

Britain's National Health Service (NHS), which runs the UK's main hospitals, once the envy of nations around the world, is fast turning into a war zone as racist white patients refuse to be treated by non-white medics attacking them

UK'S HEALTH SERVICE

NHS staff have been called "dirty foreigners" and "monkeys", other derogatory terms and disturbingly xenophobic comments :



UK'S NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN BIZARRE COLOUR BAR CRISIS: ON THE WARPATH -VIOLENT RACIST WHITE BRITONS SHUN TREATMENT FROM NON-WHITE MEDICS

By: Shamlal Puri
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West African Nurse Aminata will never forget the day when an angry white British patient lunged at her at a British hospital as she was taking his blood pressure, twisting her arm. She was thrown violently to the ground as she lost her balance.
Her fault? She was the wrong colour, and the white patient did not want to be touched by her.



Paediatric Imaging... A Black British nurse gets a white patient ready for imaging, but many intolerant whites refuse to be touched by non-whites. Photo Courtesy SoR

This broke Aminata's heart. Though her birth name means good-mannered and trustworthy, she felt unwanted in a country where she was providing life-saving services to patients irrespective of their colour. These patients forget that even the NHS nurses and medics are not just people in uniform; they too have to be given their dignity for the life-saving jobs they are doing. Britain's National Health Service (NHS), which runs the UK's main hospitals, once the envy of nations

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Zimbabwe to roll out emotional learning programme to all 72 districts

By Azriel Chimeno

Zimbabwe is set to expand its Social and Emotional Learning programme to the remaining 54 districts nationwide, following encouraging results from an initial pilot in 18 districts across Mashonaland Central, Man-

icaland and Matabeleland South provinces. The announcement was made yesterday by Taungana Ndoro, Director of Communication and Advocacy in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, on the sidelines of a national workshop held at Sky Lodge

in Kadoma to disseminate the programme's evaluation findings and the Ministry's Strategy on Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion. "From the results we are getting, they are on a positive trajectory. As a ministry we are going to take this

to the remaining 54 districts of our country," Ndoro told journalists after the workshop. The SEL programme, implement-

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"ALL BUSINESSES
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Building the Foundation for Kenya's Next Technopolis

By: Josephine Ndambuki
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- These facilities are increasingly bringing together researchers, scientists, engineers, ICT professionals and business leaders from the public, private and development sectors. Investment at the Technopolis had risen to Sh99.38 billion by 2025, while the number of hosted data-centre clients grew by 27.6 percent to reach 171. These are the early chapters of what a technopolis is meant to look like.
- Every innovation zone Kenya aspires to emulate spent years doing exactly what Konza is doing today: laying data infrastructure, attracting tenants and building the unglamorous but essential plumbing—fibre connectivity, power redundancy and cloud capacity—long before producing the patents and scientific breakthroughs for which they would later become known.

History shows that innovation ecosystems are rarely built overnight. Before they become engines of growth, they pass through a period of incubation, during which critical infrastructure is developed long before the full impact becomes visible.

Konza Technopolis, Kenya's visionary smart city, is undergoing a similar trajectory to many of the world's leading science parks and areas of innovation. It has moved from concept to foundational development and is now entering an acceleration phase characterised by increased investment, operationalisation and the opening of science and innovation facilities.

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Every innovation zone Kenya aspires to emulate spent years doing exactly what Konza is doing today: laying data infrastructure, attracting tenants and building the unglamorous but essential plumbing—fibre connectivity, power redundancy and cloud capacity—long before producing the patents and scientific breakthroughs for which they would later become known.

South Korea's Daedeok Inopolis, for example, was established in 1968. Its research institutes spent much of the 1970s relocating and the 1980s expanding government and corporate laboratories. It did not emerge as a recognised innovation cluster until its integration with Daedeok Techno Valley in 2005—37



Josephine Ndambuki, Technopolis Development Authority Chief Manager, Business Development & Innovation.

years after its establishment. Malaysia's Cyberjaya, launched in 1997 under the Multimedia Super Corridor initiative, also required more than two decades, alongside a deliberate revitalisation strategy, before gaining wider recognition as a genuine technology hub.

Even Shenzhen—the innovation cluster many modern masterplans aspire to emulate—spent its early years as a special economic zone focused largely on contract manufacturing before evolving into the global innovation powerhouse it is today.

None of these places became overnight successes. They were built over time. Konza Technopolis broke ground in 2013. It is now thirteen years into a journey that, globally, has often taken between two and four decades.

Judging it today against the Global Innovation Index's cluster rankings—a measure built on decades of accumulated patent filings and scientific publications in mature metropolitan economies—risks overlooking the different stages of development.

Kenya's ranking of 85th in innovation outputs against 116th in innovation inputs presents a genuine opportunity. It suggests that the country's innovation outputs are already outperforming its inputs and that Kenyan ingenuity is achieving more than the underlying resources might suggest. That gap is worth closing with ambition. It should not be treated as a verdict against a thirteen-year-old special economic zone that was never intended to carry Kenya's entire innovation agenda alone.

A closer look at the numbers tells the story of a technopolis gaining momentum rather than standing still. Investment is up 19 percent. Clients have increased by 27.6 percent. Storage utilisation has doubled year-on-year.

This is what momentum looks like while leases, cloud contracts and anchor tenants move from signing to implementation, billing and profitability.

The recent revenue dip, concentrated in land-leasing income and linked to phasing and collections, is primarily a cash-flow challenge rather than a reflection of capability. A tech-

nopolis in its tenancy-filling years will often experience rising capital investment before revenue catches up. The desire for measurable results is legitimate, and Kenya is increasingly putting in place the structures needed to deliver them.

The Technopolis Act, signed in 2026, transformed the Konza Technopolis Development Authority into the Technopolis Development Authority, with an explicit mandate to replicate and govern the model nationally. This marks the beginning of the kind of institutional accountability this stage of development requires.

Patents generated, university spinouts that survive beyond five years, venture capital raised and digital exports delivered are among the outcomes that should increasingly define success. The right institution now exists to build these measurements deliberately into the model as its operating history develops, rather than importing a scorecard designed for mature ecosystems before the foundations have had sufficient time to produce results.

Vision 2030 gave Kenya much of the infrastructure. Vision 2060 will determine

what the country builds on top of it.

Every comparable technopolis in the world required the kind of time Konza is now spending on its foundations. From today's perspective, many of those years appear to have been patience that paid off.

Konza is thirteen years into a process that history suggests can take between twenty and forty years. The most consequential chapters—the ones defined by patents, successful spinouts, high-value exports and globally competitive businesses—may still lie ahead. The real measure of Vision 2060's ambition will be whether Kenya has the patience and determination to keep building through the years that do not yet make headlines, so that when the results finally do, they are worth the wait.

Josephine Ndambuki is the Technopolis Development Authority Chief Manager, Business Development & Innovation.

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Politics

Educational empowerment: A non-negotiable investment in Kenya's future

When leaders show up for young people, they affirm a truth the nation cannot afford to ignore.

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
xxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The presence of national and local leaders at grassroots programmes signals accountability, reinforces commitment and helps sustain momentum for practical interventions that benefit learners directly.
- Educational empowerment also shapes not only individual lives but the character and resilience of entire communities. When young people acquire knowledge and skills, they are better positioned to address local challenges, participate in civic life and contribute to social cohesion. Investing in education is, at its core, an investment in civic maturity — one that fosters informed citizens capable of deliberating about community needs, evaluating choices and holding leaders to account.



Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi's joins Stephen Letoo for an educational empowerment programme in Oldanyati

Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi's decision to join journalist Stephen Letoo for an educational empowerment programme in Oldanyati, Kilgoris Constituency, Narok County — alongside Governor Patrick Ntutu, Senator Eddy Oketch, Rebecca Tonkei and other leaders — is a welcome affirmation of a simple but vital truth: real national progress depends on equipping young people with the tools to learn, grow and participate fully in society. Such initiatives are not peripheral projects to be celebrated as political gestures. They are core investments in the future of the nation. They expand opportunity, strengthen communities and reinforce the social compact between leaders and the people they serve. Education is the pathway

through which individuals translate potential into meaningful contribution. Programmes that focus on empowering young people remove barriers that would otherwise confine talent and ambition to the margins. When leaders take visible, sustained interest in educational empowerment, they send a clear message: youth development matters, and public resources and attention must be aligned to create environments where learning can flourish. The presence of national and local leaders at grassroots programmes signals accountability, reinforces commitment and helps sustain momentum for practical interventions that benefit learners directly. Educational empowerment also shapes not only individual lives but the charac-

ter and resilience of entire communities. When young people acquire knowledge and skills, they are better positioned to address local challenges, participate in civic life and contribute to social cohesion. Investing in education is, at its core, an investment in civic maturity — one that fosters informed citizens capable of deliberating about community needs, evaluating choices and holding leaders to account. This dynamic is essential for a functioning democracy. It roots political life in a population that can articulate priorities and engage constructively in public affairs. The value of initiatives such as the one in Oldanyati is further reinforced by the collaborative dimension of leadership on display there. When figures from different levels of government and

civil society come together for educational empowerment, it reflects a shared responsibility toward youth. That unity matters because education intersects with nearly every area of public policy — governance, health, infrastructure and economic opportunity. A coordinated approach ensures that educational empowerment is not isolated from the broader services young people need to thrive. Visible collaboration among leaders also establishes expectations for integrated support that can sustain educational gains over time. Maintaining a focus on educational empowerment also guards against short-termism in public life. Political cycles and competing priorities can easily divert attention and resources away from enduring needs. But

when education remains a visible and ongoing priority, it anchors development strategies to long-term outcomes that benefit successive generations. Sustained engagement with communities — not isolated, episodic events — is what delivers lasting progress.

The moral dimension of prioritising youth empowerment should not be overlooked either. Leaders carry an ethical obligation to create conditions in which all young people can realise their potential. Supporting programmes that expand access to learning is a practical expression of that obligation. It affirms the dignity and worth of young people and the collective responsibility to build a society where every citizen has a genuine chance to contribute.

The Oldanyati initiative, with Wandayi and a broad range of local and national leaders present, models the kind of leadership that places educational empowerment at the centre of national development. It is a reminder that investments in learning are investments in stability, prosperity and democratic engagement. As a nation, sustaining and scaling such initiatives must be a priority — because our future depends on the capacity and opportunity we give to the next generation.

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Norway's

Norway's King Harald dies aged 89



By: BBC
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Aug 18-Norway's King Harald V has died at the age of 89, after he was taken to hospital last week for treatment for a rare blood condition. The palace in Oslo said he passed away peacefully at 06:35 local time (04:35 GMT) on Friday at the national hospital in Oslo.

The royal flag on the roof of the palace has been lowered to half-mast, and a period of national mourning has been declared leading up to the day of his funeral. Crowds of mourners have streamed to the royal palace to lay flowers and flags.

Harald was Norway's first king born in Norway since the 14th Century. He has been succeeded by his son Haakon, 53, who will hold an extraordinary council of state with the government later on Friday.

King Charles III sent his "most heartfelt condolences" at the death of his "dear cousin" – who was a second cousin to Queen Elizabeth II – while King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden remembered "a good friend to me, my family and to Sweden", and wished his godson Haakon "success and good fortune".

After 35 years on the throne, Harald will be remembered as a popular and reforming figure who modernised the monarchy, broke with tradition by marrying a commoner and served as a unifying figure at Norway's most difficult moments.

Royal observers say he was down-to-earth, respected and beloved, describing him as a "grandfather" of the nation and the "People's king" – a title also used by his father King Olav V.

During his reign, the Norwegian monarchy became more egalitarian and transparent with finances and health, Ole-Jørgen Schulsrud-Hansen, historian and TV2 royal correspondent, told the BBC.

Tove Taalesen, royal correspondent for Nettavisen, described the late king as "one of us", while Caroline Vagle, royal expert for Se og Hør magazine, said he had "always been very close to the people".

"He has never been afraid to show emotion, humour or vulnerability, and that has made him very human." In the wake of the 2011 bomb and gun attacks on Oslo and the island of Utøya, Harald appealed to Norwegians to support each other and not "let fear take over".

More recently, Harald and his family faced health challenges and scandal, especially over his daughter-in-law Mette-Marit's association with the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, and her son Marius Borg Høyby's conviction for rape.

He is survived by his wife of almost 58 years, Queen Sonja, their daughter Princess Märtha Louise, their son, the new King Haakon, and six grandchildren.

Harald was born on 21 February 1937 on the Skaugum estate near Oslo. He was three when dictator Adolf Hitler ordered Norway's invasion by Nazi Germany early in World War Two.

Harald's mother fled with her children across the border to Sweden, and they travelled to the US on the invitation of President Franklin D Roosevelt.

Prince Harald returned with his family to Norway at the end of the war and completed his school and compulsory military service. He became crown prince in 1957, and studied social science, history and economics at Balliol College in Oxford from 1960 to 1962.

He met Sonja Haraldsen, a non-royal and the daughter of a businessman, at a party, but the crown prince had to wait nine years before he was allowed to marry her. Eventually, he told his father that if he could not

marry Sonja, he would stay single, King Harald told Norway's public broadcaster.

His father finally gave his consent, and the couple wed in Oslo Cathedral on 29 August 1968.

Harald's choice paved the way for his own two children to marry commoners too, and for Vagle, that "helped bring an end to a very male-dominated Royal Family".

When his father became ill in 1990, the crown prince became regent. Harald then ascended to the throne when Olav died on 17 January 1991.

The new king came into his own around 2000, according to historian Trond Norén Isaksen, growing from a shy man into someone much more open and empathetic.

In July 2011 Harald faced his greatest challenge yet as king, when neo-Nazi Anders Breivik murdered eight people with a car bomb in Oslo before moving on to a youth camp on the island of Utøya, where he shot dead 69 others, most of them teenagers.

He gave a televised address the next day, and weeks later he delivered a speech, empathising with the victims and their families as a father, grandfather, husband, and king. On the verge of tears, his voice quivered and broke.

"I can only imagine the depth of your pain. As King of this nation, I feel for each and every one of you," he said.

Looking back, historian Ole-Jørgen Schulsrud-Hansen said: "I think that moment has been burned into our minds of what a monarchy should be."

In 2016, the king made headlines again by giving a speech supporting diversity of religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

He said Norwegians are from "Afghanistan, Pakistan and Poland, from Sweden, Somalia, and Syria," they "believe in God, Allah, the Universe and nothing", and they "are

girls who love girls, boys who love boys, and girls and boys who love each other".

The king was also a keen athlete and environmentalist – one of the initiators of the Norwegian branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), who served as president of the Norwegian chapter for 20 years.

He was such an accomplished sailor, he represented Norway three times at the Olympics.

When Crown Prince Haakon married Mette-Marit in 2001, the king and queen welcomed her four-year-old son from a previous relationship.

Høyby was treated as one of the family, but the royal house later stressed he was never a royal.

The king's daughter Princess Märtha Louise initially married a Norwegian writer before controversially remarrying in 2024 to an American self-styled shaman. The couple's business activities eventually led to her halting her royal duties.

While some Norwegians may have felt Harald was too lenient with his family's controversial life decisions, Vagle believes he had "shown himself to be someone who puts talking things through ahead of issuing harsh instructions".

As the king's health declined, he permanently reduced his public engagements in April 2024.

More recently he was treated with cortisone for a rare blood condition, haemolytic anaemia, which causes the number of red blood cells in the body to be reduced. He entered hospital on 17 August and his son became regent, taking over his activities.

This year alone the Norwegian royal family has faced compounded personal health challenges and scandals.

The rape trial of Høyby, convicted of multiple offences in June, hung over the royal family for many months. He has now appealed against a four-year jail term and appeared at Har-

ald's bedside shortly before he died.

Days before the trial began, documents were released revealing his mother Mette-Marit's frequent contact with Epstein.

She later apologised to King Harald and Queen Sonja for her three-year friendship with Epstein and admitted to "poor judgement".

Two days after her son's trial came to an end, Mette-Marit received a lung transplant. She had been diagnosed with a rare form of pulmonary fibrosis eight years earlier.

Her doctors will not declare her stable until a year after the transplant, and King Haakon will face a difficult period of succession as he continues to support her.

The crises surrounding the monarchy have had an effect on its popularity. One poll for Aftenposten newspaper found that support had dropped from 72% in 2024 to 54%.

Other polls suggested almost half of Norwegians believed Mette-Marit could no longer become queen, although Haakon is now highly likely to say she will.

However, Vagle said criticism was rarely directed at the late king personally, leaving her with the impression that "everyone has loved King Harald".

"When things go wrong in the royal family, people tend to blame anyone but the king," Isaksen remarked.

Haakon has faced questions about the turbulence surrounding his own household that will "follow him into his position as a king", according to Taalesen, however she believes he has shown leadership and dealt with recent events well.

The royal family's main strategy has been to separate itself from Høyby's trial, and Schulsrud-Hansen believes that has largely succeeded.

Although there may be further scrutiny over the Epstein files, the focus for Norwegians now will be on remembering a "greatly beloved king" and supporting his son.

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Motivation

What aging parents want their adult children to understand

Across Kenya, a quiet generational reckoning is under way — and it begins with listening.

By: Ashford Kimani
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

In Kenya, the relationship between parents and children is often built on sacrifice. Many parents raised large families on modest incomes, paying school fees through hardship — selling livestock, borrowing money, cultivating small farms and working long hours — while repeatedly placing their children's needs above their own.

Their greatest hope was that education and hard work would give their children a better life. Yet as these parents grow older, a difficult transition begins: the people who once provided protection, authority and direction increasingly need support from the very children they raised. This reversal of roles is emotionally complex. Aging parents may need help with healthcare, finances, transport, household responsibilities or major decisions — but needing assistance does not mean they are ready to surrender their independence. Growing old may change a person's physical abilities; it does not erase their identity, wisdom, preferences or right to make choices about their own lives.

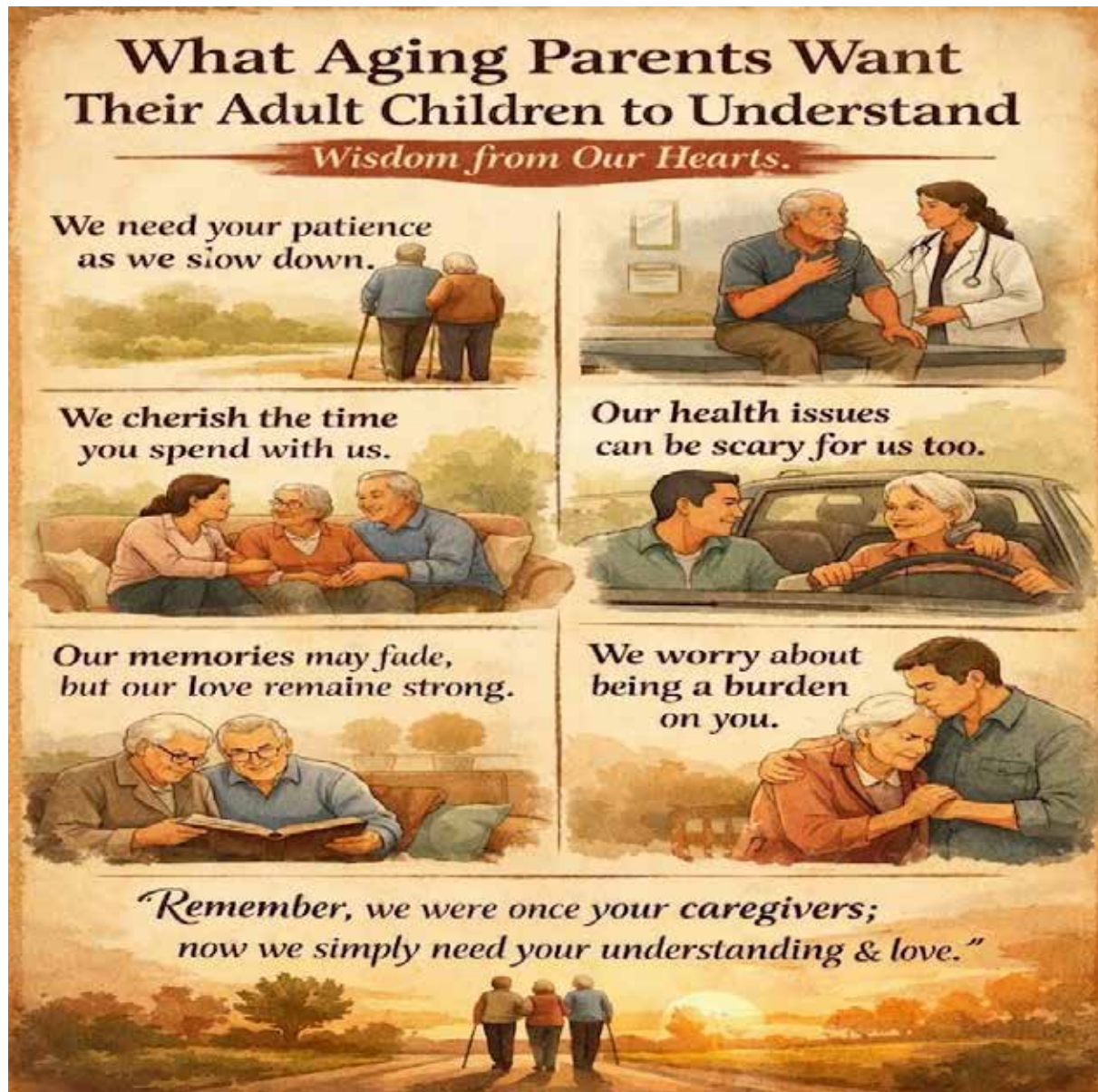
For adult children — especially those living and working far from home — understanding this distinction is essential.

One of the most important things aging parents want their children to understand is that growing old does not mean becoming useless. A parent may walk more slowly, forget certain details or struggle with technology, but age does not diminish the experiences that shaped them or the knowledge accumulated over a lifetime. Yet in many Kenyan homes, adult children begin speaking to elderly parents as though they have become children themselves — issuing instructions, dismissing opinions and making important decisions without consultation.

A son may decide his father must leave the rural home and move to Nairobi. A daughter may take control of her mother's finances without fully explaining how they will be managed. Such actions may be motivated by love and concern, but they can leave an elderly parent feeling displaced, powerless and shut out of their own life.

Support should never become domination. There is a profound difference between asking, "Mum, how can we make this easier for you?" and announcing, "Mum, this is what we have decided for you." Aging parents may welcome assistance, but they also want to remain active participants in decisions that affect their lives — help that preserves dignity rather than care that quietly takes away their voice.

They also want their adult children to understand that loneliness can sometimes hurt more than physical



weakness. Many Kenyan families assume that sending money is the same as caring. Financial support is important — particularly when older parents depend on their children for medication, food and household expenses — but money cannot replace presence.

An elderly parent may receive an M-Pesa transfer every month and still feel forgotten. What they may long for is a phone call that is not rushed, a visit that has nothing to do with a funeral or family emergency, and a conversation that goes beyond a hurried "How are you?" before the line goes quiet.

Sometimes the more meaningful questions are: "What has been happening in the village?" "How are your neighbours?" "Tell me about your childhood." Older parents often want to be heard — not merely checked on. They want to know that their stories still matter, that their memories are valued and that their lives remain important to the people they raised.

This matters deeply because many Kenyan adult children now live far from their ancestral homes. Employment, education and economic opportunity have scattered families across counties and continents. A parent may remain in Murang'a, Kitui, Kisii, Kakamega or Nyeri while their children build lives in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru or abroad. Distance is sometimes unavoidable; emotional absence is not.

Technology has made it possible

to stay connected across great distances. A regular phone call, a video conversation or even a simple message can reassure an aging parent that they have not been left behind. What matters is not only how often children reach out, but whether they listen — with patience and genuine interest.

Another difficult truth is that aging parents may fear becoming a burden. Some hide illness so as not to worry their children or disrupt their careers and family responsibilities. Others endure pain quietly, postpone hospital visits or conceal financial difficulties, saying they are fine even when they are struggling — because they do not want to appear needy.

Yet silence can turn manageable problems into crises. Families should discuss health, care preferences, finances and practical arrangements before an emergency forces difficult decisions upon them. Such conversations should not be treated as signs of impending death or as opportunities to take control of a parent's property. They are acts of responsibility and preparation.

Adult children should create an environment where parents can speak honestly without feeling guilty. Questions about health should not sound like interrogations. Conversations about money should not immediately arouse suspicion. The purpose should be preparedness, transparency and mutual trust — not surveillance or control.

In Kenya, aging is often complicated by land and inheritance. For many elderly parents, land is far more than an economic asset. It represents identity, ancestry, security and the labour of an entire lifetime — the place where they raised their children, buried their loved ones and built a sense of belonging.

Conflict often begins when adult children start treating a parent's land as future property rather than recognising it as the parent's present home and source of independence. An aging father or mother may feel deeply hurt when children begin discussing the subdivision, transfer or sale of land while the parent is still alive and perfectly capable of making decisions.

Such conversations can create the painful impression that an elderly person's value has been reduced to what they will leave behind. Adult children must remember that inheritance is not a substitute for relationship. A parent should not have to fear that growing old will make them vulnerable to pressure, manipulation or dispossession.

At the same time, aging parents want their children to remember that they are still parents. Even when physically weaker, they may continue to worry about their children's marriages, employment, finances and wellbeing. Their advice may sometimes seem outdated or unwelcome — but it usually comes from a concern that has endured for decades.

Adult children do not have to follow every opinion or allow parents to make their decisions for them. But disagreement does not require humiliation. A parent can be heard respectfully even when their advice is not taken. The challenge is to maintain healthy boundaries without using age as a reason to dismiss or ridicule them.

The relationship must also become more reciprocal and realistic. Parents should not expect their adult children to abandon their own families, careers or financial stability to provide unlimited care. Caregiving can be physically, emotionally and financially demanding — particularly when one sibling carries most of the responsibility while others remain distant.

Families should share responsibilities fairly. One child may contribute financially, another may coordinate hospital visits, while another provides regular companionship or assists with household needs. Care should not automatically fall to the daughter who lives nearest, nor should one responsible child carry the entire weight while others stay absent.

Aging also does not erase complicated family histories. Some adult children carry wounds caused by harsh parenting, neglect, favouritism, emotional distance or unresolved conflict. Respect for aging parents should not require pretending that painful experiences never happened. Compassion and healthy boundaries can coexist. Adult children may choose to care for their parents without accepting continued emotional harm or sacrificing their own wellbeing.

Ultimately, aging parents want something simple but profound: to remain visible. To be respected without being feared. Supported without being controlled. Consulted without being dismissed. Remembered before a crisis forces anyone to pay attention.

The Kenyan value of *utu* — human dignity — should guide how families respond to aging. Our parents once held our hands when we could not walk, stayed awake when we were sick and made sacrifices we may never fully understand. They carried us through seasons when we had little power to care for ourselves. As the balance of care shifts, our responsibility is not merely to keep them alive. It is to help them grow old with dignity, belonging, security and the enduring knowledge that they still matter.

The greatest gift adult children can offer aging parents may not be money, property or expensive medical care. It may be something far simpler — and far more powerful:

"You are still part of our lives. Your voice still matters. You are not a burden. We are here — not only because you need us, but because you are our parent."

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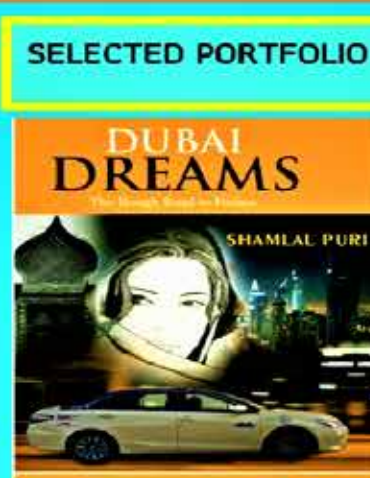
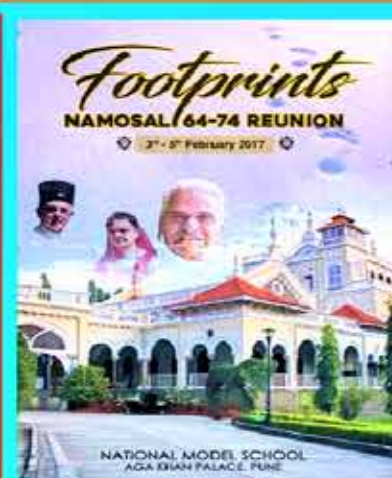
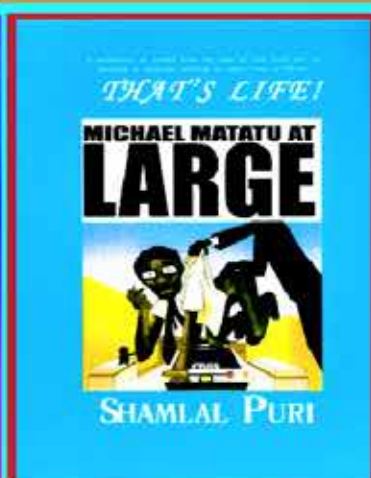
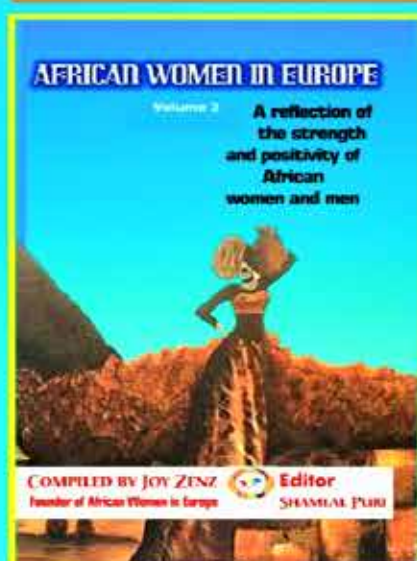
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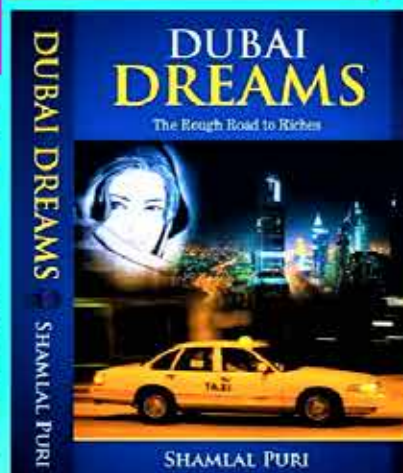
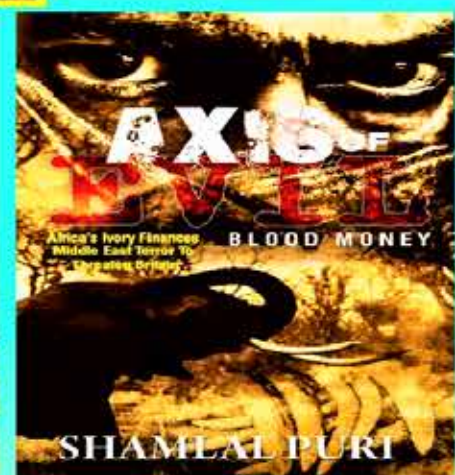
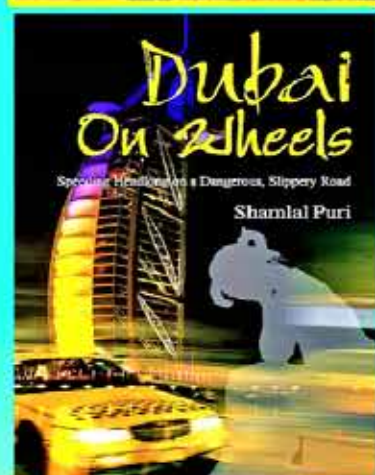
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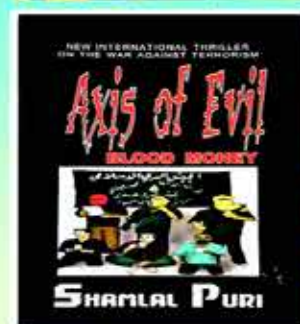
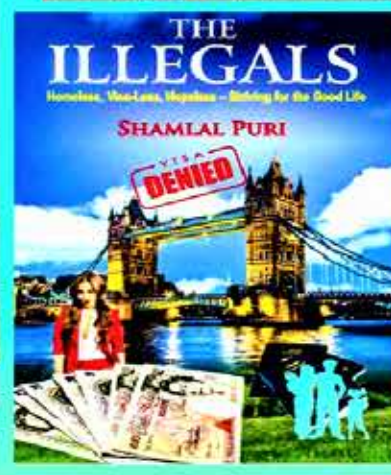
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UK News

**UK'S NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN BIZARRE COLOUR
BAR CRISIS:****ON THE WARPATH -VIOLENT RACIST WHITE BRITONS
SHUN TREATMENT FROM NON-WHITE MEDICS**

By: Shamlal Puri
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around the world, is fast turning into a war zone as racist white patients refuse to be treated by non-white medics attacking them. These medics are recruited from around the world, including mainly Commonwealth countries.

NHS staff have been called “dirty foreigners” and “monkeys”; other derogatory terms and disturbingly xenophobic comments, in an openly noticeable and, without doubt, unacceptable and sinister rise in racism from patients across the health service, a shocking recent survey has found.

The Society of Radiographers (SoR) has noted in its damning report that over the past one and a half years, there has been a growing, ugly trend reflecting very poorly on the racist behaviour of white British patients – which SoR calls unacceptable and unconscionable.

This is bound to rock the UK's reputation as a nation of a rainbow of colours, with people from various parts of the world, to its foundations. These racists openly flout NHS warnings.

NHS England maintains a zero-tolerance policy on racist abuse: – No Abuse, No Excuse - towards personnel who hail from different parts of the world, including the former British-ruled countries which today form the Commonwealth: Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, South East Asia. Added to these are medics from Turkey, Eastern Europe and the European Union (EU), where English is not their main language.

Since Britain's exit from the European Union, many doctors from the EU have left, but some have stayed on.

Medical staff in Britain reported many instances where white patients explicitly refused to be seen or treated by Black, Asian and other ethnic minority healthcare professionals.

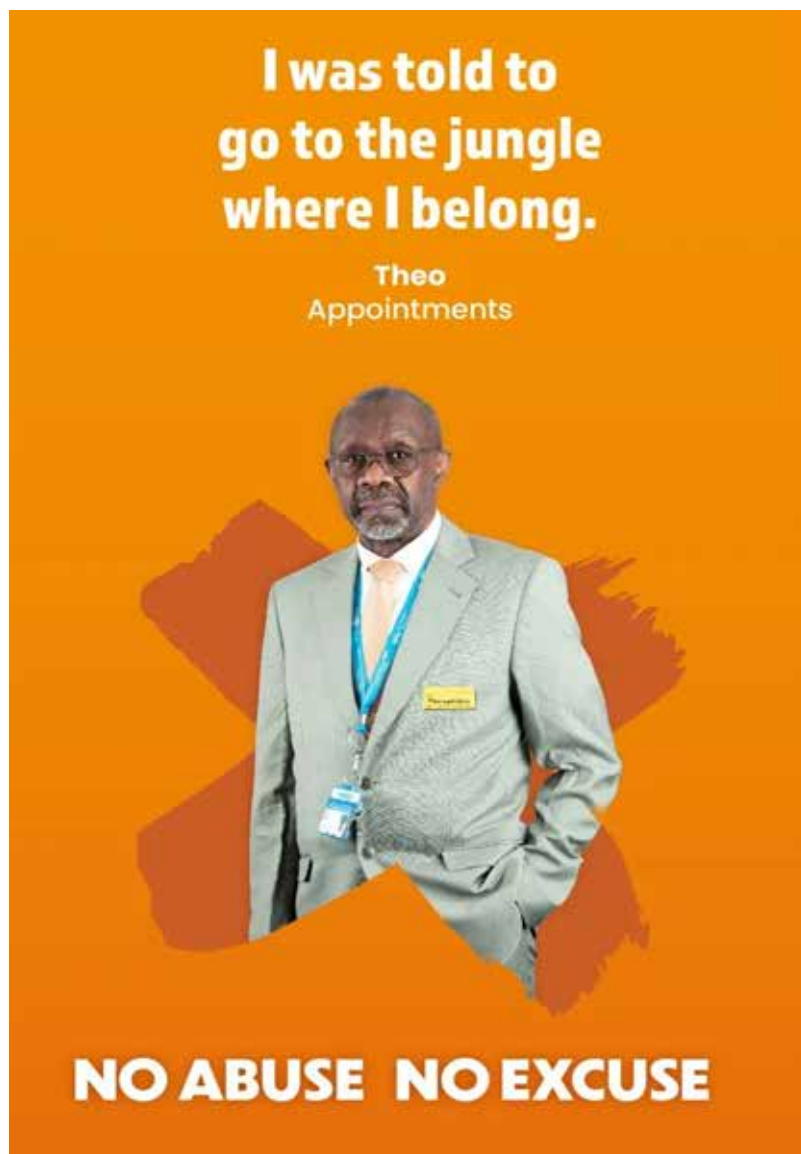
Angry patients abused these medics using racial slurs such as “monkeys” or “dirty foreigners” and questioned their professional competence based on the colour of their skin.

The SoR said its members noted some White patients have refused to be treated by non-white staff.

The report noted several incidents of



Photo 4 Nurse Jevita was hit so hard on the stomach when she was taking a patient's blood pressure that she landed on the floor. Photo Courtesy



NHS Appointments Officer Theo was told to go to the jungle where he belonged. Photo Courtesy.



Paul Awah from Nigeria ... Some White patients in the NHS refuse to be treated by Black medics as he experienced. The situation can worsen unless nipped in the bud. Photo Courtesy



Foreign nurses take care of patients just out of surgery in the recovery room of a London Hospital. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

hatred.

One worker said: “Some patients always complain because of the colour of skin of people attending them.”

One radiographer spoke of “patients describing healthcare staff as dirty foreigners”.

And another said: “I have witnessed a colleague being called a monkey by a patient.”

A sonographer reported that a white man refused to let a black sonographer scan his white pregnant wife, saying: “I don't want anyone from any ethnic background touching my woman.”

Paul Awah, a Bedfordshire-based Diagnostic Radiographer originally from Nigeria, says: “Patients claim not to hear what I'm saying, or say they can't understand me. English is the only language I speak, and I believe I'm clear enough when I'm speaking to patients.

“It's happened to me on two different occasions, when the patient is looking at me quite clearly in terms

of my skin colour.”

Mr Awah is skilled at cannulating patients, and colleagues will often call on him to help with particularly awkward cannulations. On three separate occasions, patients have then said to him, “Are you sure you've done this before?”

“I was stunned,” says Mr Awah. “They're saying, ‘If somebody who's Caucasian has tried and failed, how dare you bring a Black man now?’ On what basis do they think I'm unable to access their veins?”

Mr Awah agrees that racism has increased in recent months. “It's definitely got worse – people are more expressive now,” he says. “What used to be something people wouldn't say – now the rhetoric has changed. Immigrants are blamed for the cost of living, energy bills, the worsening situation in the country, and people feel it's okay to say it.

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UK News

UK'S NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN BIZARRE COLOUR BAR CRISIS: ON THE WARPATH -VIOLENT RACIST WHITE BRITONS SHUN TREATMENT FROM NON-WHITE MEDICS

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“Some of us get used to that kind of stigmatisation and subtle racism. It’s actually quite frustrating, to be honest. I came here to support the NHS, and I’m making vital contributions, working very, very hard because we’re not entitled to any public funds. Working that hard and then being seen as a parasite and part of the problem with this country is really not right at all.”

At the height of the Brexit crisis, two Western European medics were shouted at by White British patients: “Wait till we kick you out of Britain after we leave the European Union.” Sadly. Some of the non-white staff see this happening so often that they just accept it as something they had to put up with as part of their job. An Asian diaspora sonographer in the British Midlands said several patients have openly told her, “This country isn’t the same, with all those people coming here and taking our jobs.”

She said such incidents were becoming “more prevalent”, blaming the media and certain political parties, where people openly express such views without thinking. It is no secret that the Reform Party, which openly bases its politics on racial discrimination, has given native Brits an open licence to express such views. It plays the race card so openly that little is left to the imagination of white Britons.

Reform is vying to win the next General Election mainly on the immigrant and racism card – issues that many white Britons are enamoured with, who once spoke clandestinely and in hushed tones, now openly support and generate hatred through their comments in the media.

One Asian patient in London, who did not wish to be identified, said when he was travelling in an ambulance bus transporting several patients to their local hospital, a senior citizen white woman sitting next to him was complaining about foreigners who had “swamped Britain”. She moaned that many of the doctors and nurses at the hospital where they were going were black and she hated to be touched, let alone treated by them.

The Asian patient told her bluntly, “Unless you have a death wish and one foot in the grave, go ahead and don’t be treated at all. Why are you wasting precious resources of the NHS? Go home and wait to die.”

The cowardly white female patient shut her mouth.

Caribbean Nurse Yvonne still re-



Asian and other overseas nurses at the Guys and St Thomas Hospital in London, where they work with full support for each other. Photo Courtesy



Let’s give a big Leicester welcome to the NHS’s latest cohort of international nurses who joined Leicester’s Hospitals. Photo Courtesy



Blunt message...All NHS doctors in Britain’s hospitals, local and foreign, are there to serve their patients, not to harm them



A poster with a doctor’s daughter pleading with patients to keep her mother safe



Vital Patient care comes from experience and training. Photo Courtesy SoR

calls the day when, on her rounds of the ward, she was punched hard in the stomach that she landed on the floor, spraining her arm. She had only gone to ask how her patient was feeling after taking his medication. Another nurse, from Eastern Europe, working at a hospital in the Midlands, was spat at for no reason other than she was not British and the patient could not understand her accent. Nurse Annette does not feel comfortable when she is alone on the rounds of her hospital ward. There is always the inbuilt fear of unprovoked attack or verbal abuse because she is black. Not only nurses but also auxiliary staff are treated badly. Mohammed, a security officer, had worked at a London hospital for many years and

was very polite to everyone he met, but one day a patient kicked him in the jaw and broke his teeth. He could not understand the reason for this unprovoked attack. Rightly so, the hospitals say, “We don’t tolerate verbal or physical abuse,” adding that offending patients “could be blocked and prosecuted.” On their part, nurses say they work in the hospitals to help and not to hurt patients. It is not only Black and Asian medics who are abused and attacked; even in some situations, white doctors and nurses are also attacked by angry patients, but these are rare cases.

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UK News

UK'S NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN BIZARRE COLOUR
BAR CRISIS:ON THE WARPATH -VIOLENT RACIST WHITE BRITONS
SHUN TREATMENT FROM NON-WHITE MEDICS

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In a poster by the NHS East Kent Hospital University, a White child says emotionally, "My daddy is a nurse. Please keep him safe at work." Another poster with an innocent White girl pleads, "My mummy is a doctor. Please keep her safe at work." Theo, an African diaspora professional, in the NHS appointments department at a London hospital, recalls the day when, in no uncertain terms, an angry white patient barked these words: "I was told to go to the jungle where I belong." Little do many white Britons know that many African countries are developed with modern structures, education, etc. It shows how many White Britons are backwards in their thinking and almost illiterate. One patient ridiculed a radiographer's headscarf, saying they couldn't understand her mild Yorkshire accent. Another patient refused to be X-rayed by a black radiographer, saying "Black people frighten me." The Society of Radiographers surveyed members about their experiences of racism at work. One respondent said: "Some patients always complain because of the colour of skin of people attending them." Another spoke of "Patients not acknowledging you but directing questions to your junior." Some cases were even more overt. One respondent spoke of: "Patients describing healthcare staff as dirty foreigners," and another said: "I have witnessed a colleague being called a monkey by a patient."

A sonographer of Asian diaspora working in the Midlands says that several times, while she's been conducting a scan, the patient has commented along the lines of, "This country isn't the same, with all those people coming over here, taking our jobs."

And, in the sonographer's department, a white man refused to let a sonographer of colour scan his white pregnant wife, saying: "I don't want anyone from any ethnic background touching my woman."

On another occasion, a patient arriving for a chest X-ray refused to let a Black radiographer conduct the X-ray, stating that "Black people frighten me."

And a white British Therapeutic Radiographer, working in Yorkshire, says that a patient in her department made racist comments to multiple members of staff. His comments included telling a radiographer he couldn't understand what she was saying. The radiographer in question has a mild Yorkshire accent, but was wearing a headscarf. On another



Nurse Yvonne was hit so hard that she landed on the hospital floor. Photo Courtesy

er occasion, he made an inappropriate joke about a different radiographer's headscarf.

The Therapeutic Radiographer says: "When I spoke to him, he said the staff here didn't have the right diction. I told him we don't choose our radiographers by how they speak – we choose them based on skill."

"What upset me the most is it hadn't been reported to me – I just happened to hear the staff members talking through it. I felt it had happened to them so much that they just accepted it as something they had to put up with."

Dean Rogers, executive director of industrial strategy and member relations, says that no NHS employee should have to put up with racism in the workplace. "The rise in incidents of racism over the last year and a half is unconscionable and unacceptable – and it's a poor reflection on us as a society," he says.

"The NHS has a diverse workforce – which is one of its strengths. We are

clear: discrimination, harassment, racism, bullying or intimidation – whether expressed verbally or in behaviour – is unacceptable and has no place in the NHS."

The SoR has been working with other healthcare unions to create new NHS staff standards, published this month, which hold trusts to account for incidents of racism.

The SoR is now calling for the NHS to record incidents of racism and monitor how they are dealt with, working with trade-union partners to ensure this is done effectively. There are currently no guidelines for what should be done once an incident of racism is recorded.

Approximately 21 per cent of the NHS workforce are non-British nationals, and around one in four radiographers who are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council trained overseas.

The SoR therefore wants to see a more developed programme for inducting, orientating and integrating new staff, whether they have moved



An angry patient hit security guard Mohammed on the jaw so violently, breaking his teeth. Photo Courtesy

nationally or internationally.

In addition, the SoR will provide training for its reps, so that they can uphold the new staff standards with confidence. "Racist behaviours undermine patient care and go against our shared values of integrity, equity, courtesy and openness," says Mr Rogers.

"We want commitment and clear accountability when it comes to addressing anything that makes the NHS an unsafe environment in which to work. Together, we want to ensure that the NHS is safe, inclusive and proud of the diversity that makes us stronger."

There is no doubt that every nurse

and doctor of whatever colour is extremely good in their jobs.

The venom and xenophobia that white Brits are spreading show their own frustration and lack of education and understanding of the cultural wealth of those serving in the NHS and the United Kingdom at large.

There are dangerous days ahead, and without doubt, unless nipped in the bud, it would definitely get worse if not controlled.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe to roll out emotional learning programme to all 72 districts



By: Chimeno Azriel
azrielchimeno@gmail.com
Zimbabwe



ed by the Ministry with support from Education Development Trust (EDT), Think Equal and REPSSI, targets Early Childhood Development learners aged three to six and focuses on building 25 core competencies. These range from self-confidence, empathy, mindfulness and emotional literacy to resilience, critical thinking, problem-solving, gender equality and peaceful conflict resolution. Funding has been provided by the UK Government under the Teacher Effectiveness and

Equitable Access for All Children initiative.

Ndoro said the goal is to develop children who are emotionally intelligent from an early age. "We want our children to be able to have emotional intelligence at a very young age. When they grow up, they will become better citizens," he said.

"Even if you are a CEO or a manager, those are the skills you need — what we call intangible or soft skills. They go beyond the cognitive domain."

External evaluation findings from the pilot phase were compelling. According to EDT, 99 per cent of infant teachers reported observing improvements in learners' SEL com-



petencies after participating in the programme, with the biggest gains recorded in problem-solving and critical thinking — skills that teachers say are already translating into better classroom engagement and learning outcomes.

Loveness Chimuka of EDT described the programme as central to operationalising Zimbabwe's 2024 Early Learning Policy. "Its goal is to ensure that children have the emotional resilience, problem-solving and critical thinking skills they need to thrive in school and beyond," Chimuka said. She added that scaling up would allow more schools to benefit from the approach while standardising and strengthening the School Infant Module to build foundational skills in numeracy, literacy and social-emotional competencies. Tinotenda Chigeza, Africa Programmes Manager at Think Equal, underscored the scientific rationale for targeting early childhood. "We are targeting ECD level because according to neuroscience, these are the brain-building years. Ages three to six are the years where children are most receptive, and that is where we want to lay the foundation for lifelong skills," Chigeza said. Think Equal said it was open to further partnerships to support holistic foundational learning across the country.

Blessing Manditsera, Programmes Manager at the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI), said the evaluation confirmed that training teachers and district and provincial structures over the past

year was yielding results. "We are hoping that this work is actually contributing to tangible results. It is changing lives," Manditsera said.

The workshop brought together senior Ministry officials and development partners, including Chief Directors for Provincial Education Services from Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland South, alongside deputy directors responsible for infant education, learner welfare, gender, curriculum development and strategic planning.

The event also served as a platform to launch the Ministry's 2025–2030 Strategy on Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, designed to ensure that no learner is left behind due to gender, disability or social background.

Zimbabwe has 72 districts in total. With the nationwide rollout now confirmed, the Ministry said it would focus on teacher capacity building, community engagement and continued monitoring to ensure the gains recorded in the pilot are replicated across all provinces. EDT, Think Equal, REPSSI and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will continue as implementation partners.

Ndoro described the expansion as another brick in building the Zimbabwe envisioned under Vision 2030 — a generation that is not only academically competent but socially responsible and emotionally resilient.



Innovative machine for preparing soil to plant field seedlings under tunnel film



By: **Erkinov Jaloliddin**
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Nowadays, there is a high demand among farmers and peasants in our country and neighbouring republics for a machine that prepares the land for planting vegetable seedlings under tunnel film on open fields. This is aimed at supplying the rapidly growing world population with affordable and high-quality vegetables and increasing the export volume from our country to the global market. The machine is designed to use less energy and make productive use of previously underutilised arable lands. The innovative machine is several times more efficient compared to planting by hand, allowing large areas to be planted quickly and on time, which also helps crops to mature faster. Currently, there is no machine produced to prepare field seedlings for planting under tunnel film in our country and neighbouring republics. If the proposed machine is produced in series, it will create additional jobs and also provide the opportunity to export it to our country and neighbouring republics. Based on this, the proposed machine



Preparing the ground for planting seedlings under a tunnel film

for planting melon seedlings could have several advantages and could solve all the problems mentioned above. The machine for planting melon seedlings has been tested in large fields and has shown positive results. Considering these results, the machine has participated in several prestigious competitions and achieved high rankings, meaning that the work and outcomes based on the results show that the innovative technology created can address primary issues in the agricultural sector and be highly effective. The marketing analysis and strategy of the machine that plants vegetable seedlings is as follows: Marketing analysis. There is a possibility to produce the proposed machine in series at the Qarshi Repair Plant using local raw materials. Using the manufactured machine in

districts and tractor parks through machine service will provide several benefits to small-scale farmers with limited working capital. Agro-clusters currently face several problems when planting vegetable seedlings, including manually planting seedlings under tunnel film, which makes it impossible to plant large areas quickly. Therefore, the machine we are proposing allows vegetable seedlings to be grown efficiently and in an energy-saving way. The proposed machine allows seedlings to be planted under tunnel film on turf fields at a consistent depth and spacing according to agronomic requirements, ensuring high-quality planting across the field, which not only helps achieve higher yields but also enables efficient use of previously underutilised turf land. Marketing strategy. To start seri-

al production of the machine that prepares the proposed vegetable seedlings for planting under tunnel film, the working part of the machine should be made from quality metal, considering the physical and mechanical properties of different types of soil in our country, which will allow the machine to last for a long time. In early spring, preparing the main fields in advance for planting in the garden allows for the quick and high-quality planting of seedlings grown in greenhouses, which in turn prevents crops from being damaged by cold. This practice helps farmers and clusters who focus on growing garden crops to use the land efficiently and earn extra income. Tasks carried out to produce a machine that prepares the soil for planting vegetable seedlings in open

fields under tunnel plastic.

- Develop the “Technical Specifications” and create industrial models of the device;
- Conduct initial tests;
- Develop usage recommendations for the device;
- Design the device’s structure;
- Submit the design documents to “BMKB Agromash” JSC;
- Draft and approve the “Preliminary Requirements” and “Technical Assignment”;
- Improve the structures of the industrial samples of the device;
- Conduct field tests and implement.

Nowadays, the Ministry of Innovative Development is creating a foundation in every region for setting up innovative districts and carrying out projects, including making, testing, and implementing machines developed within these projects. Nowadays, farms and agro-clusters are using machines imported from developed countries, which are quite expensive. The machine we are offering is 50-60% cheaper than the prototype machine made abroad and can be manufactured using local materials. Additionally, it will be possible to produce repair and spare parts for local products within our country. Manufacturing the machine also creates additional job opportunities.

Erkinov Jaloliddin
Karshi State Technical University of 2nd student
Uzbekistan

Future

The Activities of the Abdulla Oripov Creative School and the Builders of the Future



By: **Uroqova Malikabonu**
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Abstract
This article discusses the successful activities of the creative school, the knowledgeable students studying at this prestigious institution, and the contribution of responsible and hardworking teachers to the bright future of the builders of tomorrow. The Abdulla Oripov Creative School is an educational institution that brings together young people who are passionate about both science and literature and nurtures patriotic, knowledgeable, and socially re-



sponsible youth who can contribute to the development of our country. Teachers who tirelessly contribute to the development of language and literature, which are regarded as a mirror of spirituality, are among the most respected members of this institution. The scientific and literary environment at the Creative School is always flourishing. Creative young people achieve remarkable heights through

their knowledge, intelligence, and talent. Just as every word has its own spark, the following students can serve as evidence of these achievements: E’zoza Alisherova, recipient of the State Award named after Zulfiya, Dilkhush Abduqahhorov, winner of the national “Zomin Ilhomlari” competition, and Gulhayo Narzullayeva, winner of the national competition “A Letter to My Jadid Grandfather.”

First of all, anyone who hears the name of the school may think that only young writers and poets study there. However, this is not the case. The institution educates not only future creative writers, but also outstanding engineers, doctors, talented diplomats, lawyers, political scientists, and future economic leaders. During the school’s nine years of activity, it has achieved countless victories, successes, and accomplishments. If the achievements of each year were recorded and compiled, they could fill a thousand-volume book. Of course, behind all these achievements are the dedication, hard work, effort, knowledge, and care of the great teachers and mentors. The teachers work with their students using effective and modern methods. They devote their time, selfless knowledge, and efforts to students who are always eager to learn. They deserve endless respect and gratitude.

Every teacher deserves appreciation, especially those hardworking educators who have earned a special place in the hearts of their students. Special thanks should be expressed to teachers Yoqutoy Jamolova, Mo-higul Olimjonova, and Nilufar Rahimova.

Uroqova Malikabonu was born on October 28, 2009, in Paxtaobod MFY, Nishon District, Qashqadaryo Region. Her creative works have been published in international publications in Azerbaijan, the United States, and Türkiye. She is also a participant in the Zomin-2025 Republican Traditional Young Creators Seminar. Currently, she is a pupil at the Abdulla Oripov School of Creativity under the Agency for Presidential and Specialized Creative Educational Institutions.

France

France flatlines: Revised GDP data puts annual target out of reach

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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France's economy ground to a halt in the second quarter of this year, with revised official data stripping away what had briefly looked like a modest recovery and leaving the country's full-year growth target looking increasingly unreachable.

The French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, known as INSEE, on Friday revised France's gross domestic product growth for the April-to-June quarter down to zero from a preliminary estimate of 0.2 percent. The revision followed a 0.2 percent contraction in the first quarter — itself a downward revision from an earlier estimate of 0.1 percent — meaning the eurozone's second-largest economy has now contracted or stagnated across two consecutive quarters.

The numbers landed with particular force because they arrived alongside a separate INSEE report showing that inflation in France rose to 2.4 percent in August, up from 2.1 percent in July — a combination of stalling growth and accelerating prices that economists describe as stagflationary pressure.

A summer that left its mark

The primary culprit behind the downward revision was the weather. INSEE cited “an even sharper deterioration in agricultural output compared with the information available at the end of July” as a key factor driving the revision.

France endured a punishing summer. Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard described drought, heat and fire as a “formidable trio” battering agriculture from Brittany to the Mediterranean, with all regions and all production types affected — cereals, vegetables, vineyards and livestock — and her ministry in crisis mode since May and June. Vegetable harvests collapsed, maize remained a major concern and fodder shortages spread across the country.

Finance Minister Roland Lescure was blunt about the connection. “This is the first concrete impact of the dreadful summer we’ve just been through,” Lescure said at the Summer Universities for Tomorrow’s Economy, referring to repeated heat-



Revised GDP data puts annual target out of reach

waves and drought.

INSEE also cited stronger-than-expected prices for market services as a contributing factor to the revision — data that was not fully available when the preliminary estimate was published at the end of July.

What the numbers actually show

Beneath the headline flatline, the second-quarter picture was mixed rather than uniformly bleak.

Household consumption — the traditional driver of French growth — returned to growth, rising 0.3 percent compared to a decline of 0.3 percent in the first quarter, boosted by a rise in consumption of food, energy and manufactured goods. Government consumption also ticked upward, rising 0.4 percent, compared with a 0.3 percent increase in the preceding quarter. The standout positive was trade. Exports rose sharply by 2.9 percent after a 3 percent drop in the previous quarter, driven by a strong rebound in aeronautical exports. Imports increased 1.1 percent after declining in the first quarter. The net result was that foreign trade made a positive contribution of 0.6 percentage points to GDP growth — a reversal from the 0.9 percentage point drag it had exerted in the first quarter.

But those gains were offset elsewhere. Investment

remained a drag on activity, with gross fixed capital formation falling 0.3 percent, reflecting continued weakness in market services investment and a further decline in construction activity. As companies stepped up shipments, they drew down inventories, which subtracted 0.7 percent from second-quarter growth. Household finances told a sobering story underneath the consumption rebound. INSEE said household purchasing power fell 0.5 percent in the second quarter after slipping 0.1 percent in the first, and savings fell markedly as inflation accelerated.

The annual target slips away

The revised figures have dealt a serious blow to the government's economic projections. The downgrade puts the French government's full-year growth forecast of 0.7 percent all but out of reach, as the economy would need to grow 0.5 percent in both the third and fourth quarters to achieve it, according to INSEE. That arithmetic looks difficult given the conditions. The French economy has been slowing since the third quarter of last year, hit by weak consumer spending and, more recently, the surge in energy prices from the conflict against Iran.

Lescure acknowledged the challenge directly, saying his ministry would need to

factor in a likely weak third quarter when it updates France's growth and deficit forecasts in September, ahead of presenting the 2027 budget bill in early October.

Deficit pressure mounts

The growth shortfall compounds what was already a difficult fiscal position. Weaker-than-expected growth raises the risk that the government will not be able to cut its fiscal deficit to 5.0 percent of GDP as planned this year, from 5.1 percent last year.

France's public debt is forecast to climb toward 122 percent of GDP by 2028, according to the Banque de France's baseline scenario. The government is already negotiating steep spending cuts for the 2027 budget, and the revised growth figures narrow the room for manoeuvre considerably. According to Emmanuel Moulin, governor of the Banque de France, the economy is expected to grow by only 0.5 percent this year — a downward revision from earlier projections — primarily due to high energy costs, with oil prices averaging 112 dollars per barrel in the second quarter.

Labour market under strain

The economic slowdown is feeding through to employment. The Banque de France expects the unemployment rate to rise to 8.4 percent

in 2026 — the highest since early 2019 — with private sector employment projected to drop by 59,000 jobs. The European Commission's Spring 2026 forecast sees the unemployment rate climbing further to 8.7 percent by 2027.

A weakening labour market compounds the pressure on households already absorbing higher energy costs and declining purchasing power — a cycle that risks further suppressing the consumer spending the economy depends on for growth.

What comes next

The revised data sets up a difficult autumn for the French government. With the 2027 budget bill due in early October, ministers must reconcile the need for fiscal consolidation with an economy that has now stagnated or contracted for two quarters running. INSEE will publish updated third-quarter estimates later in the year. For now, the numbers confirm what the summer's weather already signalled: France entered the second half of 2026 with less momentum than hoped, more vulnerability than planned for, and a narrowing margin for error.

Worth Noting:

- The primary culprit behind the downward revision was the weather. INSEE cited “an even sharper deterioration in agricultural output compared with the information available at the end of July” as a key factor driving the revision.

- France endured a punishing summer. Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard described drought, heat and fire as a “formidable trio” battering agriculture from Brittany to the Mediterranean, with all regions and all production types affected — cereals, vegetables, vineyards and livestock — and her ministry in crisis mode since May and June. Vegetable harvests collapsed, maize remained a major concern and fodder shortages spread across the country.

- Finance Minister Roland Lescure was blunt about the connection. “This is the first concrete impact of the dreadful summer we’ve just been through,” Lescure said at the Summer Universities for Tomorrow’s Economy, referring to repeated heat-

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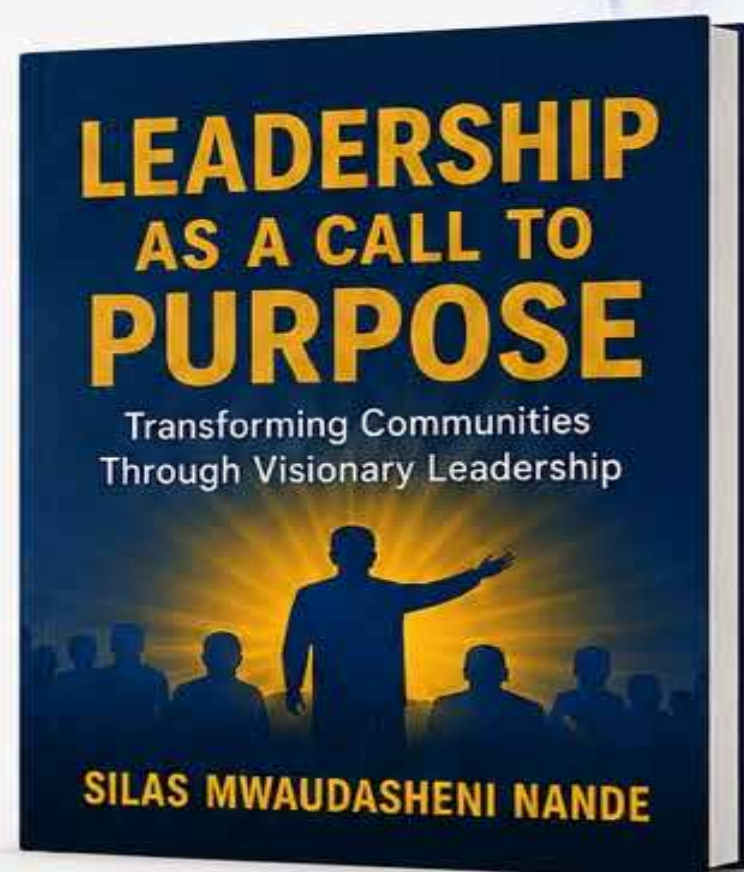
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When soldiers turn on the junta they helped create

*Niger's mutiny reveals a military government undone by the very crisis it promised to end.*By: Levis Wangamati
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Worth Noting:

- Security was intended to be the junta's strongest justification for remaining in power. Instead, jihadist violence has persisted across Niger, forcing frontline security forces to absorb staggering casualties. Although the regime severed ties with traditional Western security partners and aligned with Russia, this strategic pivot has failed to dismantle the insurgency.
- For soldiers deployed in combat zones, anti-imperialist rhetoric matters far less than whether they have the resources, tactical support and command leadership required to survive. This creates a dangerous disconnect between the government's official narrative and the brutal realities facing troops in the field. A government can temporarily persuade citizens that victory is near; it cannot easily deceive exhausted soldiers who face an unrelenting enemy every day.

The most critical question emerging from Saturday's attempted mutiny in Niger is not simply why soldiers attacked strategic installations in Niamey. It is why members of the armed forces turned against the very military government they helped install — a regime that seized power promising to restore security, rebuild the army and reclaim national sovereignty. That question strikes directly at the heart of the crisis now confronting General Abdourahamane Tchiani's government. Niger's military junta seized power in July 2023 after overthrowing President Mohamed Bazoum, framing the coup as a necessary response to deteriorating security and civilian mismanagement. Three years on, however, the very security crisis used to justify military rule is now applying unprecedented pressure on the military itself.

The security promise is wearing thin

Security was intended to be the junta's strongest justification for remaining in power. Instead, jihadist violence has persisted across Niger, forcing frontline security forces to absorb staggering casualties. Although the regime severed ties with traditional Western security partners and aligned with Russia, this strategic pivot has failed to dismantle the insurgency. For soldiers deployed in combat zones, anti-imperialist rhetoric matters far less than whether they have the resources, tactical support and command leadership required to survive. This creates a dangerous disconnect between the government's official narrative and the brutal realities facing troops in the field. A government can temporarily persuade citizens that victory is near; it cannot easily deceive exhausted soldiers who face an unrelenting enemy every day.

When the army begins to lose confidence

Reports indicate that mutinous troops were drawn from units stationed in high-risk areas such as Ouallam, Tera and Dosso — zones where Nigerian

forces have suffered heavy losses against al-Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates. Repeated tactical setbacks have bred deep frustration within frontline units, and that frustration provides the vital key to understanding Saturday's unrest. Military discontent rarely begins as an abstract political dispute. It begins with physical and operational exhaustion. It stems from the perception that command leadership is failing, that sacrifices are proving futile and that political elites in the capital no longer understand the operational reality on the ground. Once that frustration reaches a tipping point, an internal institutional grievance rapidly escalates into a political crisis. Saturday's events were therefore not an isolated breach of discipline. They were a symptom of a profound rift between the junta's political elite and the military base on which its survival depends.

The junta's central contradiction

A fundamental contradiction lies at the core of Niger's crisis. The military seized power on the premise that the civilian political order could not protect the nation. Yet the junta now finds itself trapped by exactly the same problem: persistent, unchecked insecurity. This failure creates an existential credibility crisis. If a military government cannot deliver the basic security improvements that justified its takeover, its legitimacy evaporates. While any regime suffers under such conditions, for a junta the consequences are immediate and dangerous. Military regimes rely fundamentally on the image of an undivided, highly capable armed force. The moment soldiers begin turning their weapons on their own commanders, the regime's primary source of authority becomes its greatest vulnerability.

The symbolism of the targets

The specific sites targeted during Saturday's unrest underscore the political ambition of the mutineers. Attacks focused on Base 101 at Diori Hamani International Airport and key areas sur-



General Abdourahamane Tchiani

rounding the presidential palace. The airport complex is not merely a civilian transit point — it houses vital military installations and air assets. The presidential district, meanwhile, is the epicentre of state authority. By striking these targets simultaneously, the mutineers signalled a challenge that extended far beyond grievances with local commanders. They struck at the dual symbols of the regime's political and military control. Even if contained, the attack exposes deep structural fragility.

The Sahel's larger military trap

Niger's predicament reflects a broader and troubling trend across the Sahel. Military governments now dominate Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. All three assumed power on a wave of public anger over rising insecurity, subsequently expelling Western forces in favour of non-Western security partnerships.

Yet a hard lesson is emerging across the region: removing civilian leaders does not eliminate the root causes of insurgency. Altering geopolitical alliances does not automatically yield tactical victories on the ground.

Replacing political figures cannot cure deep-seated institutional weaknesses overnight.

A military can capture the presidential palace in a morning. It cannot capture victory over a complex insurgency simply by changing who sits inside it.

The airport attacks tell their own story

Saturday's mutiny carries additional weight because it follows two prior assaults on the same airport complex this year. Diori Hamani International Airport and Base 101 were struck in January by an Islamic State affiliate and again in June by a group linked to al-Qaeda. That Niger's most critical strategic military infrastructure has now been targeted by both external jihadist groups and internal mutineers reveals an alarming vulnerability. A regime can readily frame external insurgents as a common enemy. It is far more difficult to explain away armed rebellion originating from within the very forces tasked with defending the state.

The real test for Tchiani

Tchiani faces a crisis that

extends far beyond securing the streets of Niamey. He must repair shattered confidence within his own military ranks.

Restoring stability requires more than suppressing mutineers. It demands addressing the underlying operational grievances that drove soldiers to take up arms against their own leaders. If those frontline realities remain unaddressed, Saturday's violence will prove to be a prelude rather than an isolated incident.

The junta came to power precisely because the previous state structure failed to deliver security and confidence. Three years later, the regime faces the harsh reality that the very pressures that brought it to power are now eroding its foundation from within.

The ultimate test for Niger's leadership is no longer simply whether it can defeat insurgents in the field. It is whether it can maintain unity within its own barracks. ENDS

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HONOURING THE PAST, POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE

An Analysis of the Investiture Ceremony and the 60th Commemoration of Heroes Day in Namibia, and the Political Calculus Ahead of 2027 and 2029

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Two Ceremonies in Forty-Eight Hours

On 25 August 2026, at the Independence Stadium in Windhoek, the President of Namibia, H.E. Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, presided over an Investiture Ceremony. She conferred national honours on 1,001 Namibians. The following day, at Heroes Acre outside Windhoek, she delivered a statement marking the sixtieth commemoration of Heroes Day. Two days before that, on Monday 24 August, the remains of six liberation figures were reburied at the same site. Three solemn national occasions, staged within seventy-two hours of one another, formed a single coordinated moment of remembrance.

Read together, the events raise a question that goes beyond ceremony. Could this concentrated display of recognition, reburial and renewed national purpose improve the political standing of the President? Could it strengthen the position of the SWAPO Party as the country moves toward a defining period in both its internal succession and its national electoral cycle? This article sets out to answer those questions with care. It draws on the Investiture Ceremony booklet and the full text of the Heroes Day statement. It also draws on the wider record of Namibian politics.

Two clarifications are necessary before any political reading can proceed responsibly. Both concern claims embedded in the framing of this analysis. Both require correction rather than assumption.

The first concerns the electoral calendar, addressed fully below. The second concerns the rescue that forms the emotional centre of the Heroes Day statement. The words of the President describe nine-month-old twins thrown into a water pond on 17 May 2026. Reporting in *The Namibian* on the same conferment confirms this detail and confirms the reward that followed. Precision on small facts matters in political writing. Larger arguments are often judged by the accuracy of their smaller claims.

Anatomy of an Extraordinary Investiture

The Investiture Ceremony booklet states the legal basis for the conferment plainly. Article 32(3)(h) of the Constitution vests the President with authority as Grand Master of the Namibian National Honours System. The Conferment of National Honours Act, Act 11 of 2012, supplies the statutory framework beneath that authority. That Act created the categories of orders, decorations and medals in use today. Among them are the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis, the Most Distinguished Order of Namibia, the Liberation Medal and the Independence Medal.

The scale of this year's conferment is unusual. The booklet lists eight hundred and four recipients of the Liberation Medal. That medal is reserved for those who joined the armed liberation struggle and endured imprisonment, exile or displacement in its service. The booklet lists a further one hundred and ninety-seven recipients of the Independence Medal. That medal is reserved for those who advanced the cause of independence from within the country under apartheid rule, at the risk of arrest or worse. The two totals sum to exactly one thousand and one, the figure the President cited the following day at Heroes Acre. No comprehensive public register exists comparing every conferment ceremony held since 1995. Any claim that this is the largest cohort ever honoured cannot be verified with full confidence, and this analysis makes no such claim. What can be said with confidence is more modest, yet still notable. Across fourteen pages of names, spanning every region of the country, a conferment of this size, held in a single day, is exceptional by any reasonable historical comparison available.

The citations accompanying each medal share a common register. They describe honourees as sons and daughters of the soil. They speak of sacrifice placed above personal interest. They invite each recipient into what the booklet calls the revered alumni of the honours system. This language performs a function beyond the simple keeping of records. Repeated annually, it operates as a form of national liturgy. It binds each new cohort of the living to the memory of those who did not survive to receive any medal at all.

Namibian commentary on the honours system has not been uniformly approving. A dialogue published earlier this year in the *Windhoek Observer* asked directly whether the national honours had begun to lose their allure. The piece cited political analyst Ndumba Kamwanyah. He argued that existing legislation does not set out sufficiently clear guidelines for determining eligibility. He warned against tying the system too closely to liberation credentials



Cornelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni

alone. Namibians who serve the nation through science, education, entrepreneurship, journalism and public health, he argued, deserve equal recognition. That critique was published before this particular conferment. It deserves to sit alongside any assessment of the scale achieved this year.

A Genealogy of Sacrifice

The Heroes Day statement does not confine itself to 1966. It constructs a continuous historical line stretching from resistance before colonial rule to the present day. That construction is itself a political act worth examining closely.

The President began with Omugu-

lugwombashe, the site of the first armed engagement of the liberation war, on 26 August 1966, sixty years to the day before her statement. She then reached back further. She named battles fought against German colonial forces at Otjiunda in 1896, at Ohamakari and Okandjira in 1904, and at Namutoni in the same year. She named Vaalgras in 1905 and Oihole in 1917. She named the genocide committed against the Herero and Nama peoples during that period. She recalled the Battle of Sam Khubis in 1915 as evidence that resistance drew on faith as much as on arms.

She moved forward again to 10 December 1959. On that day, residents of the Old Location in Windhoek

resisted forced removal to what is now Katutura, led by figures such as Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda. She named 19 April 1960, when the Ovamboland People's Organisation transformed into SWAPO. She named the workers' strike of the 1970s and the youth exodus into exile that began in 1974. She named the 1988 school boycott at Ponghosi Secondary School in Ohangwena. It was sparked by the deaths of two schoolgirls, Albertina Nghikongelwa and Victoria Nghikofa, killed in a military strike on their dormitory. She closed the sequence with Cor-

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nelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni, the sixteen-year-old honoured for a single act of courage in 2026. The effect of this sequence is cumulative, not incidental. Every generation named in the statement answers a call particular to its own moment, from armed resistance to student defiance to an act of individual rescue. SWAPO appears throughout this sequence as the vessel through which national resistance organised itself, from 1960 onward. A listener without prior knowledge of Namibian history would come away believing that the nation and the party grew from the same root, at almost every stage of the story. That belief may be historically defensible in large part. It is also, whatever its accuracy, a highly effective piece of political construction.

Restoration of Dignity: The Reburial and Its Diplomacy

On Monday 24 August, two days before the Heroes Day statement, six liberation figures were reburied at Heroes Acre. The remains of Elias-er Tuhadeleni, Hafeni Immanuel Shifidi, Nduuvu Fillemon Nangolo and Nathaniel Maxuilili were exhumed from burial sites within Namibia. The remains of Simon Petrus Niilenge and Festus Nehale were returned from South Africa. Symbolic graves were also dedicated for Brendan Simbwaye and Tobias Hainyeko, whose final resting places remain unknown to this day. The President described reinterment as an act of restorative justice. She called it the restoration of dignity, rather than the mere movement of remains. That framing situates the Namibian reburial within a wider regional practice. Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa have each pursued comparable repatriation projects at various points since their own transitions. Each has treated the recovery of remains from the era of liberation as an act of national healing, one that carries emotional weight independent of any electoral calculation. The President thanked South African Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture Gayton McKenzie for his cooperation. He worked closely with Namibian Minister Dr Sanet Steenkamp to secure the return of the two sets of remains held in South Africa. This detail carries particular significance for an analysis of political positioning. Nandi-Ndaitwah served for years as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation before her elevation to the vice presidency and then the presidency. A success-

fully executed, dignified repatriation across international borders plays directly to that biography. It signals continuity between her diplomatic career and her presidency. It does so through an act that few Namibians, whatever their party allegiance, would object to.

A Sixteen-Year-Old Redefines Heroism

The most striking passage in the Heroes Day statement concerns no liberation figure at all. It concerns Cornelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni, a sixteen-year-old from Omutundungu village in the Omusati Region. According to the statement, Cornelius rescued nine-month-old twins after they had been thrown into a water pond, on 17 May 2026, at clear risk to his own life. Reporting by The Namibian on the same conferment confirms the essential facts. It records that Cornelius received a medal and a cash award of two hundred thousand Namibia dollars. The President used her authority under Article 32(3)(h) of the Constitution. She read it together with section 3(2) of the Conferment of National Honours Act. On that authority, she conferred hero status on Cornelius directly, separate from the Liberation and Independence Medals conferred the previous day. This is a marked departure from every other honour conferred across the three days under discussion. Every other recipient was recognised for the liberation struggle or for long service to the nation. Cornelius represents neither history. He represents a single act of courage by an ordinary teenager with no political record whatsoever. The President built an argument for the future of Namibian heroism around this single act. She asked, directly, who counts as a hero in a free Namibia. She then widened the category herself. A mother who prepares children for school before selling goods at the market performs a form of heroism, in her formulation. So does a nurse who remains compassionate after an exhausting shift, and a public servant who declines a bribe though no one is watching. Each, she argued, meets the standard suited to the present era, an era she described as a struggle for economic emancipation rather than political liberation. This is shrewd rhetorical construction, and it accomplishes two things at once. It reaches younger Namibians who feel little personal connection to a struggle that ended nine years before most of them were born. Roughly seventy per cent of the Namibian population is under thirty-five years of age. The construction also reframes the standard by which the current administration invites judgement. If heroism today



Cornelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni

means integrity in ordinary work, rather than participation in historical struggle, then government itself must be measured by delivery rather than by memory alone. That is a demanding standard to set, particularly for an administration presiding over youth unemployment above forty per cent.

Honours as Statecraft: The International Dimension

National honours in Namibia serve a second function beyond domestic commemoration. They operate as an instrument of foreign policy. In July 2025, President Nandi-Ndaitwah conferred the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. That order is the highest civilian honour available under Namibian law, and it was conferred during a state visit to Windhoek. The same order was conferred previously on

Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in recognition of Cuban military and diplomatic support during the liberation struggle. That precedent echoes through the Heroes Day statement itself. The statement recalled the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, and thanked Cuban internationalists directly for what the President called sharing the trenches with fighters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia. Viewed alongside the domestic conferment of 25 August and the reburial diplomacy conducted with South Africa, a pattern emerges. The honours system functions simultaneously as a tool of internal legitimation and a tool of external alignment. It allows the presidency to reward foreign partners, commemorate historical allies and recognise domestic contribution, all through a single constitutional instrument. For a head of state whose formative career was built in international

relations, this dual use of the honours system is a natural extension of existing diplomatic instinct. It strengthens her international standing, quite apart from any domestic electoral calculation.

The Politics of Liberation Memory: A Regional Comparison

Namibia is not alone among former liberation movements in drawing on commemoration to reinforce legitimacy. The African National Congress in South Africa, ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe and Frelimo in Mozambique have each invoked the memory of liberation at different moments. They have done so as electoral competition intensified, and as economic performance came under

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strain. Political analysts sometimes describe this as a claim to moral inheritance. The argument runs that the movement which delivered independence retains a standing claim on national gratitude, regardless of its record in government since. SWAPO occupies a distinctive position within this comparison. Unlike the African National Congress, which lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 2024, SWAPO has not yet lost a national election since 1990. Its parliamentary majority has nonetheless declined steadily, from sixty-five per cent in 2019 to fifty-three per cent in 2024. That result was widely described at the time as the weakest in the history of the party. Local and regional elections held in November 2025 suggested a partial recovery. SWAPO reclaimed several constituencies in the Erongo, Khomas, Hardap and southern regions, areas that had shifted toward the Landless People's Movement and the Independent Patriots for Change five years earlier. Set against this backdrop, a conferment of unusual scale and a heavily attended Heroes Day commemoration function as a reassertion of the founding narrative. That reassertion arrives at a moment when the narrative faces genuine, if still modest, electoral competition. Whether this reassertion was designed with that competition specifically in mind is one question. Whether it simply follows the statutory rhythm of Namibian public life is another, since honours are conferred and Heroes Day is commemorated every single year regardless of politics. Both questions are addressed directly in the sections that follow.



Cornelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni

The Case that these Acts Strengthen the President and The Party

Several arguments support the view that the events of 24, 25 and 26 August improve the political position of Nandi-Ndaitwah, and by extension the SWAPO Party. Scale itself carries political value. One thousand and one honourees, drawn from every region named in the booklet, each carry family, neighbours and community associations. That represents an unusually wide network of personal goodwill. Even a modest multiplier effect, relatives and friends who feel pride in a person being honoured, reaches a meaningful share of the population. That share matters ahead of the 2027 party congress and the 2029 general election. The reburial diplomacy conducted with South Africa demonstrates competent statecraft. It draws directly on the background of the President in foreign affairs. It reinforces an image of a leader capable

of delivering results through patient international negotiation, a useful asset for a party currently positioning its next generation of leadership. The elevation of Cornelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni extends the emotional reach of the commemoration well beyond veterans and their families. It reaches toward a much younger audience. It supplies a fresh, apolitical story of courage, one that Namibian outlets covered with evident sympathy. That coverage generated goodwill carrying no trace of partisanship. The rhetorical shift from liberation heroism toward everyday civic heroism gives the administration a vocabulary suited to its own record. Farmers, entrepreneurs, teachers and honest officials become part of the national story the President is telling. That story doubles as an invitation to identify the governing party with ordinary daily progress, rather than with historical achievement alone. Finally, the 2027 congress falls to

party delegates rather than to the general public. Even so, a President seen as a dignified, unifying figure of state is better placed to discourage internal challenge. She is better placed, too, to favour a preferred successor at that congress. Her authority within SWAPO rests partly on the stature she projects nationally, and stature of this kind is difficult to build through ordinary governance alone.

The Limits of Symbolism

The case against reading too much political calculation into these events is equally substantial, and deserves equal weight. Heroes Day and the conferment of national honours are annual, statutory obligations under Namibian law. They occur every year regardless of the electoral calendar, and have done so since long before the current administration took office. Treating a routine constitutional function as a deliberate electoral

strategy risks overstating intent, in a case where continuity offers the simpler explanation. The critique voiced in the Windhoek Observer before this year cuts directly against a straightforward reading of this conferment as an unqualified political triumph. That critique held that the honours system lacks clear legislative criteria, and risks dilution through scale. A system perceived as overly broad can invite cynicism as readily as gratitude. This is particularly true among younger voters, already frustrated by unemployment above thirty-six per cent overall, and above forty-four per cent among the young. The 2027 congress, moreover, is decided by party delegates, not by public sentiment. It is a contest shaped by factional loyalty within SWAPO structures, as much as by national mood. Figures already positioning themselves for the Vice Presidency, among them Dr Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, retain their own bases of support. That support exists

independent of how the President is viewed by the broader electorate. Improved public approval does not automatically translate into a preferred outcome inside what remains, fundamentally, an internal party contest. Opposition parties have built their appeal on different ground entirely. The Independent Patriots for Change, the Landless People's Movement, Affirmative Repositioning and the Popular Democratic Movement each campaign chiefly on service delivery, land, housing and youth employment. None of them contests the legitimacy of the liberation history itself. A ceremony rooted in liberation memory addresses a dimension of Namibian politics on which SWAPO already holds a considerable advantage. It leaves largely untouched the economic grievances on which the opposition competes

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most effectively. Finally, the structural problems named directly within the Heroes Day statement are not the kind of problems any ceremony can resolve. Poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption and institutional inefficiency were all named by the President herself, who framed them as the unfinished struggle of the current generation. Symbolic recognition may generate genuine warmth in the days following a ceremony of this kind. It does not, on its own, generate employment. Namibian voters have shown, in successive elections, that they are willing to punish a governing party for failing to close that particular gap.

What this Means for SWAPO Beyond One Leader

Even where the direct personal benefit to the President remains genuinely uncertain, the events of late August plausibly serve the wider standing of the governing party as an institution. SWAPO holds a structural advantage that few opposition parties can match. In the collective memory of most Namibians, the party remains inseparable from the liberation struggle itself. Every act that reinforces the salience of that struggle indirectly reinforces the salience of the party most closely associated with leading it. This holds true even though many individuals honoured this year, and in previous years, were never SWAPO members. The citations recognise contribution to liberation and nation-building broadly, rather than partisan service specifically. The emphasis on continuity runs from the fighters of Omugulugwombashe in 1966, through the students of Ponthofi in 1988. It runs through the founding leadership of the late Dr Sam Nujoma, to a sixteen-year-old in Omusati in 2026. This sequence constructs a single unbroken national story, with SWAPO cast as its custodian across every chapter. That construction represents a durable form of political capital. It does not depend on any single leader. It can, at least in part, be transferred to whichever candidate the party selects at its 2027 congress, and presents to the country in 2029. The honest answer to whether these acts could give credit to the SWAPO Party, then, is a qualified yes. That answer can be offered with more confidence than any answer to whether the acts specifically advantage Nandi-Ndaitwah in an internal succession contest she does not personally control. The party benefits from the reinforcement of national memory almost automatically. Any individual leader benefits from it



Cornelius Tulotokela Shimwaafeni

only to the extent that delegates and voters continue to see that leader as the legitimate custodian of the memory being reinforced.

Other Acts, the Same Pattern

The two ceremonies of late August do not stand alone. They fit a wider pattern of conduct that a fair analysis should acknowledge. The question posed at the outset by individuals in public spheres, after all, asks about other national and international acts of good standing as well. The repatriation of remains from South Africa, discussed above, is one such act. The conferring of the Welwitschia Mirabilis on foreign leaders is another, a practice that predates this administration but that the President has continued and extended. The consistent invocation of Southern African solidarity is a third example. It is marked each year on 23 March as Southern Africa Liberation Day, in memory of the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. It situates Namibia within a network of regional gratitude stretching to Angola and Cuba. None of these acts

was created by the events of 24 to 26 August 2026. Each has been extended and reinforced by them. Taken together, this pattern suggests something broader than calculation. It suggests a presidency that treats commemoration, diplomacy and domestic recognition as connected instruments of one governing style, rather than as isolated events timed to a single moment. That does not remove the political value such acts may carry. It does mean the value should be read as part of a consistent approach to leadership, not as a sudden manoeuvre invented for late August 2026 alone.

Conclusion: Between Legitimacy and Delivery

Three occasions sit at the centre of this analysis: the Investiture Ceremony of 25 August, the reburial of 24 August, and the sixtieth commemoration of Heroes Day on 26 August. Each was solemn and carefully constructed in its own right. They honoured genuine sacrifice. They corrected a documented historical wrong, through the return

and reburial of six liberation figures. They offered the country a vivid, apolitical story of courage, in the person of a sixteen-year-old from Omusati. Read politically, the events sit comfortably within a long regional tradition. Liberation movements across Southern Africa have used commemoration to reinforce legitimacy at moments of electoral pressure. SWAPO faces real, if still modest, pressure of this kind. That pressure is evident in its reduced 2024 parliamentary majority, and only partially reversed by its recovery in the November 2025 local and regional elections. Whether these events measurably strengthen the position of Nandi-Ndaitwah is a harder question. It bears on the 2027 party congress, and thereby on the 2029 general election, but it cannot be answered with confidence from the ceremonies alone. That contest will turn on the choices of a few hundred delegates, operating under considerations this analysis cannot observe directly. What can be established with more confidence is narrower, but still sig-

nificant. The ceremonies reinforce a national narrative from which SWAPO, as an institution, continues to draw benefit, largely independent of any single leader. The harder tests facing both the President and her party lie beyond the reach of any medal ceremony. Unemployment above thirty-six per cent will not be resolved by an afternoon at Independence Stadium. Nor will youth unemployment above forty-four per cent, persistent inequality, or the public demand for institutional integrity, however moving that afternoon proved to be. History is unlikely to remember Namibia in 2026 chiefly for the length of its honours list. It will remember whether the promise attached to that list, of economic emancipation to match the political freedom already won, was kept.

Rwanda opens door to Europe's migrant dilemma

Kigali confirms talks with five EU nations on deportation hubs, reviving a controversial outsourcing model that Britain tried and abandoned.

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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Rwanda has confirmed that representatives from several European countries visited Kigali this week to discuss the possibility of the east African nation serving as a transit point for migrants deported from the European Union — the latest development in Europe's increasingly assertive push to offshore the management of rejected asylum seekers. Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhugirehe confirmed the visit to AFP on Friday but declined to provide further detail on the substance of the talks or any possible timetable. "The visit indeed occurred and the negotiations are ongoing," Nduhugirehe told the agency.

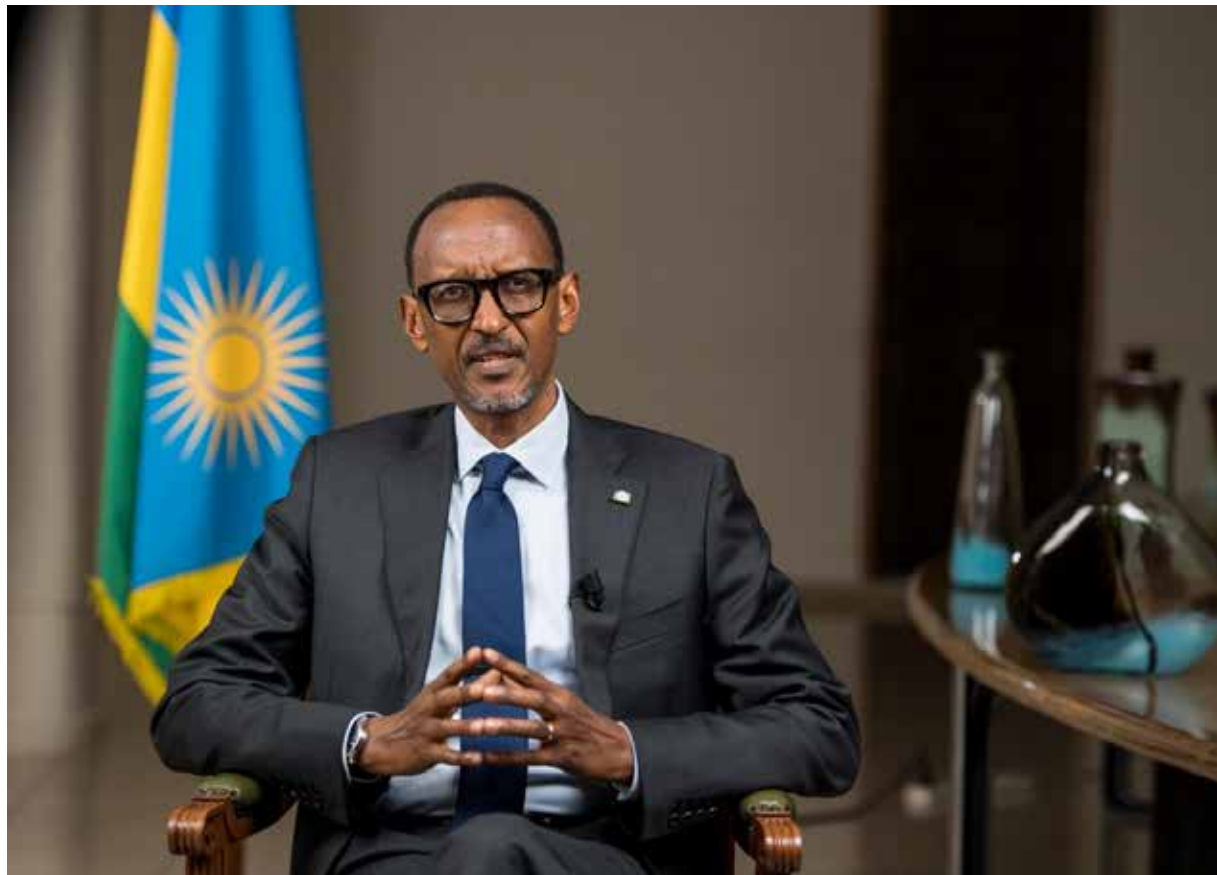
The confirmation follows a report in the German magazine Der Spiegel that Germany, Austria, Denmark, Greece and the Netherlands had dispatched a delegation to Rwanda to explore the establishment of centres for rejected asylum seekers on Rwandan soil. All five countries have said they want to create such "hubs" outside the European Union by the end of the year, after the European Parliament passed legislation in June creating the legal framework for member states to do so.

A new legal framework, familiar controversy

Less than a week after the EU approved its toughest-ever deportation framework, member states were already discussing where to establish the bloc's first offshore return hubs, hoping they would be operational as soon as 2027. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis set out the ambition plainly. "Our goal is to conclude the first agreements for the creation of these structures in 2026, so that they are operational from 2027," he said ahead of last month's vote.

The passage of the new Return Regulation drew sharp criticism from human rights organisations, who argue the framework risks stranding migrants in legal limbo far from the legal systems and protections available inside the EU. Supporters argue the hubs would deter irregular crossings and speed removals; critics warn they risk handing leverage to host states.

The five nations involved are coordinating closely. Denmark's Ministry of Immigration officially confirmed that the five countries had jointly undertaken the initiative for the practical implementation of the



Rwandan President Paul Kagame

return centres. Greece's role is being led by Migration and Asylum Minister Thanos Plevris, for whom the timetable carries added political significance: Greece will assume the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2027, the period in which the first facilities are expected to become operational.

Why Rwanda?

Rwanda's appeal as a potential host lies not merely in its diplomatic willingness but in existing infrastructure. Rwanda's main advantage is that it already has infrastructure and previous experience in receiving and temporarily hosting migrant and refugee populations, meaning that — provided the two sides reach an agreement — such a scheme could begin operating within a considerably shorter timeframe than it would elsewhere.

Rwanda already operates a temporary reception facility under the Emergency Transit Mechanism, run in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. One facility specifically under consideration is the Gashora Transit Centre, approximately 60 kilometres from Kigali, where migrants stranded in Libya were received from 2019 while their asylum applications were processed. Nearly 3,000 arrivals were recorded between 2019 and 2025, according to the UN.

Government spokesperson Yolande

Makolo emphasised that the discussions were chiefly based on Rwanda's "general approach and experience on the migration issue," and stressed that "nothing has been decided." Makolo said the current focus of the talks was on establishing an emergency transit mechanism — "a safe place for families who are stranded, have nowhere else to go, or are in danger for various reasons." She added that families in such a facility could spend time in Rwanda while either preparing to return to their countries of origin or waiting to be resettled elsewhere.

The Rwandan government had indicated earlier this month that it had begun "preliminary discussions" with several European countries, without specifying which nations were involved.

A broader shortlist

Discussions have centred on 12 nations: Rwanda, Ghana, Senegal, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Montenegro and Ethiopia, though one source described the list as indicative rather than final.

Italy has also announced that it has begun negotiations with Rwanda over plans to establish a migrant return hub as part of a new European strategy, with Rwanda among three African countries — alongside Uganda and Ghana — where preliminary discussions are under way on hosting pilot return centres that

would be jointly managed by European countries and funded by the EU.

The proposed hubs would not be run directly by the European Union. Individual EU member states would be allowed to operate such facilities in countries situated outside the bloc. They would be designed exclusively to house migrants who have no legal right to remain in the EU but cannot be returned to their countries of origin — a category that in many cases involves people from states with which the EU has no functional deportation agreements. The European Commission said approximately 28 percent of people ordered to leave the bloc were returned in 2022 to accept undocumented migrants who had crossed the English Channel on small boats from northern France. The arrangement became one of the most contentious policy debates in British politics, surviving successive prime ministers before ultimately collapsing in the courts.

Britain's failed blueprint

The current European discussions carry an unavoidable echo of a policy experiment that ended in failure. Rwanda struck a deal with the Conservative government of then UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in 2022 to accept undocumented migrants who had crossed the English Channel on small boats from northern France. The arrangement became one of the most contentious policy debates in British politics, surviving successive prime ministers before ultimately collapsing in the courts.

The deal did not materialise due to

legal disputes and was subsequently scrapped after Keir Starmer became prime minister. The UK Supreme Court had ruled the plan illegal on the grounds that Rwanda could not be considered a safe third country, raising questions about whether deported migrants would be protected from being sent back to countries where they faced persecution.

The collapse of the deal has not, however, closed Rwanda's interest in such arrangements. Rwanda is now seeking a further £100 million it says it is owed from the UK deal — a claim London denies. And Kigali has simultaneously moved to position itself as a destination country for migrants removed by the United States, with Nduhugirehe confirming talks with the Trump administration earlier this year.

Rights concerns remain

Rwanda has in recent years positioned itself as a destination country for migrants that Western countries would like to remove, despite concerns from rights groups that Kigali does not respect some of the most fundamental human rights.

Those concerns are likely to intensify as the European negotiations advance. Human rights organisations have consistently argued that outsourcing deportation to third countries risks creating facilities that operate beyond the reach of European legal oversight, where the rights of detainees cannot be effectively monitored or enforced.

For its part, Rwanda insists its existing transit mechanisms operate to a high standard and that any new arrangement would similarly prioritise the welfare of those held in its facilities.

German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said Berlin aimed "to have reached agreements with third countries" by the end of the year, signalling that the five nations intend to move quickly from diplomatic visits to binding commitments. Whether Rwanda ultimately becomes the template for Europe's new deportation model — or whether the legal and human rights obstacles that sank the British experiment repeat themselves in a European context — is a question that the negotiations now under way in Kigali may soon begin to answer.