaps best describes the mood among serious institutional investors: sceptical of the near term, but unwilling to miss whatever the long term might bring.

The political reaction was swift and, on the left, withering. Senator Bernie Sanders

focused on Social Security taxes, arguing that a trillionaire should not face the same taxable earnings cap as a worker making 184,500 dollars annually. "Today, Elon Musk, a trillionaire, pays the same amount into Social Security as someone making \$184,500," he said, while promoting legislation that would lift the cap on taxable income. In a separate remark he called Musk's trillionaire status "a moral travesty," noting that 60 per cent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Senator Elizabeth Warren was more direct still. "The world will get its first trillionaire while Americans across the country are scraping together every dollar to save for retirement," she wrote, calling on index providers to do their part to protect ordinary families whose pension funds and savings accounts will be exposed to SpaceX's share price volatility through index-linked funds.

Those concerns about passive investors are not without foundation. The inclusion of a company of SpaceX's size in major indices means that millions of ordinary savers — many of whom will never knowingly choose to own a share in a rocket company

— will be indirectly exposed to whatever happens to the stock from here.

Musk's fortune has grown roughly tenfold since 2019, a rate of accumulation unmatched even by the decade's previous "world's richest person" titleholders — Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Microsoft's Bill Gates, and LVMH's Bernard Arnault. The trajectory is without parallel. Whether it continues will depend in large part on whether SpaceX can translate its engineering ambition into lasting commercial returns — and whether the lunar economy it envisions ever becomes more than a line in a prospectus. For now, the number stands: one trillion, one hundred billion dollars. The stars, it seems, have a price.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



The Mount Kenya Times

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

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

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Intagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

WORLD

WHEN NAMIBIA SPEAKS TO THE WORLD

The Appointment of H.E. Monica Geingos as PMNCH Board Chair and What It Means for Namibia, Africa, and Women in Global Leadership

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

weight. Namibia, a nation that only gained independence in 1990, that fought the bruising systemic degradation of apartheid colonial rule, and that has since embarked on one of the continent's most progressive democratic experiments, has now placed one of its most formidable daughters at the helm of an institution that speaks for nearly 1,500 partner organisations spanning six global constituencies. The woman entrusted with this charge is no ordinary figure. Monica Geingos is a lawyer, a financier, a former First Lady, an entrepreneur, a youth advocate, an AIDS commissioner, and a public intellectual, a rare convergence of professional disciplines and lived experience that few leaders anywhere in the world can claim. This analysis traces the significance of her appointment across three essential planes: what it means to Namibia as a nation, what it means to Africa as a rising voice in global governance, and what it means for the long arc of women's leadership in international institutions. It also examines, with particular attention to the factual record of her career, the transformational leadership force that Monica Geingos is now poised to bring to the PMNCH and to the global health agenda.

1. The Anatomy of a Historic Appointment

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health is not merely another United Nations body housed in Geneva. Hosted by the World Health Organisation, it exists at the intersection of political will, civil society mobilisation, scientific evidence, and development finance. Its mandate is to mobilise, align, and amplify advocacy for the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents across the world. In the current global moment, defined by declining aid flows, policy reversals on sexual and reproductive health rights, and widening health inequities across the Global South, the PMNCH Board Chair holds a uniquely consequential position. The outgoing Chair, Rt Hon Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and one of the most distinguished public servants in the history of the United Nations Development Programme, set an extraordinary standard. In announcing Monica Geingos as her successor,

Clark was characteristically precise in her assessment. She said that Geingos was 'exceptionally well placed to lead the partnership at this moment, bringing together principled leadership with practical experience and a clear understanding that progress for women, children and adolescents depends on political courage, inclusive partnerships and sustained investment.' These are not words of polite protocol. Coming from Helen Clark, they are a considered endorsement, the passing of a torch from one hemisphere of proven leadership to another. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was equally emphatic, characterising Geingos as bringing a 'rare combination of strategic leadership, public credibility and deep commitment to equity,' and describing her future role as 'a powerful force for progress for women, children and adolescents.' The Executive Director of UNFPA, Diene Keita, added that Geingos is 'a powerful advocate whose voice and leadership will be instrumental to global efforts to protect and expand access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.' These are not small endorsements. They are the judgements of the most senior figures in the global health architecture, and they coalesce around a single Namibian woman who has spent her adult life building the kind of credibility that allows her to be trusted with this work at this moment.

2. What This Appointment Means for Namibia

2.1. A Nation That Punches Above Its Weight

To understand what the Geingos appointment means for Namibia, one must first appreciate the context of Namibian excellence in international public life. This is a nation that has produced leaders of unusual quality relative to its size. From founding President Sam Nujoma, who led a liberation struggle from exile and negotiated a constitutionally guaranteed peace, to Hifikepunye Pohamba, who won the Mo Ibrahim Prize for African Leadership, one of only a handful of African heads of state to do so, Namibia has repeatedly demonstrated that the quality of a nation's contribution to the world is not determined by the size of its population or the wealth of its economy. Monica Geingos adds to this lineage in a distinct and historically significant way. She is not a head of state. She did not rise through the structures of political party power in the conventional sense. She built her credentials across multiple professional domains: law, private equity, governance, public health advocacy, and her arrival at the PMNCH chairmanship is the product of earned international standing, not diplo-

matic appointment. This matters profoundly, because it represents a form of Namibian excellence that is not state-sponsored but organically produced: the global recognition of an individual whose competence, values, and vision transcend national boundaries.

For Namibians watching this appointment, there is justifiable pride that their country's name, so often rendered invisible in the crowded geography of African nations, is now associated with the stewardship of the world's most powerful alliance for women's and children's health. The PMNCH's reach extends to nearly 1,500 partner organisations. Its advocacy shapes the health financing decisions of governments, multilateral agencies, private sector actors, and civil society institutions across the globe. When Monica Geingos speaks in that capacity, she carries Namibia's flag into chambers where it has rarely been visible.

2.2. A National Role Model at a Critical Moment

There is also a profoundly domestic dimension to this appointment. Namibia faces its own formidable challenges in maternal and child health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based inequality. The country's adolescent pregnancy rates remain a concern. Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in rural areas, particularly in regions like Ohangwena, Kavango, and Zambezi, remains uneven. HIV/AIDS continues to shape health outcomes in communities across the north. Monica Geingos has not observed these realities from a distance. Her co-creation of the #BeFree youth development model, designed explicitly to respond to young people's social, economic, and sexual and reproductive health needs, including access to information, services, and agency over their own bodies and futures, reflects a grounded understanding of what young Namibians, particularly young women, actually face. Her appointment now gives Namibia a direct conduit to global health policy conversations at the highest level, and it creates an opportunity for Namibian health and gender priorities to be articulated with authority in international forums.

For young Namibian women, and particularly for girls in rural communities who may never have seen a woman from their own country occupy a global leadership role of this stature, the significance cannot be overstated. Leadership imagination, the capacity of young people to envision themselves in positions of authority, is powerfully shaped by visible models. Monica Geingos is now one of the most visible Namibian women in the world. That visibility has consequences that reach far beyond the boardroom in Geneva.



3. What This Appointment Means to Africa

3.1. Africa's Place in Global Health Governance

The African continent bears a disproportionate share of the world's maternal mortality, neonatal death, childhood malnutrition, and adolescent health burden, yet it has historically been underrepresented in the leadership structures of global health institutions. Too often, the health priorities of African communities are defined, financed, and evaluated by institutions headquartered in Geneva, Washington, or New York, institutions whose leadership has been predominantly drawn from Europe and North America. This structural asymmetry is not merely symbolic; it shapes research agendas, resource allocation, and the terms on which accountability is demanded and measured. The appointment of Monica Geingos to lead the PMNCH is, in this context, a correction, partial but significant. South Africa's Minister of Health, Dr Pakishe Aaron Motsoaledi, recognised this explicitly, noting that 'Africa needs strong and credible voices to champion investment in health, dignity and human potential,' and affirming that Geingos has 'demonstrated precisely that kind of leadership throughout her public life.' He further observed that her appointment 'sends a strong signal that women's, children's and adolescents' health, including their sexual and reproductive health, must remain central to both continental and global health priorities.'

These words carry weight precisely because they come from South Africa, a country with its own considerable claims to continental health leadership. When a South African minister offers this degree of recognition to a Namibian leader, it reflects a genuine continental acknowledgement that transcends national competition. It signals that the African health community sees in Geingos something more than a Namibian success story: they see an African champion at the global level.

3.2. The African Women Who Carry the World's Health Burden

The appointment also carries a message for the millions of African women who constitute the human face of the health challenges that PMNCH exists to address. African women are disproportionately represented among the world's maternal deaths. African adolescent girls face rates of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and limited reproductive choice that constrain their entire life trajectories. African mothers navigate health systems that are chronically underfunded, understaffed, and often indifferent to their needs and dignity.

To have a woman from Africa, a woman who has spent her career immersed in the realities of health equity, youth empowerment, and gender justice, lead the institution that advocates most powerfully for those women's health on the global stage is a statement of profound symbolic

Contd Page 15

WORLD

WHEN NAMIBIA SPEAKS TO THE WORLD

The Appointment of H.E. Monica Geingos as PMNCH Board Chair and What It Means for Namibia, Africa, and Women in Global Leadership

Contd from Page 14

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

and practical consequence. It says to the women of Senegal, Zambia, and Uganda and Mozambique, and Malawi that the institution which speaks in your name is now guided by a woman who looks like you, who comes from a context you recognise, and who has structured her entire public life around ensuring that your needs are central, not peripheral, to the world's health agenda.

3.3. Continuity With the African Health Architecture Debate

Geingos' appointment also arrives at a moment when Africa is actively asserting greater ownership over its own health governance architecture. The African Union's Africa CDC, which has grown in stature since the COVID-19 pandemic, is increasingly articulating a vision of continental health sovereignty. Leaders across the continent are questioning the terms on which global health financing is delivered, conditioned, and evaluated. There is growing pressure for African institutions, communities, and voices to have genuine, not merely consultative, authority in the decisions that shape health outcomes on the continent.

4. What This Appointment Means for Women in Global Leadership

4.1. The Leadership Glass Ceiling in Global Health

Despite the fact that women constitute the overwhelming majority of the global health workforce, senior leadership positions in international health governance have historically been dominated by men, and, when occupied by women, by women from the Global North. The appointment of Monica Geingos is therefore doubly significant: she breaks not one but two of the most persistent glass ceilings in global institutional life, gender and geography. Her appointment follows in the footsteps of the outgoing Chair, Helen Clark, who was herself a pioneering figure in women's public leadership. That PMNCH should transition from one formidable woman to another, and in doing so, shift its leadership from the Pacific to the African continent, is a statement about the organisation's values and its understanding of where moral authority in global health now resides. The PMNCH is not simply replacing its chair; it is actively choosing a form of leadership that reflects the demographics of the communities it serves.

4.2. The Professional Breadth That Defies Stereotypes

Monica Geingos also challenges the narrow and often patronising narrative that women's leadership in global health institutions is primarily emotional or caregiving in orientation. Her professional record is one of extraordinary intellectual and institutional range. Before becoming First Lady of Namibia in 2015, she spent fifteen years in the financial sector, including as a private equity and governance expert. She brings to the PMNCH not merely advocacy credentials but genuine expertise in how capital flows, how governance structures determine accountability, and how private sector actors can be engaged as partners, rather than merely donors, in health systems strengthening.

This breadth is not incidental. It directly shapes the kind of leader she will be at PMNCH. One of the perennial weaknesses of global health advocacy is its tendency toward moral urgency without structural clarity, the ability to name problems with great passion but insufficient precision about the financial and governance mechanisms required to solve them. Geingos, with her background in private equity, governance, law, and development finance, brings precisely the structural clarity that moral urgency requires. She can speak the language of health ministers and the language of finance ministers in the same meeting without losing her footing in either.

4.3. A Model for the Next Generation of Women Leaders

Perhaps most importantly, Monica Geingos' appointment provides a specific and credible model of what a globally influential woman's leadership career can look like in the twenty-first century. She is not a leader who rose through a single institutional track or professional identity. She is a lawyer who became a financier who became a First Lady who became a development entrepreneur who became a UN ambassador who became a global health commissioner. Her career narrative refuses the straight line, and in doing so, it opens up imaginative space for young women who are themselves navigating multiple professional identities and refusing to choose between them.

5. The Transformational Leadership Force Monica Geingos Brings

5.1. From the Financial Sector to Global Health: The Strategic Mind

Transformational leadership, as conceptualised in leadership theory, is distinguished from transactional leadership by its capacity to elevate the aspirations, commitments, and capabilities of those it leads, not merely to manage processes and deliver outputs, but to inspire fun-



Appointment of H.E. Monica Geingos as PMNCH Board Chair

damental change in how institutions understand their purpose and measure their success. Monica Geingos exhibits all the defining characteristics of a transformational leader, and her particular configuration of those characteristics makes her exceptionally suited to the moment the PMNCH now faces.

Her fifteen years in the financial sector are the foundation of a strategic intelligence that has been repeatedly refined through application to complex institutional challenges. Private equity requires the ability to assess the underlying value of investments, identify structural weaknesses before they become crises, and build the case for transformation to skeptical audiences. Governance expertise requires an understanding of how authority is distributed, how accountability is enforced, and how institutions either calcify or adapt. These are not soft skills. They are the hardwired capabilities of someone who has spent years working at the intersection of capital, risk, and institutional change.

At the PMNCH, these capabilities will translate into a Board Chair who can engage credibly not only with civil society advocates and health ministers but with the finance ministries, multilateral development banks, sovereign wealth funds, and private sector health investors whose decisions determine whether health financing commitments are honoured or quietly abandoned.

This is precisely the kind of leadership that global health advocacy has historically lacked.

5.2. The #BeFree Model: Innovation Rooted in Reality

One of the most telling indicators of a transformational leader is their capacity for institutional innovation, not the import of external models, but the creation of new approaches that are born from genuine engagement with the people they are designed to serve. Monica Geingos co-created the #BeFree youth development model not as an abstract policy exercise but as a deliberate response to the lived realities of young people navigating the intersecting pressures of poverty, limited education, early pregnancy, and constrained access to health information and services.

The model is integrative by design, addressing social, economic, and sexual and reproductive health needs simultaneously, recognising that these are not separate challenges to be addressed by separate programmes but deeply interconnected dimensions of adolescent experience. This integrative, systems-level thinking is exactly what the PMNCH requires as it attempts to maintain the coherence of its advocacy across an alliance of nearly 1,500 partners with varying priorities, mandates, and institutional cultures.

The #BeFree model also reflects a particular kind of intellectual honesty, a willingness to engage explicitly with adolescent sexuality, reproductive choice, and bodily autonomy at a time when many institutions retreat to euphemism or silence on these subjects. This directness, grounded in evidence and guided by a genuine commitment to the wellbeing of young people, will be an important leadership quality as PMNCH navigates the growing contestation of sexual and reproductive health rights in global and national policy arenas.

5.3. The AIDS Commission: Leadership Under Global Pressure

Geingos' co-chairmanship of the Global Commission on Inequality and AIDS, alongside Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and epidemiologist Sir Michael Marmot, is another dimension of her leadership record that deserves particular attention. This Commission was not a ceremonial body. It brought together some of the world's most rigorous analytical minds to examine the structural drivers of AIDS inequality and to develop evidence-based recommendations for addressing them.

To co-chair such a body alongside

.....

Contd Page 17

Asia

India beats growth forecasts but war clouds gather

India's economy expanded 7.8 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2026, outpacing analyst expectations, but the outbreak of conflict in the Middle East has darkened the country's economic horizon in ways that the headline figure does not yet fully reflect

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

India's economy grew 7.8 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2026, official data showed last week, surpassing market forecasts and reinforcing the country's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy — even as a gathering storm of geopolitical risk threatens to slow that momentum sharply in the months ahead.

The figure, recorded in the January-March period, came in ahead of market expectations of 7.2 per cent, and reflected India's momentary resilience in the face of higher energy prices and a weakening rupee. A ministry news release confirmed that growth for the full 2025-26 fiscal year came in at 7.7 per cent, up from 7.1 per cent the previous year — the strongest annual performance since the post-pandemic rebound of 2022 and a result that has been widely interpreted as a vindication of India's domestic-demand driven model.

Output was supported by strong performances across manufacturing, trade, hotels, transportation and communications, financial and real estate services, and construction, which offset slower growth in mining and quarrying and agriculture. The breadth of that expansion matters: India's growth has not been the product of a single sector but of a broad-based economic engine that has held together despite turbulence on multiple fronts.

The quarterly result also arrived against the backdrop of significant trade developments earlier in the year. India concluded a long-awaited trade agreement with the European Union and benefited from a reduction in United States tariffs on Indian goods, which were cut from 50 per cent to 18 per cent and subsequently reduced further to 10 per cent following a US Supreme Court ruling that struck down President Donald Trump's tariff measures as unlawful. Those gains provided a meaningful tailwind heading into the period under review.

But the numbers tell only part of the story. The more urgent question is what comes next — and here the picture is considerably less comfortable.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The outbreak of conflict involving Iran at the end of February has delivered a severe blow to Asia's third-largest economy, which imports nearly 90 per cent of its oil needs. The disruption to global energy supplies has pushed crude prices sharply higher, increased India's import bill, and placed the rupee under sustained pressure. Brent crude hovered near 100 dollars a barrel after a volatile week, while the rupee fell to record lows against the dollar as escalating tensions in the Middle East boosted demand for the US currency and stoked concerns over oil supply.

India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, held interest rates steady at 5.25 per cent on Friday, even as surging global energy costs hammered the currency and the Iran conflict risked accelerating inflation. At the same time, the RBI raised its inflation projection for the financial year ending March 2027 by 50 basis points to 5.1 per cent, while temper-

ing its growth forecast to 6.6 per cent, down from the 6.9 per cent projected earlier. Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist at BofA Global Research, described the RBI as approaching its June meeting with a "dilemma of whether to respond to market pressures or incoming data," capturing the central bank's difficult position: act too aggressively on rates and risk choking off growth; do too little and allow inflation expectations to become unmoored.

The energy shock has also begun feeding through to consumers. The government, which had for several months absorbed rising global fuel costs rather than passing them on to households, finally moved in May to adjust domestic prices — a decision that analysts warn could push inflation higher in the coming months, particularly if compounded by agricultural disruption linked to El Niño weather patterns.

Foreign investors have off-loaded well over 20 billion

dollars in Indian shares so far this year, putting additional pressure on the rupee, which has been among Asia's worst-performing major currencies in 2026. In response, the Reserve Bank announced amendments on Friday that would make it easier for overseas investors to buy stocks and government bonds, while the government said it would cut capital gains taxes on investments by foreign institutional investors in government bonds in an effort to attract more stable long-term capital.

Teresa John of Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities acknowledged the resilience of the headline numbers, telling AFP that "GDP growth has been resilient despite geopolitical tensions," while noting that the quarterly figures had also been supported by solid performance in industry and construction. That qualified optimism captures the mood among economists broadly: genuine admiration for what India has achieved, accompa-

nied by real concern about what the coming quarters may bring.

The central bank's characterisation of its monetary policy stance as "cautious" — a carefully chosen word — signals that policymakers are not underestimating the risks. With inflation still below the RBI's 4 per cent target as of April, there is space to absorb some of the incoming pressure. But that buffer is narrowing, and the geopolitical environment remains deeply unpredictable. India enters the second quarter of 2026 carrying both remarkable momentum and significant vulnerability — a fastest-growing economy staring at a horizon it cannot fully see.

Worth Noting:

- Output was supported by strong performances across manufacturing, trade, hotels, transportation and communications, financial and real estate services, and construction, which offset slower growth in mining and quarrying and agriculture. The breadth of that expansion matters: India's growth has not been the product of a single sector but of a broad-based economic engine that has held together despite turbulence on multiple fronts.

- The quarterly result also arrived against the backdrop of significant trade developments earlier in the year. India concluded a long-awaited trade agreement with the European Union and benefited from a reduction in United States tariffs on Indian goods, which were cut from 50 per cent to 18 per cent and subsequently reduced further to 10 per cent following a US Supreme Court ruling that struck down President Donald Trump's tariff measures as unlawful. Those gains provided a meaningful tailwind heading into the period under review.

WORLD

WHEN NAMIBIA SPEAKS TO THE WORLD

The Appointment of H.E. Monica Geingos as PMNCH Board Chair and What It Means for Namibia, Africa, and Women in Global Leadership

Contd from Page 15
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Stiglitz and Marmot, figures of global intellectual stature, Geingos had to be able to engage at the highest level of analytical rigour while also translating that analysis into the political and policy language accessible to the governments and institutions responsible for implementation. This capacity to move between the register of evidence and the register of political action without losing the integrity of either is one of the most valuable and rarest capabilities in global health leadership. The Commission's findings reinforced what the PMNCH has long argued: that health outcomes are inseparable from economic inequality, social exclusion, and political marginalisation. Geingos' immersion in this body of work means that she arrives at the PMNCH not only with advocacy energy but with a deeply researched understanding of the systemic determinants of the health gaps she is committed to closing.

5.4. The UNAIDS Ambassador Role: Voice for the Voiceless

As UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Geingos has spent years giving institutional voice to the health and rights needs of adolescents, a population that is simultaneously among the most vulnerable in global health terms and the most frequently ignored in policy conversations dominated by adults with very different risk profiles and lived experiences. This role has required Geingos to maintain credibility with adolescent communities and youth-led organizations while also engaging effectively with government health ministries, UN agencies, and civil society bodies whose instincts and institutional cultures do not always align with the priorities of young people. Navigating this complexity, being trusted by youth while respected by institutions, demands exactly the kind of relational intelligence and principled flexibility that characterises the best transformational leaders.

5.5. Equity as the Organising Principle

Across every dimension of her public career, Monica Geingos has returned consistently to a single organising principle: that the health, rights, and opportunities of the most marginalised cannot be treated as secondary concerns to be addressed when economic and political conditions permit. They are, in her own words, "defining measures of whether societies are just, resilient and fu-

ture-ready." This is a profoundly transformational framing. It rejects the developmental logic that positions equity as a downstream benefit of economic growth and institutional stability. Instead, it insists that equity, in health, in rights, in access to information and services, is itself a precondition for the resilience and sustainability of societies and institutions. This is not merely a values statement; it is a structural argument, and it is backed by the evidence that Geingos has spent her career accumulating and synthesising. At the PMNCH, this equity-first orientation will shape the organisation's advocacy priorities, its partner engagement strategy, and its accountability frameworks. It will push the alliance to move beyond the measurement of average health outcomes, which can mask dramatic inequalities between wealthy and poor communities, between urban and rural populations, between educated and uneducated women, toward the measurement of distributional outcomes: who is left out, how far behind are they, and what structural changes are required to close the gap.

5.6. The Political Courage to Hold the Line

One of the most striking aspects of the announcement and of Geingos' own acceptance remarks is the explicit acknowledgement that this appointment comes at a moment when sexual and reproductive health and rights are under sustained attack in multiple political contexts. Funding for family planning services has declined. Policy reversals have restricted access to safe abortion in several countries. Adolescent-responsive health services are being defunded or deprioritised in the name of fiscal austerity. In this environment, the PMNCH Board Chair is not merely a convenor and strategist but a defender of rights, of evidence, and of the principle that health equity is a non-negotiable dimension of human dignity. The organisation's outgoing Chair, Helen Clark, was explicit about this dimension of the role when she noted that Geingos' appointment signals PMNCH's determination to keep these issues 'at the center of global health, development and accountability' even under pressure. The political courage this will require is not rhetorical. It is the courage to maintain clear institutional positions on contested issues when political winds shift, to hold governments and international institutions accountable when commitments are broken, and to amplify the voices of communities whose health rights are being eroded, even when the governments responsible for that erosion are sitting in the same room. Monica Geingos' career record suggests she has exactly this kind of

courage.
6. The Weight of the Moment

The world that Monica Geingos inherits as PMNCH Board Chair in November 2026 is not a world in transition toward greater equity. It is a world in which many of the gains of the past three decades, in maternal mortality reduction, in adolescent reproductive health access, in the normalisation of gender-responsive health services, are being contested, defunded, and in some contexts actively reversed. This is not a moment for incremental management. It is a moment for transformational leadership. Geingos has described the international community's obligations with admirable precision. She has said that hard-won gains must be protected, that growing inequities must be confronted, and that every woman and young person must have access to the information, services, and rights they need to make informed choices about their lives and health. These are not aspirational declarations. They are operational commitments, the criteria against which her leadership of the PMNCH must ultimately be measured. She has also framed the broader stakes with unusual clarity. Societies that fail to ensure bodily autonomy, gender-responsive health systems, and equitable access to comprehensive services are not merely failing their women and children. They are demonstrating their own fragility, their inability to build the intergenerational human capital on which sustainable development and genuine resilience depend. In linking health equity to societal justice and resilience, Geingos is not merely making a moral argument. She is making the only argument that can consistently compel both finance ministers and health ministers to act: that the cost of inaction is ultimately borne by the entire society, not merely by the women and children who are most directly harmed. For Namibia, for Africa, and for the global movement for women's and children's health, this appointment is both a recognition and a mandate. It recognises what Monica Geingos has built: a career of unusual breadth, intellectual rigour, and principled commitment across law, finance, public health, and social justice. And it mandates her to bring that career to bear on the most consequential health advocacy challenge of our time: ensuring that the world's most vulnerable women and children are not sacrificed to the politics of austerity and reaction.

7. Conclusion: A Seat That Was Always Earned, Never Given

There is a tendency in commentary



Appointment of H.E. Monica Geingos as PMNCH Board Chair

on women's appointments to international leadership positions to celebrate the act of appointment as though it were itself the achievement. Monica Geingos does not need that kind of celebration. She does not arrive at the PMNCH chairmanship as a symbolic gesture or as a gesture of representational politics. She arrives as the most qualified available candidate for one of the most demanding and consequential roles in global health governance. Her qualifications are not decorative. Fifteen years in the financial sector gave her the structural intelligence to understand how resources are mobilised and directed. Her co-creation of the #BeFree model gave her the programmatic credibility to speak with authority about what works for young people in practice, not merely in theory. Her UNAIDS ambassadorship gave her the institutional knowledge to navigate the complex terrain between UN mandates, member state politics, and civil society advocacy. Her co-chairmanship of the Global Commission on Inequality and AIDS gave her the analytical depth to understand the systemic drivers of health inequity at the global level. And her years as First Lady of Namibia, navigating public life with a consistent commitment to youth empowerment, gender justice, and public health, gave her the political acumen and public credibility that leadership at the global level demands. This is not a combination of credentials assembled to qualify someone for a role. It is a coherent intellectual and professional biography, the accumulation of a life spent in earnest engagement with the most urgent

equity challenges of our time. The PMNCH has not appointed Monica Geingos because she is Namibian, because she is African, or because she is a woman. It has appointed her because she is the right leader for this moment, and she happens to be all of those things. For Namibia, that distinction is itself a source of national pride more durable than any ceremonial appointment could produce. It says that the nation's contribution to global leadership is not the product of charity or tokenism but of genuine excellence, forged in the particular conditions of a small, independent, proudly African nation, and then offered to the world. When H.E. Monica Geingos assumes the chairmanship of the PMNCH in November 2026, she will carry into that role the weight of every Namibian woman who has ever doubted that her country's name could be spoken in the same breath as global leadership. She will carry the aspirations of every African girl who has been told that the world's most important conversations happen in rooms that are not built for her. And she will carry the quiet, persistent conviction, evident in everything she has said and done throughout her public life, that health equity, gender justice, and the rights of women and children are not peripheral concerns that the world will get to when it is more prosperous, more stable, or more ready. They are the measure by which the world's readiness must itself be judged.

Clashes erupt in Congo's capital as opposition resists constitutional changes

Security forces fire tear gas and live rounds as thousands converge on parliament in Kinshasa to oppose amendments that could hand President Tshisekedi a third term.

By: Norman Mwale

xxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• The interior ministry attributed the unrest to “provocation by political actors seeking to destabilise the republic,” a characterisation the opposition dismissed as a cynical attempt to deflect responsibility. Civil society groups and several opposition representatives were swift to condemn the violence, calling for independent investigations into the conduct of both security forces and pro-government activists.

• At the heart of the dispute are constitutional amendments that would scrap the two-term presidential limit introduced in 2006 and reset presidential mandates — a change opponents have branded a “constitutional coup.” The National Assembly had, just 72 hours before Friday’s protest, passed a referendum bill widely seen as the key step toward enabling that reform. The ruling coalition argues the move is necessary for continuity and stability. A senior government official defended the proposals, telling reporters that “the constitution must serve the people, not shackle their choices,” and insisted parliament would follow due process.



Security forces fire tear gas and live rounds as thousands converge on parliament in Kinshasa to oppose amendments that could hand President Tshisekedi a third term

Security forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo fired tear gas and live ammunition on Friday to disperse thousands of opposition supporters who marched on parliament in Kinshasa to protest proposed constitutional amendments that could allow President Félix Tshisekedi to seek a third term — a confrontation that left several prominent opposition figures bloodied and the capital on edge.

The demonstration, organised by the opposition coalition C64, or Coalition Article 64, brought together a broad front of parties that had spent recent years divided but reunited in May around their shared opposition to what they describe as a bid by Tshisekedi to extend his grip on power. C64 spokesman Prince Epenga said more than 20,000 sympathisers had mobilised for the sit-in outside the Palais du Peuple, parliament’s seat — a figure that underscored the depth of public feeling even as authorities had moved the previous day to ban the protest outright. Organisers pressed ahead regardless.

The gathering began peacefully near Boulevard du 30 Juin but escalated sharply within hours. Police moved to block routes leading to the National Assembly, and skirmishes broke out between opposition supporters and pro-government activists before security forces intervened in force.

Protesters responded by hurling stones and setting alight tyres, sending plumes of black smoke across the city centre and forcing shops to close early. Witnesses described scenes of panic as crowds scattered through side streets. Red Cross volunteers stationed nearby treated several people for injuries. Hospitals in the Gombe district reported receiving at least 37 casualties, most suffering from gas inhalation and minor wounds, while opposition sources alleged two fatalities — claims that could not immediately be confirmed by independent sources or city authorities.

Among the injured was Martin Fayulu, one of Congo’s most prominent opposition leaders and runner-up in the 2018 presidential election. Video posted on his official Facebook page showed Fayulu with blood visible around his eyes and on the collar of his white shirt, supporters guiding him through the crowd. Fellow opposition figure Prince Epenga was also slightly wounded. Several other senior opposition figures, among them Delly Sesanga and Jean-Marc Kabund, sustained injuries during the clashes. Those who were hurt took refuge in the headquarters of Fayulu’s party, Commitment to Citizenship and Development, where police and activists linked to the ruling party’s Forces of Progress youth movement briefly attacked

the building. Speaking from inside, Fayulu accused President Tshisekedi of deploying “the Forces of Progress militia alongside the police to attack unarmed activists.” The interior ministry attributed the unrest to “provocation by political actors seeking to destabilise the republic,” a characterisation the opposition dismissed as a cynical attempt to deflect responsibility. Civil society groups and several opposition representatives were swift to condemn the violence, calling for independent investigations into the conduct of both security forces and pro-government activists.

At the heart of the dispute are constitutional amendments that would scrap the two-term presidential limit introduced in 2006 and reset presidential mandates — a change opponents have branded a “constitutional coup.” The National Assembly had, just 72 hours before Friday’s protest, passed a referendum bill widely seen as the key step toward enabling that reform. The ruling coalition argues the move is necessary for continuity and stability. A senior government official defended the proposals, telling reporters that “the constitution must serve the people, not shackle their choices,” and insisted parliament would follow due process.

Tshisekedi, 62, has been in office since 2019 and is due to complete his second five-year term in 2028. He has

stopped short of formally declaring an intention to stand again, telling a press conference in May that he would accept a third term only “if the people demand it” — a formulation critics say is calculated ambiguity rather than a genuine disavowal. Former president Joseph Kabila, himself no stranger to constitutional controversy during his own tenure, added his voice to the opposition on Friday, warning against what he called the “Sudanisation” of the country and arguing that the proposed changes undermined the social contract and must be resisted by all Congolese regardless of political affiliation.

Opposition leaders rejected the government’s position outright. “We will not allow democracy to be rewritten at gunpoint,” a C64 coalition spokesperson told demonstrators, addressing the crowd from atop a van before police moved in. Civil society groups warned that the amendments risked reversing hard-won democratic gains made since the country’s last peaceful transfer of power. A Kinshasa-based analyst noted that the anger on the streets was driven less by the precise text of the amendments and more by the perception that the process had been conducted without meaningful public consultation. “When institutions are perceived as closed,” he said, “the street becomes the parliament.”

The confrontation also un-

folded against an already strained national backdrop. Congo is simultaneously grappling with an active Ebola outbreak and an escalation of the decades-long conflict in its eastern provinces, where the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel movement is among more than 100 armed groups vying for control. The constitutional question has added a volatile political dimension to a country already stretched across multiple simultaneous crises.

By late afternoon the city had quietened, though tension remained palpable, with army patrols visible at key intersections and mobile internet services reported intermittent across parts of the capital. The African Union called for restraint and dialogue, while the United Nations mission in the DRC urged investigations into any excessive use of force. A student protester who had joined the march said that fear would not silence a generation that had grown up watching power change hands through the ballot, not the barrel.

For now, Kinshasa waits — caught between a government determined to press ahead with reforms it insists are democratically grounded and an opposition that has made clear the final word on the constitution will not be spoken inside parliament alone.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

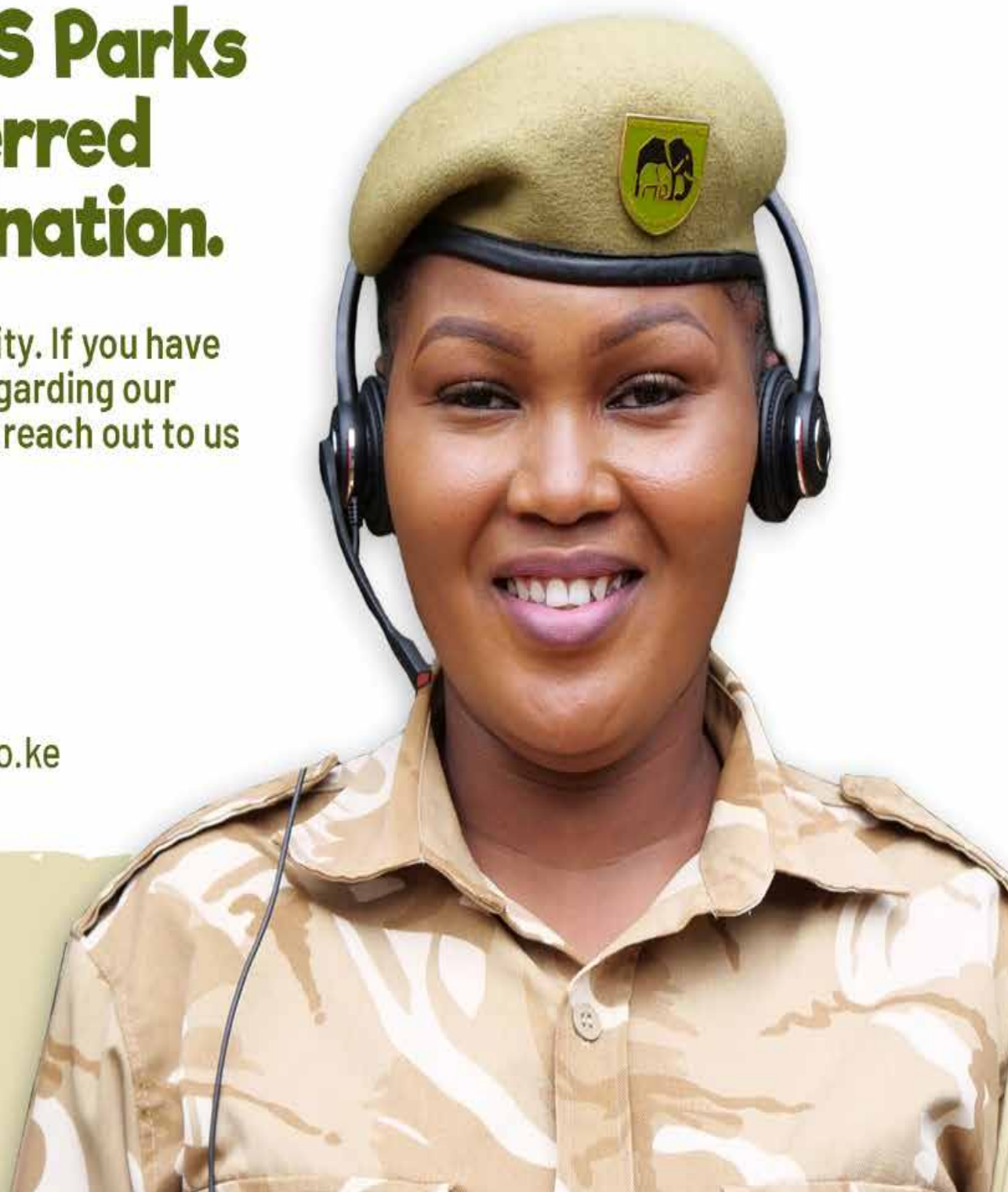
**Thank you for
choosing KWS Parks
as your preferred
tourism destination.**

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

☎ 0800 597 000

📞 0726 610 509

@ customerservice@kws.go.ke



For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Diaspora

THE VIRUS THAT WAITS:

Ebola, Africa's Enduring Vulnerability, and the World's Conditional Conscience An Analytical Overview of the 2026 Bundibugyo Outbreak



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Introduction: The Seventeenth Outbreak and Its Uncomfortable Truths

On 15 May 2026, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) confirmed its seventeenth Ebola outbreak, this time caused by the Bundibugyo virus, a genetically distinct strain with a case fatality rate of 30 to 50%, and, critically, for which no licensed vaccines or specific treatments currently exist. Within 48 hours, cases had crossed into Uganda, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 17 May, citing unusual transmission patterns, high mortality, and the real risk of regional spread. By 20 May 2026, 342 suspected and confirmed cases and 89 deaths had been recorded across three health zones in Ituri Province, an area defined by dense population movement, cross-border trade networks, and severely limited health infrastructure.

This outbreak lays bare two fundamental and interrelated truths. First, Ebola is not a single solved problem but a family of evolving viral threats, and preparedness built around one strain can be rendered meaningless by another. Second, African nations remain structurally disadvantaged when confronting these threats, constrained by underfunded health systems, dependent on externally produced medical tools, and subject to the conditional attention of an international community that mobilises fully only when the virus appears to threaten Western populations. This analysis examines the nature of the Bundibugyo threat, the capacity deficits facing African nations, a concrete preparedness framework, and a critical assessment of whether Ebola genuinely ranks as a global priority.

Understanding the Threat: The Bundibugyo Strain and Why Africa Bears the Brunt

A Strain Without a Cure

Ebolaviruses comprise five distinct species: Zaire, Sudan, Bundibugyo, Tai Forest, and Reston. The Zaire strain is the most lethal and the most studied, with fatality rates reaching 90% in uncontrolled settings. Bundibugyo, first identified in Uganda in 2007 and again in the DRC in 2012, is less understood but presents unique challenges. Clinical

data from the 2026 outbreak indicate more rapid disease progression in some patients, with higher rates of organ failure than previously observed.

The critical gap is this: all licensed vaccines, Ervebo and Zabdeno/Mvabea, and approved treatments, Inmazeb and Ebanga, were designed specifically against the Zaire strain. While laboratory studies suggest possible partial cross-protection, there is no clinical evidence that these products work against Bundibugyo. In practical terms, frontline responders in 2026 have no specific tools. They rely entirely on supportive care, infection control, and symptom management, measures that reduce mortality but cannot stop transmission. The 2026 outbreak thus validates what virologists have warned for decades: Ebola is a family of diseases, and a preparedness architecture built around one member of that family leaves the world dangerously exposed to all others.

Why Africa Carries the Burden

Since Ebola's discovery in 1976, every major outbreak has originated in sub-Saharan Africa, with the DRC alone accounting for over 60% of all recorded cases and deaths. This is not coincidence. It reflects the convergence of three structural realities.

- **Ecological exposure:** African tropical forests are the natural reservoir for ebolaviruses, primarily carried by fruit bats. Deforestation, mining, and agricultural expansion, in Ituri Province, large-scale artisanal gold mining, drive humans into high-risk contact with wildlife, increasing spillover frequency.

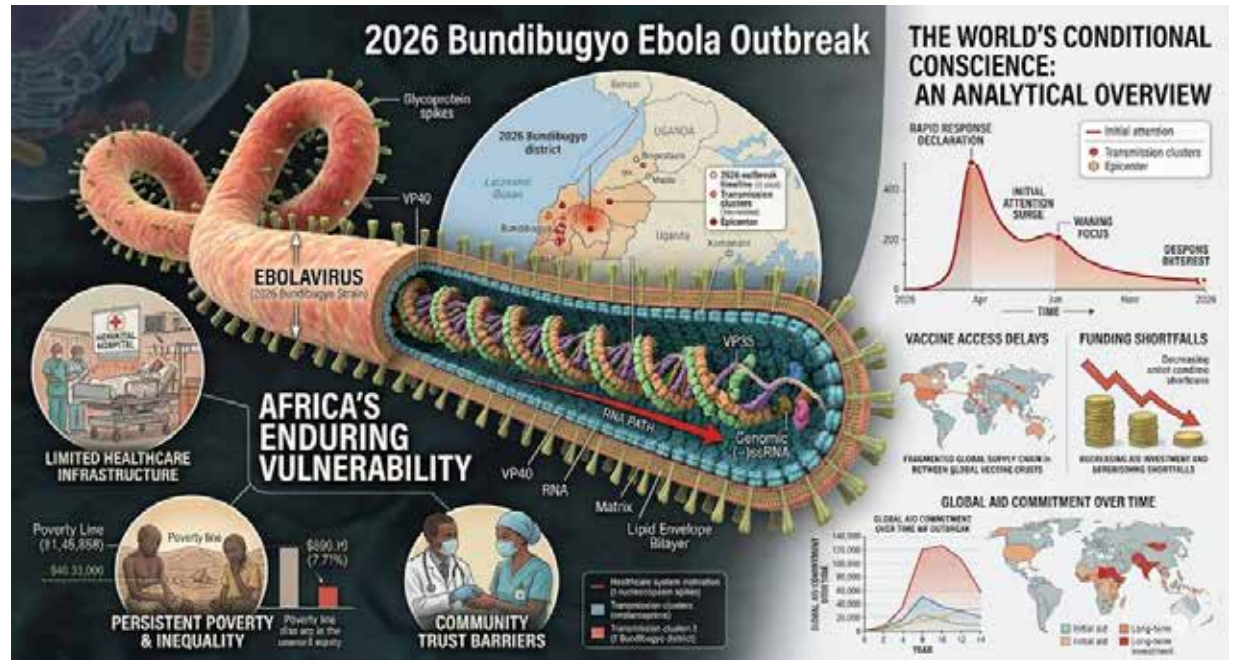
- **Health system fragility:** The DRC has 0.8 doctors and 3.2 nurses per 10,000 people, less than one-tenth the ratio of high-income nations. Forty percent of its health facilities lack running water or electricity. Surveillance systems are weak; in 2026, three weeks elapsed from the first death to laboratory confirmation.

- **Research and manufacturing dependency:** No African country produces licensed Ebola vaccines or treatments. Every medical countermeasure must be imported, often arriving weeks after outbreaks have expanded beyond containment.

These factors combine to ensure that Africa faces the highest risk with the fewest resources to respond. When a new, untreatable strain emerges, the continent starts from a position of structural deficit.

Capacity Deficits: Why African Nations Cannot Yet Lead the Response

A defining characteristic of the 2026 outbreak is that most African countries remain unable to develop, produce, or deploy their own medical



Ebola, Africa's Enduring Vulnerability, and the World's Conditional Conscience

countermeasures. This is not a failure of intelligence or ambition; it is a failure of investment and infrastructure, accumulated over decades.

Research and Development

While the DRC's Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale (INRB) successfully identified the Bundibugyo strain within 10 days, a genuine achievement, it remains heavily dependent on external partners for reagents, sequencing equipment, and training. Across Africa, fewer than five countries can perform full genomic characterisation of filoviruses independently. No African-led clinical trial has yet produced a licensed Ebola product. R&D spending across the continent averages 0.4% of GDP, compared with 2.5% in high-income nations, and less than 5% of global health research funding reaches African institutions. Between 2014 and 2026, of 14 Ebola vaccines and therapies that reached advanced development, none were fully designed, tested, or manufactured in Africa.

Manufacturing and Supply Chains

No facility in Africa is currently licensed to produce viral-vectored vaccines, the platform underpinning all leading Ebola candidates. In every outbreak, vaccines, treatments, and personal protective equipment must be airlifted from Europe or North America. In 2026, initial supplies arrived 12 days after confirmation; by then, the virus had already spread to two additional health zones and crossed into Uganda. While WHO maintains an emergency stockpile, it is centrally managed and prioritised for global needs. African nations hold no collective reserve, meaning every outbreak starts from zero.

Health Systems and Operational Readiness

Africa carries 25% of the global disease burden but has only 3% of the world's health workers. Four health-care workers died in the first week of the 2026 outbreak due to inadequate infection prevention. Surveillance is fragmented; border protocols exist on paper but rarely in practice; and community trust, essential for contact tracing and safe burials, takes weeks to build in conflict-affected areas like eastern DRC. These are not merely technical gaps; they are the difference between a contained outbreak and a continental crisis.

A Framework for Preparedness: Five Strategic Pillars

Preparedness cannot be built during an emergency. The 2026 outbreak demands a structured, long-term response architecture. The following five pillars represent an evidence-based path forward, centred on the DRC and applicable across the continent.

Pillar 1: Build Endemic Research and Innovation Capacity

Scale up and sustainably fund institutions such as INRB, the Uganda Virus Research Institute, and the Kenya Medical Research Institute. Africa CDC should coordinate a network of 8 to 10 specialised research hubs with shared data and resources. Fully implement the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation initiative to reduce multi-country drug approval timelines from 24 months to 3 to 6 months. Support construction of at least two vaccine production facilities in Central and East Africa through technology transfer agreements. Upgrade INRB to serve as the regional reference laboratory for filoviruses, with the capacity to process 500-plus samples weekly.

Pillar 2: Strengthen Health Systems and Surveillance

Roll out digital surveillance across high-risk provinces in the DRC, linking community health workers, clinics, and laboratories in real time. Ensure every health facility has water, soap, PPE, and trained staff. Double the number of doctors, nurses, and laboratory technicians in high-risk regions, and create a regional reserve corps of 5,000 trained responders deployable within 48 hours. Establish 12 permanent diagnostic laboratories across eastern DRC, pre-stocked and satellite-connected to INRB. Community engagement is not peripheral to this effort; it is the strategy. No outbreak has been controlled without it.

Pillar 3: Regional Cooperation and Cross-Border Preparedness

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the East African Community (EAC) should formalise binding protocols covering joint surveillance, shared stockpiles, rapid deployment, and coordinated communication. Two regional hubs, one in Central Africa, one in East Africa, should hold pre-positioned vaccines, diagnostics, and PPE, owned and managed by African institutions. Annual joint simulation exercises should involve health, transport, customs, and security agencies. The 2025 Sudan response showed that countries that rehearsed together responded 40% faster.

Pillar 4: Secure Access to Medical Tools Before Outbreaks

CEPI, WHO, and global manufacturers must be pressed to accelerate multivalent vaccines effective against all major Ebola species, including Bundibugyo and Sudan, the single most critical technical gap

Diaspora

THE VIRUS THAT WAITS:

Ebola, Africa's Enduring Vulnerability, and the World's Conditional Conscience
An Analytical Overview of the 2026 Bundibugyo Outbreak

Contd from Page 20
xxxxxxxxxxxx

today. African governments should collectively negotiate pricing, supply guarantees, and technology transfer rights. Cold-chain infrastructure, currently insufficient for ultra-cold storage vaccines, must be expanded through solar-powered refrigeration and investment in heat-stable formulations.

Pillar 5: Sustainable Financing and Governance

African governments must honour the Abuja Declaration commitment of 15% of national budgets to health, with a dedicated percentage for preparedness. The DRC currently allocates just 7.2% to health overall. Africa CDC's Africa Health Emergency Fund should be capitalised at US\$500 million, enabling immediate fund release within 24 hours of an outbreak. International aid must include genuine capacity transfer, not only supplies or personnel.

The Global Agenda: Is Ebola Truly a Priority?

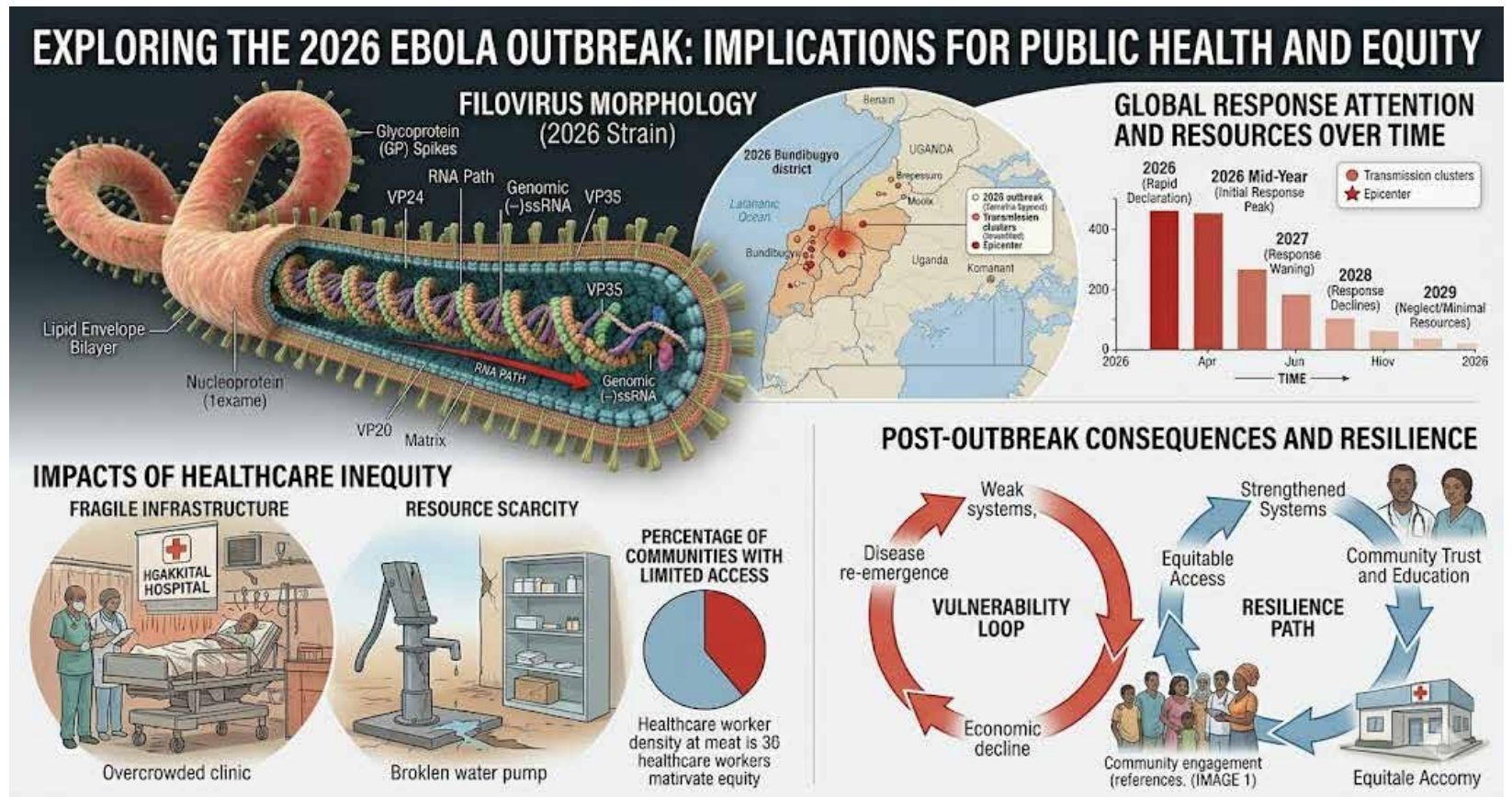
A fundamental question shapes this entire discussion: do Western nations treat Ebola as a genuine priority, or as a manageable threat to be contained at Africa's borders? The evidence demands an honest, if uncomfortable, answer.

The Case for Engagement

Since the 2014–2016 West African epidemic that killed over 11,000 people, Western governments have invested substantially. The United States provided more than \$6 billion for Ebola research, response, and preparedness between 2014 and 2026; the European Union contributed over €2.5 billion. The rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine, now the most widely deployed tool, was developed in Canada and advanced with American and European funding. Following 2014, Western nations drove reforms to global health security architecture, including the creation of CEPI and the Global Health Security Agenda. In every major outbreak since, Western experts, laboratories, and supplies have formed a substantial part of the international response. This engagement has been real and has saved lives.

The Case for Structural Neglect

Yet the factual record reveals an equally real pattern of conditional, biased, and insufficient prioritisation.



tion. Consider the following documented disparities:

- Funding volatility:** Between 2021 and 2023, global Ebola preparedness funding fell by 75% as no major epidemic occurred. The US provided \$1.2 billion for the 2014 outbreak response but averaged just \$45 million annually for preparedness in the years that followed, a pattern that ensures countries are never fully ready when the next outbreak strikes.

- Research disparity:** In 2025, global investment in influenza research exceeded \$3.8 billion. Investment in all filoviruses combined was under \$220 million. Between 2000 and 2025, only 4 of 1,400 newly approved medicines targeted Ebola or Marburg. The Bundibugyo and Sudan strains were identified in 2007 and 1977 respectively; vaccines for them entered serious development only in 2024.

- Political attention contingent on proximity:** The 2014 epidemic became a top G7 agenda item only after a case appeared in the United States. The 2026 Bundibugyo outbreak received urgent UN Security Council attention only after modelling projected a 22% probability of spread to the Middle East and Europe. Outbreaks confined to African borders attract minimal high-level engagement.

- Technology hoarding:** The licence for the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine was held by a European company for over a decade. A full technology transfer to a South African manufacturer was completed only in 2024. When supplies are scarce, Western nations have historically secured national reserves, while affected African countries face shortages.

The 10/90 gap, 90% of health re-

Ebola, Africa's Enduring Vulnerability, and the World's Conditional Conscience

search funding targeting diseases affecting only 10% of the global population, remains fully operative for Ebola. Despite its devastating impact on Central Africa, the disease is classified as a “neglected tropical disease,” a categorisation that speaks volumes about whose suffering drives global priorities. African nations, despite bearing the disease burden, hold limited voting power in the WHO, CEPI, and World Bank governance structures where priorities are set.

Recommendations: A Shared Path Forward
For African Nations

- Assert ownership:** Legally anchor INRB as the permanent regional leader in filovirus research. Through Africa CDC, adopt a binding Continental Health Security Strategy (2026–2035) establishing minimum standards for every member state.

- Invest in medical sovereignty:** Allocate 2 to 3% of national health budgets to local research and manufacturing. Use the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to create a unified market that makes local production viable. Establish a US\$1 billion African Biotech Fund to de-risk investment in vaccine and drug development.

- Formalise regional cooperation:** ECCAS and EAC should create a permanent Central/East Africa Rapid Response Force with dedicated aircraft, mobile laboratories, and pre-deployed teams that are independent of international NGOs.

- Invest in community-led systems:** In eastern DRC, formalise community health workers' employment and integrate traditional leaders into the health governance structure. Trust is not a soft objec-

tive; it is the most powerful tool in outbreak control.

For Western Nations and Global Institutions

- Reverse the funding ratio:** Commit 70% of health security funding to capacity building and 30% to emergency response, not the reverse. Multi-year grants of 5 to 10 years are essential; project funding cycles destroy institutional memory.

- End research bias:** CEPI should launch a dedicated programme for neglected pathogens with regional risk, ensuring that Bundibugyo, Sudan, and Marburg receive equal priority to influenza or coronavirus. Treat vaccine knowledge as a global public good, not commercial property.

- Build partnerships, not dependencies:** When deploying support, channel at least 60% of funds through local African institutions, not international contractors. Change the role of Western agencies from leading responses to equipping African responders.

- Reform global health governance:** Support expansion of African nations' voting weight and decision-making authority in WHO and CEPI, so that research and funding priorities reflect global health need, not geopolitical interest.

Conclusion: Preparedness Is Not Charity, It Is Shared Security

The emergence of the Bundibugyo strain in May 2026 is a stark reminder that Ebola has not been defeated; it has evolved. Each new outbreak tests a preparedness architecture that was built, imperfectly and incompletely, after the last crisis. The virus exploits every gap: in surveillance, in laboratory capacity,

in manufacturing, in community trust, and in political will.

Africa's vulnerability to Ebola is not inevitable. It is the accumulated result of underinvestment, structural inequity in global health governance, and a dependency model that has positioned African nations as recipients rather than architects of their own health security. The fact that no Ebola vaccine or treatment has ever been fully developed and manufactured on the continent is not a measure of African capability; it is a measure of how global priorities have been set, and by whom.

The international record is equally clear: Western engagement with Ebola has been significant, at times decisive, but it has been conditional. Resources and attention surge when the virus threatens non-African populations and contract when the crisis is contained to Central or East Africa. This is not a morally defensible model, and it is not a strategically sound one. In a world where a passenger can board a flight in Ituri and arrive in Paris, Frankfurt, or New York within 24 hours, health insecurity in one region is a potential emergency for all regions.

The 2026 outbreak is not simply another chapter in a long epidemiological history. It is a decision point. If African nations build the research capacity, manufacturing infrastructure, and regional solidarity that this moment demands, and if Western partners shift from reactive rescuers to genuine enablers, Ebola can be controlled not through luck or emergency mobilisation, but through sustained, equitable, and locally owned preparedness. The tools and knowledge exist. What remains to be tested is the political will to deploy them justly.

Love and The Echo Of War Beyond Borders: What Can Modern Europe Learn From Silk Road Literature?

This article explores the literature of the Great Silk Road and its relevance to understanding contemporary European geopolitical and cultural challenges



By: BOBOJONOVA DINORA
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- By analyzing the enduring motifs of “love and war” through the prism of Silk Road literature, this study aims to uncover the lessons of intercultural tolerance essential for contemporary European society. The analysis of works by Eastern Renaissance thinkers—Nizami Ganjavi, Jalaluddin Rumi, the great Uzbek poet Alisher Navoi—alongside transboundary epic poems (such as the “Book of Dede Korkut,” “Alpamysh,” or “Gorogly” cycles) demonstrates that within this heritage, the phenomena of war and love transcend national boundaries and are interpreted on a universal human scale.
- In Silk Road literature, war is vehemently condemned as a human tragedy, the catastrophic fruit of political ambitions, and an artificial wall that divides cultures. Conversely, motifs of love—whether divine or human—emerge as the ultimate diplomatic and spiritual force that shatters geographical, religious, and ethnic boundaries, drawing civilizations closer together.



What Can Modern Europe Learn From Silk Road Literature

Abstract
This article explores the literature of the Great Silk Road and its relevance to understanding contemporary European geopolitical and cultural challenges. Through the concept of “Echoes of Love and War Across Frontiers,” the study analyzes the humanistic ideas, tragedies of war, and intercultural dialogue embedded in the literary heritage that connected East and West for centuries. Examining the works of great thinkers like Nizami Ganjavi and Alisher Navoi, alongside epic tales from the Silk Road, the paper highlights the universality of human emotions, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence. The study concludes by drawing insightful historical and spiritual lessons that modern Europe can utilize to navigate integration, migration crises, and cultural conflicts in an increasingly fragmented world.

Keywords: Silk Road literature, modern Europe, intercultural dialogue, tolerance, love and war, literary heritage, humanism.

INTRODUCTION.

In today’s era of globalization, intense geopolitical transformations, and inter-civilizational clashes, the European continent is undergoing the most complex socio-cultural upheavals in its history. Migration crises,

waves of xenophobia, the weakening of cultural integration, and tensions along political borders are forcing modern Europe to reconsider not only its security system but also its fundamental humanistic values. While the 21st-century Western civilization seeks solutions to its crises predominantly through economic or political measures, universal models of spiritual and cultural integration can be found in the depths of the past—specifically, within the literary heritage of the Great Silk Road, which for centuries connected the East and the West as a global network. Indeed, the Silk Road was not merely an economic corridor for caravans, but the world’s first transnational cultural space where languages, religions, philosophical currents, and aesthetic concepts intertwined. By analyzing the enduring motifs of “love and war” through the prism of Silk Road literature, this study aims to uncover the lessons of intercultural tolerance essential for contemporary European society. The analysis of works by Eastern Renaissance thinkers—Nizami Ganjavi, Jalaluddin Rumi, the great Uzbek poet Alisher Navoi—alongside transboundary epic poems (such as the “Book of Dede Korkut,” “Alpamysh,” or “Gorogly” cycles) demonstrates that within this heritage, the phenomena of war and love transcend national boundaries and are interpreted on

a universal human scale. In Silk Road literature, war is vehemently condemned as a human tragedy, the catastrophic fruit of political ambitions, and an artificial wall that divides cultures. Conversely, motifs of love—whether divine or human—emerge as the ultimate diplomatic and spiritual force that shatters geographical, religious, and ethnic boundaries, drawing civilizations closer together. The love between the Chinese prince Farhad and the Armenian princess Shirin in Alisher Navoi’s epic poem Farhad and Shirin, or the dialogue among beauties from different climates and cultures in Nizami’s symbolism, serves as vivid proof of this. The relevance and scientific novelty of this article lie in the fact that it is the first to propose the concepts of transboundary (“border-crossing”) and cultural empathy found in classical Eastern literature as a spiritual “antidote” to Europe’s current social ailments, such as insularity and the inability to accept the “other.” Grounded in historical-comparative and socio-cultural analysis methods, this work scientifically substantiates that Silk Road literature is not merely an aesthetic monument of the past, but a living intellectual and spiritual compass capable of dismantling contemporary xenophobic paradigms and overcoming divisive “Us versus Them” scenarios.

One of the most painful social and geopolitical challenges facing the contemporary European Union today is undoubtedly the migration crisis, along with the resulting scenarios of “Otherness” and cultural alienation. At a time when Western society often perceives representatives of different cultures, religions, and ethnicities as threats to internal security and identity, the literature of the Great Silk Road offered a universal cultural model centuries ago to dismantle the concept of the “Stranger” through love and dialogue. If we examine Farhad and Shirin, the epic poem by the great Uzbek poet Alisher Navoi, we witness that it stands as a timeless manifesto of transnational tolerance. While the epic’s hero, Farhad, is the son of the Emperor of China—representing the absolute Far East—his beloved, Shirin, is an Armenian princess, symbolizing the Western-Christian world. Navoi depicts Farhad not as an invader or a mere tourist in the Armenian lands, but as a creator who brings life to the community by carving through mountains to fetch water, showing ultimate self-sacrifice for a foreign land. Here, sublime love completely obliterates geopolitical and religious boundaries. Similarly, in Nizami Ganjavi’s Haft Paykar (The Seven Beauties), the gathering of princesses from seven different climates, races, and religions into a single

palace glorifies the idea that the world is beautiful precisely because of its diversity (multiculturalism), promoting the harmony of cultures rather than their clash. The thinkers of the Eastern Renaissance brought the principles of “inclusivity” and “pluralism”—which Europe strives for today but has yet to fully achieve—to the very center of literature centuries ago; thus, it is a vital necessity for modern Europe to learn from this heritage to view migration not as an integration crisis, but as an opportunity for cultural enrichment. Furthermore, this literary heritage serves as a profound warning against the armed conflicts, imperialistic ambitions, and militaristic aspirations unfolding today across the European continent and its peripheries. Although Ferdowsi’s epic Shahnameh depicts the centuries-old geopolitical war between two great civilizations, Iran and Turan, the author by no means glorifies military victories or conquest. On the contrary, through the tragic plot where the great paladin Rostam unwittingly kills his own son, Sohrab, the epic exposes war as an absurd and blind force that destroys the future generations and most cherished values of any society. Even in heroic epics formed along the Silk Road,

Love and The Echo Of War Beyond Borders: What Can Modern Europe Learn From Silk Road Literature?

This article explores the literature of the Great Silk Road and its relevance to understanding contemporary European geopolitical and cultural challenges

xxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 22

Worth Noting:

- One of the most painful social and geopolitical challenges facing the contemporary European Union today is undoubtedly the migration crisis, along with the resulting scenarios of “Otherness” and cultural alienation.
- At a time when Western society often perceives representatives of different cultures, religions, and ethnicities as threats to internal security and identity, the literature of the Great Silk Road offered a universal cultural model centuries ago to dismantle the concept of the “Stranger” through love and dialogue.
- If we examine Farhad and Shirin, the epic poem by the great Uzbek poet Alisher Navoi, we witness that it stands as a timeless manifesto of transnational tolerance. While the epic’s hero, Farhad, is the son of the Emperor of China—representing the absolute Far East—his beloved, Shirin, is an Armenian princess, symbolizing the Western-Christian world.



What Can Modern Europe Learn From Silk Road Literature

such as the Book of Dede Korkut or Alpamysh, it is shown as an absolute rule that any armed conflict must ultimately conclude with a mutual truce, international treaty, and compromise—in other words, the triumph of diplomacy. Caught in the vortex of powerful military blocs and an arms race, these lessons serve as a historical mirror reminding contemporary European politicians that conflict is the enemy of progress, and that the resolution to any problem lies solely around the table of transboundary dialogue. Finally, for the Western civilization, which has achieved strong technological and economic progress but today has encountered a deep spiritual void and a crisis of sharp individualism (the alienation of people from one another), the transboundary humanism of Jalaluddin Rumi puts the most correct spiritual diagnosis. Rumi’s philosophy, which absolutely rejected separating a human according to their passport, nationality, religious affiliation, or race in his work, emphasizes that the worth of each person is not in their external shell, but in their inner world. Rumi’s concept of “Inside of It Is What Is Inside It” proves to the modern world that peace in the external environment and in the inter-

national arena can only be achieved by a human ending the conflicts in their own inner world, that is, greed and arrogance. Today Europe’s biggest pain is the flow of migrants. On the streets of Paris, Berlin, and London, a wave of misunderstanding, and sometimes hatred, is observed between newcomer cultures and the local population. At a time when Europe sees migrants only as “cheap labor” or a “social burden”, Alisher Navoi showed a completely different, vital model in the epic poem “Farhad and Shirin”. When the Chinese Farhad comes to a foreign land – Armenia, the local people do not exclude him, on the contrary, they use his engineering potential. Farhad brings the technology of his own land, shatters the mountain that the Armenian people could not pierce for centuries, and brings out water to the people. This is the highest lesson for today’s Europe: a migrant can be not only a problem, but a creative resource bringing new intellect, strength, and cultural wealth with them. If the modern West learns to look at migrants not as a “stranger”, but as a “helper” like Farhad in solving its own endless problems, today’s crisis of cultural xenophobia would be terminated.

Today, armed conflicts taking place in the very center of the European continent – on Ukrainian soil, as well as in the Middle East neighboring it, have brought the world to the brink of a new nuclear war. At a time when politicians talk about the arms race and victory, the tragedy of Rustam and Sohrab in Ferdowsi’s “Shahnameh” is the most terrible diagnosis said to today’s geopolitical reality. The war between a father and a son who are of one blood and have one root ends with the death of the son (the future generation). Rustam wins, but this victory brings him only eternal mourning and tragedy. In exactly the same way, no one wins in the wars happening on European borders today. There is no concept of a “victorious war” in the modern world, because any conflict ends with the destruction of the future generation, ecology, and human civilization. Silk Road literature shows how vital a necessity it is for Europe to move to the table of compromise and international peace, like in the “Dede Korkut” epics, rather than weapon supply scenarios. Europe is economically rich, its population lives surrounded by the highest technologies (artificial intelligence, digital economy). However, the paradox is that

precisely European states (for example, Scandinavian countries) stand in the leading place in the world in terms of depression, loneliness, and consumption of antidepressant medicines. To this spiritual poverty against the background of material abundance, the philosophy of Jalaluddin Rumi, who is the heart of the Silk Road, gives the most precise answer. The West taught human to manage the external world, the universe, and the economy, but forgot to manage their own inner world. Rumi, however, sees human happiness not in their bank account or social status, but in peace of mind and transboundary love. Rumi’s words, “Your task is not to seek for love, but to find and destroy the barriers you have built against it inside yourself” are a real spiritual therapy for today’s European society suffering from the disease of individualism (wrapped up in one’s own shell).

In conclusion, the literature of the Great Silk Road is not merely an aesthetic monument of the past, but a vital manual for modern Europe, which today is experiencing deep geopolitical and socio-cultural crises. At a time when the Western world is caught in the vortex of the migration crisis, xenophobia, and wars, and

is seeking solutions to its problems only through political or military measures, the Silk Road heritage offers them a completely different – humanistic model. As seen in the example of the works of such thinkers as Alisher Navoi, Nizami Ganjavi, Ferdowsi, and Jalaluddin Rumi, this literature emphasizes knowing migrants not as a danger, but as a “creative force” like Farhad who enriches society, that behind any military victory lies the fate of the future generation like the tragedy of the father and son (Rustam and Sohrab), and that the spiritual void inside material abundance can only be cured through internal spiritual balance. Thus, “The Echo of Love and War Across Borders” is the most reliable compass that teaches modern Europe the methodology of solving its problems not in closed political molds, but on the ground of global cultural empathy and universal human values.

BOBOJONOVA DINORA
National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek:
Philology and Language Teaching: English 1st-year Student.

Rural stars head to Botswana for elite trials

South African professional footballer Thembelani Majingo’s grassroots foundation sends seven young prospects to Botswana for elite trials — the latest milestone in a remarkable rural talent pipeline built on football clinics and quiet determination

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Dinaledi will cover accommodation and meals throughout the assessment period. Players are required to arrive with their own studded boots and personal training equipment. For boys who grew up in a remote corner of the North West Province with little football infrastructure and even less exposure to professional structures, simply receiving that invitation letter represents a world transformed.
- The foundation behind this journey belongs to Thembelani Majingo, a 27-year-old South African professional midfielder who hails from Madibogo Village in the Ratlou Municipality. Majingo’s own career has been marked by both real promise and painful near-misses. A product of the now-defunct Platinum Stars academy, he came through the club’s youth structures alongside two players who went on to achieve considerable international recognition — Kobamelo Kodisang and Gift Links — forming what he describes as a formidable trio in the club’s development ranks.

Seven young footballers from the Thembelani Majingo Foundation in South Africa’s North West Province have been formally invited to attend an elite assessment programme at Dinaledi Football Academy in Oodi, Botswana, from 28 June to 1 July 2026, marking the latest and most significant milestone in what is quietly becoming one of southern Africa’s most compelling grassroots football development stories.

The players, drawn from a cohort previously scouted and assessed by Dinaledi’s technical team, are expected to arrive at the Oodi-based academy on Sunday 28 June. The four-day programme will expose them to professional coaching, structured performance evaluation, and the kind of high-intensity environment that the academy — a structured, high-performance youth football institution that develops players aged 6 to 19 — describes as one that integrates football excellence, academic progression, and character formation.

Dinaledi will cover accommodation and meals throughout the assessment period. Players are required to arrive with their own studded boots and personal training equipment. For boys who grew up in a remote corner of the North West Province with little football infrastructure and even less exposure to professional structures, simply receiving that invitation letter represents a world transformed.

The foundation behind this journey belongs to Thembelani Majingo, a 27-year-old South African professional midfielder who hails from Madibogo Village in the Ratlou Municipality. Majingo’s own career has been marked by both real promise and painful near-misses. A product of the now-defunct Platinum Stars academy, he came through the club’s youth structures alongside two players who went on to achieve considerable international recognition — Kobamelo Kodisang and Gift Links — forming what he describes as a formidable trio in the club’s develop-



In the picture is Thembelani Majingo with the boys international (Dinaledi Football Academy) Botswana

ment ranks.

When Platinum Stars were sold and rebranded as Cape Umoya United in 2018, Majingo was part of the transition, featuring during the 2018/19 season before being released ahead of the following campaign. He subsequently joined VTM FC in the Botswana Premier League, keeping his professional career alive while watching former academy peers rise to greater heights. Kodisang moved to Bidvest Wits before signing with a Portuguese club, while Links secured a deal with an Egyptian side and later established himself in Denmark’s top flight with Aarhus GF.

“I formed the best trio at Platinum Stars Development with Gift Links and Kobamelo Kodisang — you can see where they are now,” Majingo has said, acknowledging the divergence in their paths while noting his own resilience. “I am the unfortunate one.” That candour, however, has not curdled into bitterness. Instead, it appears to have sharpened his sense of purpose. Where his own pathway narrowed, he has resolved to widen it for others.

The Thembelani Majingo Foundation operates as a non-profit organisation built around a simple but transformative idea: that football can be a credible career pathway even for children growing up in South Africa’s most underserved rural communities. The foundation’s flagship interventions are its soccer clinics, targeted at boys aged 8 to 14 in areas that rarely appear on the scouting maps of professional clubs.

In October 2024, the foundation hosted two days of clinics on 4 and 5 October at the Setlagole Artificial Ground within the Ratlou Municipality — the same district Majingo himself comes from. More than 300 children attended from municipalities across the North West Province. Of those, only 15 were selected for further assessment at high-performance institutions across the country as part of a deliberate talent identification programme the foundation describes as a “talent search movement.” The results have been concrete. Some of those selected have since been placed with Ubuntu Football Academy in Cape Town. Others were directed to Stars of Africa, led by Farouk Khan, a former Kaizer Chiefs player who has built a reputation as a credible developer of young talent. And now, seven more are heading to Botswana. Each placement represents a child from a village most people have never heard of stepping into a structured professional environment for the first time.

The clinics are facilitated by Coach Ivan Manyapelo, who doubles as a scout for the foundation. His role is to look past the limitations of geography and circumstance to find the raw talent that exists in communities where it would otherwise remain invisible. The sessions are designed not only to identify ability but to instil the confidence, discipline, and competitive mindset that young players from rural areas often lack — not for want of talent, but for want of opportunity.

Dinaledi’s Operations Manager, Hassan Stoffel, has spoken of the academy’s ambition in terms that align closely with the Majingo Foundation’s own mission. “We have invested in professional coaching, facilities, and holistic player development,” Stoffel has said. “Our goal is clear — we aim to produce talent that can be exported to top clubs and elevate Botswana’s presence in global football.” For the seven players arriving from North West Province later this month, that goal is now directly within reach.

What makes this story worth paying attention to is not just the football. It is the model. Majingo has taken the lessons of his own career — the proximity to greatness, the narrow margins that separate the player who makes it from the one who does not — and converted them into structured opportunity for children who have even further to travel than he did. The foundation is not waiting for professional clubs to come to Madibogo or Setlagole. It is building the bridge from the inside out.

“At Dinaledi, we believe stars are developed through discipline, education, and structured performance,” the academy states in its mission. “We are building more than footballers — we are shaping leaders for the future.” On 28 June, seven young men from a remote corner of the North West Province will walk through those gates. Whether or not they earn a contract, their world will not be quite the same again.