

The refunds cover duties plus interest collected under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act

America

The legal instrument President Donald Trump invoked to impose sweeping tariffs on imports from dozens of countries :



Trump’s 100 billion dollar tariff reversal: The bill America’s importers are finally collecting

The Trump administration has refunded approximately 100 billion dollars in tariffs to American importers as of July 31, following a landmark Supreme Court ruling that declared the President’s sweeping use of emergency trade powers unconstitutional — a financial reversal of historic proportions that is reshaping the political and economic fallout from one of the most aggressive trade experiments in modern American history. The figure, disclosed in a court document filed on Tuesday by Brandon Lord, a senior official with the United States Customs and Border Protection, represents the largest government tariff refund operation ever undertaken, and it is not yet complete. Lord



President Donald Trump

confirmed that approximately 128.68 billion dollars in both potential and certified refunds have been accepted for processing through the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries system — meaning the final bill could climb significantly higher before the process concludes. The refunds cover duties plus interest collected under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the legal instrument President Donald Trump invoked to impose sweeping tariffs on imports from dozens of countries, most notably China, as

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Waiting for an Alternative: Why Namibia’s Opposition Has Not Yet Proven Itself Ready to Govern

Introduction
The South West Africa People’s Organisation, SWAPO, has governed Namibia continuously since independence on 21 March 1990, a span now approached thirty-six years. In that time, a succession of opposition parties has risen to challenge it:

the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, later rebranded the Popular Democratic Movement; the Congress of Democrats; the Rally for Democracy and Progress; the Landless People’s Movement; the Independent Patriots for Change; and Affirmative Repositioning, among others. Each arrived

with the same promise. Each claimed to offer competence, integrity, and generational renewal in place of a governing party accused of complacency, patronage, and slow delivery. Yet more than three decades after the first multiparty election in 1994, no opposition party and no individual

opposition leader has assembled the coherence, the national reach, or the demonstrated governing capacity required to present itself credibly as a

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Dangote's Lamu refinery: A 16 billion dollar bet that could redraw East Africa's energy map

Africa's richest man says ground breaks in October — and this time, he says, his company builds it faster, smarter and cheaper than Nigeria.

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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Aliko Dangote yesterday announced that construction of the proposed Lamu oil refinery — a facility that would rank among the largest petroleum processing plants on the African continent — will begin by October 2026, with the billionaire industrialist revealing that hard lessons learned from his Nigerian refinery experience have driven the project's estimated cost down by the equivalent of KSh200B to approximately 16 billion dollars. The announcement, made in an interview with the BBC, confirmed that one of the most consequential private infrastructure investments in East African history is moving from planning into physical reality, with Dangote setting an unambiguous public deadline that commits his organisation to a groundbreaking within weeks. "By October this year, we will be groundbreaking," Dangote said. "Once we break the ground, we will begin the construction."

The proposed refinery, to be sited at Lamu on Kenya's northern Coast, is designed with a processing capacity of 700,000 barrels of crude oil per day — a figure that, if achieved, would make it one of the largest oil processing facilities in Africa and would fundamentally alter the petroleum supply architecture of a region currently dependent on imported refined products. Dangote was emphatic that the facility's ambition extends well beyond the Kenyan market. "The refinery will not only be for Kenya but East Africa as a whole, so it can serve a lot of countries, including Egypt," he said. The geographic scope of that vision — from Kenya's Indian Ocean coast to Egypt, spanning the entire eastern length of the continent — reflects a strategic logic that has characterised Dangote's industrial

investments since the construction of his Dangote Refinery in Lagos, which when it reached operational capacity became the largest single-train petroleum refinery in the world. The Nigerian facility, which cost approximately 20 billion dollars and took considerably longer to complete than originally projected, appears to have functioned as both a template and a school for the Lamu project.

Dangote was candid about the institutional learning that is driving the revised cost estimate. The project was originally projected to cost 17 billion dollars — equivalent to approximately KSh2.2 trillion at current exchange rates. That figure has been revised to approximately 16 billion dollars, a reduction of roughly KSh200B that Dangote attributed directly to the organisational wisdom accumulated during the Nigerian build. "It will cost less because this one will be faster, so in terms of financing cost it will be less, and then we are wiser as a company than when we built the one in Nigeria," he said.

The financing structure Dangote outlined follows a model familiar from large-scale infrastructure projects: thirty percent equity provided directly by Dangote's organisation, with the remaining seventy percent raised through debt financing. At a total project cost of 16 billion dollars, that implies an equity commitment of approximately 4.8 billion dollars and a debt raise of roughly 11.2 billion dollars — a financing package that will require engagement with major international development finance institutions, commercial lenders and potentially sovereign wealth funds across the region.

The project's broader strategic rationale was articulated by Dangote in terms that go beyond commercial return. Africa's dependence on imported refined petroleum products — despite the continent sitting atop enormous crude oil reserves — has long been identified by economists



Aliko Dangote

and development specialists as one of the most glaring structural inefficiencies in the African economy. Countries export crude oil at commodity prices and reimport refined products at a significant premium, transferring value out of the continent at every stage of the transaction. Refineries of the scale Dangote is proposing in Lamu attack that inefficiency directly. "What we are trying to do is to make sure that in most African countries we make them sufficient in their own energy needs," Dangote told the BBC. For Kenya specifically, the implications of a fully operational 700,000-barrel-per-day refinery on its northern coast are transformative in scale. The country currently relies on imported refined petroleum products channelled primarily through the port of Mombasa and distributed through a pipeline network to the interior. Domestic refining capacity at that scale would substantially reduce Kenya's exposure to global refined product price volatility, strengthen energy secu-

rity, reduce the foreign exchange burden of fuel imports and position the country as a regional petroleum distribution hub serving landlocked neighbours including Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The employment dimensions are equally significant. Construction of a facility of this complexity and scale — involving civil engineering, mechanical installation, pipeline infrastructure, port facility development and supporting logistics — will generate thousands of direct construction jobs over the projected sub-four-year build period, with permanent operational employment and a broader ecosystem of supplier, logistics and service industry jobs following once the refinery reaches production.

Lamu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Kenya's oldest continuously inhabited settlements, sits at the centre of Kenya's ambitious Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport corridor development programme — a multi-billion dollar

infrastructure initiative designed to open landlocked East African economies to Indian Ocean trade. The Dangote refinery, if it proceeds as announced, would add an industrial anchor to that corridor that transforms Lamu from a heritage tourism destination and emerging port into a serious node in East Africa's energy infrastructure.

Whether October's groundbreaking proceeds on schedule will be watched closely across the region. Dangote's Nigerian refinery demonstrated both the extraordinary ambition and the practical complexity of delivering megaprojects at continental scale. His assurance that the Lamu facility will be built faster and more cost-efficiently carries the credibility of hard experience — and the accountability of a very public deadline.

East Africa's energy future may be about to break ground on a coast that has waited for this moment for a generation.

Reach Editorial Team on:

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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The Diaspora Times Global



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



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



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



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



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Nilanjana sarkar
Red Carpet Vogue
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Perhaps this is my fate

By: Nuriddinjon Abdurasulov
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Worth Noting:

Body: — Umm... no. :(The life I dreamed of wasn't like this. In that life, I was supposed to master my true profession, going to work not out of obligation, but because I truly loved it.

Soul: — There you go, you started talking about a profession you love. So, do you not like your current profession?

Body: — Actually, my current profession isn't bad either, but it's not what I truly wanted. True, through my profession I gained some respect and grew professionally, but these are not enough.

One day, my soul and my body entered into a deep conversation. My heart, my mind, and my inner spirit listened to their dialogue in utter amazement. My body was telling my soul, "I will write a story, but no one will read it while I am alive. They will only read it after I die." At that very moment, I found myself completely immersed in their conversation.

Soul: — Hahaha, as if you are alive right now!

Soul: — Haven't you actually already died?

Soul: — Do you really think you're alive?

Soul: — Come on, answer my questions.

Body: — Umm... no. :(The life I dreamed of wasn't like this. In that life, I was supposed to master my true profession, going to work not out of obligation, but because I truly loved it.

Soul: — There you go, you started talking about a profession you love. So, do you not like your current profession?

Body: — Actually, my current profession isn't bad either, but it's not what I truly wanted. True, through my profession I gained some respect and grew professionally, but these are not enough.

Soul: — Well, are you successful?

Body: — It depends on the area. At work—no. In my family—no. In choosing friends—no. I regret to say this, but overall, I could say no.

Soul: — What caused all this?

Body: — Lack of trust, being constantly compared to others, not being heard, and always feeling like an outsider... all of these were the reasons.



Nuriddinjon Abdurasulov

Soul: — So, are you ready to die, then?

Body: — Yes, but I still have things I must do. Even if I die, who cares? Only my unfinished tasks will await me; as soon as the soil falls upon me, others will forget.

Soul: — Do you really think that dying will make you escape from everything?

Body: — No, even if I have the intention to die, I will only die on the day Allah has decreed.

Soul: — Do you have proof of that?

Body: — Ah, yes, of course I do. Standing right before you is a body that tried to take its own life several times. You know, I even swallowed a handful of various pills. I even lay down for 3–4 days in hunger, without drinking a single drop of water. I didn't just swallow pills once, but 4 or 5 times, yet it seems I still have some work left to do in this life, so Allah did not take my soul.

Soul: — Ah, you poor thing... but you know you haven't grown as tired as I have, right?

Body: — Of course I know. I get tired from physical labor, while you get exhausted even from simple words. The heart is your closest and

most fragile assistant, and the inner spirit is your confidant. As for me, I am friends with hands, feet, and back, but you... you are the reason I stand upright.

Soul: — Unfortunately, I have exhausted you too. From now on, we won't listen to anyone's words anymore, deal? I will issue an order to the ears, and we will make a pact with the brain. Are you listening to me?

Body: — Yes, of course I heard you.

Soul: — Then it's a deal.

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She defied health issues and rose to shatter 77 records: Top of the world: Beyond Balance, Slovakian Ema, eight, inspires the extraordinary World One Record

“Every child is born with potential. But when talent meets dedication, ordinary childhood dreams can transform into extraordinary achievements.”

By Pragati Gupta

At just eight years old, when most children spend their afternoons playing games, riding bicycles, or discovering new hobbies, Ema Ďurdíková from Púchov, Slovakia, has already accomplished something that many adults can only dream of. She has earned an astonishing 77 officially recognized records, received Slovak Champion and World Champion titles, and has had her achievements recognized by 12 international record organizations. From her hometown in Slovakia to international record platforms, Ema’s journey is proving that extraordinary dreams can begin anywhere. Yet behind every medal, every certificate, and every record lies a story that is far more inspiring than numbers alone.

This is the story of a little girl whose determination was shaped by love, discipline, and an unbreakable bond with her father. Born on 13 August 2017, Ema’s journey toward greatness began long before she understood what a world record truly meant. Growing up in Púchov, she watched her father, Peter Ďurdík, practice extraordinary balancing skills and attempt unique world records. Peter himself is a highly accomplished record-holder whose achievements have earned recognition from numerous international organisations. Like many young children, Ema loved watching her father. But unlike most children, she did not simply watch—she copied him. At only three years old, she began experimenting with everyday objects around the house. What started as innocent play soon revealed something remarkable. By the age of four, Peter realised his daughter possessed exceptional balance, concentration, patience, and coordination. As both a father and an experienced record-holder, Peter decided that he would shape Ema’s future. He wanted his daughter to follow a similar path—not because of fame, but because he believed she possessed a rare talent that deserved to be nurtured. From that moment onward, training

became part of everyday life. Every day begins with warm-up exercises before moving into carefully planned practice sessions lasting one to two hours. But balancing alone is not enough to build a champion. To improve her physical strength, coordination, and mental discipline, Ema also trains in boxing, kickboxing, and karate. These martial arts strengthen her arms, legs, reflexes, and concentration—qualities that are essential for performing difficult balancing challenges under pressure. Her training is unlike anything most children experience. Instead of relying on expensive equipment, Ema transforms ordinary household objects into extraordinary challenges. Footballs, ping-pong balls, rulers, spoons, apples, pears, and countless everyday items become tools that teach precision, patience, and complete control over the body. Balancing may appear simple to spectators, but every successful performance requires extraordinary focus. One tiny movement... One brief loss of concentration... One second of hesitation... And everything can fall apart. Perhaps that is why Ema’s greatest strength is not simply balance—it is perseverance. Whenever an attempt did not succeed, she never allowed disappointment to become defeat. Instead, she returned to practice, worked harder, improved her technique, and attempted the challenge again until successful. “Champions are not remembered because they never failed. They are remembered because failure never convinced them to stop trying.” That mindset has transformed a curious little girl into one of Slovakia’s most inspiring young record-holders. Today, Ema proudly holds 77 official records, recognised across 12 international organizations, placing her among an elite group of young achievers whose talent has crossed national boundaries. Among her proudest accomplishments are her Slovak Champion and World Champion titles, milestones that reflect years of discipline and consistent dedication rather than moments of luck. One of her most demanding balancing achievements involved balancing two apples with a ping-pong ball placed on top, maintaining the delicate arrangement for 7 minutes and 27 hundredths of a second. The challenge demanded complete body

control, unwavering concentration, and remarkable patience—qualities rarely seen in someone so young. Her remarkable talent has also reached beyond Europe. One of Ema’s internationally recognized balancing records was officially approved through an Indian record organisation after careful review by record coordinators and judges. During this unique challenge, she balanced a spoon in her mouth with a ping-pong ball resting on it while simultaneously balancing another ping-pong ball on top of a pear held in her hand, maintaining this incredible balance for 1 minute, 47.10 seconds. She once again demonstrated that even the most delicate challenges can be mastered through discipline and determination. Her growing list of achievements has made her well known throughout Slovakia and without doubt around the world. People recognise her in public places, stop to ask about her incredible journey, and proudly celebrate her accomplishments. Her father says many of her fans affectionately call her “their little princess.” Despite international recognition, Ema has remained a cheerful, grounded child. Her humility is amazing. She enjoys school, performs well in her studies, and is known among her classmates as one of the fastest runners. Outside training, she enjoys exploring the internet and building her online profile, embracing technology with the same curiosity she brings to her balancing challenges. Everything appears to be moving perfectly toward an extraordinary future. But then, life presented a challenge that no record book could ever prepare her for. Instead of worrying about records, medals, or championships, Peter and his family suddenly found themselves fighting for something far more precious—the health of their little girl. When Ema was just three years old, doctors discovered a tumor in her leg. The news came as a devastating shock to the family in Púchov, Slovakia. For every parent, hearing that their child needs surgery is one of life’s greatest fears, and Peter later shared that those moments were among the most difficult they had ever faced. For a while, world records no longer mattered. There were no thoughts about trophies or titles. There was only one wish—that their daughter would recover, smile again, and return to the childhood she deserved. Fortunately, the surgery was successful. After completing her treatment, Ema began her recovery. Although



Ema Ďurdíková proudly displays her internationally recognized world record certificates and awards



Peter Ďurdík showcases some of his extraordinary balancing world record performances.

she initially felt stiffness in her leg, her determination never faded. Within one month, she had regained her strength and was ready to return to sports and training. That moment became one of the greatest victories of her young life. “The strongest children are not those who never face storms—they are the ones who learn to smile while walking through them.” From that day onward, every training session carried a deeper meaning. Every balanced spoon...Every carefully placed ping-pong ball... Every successful record...became a celebration of courage rather than simply another achievement.

Peter continued guiding his daughter with patience, believing that true success is built one small step at a time. His experience as a world record-holder became the foundation upon which Ema built her own dreams. Their relationship is far more than that of a coach and an athlete—it is the story of a father who recognised his daughter’s extraordinary potential and stood beside her through every triumph and every challenge. Together, they have shown that ex-

She defied health issues and rose to shatter 77 records: Top of the world: Beyond Balance, Slovakian Ema, eight, inspires the extraordinary World One Record

“Every child is born with potential. But when talent meets dedication, ordinary childhood dreams can transform into extraordinary achievements.”

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traordinary children do not succeed because life is easy. They succeed because someone believes in them when challenges seem impossible. Today, Ema’s achievements extend far beyond record books. She has become an inspiration for children who dream big, for parents who encourage their children’s unique talents, and for everyone who believes that age should never limit ambition.

Despite everything she has accomplished and her health condition, Ema remains a cheerful child with simple dreams and a kind heart. When asked what message she would like to share with children around the world, her answer is beautifully simple:

“I wish everyone to be healthy.” Perhaps those few words carry even greater meaning because she understands, at such a young age, how precious good health truly is. Her journey, however, is far from over.

Ema has now set her sights on achieving 100 official world records, a milestone she hopes to reach through continued hard work, discipline, and perseverance. Although she is currently taking a short break from official record attempts, her passion for balancing, learning, and pushing her limits remains stronger than ever. Every pause is simply preparation for the next chapter of her remarkable journey.

Looking at her story today, it is easy to count the numbers—77 official records, recognition from 12 international organisations, Slovak Champion and World Champion titles, and years of disciplined training.

But numbers alone cannot explain who Ema Ďurdíková truly is. She is the little girl who watched her father and dared to dream.

She is the child who refused to let unsuccessful attempts define her. She is the young athlete who overcame surgery, returned stronger, and continued chasing her dreams with quiet determination. Above all, she reminds us that true greatness is not measured by how many records we break, but by how many obstacles we overcome with courage, humility, and hope.

Some children inspire because they achieve the impossible. Others inspire because they remind us that courage has no age. Ema Ďurdíková has done both.

As her journey continues, new records will be broken, new milestones will be reached, and new ap-

plause will follow.

Yet years from now, people may remember Ema for something even greater than the number 77.

They will remember a brave little girl from Púchov, Slovakia, who transformed childhood curiosity into excellence, turned adversity into strength, and proved that even the smallest hands can leave the biggest mark on the world.

Her story is not only a source of pride for Slovakia—it is an inspira-

tion for every child, every parent, and every dreamer who believes that with courage, perseverance, and love, nothing is impossible.

Our writer: Pragati Gupta is a National Award winning Indian Journalist. Her articles have been published internationally.

Editing: Sham Lal Puri, Senior Editor, Londons



Peter Ďurdik and Andrea Ďurdíková with their daughter, Ema Ďurdíková, in Púchov, Slovakia. Together, they have turned courage, dedication, and family support into an extraordinary journey of international achievement



Peter Ďurdik with a remarkable collection of trophies, medals, and international record certificates earned over the years



Ema Ďurdíková celebrates her growing legacy as one of Slovakia's youngest world record champions



Ema Ďurdíková practices one of her signature balancing routines during a training session at home

Motivation

THE ROSARY BEADS THAT RAN AWAY

When sacred symbols are worn but the heart is absent, who will believe in faith again?"

By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

- Then a young girl arrived with two bags. She looked tired and far from home. The woman approached her with a practiced smile and lifted the rosary at her chest, as if to say she could be trusted. "Let me help you, my daughter," she said. The girl, relieved, handed over one bag and her handbag. Within seconds the woman turned and walked quickly between taxis. The rosary swung behind her as she ran.
- The park erupted. People shouted. The girl stood still and then began to cry. In that moment the beads that are meant to remind us of mercy had walked away with someone's school fees, her identification, and the little security she had for the month ahead.
- I have carried that scene with me since. Not to judge an entire Church because of one person, but because it revealed something wider that is happening around us.

Last week in Mbarara bus park I stood among the usual noise. Conductors were calling destinations, porters were balancing luggage on their heads, mothers were shifting babies from one hip to the other, and the air smelled of roasted maize and diesel. In the middle of it I saw a woman, a little older than my mother. She was well dressed, and around her neck hung a very long, heavy rosary. The wooden beads clicked softly as she moved. For anyone raised Catholic, that sight carries meaning. It speaks of early morning prayer, of kneeling in a quiet chapel, of someone who remembers God in the middle of a busy day. Because of that, I did not pay attention to the other things at first. The sharpness in her voice toward porters. The way she pushed through the crowd to "help." The way her eyes moved, scanning people. Then a young girl arrived with two bags. She looked tired and far from home. The woman approached

her with a practiced smile and lifted the rosary at her chest, as if to say she could be trusted. "Let me help you, my daughter," she said. The girl, relieved, handed over one bag and her handbag. Within seconds the woman turned and walked quickly between taxis. The rosary swung behind her as she ran. The park erupted. People shouted. The girl stood still and then began to cry. In that moment the beads that are meant to remind us of mercy had walked away with someone's school fees, her identification, and the little security she had for the month ahead. I have carried that scene with me since. Not to judge an entire Church because of one person, but because it revealed something wider that is happening around us. Today we are seeing Catholic externals everywhere, and often worn by people who do not understand what they mean. Rosaries hang from boda and taxi mirrors. Scapulars are treated like charms for protection. People make

the sign of the cross before a business deal and then lie in that same deal. Some can recite the Hail Mary perfectly, yet have never attended catechism, never received the Eucharist, and have never been taught why the rosary is sacred. The truth is that many who borrow these symbols are not Catholic, and they do not know the weight they carry. To us, the rosary is not decoration. It is a school of prayer. It is a meditation on the life of Christ. It is a discipline that should form humility, service, and truth. To others it is simply a necklace believed to bring luck or to make people trust them. That is where the damage begins. When a symbol is used and the behavior contradicts it, people start to doubt the symbol itself. A girl loses her bag to a woman wearing a rosary, and she grows up thinking the Church is only performance. A passenger is mistreated by a driver with beads on his dashboard, and he concludes that faith is empty. The symbol be-

comes a costume, and the real meaning is lost. This is why Catholics must return to the center of what we believe. Our faith was never intended to be displayed only. It was intended to be lived. The Church has always taught that faith without works is empty. The rosary is meant to bind our hearts to Christ, not to cover a lack of character. What does that look like in a society as busy and pressured as ours? It looks like consistency between what we profess and how we act. The hands that hold a rosary should also be the hands that return a lost wallet in a taxi park. The mouth that prays "forgive us our trespasses" should refuse to insult, to gossip, or to cheat. The vehicle with a rosary on the mirror should be driven with patience, not anger. The home with a crucifix on the wall should be a home where children watch parents keep promises, pay what they owe, and speak truth even when it is hard. We cannot control everyone

who picks up a rosary. But we can decide what it means when we do. To my fellow Catholics, this is a call to be different, especially now. Let people encounter your patience before they notice your beads. Let them encounter your honesty before they hear you pray. Let them encounter your generosity before they see the statue on your dashboard. The world is not short of religious symbols. The world is short of lives that match them. The woman in Mbarara ran away with a bag. She also ran away with a portion of public trust. We cannot recover that bag. But we can decide that our symbols will not outrun our character. A rosary is not a disguise. It is a call. And in this time, the call is for Catholics to be Catholic in the bus park, in the market, in the office, and at home. Even, and especially, when everyone else is only pretending.



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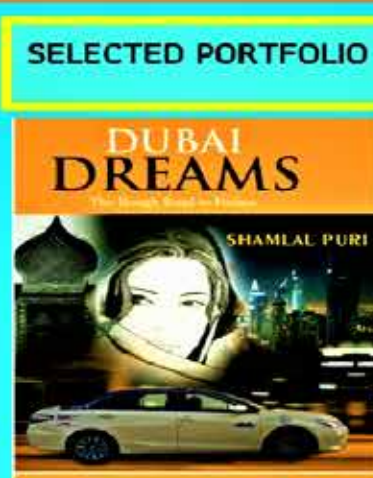
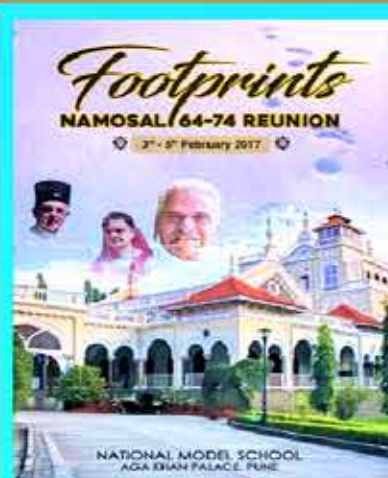
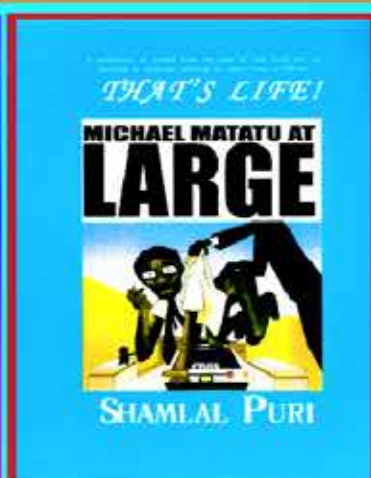
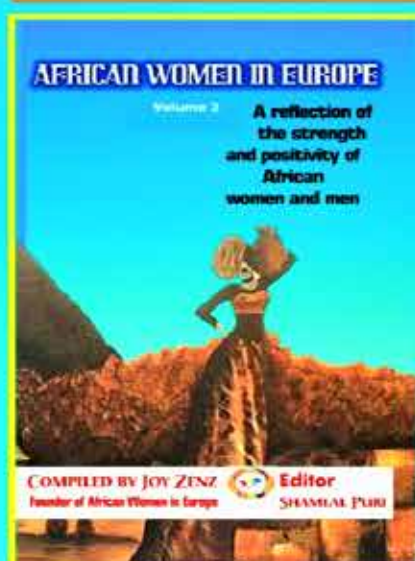
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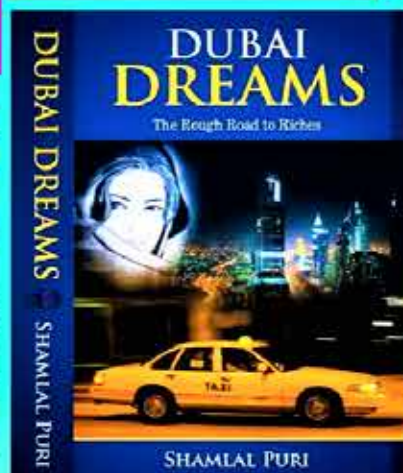
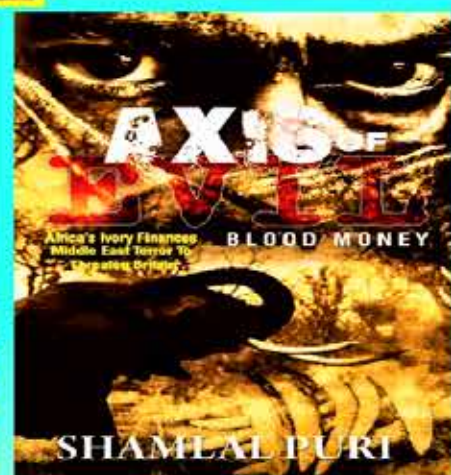
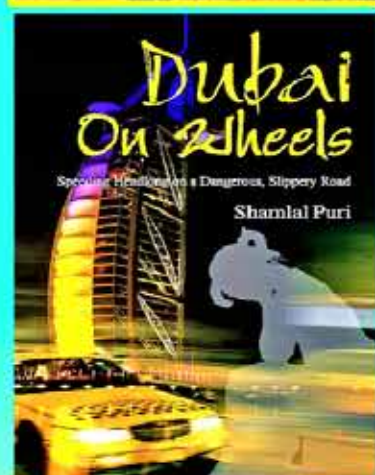
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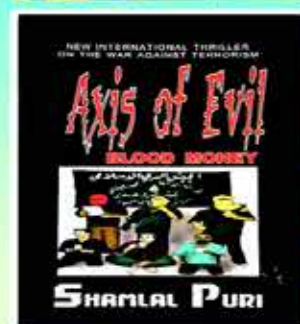
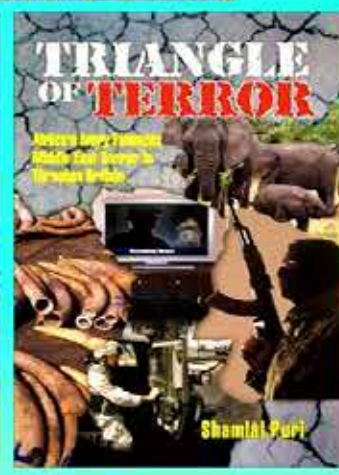
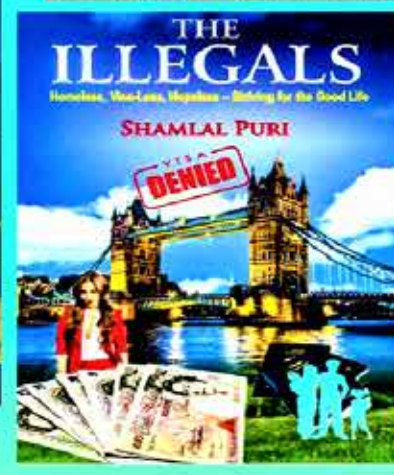
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American News

Trump's 100 billion dollar tariff reversal: The bill America's importers are finally collecting

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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President Donald Trump

Worth Noting:

- The refunds cover duties plus interest collected under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the legal instrument President Donald Trump invoked to impose sweeping tariffs on imports from dozens of countries, most notably China, as part of his administration's confrontational trade strategy. The Supreme Court's ruling on February 20 that those tariff policies were unconstitutional set in motion the most consequential unwinding of executive trade action in American legal history.
- The Penn Wharton Budget Model at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School had earlier projected that total IEEPA tariff refunds could reach as high as 175 billion dollars — a figure that, if realised, would represent a sum larger than the annual gross domestic product of most African nations and a significant fiscal shock to a federal government already managing substantial budgetary pressures.

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The Penn Wharton Budget Model at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School had earlier projected that total IEEPA tariff refunds could reach as high as 175 billion dollars — a figure that, if realised, would represent a sum larger than the annual gross domestic product of most African nations and a significant fiscal shock to a federal government already managing substantial budgetary pressures. To understand how the United States arrived at this extraordinary moment, it is necessary to trace the arc of a trade policy that began with considerable political momentum, attracted fierce legal challenge and ultimately ran into the constitutional limits that American courts have long guarded over executive overreach.

Trump entered his second term at the White House in January 2025 with trade policy at the centre of his economic agenda. Drawing on a campaign built around the idea that foreign countries had exploited American openness for decades,

his administration moved quickly and aggressively to impose tariffs on a wide range of imports, justifying the measures under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act — a statute originally designed to give presidents emergency authority to manage national security threats, not to restructure global trade relationships.

The IEEPA tariffs targeted goods from China at rates that stunned international trade specialists, with some levies reaching triple digits. Additional tariffs were imposed on imports from the European Union, Canada, Mexico and a range of other trading partners. The stated objectives shifted depending on the audience — sometimes framed as leverage to extract better trade deals, sometimes as permanent structural protection for American manufacturing, sometimes as revenue generation to fund domestic tax cuts.

American importers — businesses that bring foreign goods into the country and pay duties at the border before selling to retailers and consumers — bore the immediate financial cost. Large corporations with sophisticated treasury operations could absorb or delay the pain; smaller importers often could not. Prices for consumer goods rose. Sup-

ply chains were disrupted. Businesses that had built sourcing relationships over decades scrambled to find alternative suppliers or absorb margin compression that threatened their viability.

Legal challenges to the tariffs came quickly and from multiple directions. Trade associations, individual importers and constitutional lawyers argued that IEEPA was never intended to authorise the kind of broad, sustained tariff regime the Trump administration had constructed. The statute empowers the president to act in genuine emergencies — it does not, the challengers argued, delegate to the executive the sweeping authority to redesign America's entire import tariff structure by declaration.

The legal argument found receptive ears in the federal courts, and the challenge ultimately reached the Supreme Court. On February 20, the Court ruled that Trump's use of IEEPA as the legal basis for the tariff regime was unconstitutional. The decision did not merely pause the tariffs — it invalidated the legal foundation on which they rested, triggering an obligation to refund duties already collected along with the interest that had accumulated.

The Customs and Border Protection, the agency re-

sponsible for collecting duties at American ports of entry, was handed the operational challenge of processing refunds on a scale that had no precedent in the agency's history. Lord's court filing confirms that approximately 100 billion dollars has already been returned to importers, with the processing pipeline carrying a further 28.68 billion dollars in accepted claims.

The refund operation has proceeded through the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries system, a customs processing platform now handling a volume of transactions that reflects the extraordinary breadth of the original tariff programme. Officials have not indicated a firm completion date for the remaining refunds, and the gap between the 128.68 billion dollars accepted for processing and the Penn Wharton projection of up to 175 billion dollars suggests that additional claims may still be working their way through the administrative system.

For the businesses receiving refunds, the payments arrive at varying levels of relief depending on their financial circumstances. Large importers with strong balance sheets, access to credit and the ability to pass costs on to customers may have weathered the tariff period with manageable damage.

For smaller importers — family-owned businesses, specialised distributors, manufacturers dependent on foreign-sourced components — the tariff period was frequently described as existential. Some did not survive it. For those that did, the refunds represent a partial restoration of capital that was extracted, in the Supreme Court's view, without constitutional authority. The political reverberations of the ruling and the refund operation extend well beyond the businesses directly affected. The Supreme Court's decision is a significant constitutional rebuke of the theory of executive power that underpinned not only the tariffs but a broader approach to governance that sought to expand presidential authority through emergency declarations. Legal scholars have noted that the ruling establishes an important precedent limiting the extent to which IEEPA can be used as a general-purpose tool for executive policymaking — a constraint that will shape the options available to future administrations regardless of political affiliation.

For the Trump administration, the refund operation represents a politically un-

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American News

Trump's 100 billion dollar tariff reversal: The bill America's importers are finally collecting

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Worth Noting:

- Trump entered his second term at the White House in January 2025 with trade policy at the centre of his economic agenda. Drawing on a campaign built around the idea that foreign countries had exploited American openness for decades, his administration moved quickly and aggressively to impose tariffs on a wide range of imports, justifying the measures under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act — a statute originally designed to give presidents emergency authority to manage national security threats, not to restructure global trade relationships.
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President Donald Trump

comfortable reckoning. The tariffs were not merely a policy instrument — they were a central element of the political identity Trump constructed around trade, manufacturing and the proposition that previous administrations had allowed foreign countries to take advantage of American workers. The Supreme Court's ruling that the legal mechanism used to impose those tariffs was unconstitutional does not simply resolve a legal dispute; it strips away the statutory foundation of a signature policy agenda. The administration has not publicly signalled whether it intends to seek alternative legal authority to reimpose tariffs, negotiate new statutory backing from Congress, or pursue other trade policy tools to advance similar objectives. The political dynamics of the current congressional environment — and the constitutional boundaries clarified by the Supreme Court — will constrain whatever path the administration chooses. Internationally, the tariff episode and its legal denouement have reinforced anxieties among America's trading partners about the reliability and predictability of United States trade policy. Countries that faced IEEPA tariffs — and the economic disruption that accompanied them — watched the

American legal system ultimately constrain executive overreach, but not before significant damage had been done to trade relationships, supply chain configurations and business investment decisions that are not easily reversed. China, the primary target of the Trump tariff regime, responded to the original impositions with retaliatory measures that affected American agricultural exporters, technology companies and manufacturers. The bilateral trade relationship between the world's two largest economies entered a period of sustained tension that the tariff reversal does not automatically resolve. Trade relationships damaged over years of escalating measures are not restored by a court ruling or a refund cheque. The European Union, Canada and Mexico — all of which faced IEEPA tariff exposure — have similarly found that the legal resolution in American courts does not automatically translate into restored commercial confidence. Businesses that reorganised supply chains, sought alternative markets or made investment decisions based on the assumption of sustained American protectionism do not automatically reverse those decisions because the legal environment has shift-

ed. For economists, the IEEPA tariff episode provides a detailed and costly case study in the economic consequences of trade policy uncertainty. The literature on trade policy consistently identifies uncertainty as among the most damaging elements of protectionist measures — more damaging, in some analyses, than the tariffs themselves. When businesses cannot reliably predict the cost of imported inputs, they defer investment, delay hiring and resist the kind of long-term commitment that drives economic growth. The period between the imposition of IEEPA tariffs and the Supreme Court's ruling was precisely such a period of elevated uncertainty for a wide range of American industries. The refunds now flowing back to importers will partially offset the financial damage of that period, but they cannot compensate for the investment decisions not made, the contracts not signed, the businesses that restructured their operations around a tariff environment that has now been legally invalidated. The Penn Wharton Budget Model's projection of up to 175 billion dollars in total refunds, set against the 128.68 billion dollars currently accepted for process-

ing, suggests that the administrative process has not yet captured the full universe of eligible claims. Importers who have not yet filed for refunds — or whose claims are still working through the customs system — may account for the remaining gap. Whether the total ultimately reaches the Penn Wharton ceiling will depend on the pace and completeness of claims filing, the processing capacity of the Customs and Border Protection system and any legal or administrative disputes that arise over individual refund claims. What is already clear, from the 100 billion dollars confirmed as disbursed by July 31, is that the United States government has undertaken a refund operation of a scale and speed that tests the administrative capacity of even the world's most resourced customs authority. The operational achievement — processing and disbursing 100 billion dollars in refunds in a matter of months — is, in a purely administrative sense, remarkable. The political and economic circumstances that made it necessary are rather less so. For the American importers who spent months or years navigating the tariff regime — managing elevated costs, restructuring supply chains, absorbing margin compression and in some cases fighting for survival — the

refunds represent a form of vindication as much as a financial recovery. The Supreme Court affirmed what many of them argued from the beginning: that the legal authority for what was done to them did not exist. The broader lesson of the IEEPA tariff episode may prove more durable than any single refund cheque. It is a reminder that presidential power in the American constitutional system, however considerable, operates within boundaries that the courts will enforce — and that the costs of testing those boundaries are not borne by governments alone. They are borne by the businesses, workers and consumers caught in the space between political ambition and constitutional law. With 100 billion dollars already returned and the processing pipeline still active, the final chapter of this extraordinary trade episode has not yet been written. But its central narrative is now clear: one of the most aggressive exercises of executive trade power in American history was found to exceed constitutional authority, and the United States government is now writing the refunds to prove it.

India

India's electric vehicle revolution hits full charge as July sales smash all records

With 327,901 units registered in a single month, India's shift to electric mobility is no longer a policy ambition — it is a market reality reshaping the world's third-largest automobile industry

By: Diaspora Times Team
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India registered a record 327,901 electric vehicles in July 2026, a surge of more than 66 percent year-on-year that signals the country's transition from fossil-fuel dependence is accelerating faster than even optimistic projections had anticipated, data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations confirmed yesterday.

The July figure — the highest monthly EV registration total in Indian automotive history — means that nearly one in every eight vehicles retailed in the country during the month ran on electricity rather than petrol or diesel. Twelve months ago, that ratio was closer to one in thirteen. The speed of the shift is striking even by the standards of a market that has been growing rapidly for several years, and it is being driven not by a single segment but by broad-based adoption across two-wheelers, three-wheelers, commercial vehicles and passenger cars simultaneously.

Sai Giridhar, Vice President of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, said the July numbers represented a watershed moment for India's vehicle market. "India has never bought more electric vehicles in a month than it did in July 2026 — 327,901 units, up over 66 percent year-on-year — with nearly one in eight vehicles retailed now electric," Giridhar said. "The growth was evident across vehicle categories, and India's shift to electric mobility is becoming increasingly visible across the country."

The headline figure is striking enough, but the category-level data tells a more nuanced and arguably more significant story about the structural nature of the shift underway.

Electric two-wheelers — the segment most directly relevant to the daily transportation needs of hundreds of millions of Indians — crossed the 200,000-unit monthly threshold for the first time in July, a milestone that industry observers had anticipated but whose arrival in the middle of 2026 came earlier than most forecasts had projected. The segment's market share reached 11.2 percent in July, up from 10.6 percent in June and 7.7 percent in July 2025. In the space of twelve months, more than three percentage points of the two-wheeler market have shifted from internal combustion to electric — a rate of penetration that, if sustained, would see electric two-wheelers commanding a majority of the segment within the decade.

The significance of the two-wheeler milestone extends beyond the commercial statistics. India's two-wheel-



er market is one of the largest in the world, serving a population that depends on affordable personal mobility for employment, commerce and daily life across an enormously diverse geography. When electric two-wheelers cross the 200,000-unit monthly threshold, they are not merely generating impressive sales figures — they are demonstrating that the economics of electric personal mobility have reached a tipping point accessible to mainstream Indian consumers, not merely to the affluent early adopters who defined the market's first phase.

Electric three-wheelers, which dominate the last-mile freight and passenger transport that keeps India's cities and towns moving, continued to consolidate their already commanding position in their segment. Their market share reached 65.1 percent in July, up from 62.7 percent in June and 60.3 percent in July 2025. The trajectory is unambiguous: in the three-wheeler segment, the electric transition is not a future prospect but a present reality, with petrol and diesel variants now the minority choice in a category they once owned entirely.

Giridhar noted that electric three-wheelers were increasingly becoming the preferred option in their segment, a shift driven by the compelling total-cost-of-ownership mathematics that favour electric powertrains in high-utilisation commercial applications. For auto-rickshaw operators, delivery fleet managers and last-mile logistics companies, the calculation is increasingly straightforward: lower fuel costs, reduced maintenance requirements and improving vehicle availability combine to make electric three-wheelers the rational commercial choice regardless of environmental considerations.

The commercial vehicle segment, where electrification has histori-

cally lagged behind passenger and two-wheeler categories due to range requirements, payload demands and charging infrastructure constraints, also recorded meaningful progress. Electric commercial vehicle market share reached 3.57 percent in July, up from 3.54 percent in June and more than double the 1.65 percent recorded in July 2025. The year-on-year comparison is particularly telling — a 1.92 percentage point gain in twelve months suggests that fleet electrification is, as Giridhar observed, moving decisively beyond pilot projects and proof-of-concept deployments toward commercial-scale adoption.

For logistics companies, e-commerce operators and urban delivery services that have spent the past several years evaluating electric commercial vehicles through limited fleet trials, the widening availability of viable electric models and the accumulating real-world data on operating economics appear to be converting cautious interest into purchasing decisions. The infrastructure investment that early adopters made in depot charging is now being leveraged across larger fleets, improving the unit economics of electrification for the entire sector.

Passenger electric vehicles recorded the most dramatic year-on-year percentage gain of any category, with registrations rising 83 percent compared with July 2025. Their market share reached 7.9 percent — unchanged from June but significantly above the 5.1 percent recorded a year earlier. The segment's growth trajectory has been driven by a combination of expanding model availability, improving charging infrastructure in metropolitan areas and a gradual but sustained reduction in the price premium that electric passenger vehicles command over their internal combustion equivalents.

However, Giridhar sounded a note of caution about the passenger segment that carries implications for the months ahead. He said passenger EV sales were being constrained partly by limited supplies of popular models, and urged manufacturers to address production and supply chain shortages before India's festive season — the October-to-December period that typically accounts for a disproportionate share of annual vehicle sales and that represents the most commercially significant window in the Indian automotive calendar.

The supply constraint observation is significant. It suggests that July's record numbers were achieved not at the ceiling of consumer demand but despite it — that actual sales were limited by what manufacturers could produce and deliver rather than by what buyers were willing to purchase. If producers can meaningfully expand supply ahead of the festive season, the monthly EV registration records set in July may prove short-lived benchmarks on an accelerating curve rather than a sustainable plateau.

The macroeconomic backdrop against which India's EV surge is unfolding adds further momentum to the structural shift. Renewed disruptions linked to the West Asia crisis have pushed global oil prices higher and rekindled concerns about fuel inflation — a particularly acute pressure point in a country that imports the substantial majority of its petroleum requirements and where fuel costs represent a meaningful share of household and business expenditure.

For Indian consumers weighing the economics of their next vehicle purchase, rising petrol and diesel prices shorten the payback period for the higher upfront cost of an electric vehicle and amplify the monthly savings from lower running costs.

The West Asia situation, whatever its geopolitical resolution, is functioning as an inadvertent accelerator of India's electric transition by making the fuel cost comparison more favourable to electric vehicles with each upward move in global oil prices.

India's EV market has benefited from a sustained policy environment that has combined demand-side incentives, production-linked manufacturing subsidies and infrastructure investment to create conditions in which the market's natural economics can increasingly drive adoption without requiring sustained subsidy support. The July figures suggest that the market may be approaching — or may already have reached — the point at which electric vehicles are commercially competitive enough to sustain their own momentum independent of policy support, at least in the two-wheeler and three-wheeler segments.

For a country of 1.4 billion people, the majority of whom are yet to make their first vehicle purchase, the implications of that inflection point are difficult to overstate. India's vehicle parc is still small relative to its population — per-capita vehicle ownership remains a fraction of developed-economy levels — meaning that the bulk of India's vehicle market growth is ahead of it rather than behind it. If electric vehicles have achieved structural competitiveness at this early stage of India's motorisation curve, the country's trajectory toward one of the world's largest electric vehicle markets is not a question of whether but of how fast. July 2026's record of 327,901 units is, on that reading, less a destination than a signpost — the clearest evidence yet that India's electric revolution has moved from aspiration to acceleration, and that the road ahead runs only in one direction.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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WORLD

Waiting for an Alternative: Why Namibia's Opposition Has Not Yet Proven Itself Ready to Govern



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

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government-in-waiting.

This is not a defence of SWAPO. The ruling party carries its own long record of unfulfilled promises, unemployment above thirty per cent among young people, land reform that has moved at a glacial pace, and corruption scandals that have touched senior officials repeatedly. The argument here is narrower and, in some respects, more troubling. It is that Namibia's opposition landscape, for all its energy and periodic electoral gains, has failed to convert protest votes into durable institutions, failed to translate parliamentary seats into legislative impact, and failed to produce a leader capable of holding a coalition of discontented voters together for more than a single election cycle. The pattern is cyclical rather than cumulative: a party rises sharply, alarms the establishment, and then fragments, stalls, or is quietly reabsorbed into irrelevance before it can build the machinery of a governing alternative. Every generation of Namibian voters since independence has been offered essentially the same proposition by an emerging opposition force: that the current crop of leaders in government has grown old, complacent, and disconnected, and that a younger, sharper, more educated slate of candidates would govern more honestly and more effectively. That criticism is not without foundation. Namibia's cabinet and senior civil service remain populated substantially by figures whose formative political experience was the liberation struggle of the 1960s to 1980s, a demographic reality that opposition parties have repeatedly and fairly highlighted. Yet the test of a credible alternative is not the accuracy of its critique of the incumbent. It is whether, once handed real power, even limited power at regional or local level, that alternative demonstrates a materially different standard of governance. On this second and more demanding test, the record examined below suggests Namibia's opposition parties have consistently underperformed their own rhetoric.

A Liberation Movement Without a Rival: The Historical Pattern

The clearest evidence of this cycle lies in the trajectory of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, once Na-

mbia's strongest opposition force. The DTA won 20.45 per cent of the vote in the 1994 National Assembly election, a result that at the time suggested a genuine two-party contest was possible. A decade later, its support had collapsed to 5.14 per cent in the 2004 election. The party never recovered its former standing. In 2017 it rebranded itself as the Popular Democratic Movement, hoping a new name and a new generation of leadership under McHenry Venaani could reverse the decline. The rebrand produced a temporary revival, with PDM becoming the official opposition after the 2019 election. That gain proved as fragile as the DTA's earlier one: PDM's representation in the National Assembly fell from sixteen seats to five in the 2024 election, a collapse of more than two-thirds in a single electoral cycle. The Congress of Democrats followed a similar arc on a compressed timeline. Formed in March 1999 as a breakaway from SWAPO under the leadership of Ben Ulenga, a former liberation struggle figure and government minister, the CoD initially positioned itself as a credible left-leaning alternative and secured parliamentary representation. By the mid-2010s it had lost every seat it held and today survives, where it survives at all, as a marginal presence with a handful of local councillors. The Rally for Democracy and Progress tells the same story in a different decade. Launched in November 2007 by Hidipo Hamutenya and Jesaya Nyamu, both former senior SWAPO cabinet ministers, the RDP was, according to contemporary analysis, considered the strongest challenge to SWAPO's dominance since independence at the moment of its founding. Hamutenya himself described the party as a response to a national longing for direction and renewed hope. By the 2024 election, RDP had been reduced to 3,308 votes nationally, or 0.30 per cent, and a single seat, a fall from grace that mirrors almost exactly the trajectory of the DTA two decades earlier and the CoD one decade earlier. A pattern this consistent across three separate parties, three separate decades, and three separate sets of leaders points to something structural rather than accidental. Namibian analysts have long noted that no political party will succeed in displacing SWAPO without substantial support among the Oshiwambo-speaking population, which constitutes roughly half the national electorate. Every opposition party discussed above drew its core support from other language communities or from urban, ethnically mixed constituencies, leaving it structurally incapable of assembling a national majority no matter how well it performed in its own strongholds. This is not merely a communications failure or a leadership failure. It is a demographic ceiling that successive

parties have failed to plan around, let alone break through.

The 2024 Rupture and the Illusion of Realignment

The November 2024 general election appeared, briefly, to break this pattern. SWAPO's vote share fell from 65.3 per cent to 53.4 per cent, its narrowest margin since independence, while the Independent Patriots for Change, formed only in 2020 by Panduleni Itula, a dentist and former SWAPO member expelled after standing as an independent presidential candidate in 2019, surged to twenty seats and became the official opposition. Affirmative Repositioning, led by former Windhoek mayor Job Amupanda and built substantially on a land-access protest movement among urban youth, won seven seats. Commentators inside and outside Namibia read the results as confirmation that a durable multi-party realignment was under way, with SWAPO's presidential candidate, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, elected as the country's first female president with a vote share that had itself declined steadily from the eighty-seven per cent SWAPO commanded in 2014.

Itula's performance was genuinely significant. He had already demonstrated, in the 2019 presidential race, that a single credible independent candidate could draw substantial protest support even without an established party machine. The formal establishment of the IPC allowed him to convert that personal following into parliamentary seats and, by extension, into public funding and structural permanence. Yet the 2024 result, examined closely, reveals the same weakness that undid the DTA, the CoD, and the RDP before it: the gains were concentrated in specific geographic and demographic pockets, principally urban centres and among younger, more educated voters frustrated by unemployment, rather than distributed evenly across the national electorate. The election was also conducted under conditions that opposition parties themselves contested. Polling was extended by several days after shortages of ballot papers and equipment malfunctions, and after the tender for printing ballots had been awarded, controversially and at the last minute, to a South African firm with a history of disputed Zimbabwean elections. Opposition parties, including the IPC, rejected the outcome, which meant that the 2024 result functioned simultaneously as evidence of opposition growth and as a source of legitimacy disputes that consumed political energy which might otherwise have gone into building institutional capacity.

The 2025 Correction: A Warning Sign for the Opposition



South West Africa People's Organisation, SWAPO

If 2024 offered hope to those seeking an alternative to SWAPO, the regional council and local authority elections held on 26 November 2025, barely a year later, offered a sober corrective. Far from consolidating its national breakthrough, the opposition lost ground sharply. SWAPO's national vote share in the local elections rose to 63.4 per cent, an improvement on its 2020 share of 56.7 per cent. The IPC, which had captured the imagination of the national electorate barely twelve months earlier, won only one constituency outright, Windhoek East, with fifty per cent of the vote, and its total local authority seats fell from sixty-six to fifty-eight. The Landless People's Movement fared far worse, losing every one of the twelve constituencies it had held since 2020. SWAPO reclaimed towns it had lost five years earlier, including Walvis Bay Rural and Swakopmund, both previously held by the IPC, and the party's regional coordinators openly credited service delivery, rather than any weakening of opposition sentiment, for the reversal.

This is a critical data point that opposition supporters and sympathetic commentators have tended to underplay. A party that can mobilise a national protest vote once, in a single high-turnout general election, but cannot sustain that mobilisation into the following year's local con-

tests, has not yet built a movement. It has captured a moment. The distinction matters because governing a country requires precisely the kind of sustained, granular, constituency-by-constituency organisational discipline that local government elections test directly. Local elections determine which party controls municipal services, regional development budgets, and the constituency-level patronage networks that translate abstract manifesto promises into visible change for ordinary citizens. An opposition party that cannot hold ground at this level, even where it recently won parliamentary seats, has demonstrated that its 2024 surge was substantially a protest against SWAPO rather than a positive vote of confidence in its own governing competence. Voter turnout in the 2025 local elections stood at only 40.7 per cent, and independent research has found comparatively low public awareness of these elections, which suggests that opposition parties have also failed at the basic organisational task of mobilising their own supporters when national media attention is not focused on a presidential contest.

Structural Weaknesses: Splinters,

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WORLD

Waiting for an Alternative: Why Namibia's Opposition Has Not Yet Proven Itself Ready to Govern

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Not Movements

A deeper problem than any single electoral cycle is the manner in which Namibia's major opposition parties have come into existence in the first place. With the partial exception of the DTA, which predates independence, and AR and LPM, which emerged from social movements, most of Namibia's significant opposition formations were founded by disillusioned former SWAPO leaders rather than by independent political movements built from outside the ruling party's structures. The CoD was founded by a former SWAPO minister. The RDP was founded by two former SWAPO cabinet ministers. The IPC was founded by a former SWAPO member expelled from the party. This pattern has an important consequence: these parties typically inherit their founders' personal grievances, personal networks, and personal political style, but rarely inherit or build an independent institutional identity distinct from the liberation movement they left. When the founding personality departs, is defeated internally, or loses public appeal, the party frequently declines with him because there is no separate institutional culture to sustain it. The RDP illustrates this vulnerability starkly. After Hamutenya's departure from active leadership, the party cycled through several presidents in quick succession, including a leadership dispute in 2017 that was resolved only by court order, before settling into the marginal status it holds today. Internal instability of this kind is not unique to the RDP. Reporting on the PDM ahead of the 2024 election noted the departure of senior figures seen as internal threats to the long-serving party leader, and disputes over financial transparency among senior members, precisely the kind of institutional fragility that prevents a party from being trusted with public administration. A party unable to manage internal succession, financial accountability, and cohesion among its own senior figures offers limited assurance that it could manage the far more complex machinery of a national government, a civil service of tens of thousands of employees, and a budget touching every sector from health to defence.

Policy Convergence: The Absence of a Distinct Alternative

A credible government-in-waiting must offer voters a genuine choice, not merely a change of personnel. On this measure, Namibia's oppo-

sition parties have struggled to differentiate themselves from SWAPO or from one another. Analysis of the 2024 election found that most parties showed little to no fundamental difference in stated economic principles and socioeconomic priorities, suggesting a general consensus on developmental paradigms, and that manifestos, released late in the campaign, did not differ substantially between parties. This convergence is understandable in narrow terms. Namibia's fiscal constraints, its exposure to global commodity markets, and its constitutional commitments leave limited room for radical departures in economic policy regardless of which party governs. But the practical effect is that opposition parties campaign primarily on competence and integrity rather than on a distinct governing programme, and voters are asked to trust that the same broad policy framework will simply be administered more honestly and more efficiently by new hands. That is a legitimate pitch, but it is a difficult one to prove without a governing record, and it places an especially heavy burden on opposition parties to demonstrate exceptional discipline, transparency, and competence once elected to any level of government, a burden few have met consistently.

Parliament as a Waiting Room: The Coffee-and-Workshop Culture

Perhaps the most damaging failure, and the one most keenly felt by ordinary citizens, concerns the conduct of opposition members once they actually reach the National Assembly. Namibians who vote for change do so expecting their representatives to use parliamentary platforms to shape legislation, hold ministries to account, and drive reform. Too often, the public record instead shows opposition backbenchers absorbed into the same institutional rhythms as their SWAPO counterparts: overseas study tours framed as benchmarking exercises, workshops and training sessions that generate travel allowances and subsistence payments but rarely produce legislation, and committee attendance that satisfies procedural quorum requirements without translating into substantive oversight. Namibia's Parliament does produce committee reports and does pass legislation, but the volume of opposition-initiated private member bills, successful floor amendments, or independently commissioned policy research remains modest relative to the number of opposition seats now held, particularly given that the IPC alone commands twenty seats, its largest opposition bloc since independence. This is not a uniquely Namibian phenomenon; legislatures across the region wrestle with the same incentive structures, in which allowances for travel and training can crowd



Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, later rebranded the Popular Democratic Movement

out the harder, less visible work of drafting law and conducting oversight. But it is a particularly costly failure for an opposition whose entire claim to legitimacy rests on the promise of doing things differently from the ruling party it criticises. When opposition parliamentarians critique SWAPO for the visible trappings of incumbency, generous allowances, foreign trips framed as official business, and a general culture of comfort inside the Tintenpalast, while quietly enjoying the same privileges once elected themselves, they undermine the central premise of their own candidacy. Voters who backed the IPC, AR, or PDM specifically because they were promised a sharper, harder-working, more accountable alternative have limited means of verifying, cycle to cycle, whether that promise has actually been kept, and the anecdotal and journalistic evidence available suggests considerable disappointment on this front among the very youngest, urban voters who delivered the 2024 breakthrough. Effective opposition, in a functioning multiparty system, is measured in concrete legislative and oversight outputs: motions that force ministries to disclose spending, amendments that tighten weak legislation, public accounts committee inquiries that uncover and correct maladministration, and private members' bills that address gaps government has neglected. Namibia's opposition benches now contain more members with the numerical strength to drive such an agenda than at any

point since independence, with the IPC's twenty seats alone exceeding the combined opposition strength of most previous National Assemblies. Whether that numerical strength has yet been converted into a correspondingly higher volume of substantive legislative and oversight activity, rather than into the accumulation of parliamentary sitting allowances and international study visits, is precisely the question that will determine whether the 2024 breakthrough represents the beginning of institutional opposition or merely a larger and more expensive version of the same pattern that consumed the DTA, the CoD, and the RDP.

The Youth Factor: Energy Without Endurance

Much of the enthusiasm behind both the IPC and Affirmative Repositioning has been generated by young, urban Namibians confronting a labour market that has offered them little. Youth unemployment has remained a defining grievance of the past decade, and both parties built substantial followings on social media platforms, on university campuses, and in informal settlements where frustration with land access and job scarcity runs deepest. This energy is real, and it has clearly unsettled SWAPO's traditional dominance of urban centres such as Windhoek, Walvis Bay, and Swakopmund, all of which the ruling party lost at various points over the past two electoral cycles before par-

tially reclaiming them in 2025. The difficulty is that mobilising anger is a different skill from building an institution capable of governing. Affirmative Repositioning began as a land-access protest movement rather than a conventional political party; an origin that gave it authenticity and street-level credibility but left it with comparatively thin administrative structures, limited depth of experienced candidates for technical portfolios such as finance, health, or infrastructure, and a leadership style built around confrontation rather than negotiation and coalition management. These are precisely the muscles a party must develop to run ministries, manage budgets, and negotiate with international partners, trade unions, and the private sector. The IPC, for its part, drew heavily on Itula's personal appeal as a political outsider rather than on a deep bench of experienced administrators, a weakness that became visible once the party needed to defend, rather than simply criticise, positions of actual local authority after 2024. Youth-driven protest energy has proven Namibia's opposition parties can win attention. It has not yet proven they can convert that attention into the unglamorous, sustained work of competent public administration, and the sharp reversal both parties suffered in the 2025 local elections suggests that many of the voters who turned out in anger

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Waiting for an Alternative: Why Namibia's Opposition Has Not Yet Proven Itself Ready to Govern

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in 2024 have not yet been converted into a stable, organised base of support.

The Leadership Vacuum: No National Figure Has Emerged

Namibia's political geography, an ethnically and regionally diverse population spread across fourteen regions with sharply different linguistic majorities, places an unusually high demand on any aspiring national leader to build a genuinely cross-cutting coalition. SWAPO has managed this for thirty-six years, partly through the residual authority of the liberation struggle and partly through a deliberately broad, multi-ethnic leadership structure cultivated since independence. No opposition figure has replicated this. McHenry Venaani has led the DTA and then PDM for well over a decade and has built genuine name recognition, but his party's vote share has continued to shrink under his leadership rather than grow, and internal succession pressure within his own party, documented ahead of the 2024 election, suggests that even his own base questions whether he remains the right figure to lead a governing alternative. Panduleni Itula generated the single most significant opposition surge in Namibia's post-independence history, yet the collapse of IPC support barely a year later in the 2025 local elections indicates that his appeal, like Hamutenya's before him, may rest heavily on his personal profile rather than on an institution capable of outlasting him or expanding beyond his core urban, younger support base. Job Amupanda has built a genuinely energetic youth following through the Affirmative Repositioning movement, but his party remains small, regionally concentrated, and untested in any executive role beyond local government. None of these leaders, whatever their individual talents, has yet demonstrated the combination that a genuine government-in-waiting requires: sustained cross-regional appeal, institutional discipline within their own party, a coherent and distinct governing programme, and a demonstrated record of translating electoral gains into effective use of the public offices already won. Until one does, Namibian voters dissatisfied with SWAPO are left choosing, essentially, between different flavours of protest rather than between competing visions of government capable of actually running the country.

What Would a Credible Alternative



Popular Democratic Movement leader McHenry Venaani

Require?

A genuinely government-ready opposition in Namibia would need several things that none currently possesses in combination. It would need a national organisational footprint capable of contesting and holding ground in local elections as reliably as it does in high-turnout general elections, since local government is both the training ground and the proving ground for national administration. It would need succession planning robust enough to survive the departure or defeat of its founding leader without collapsing into factional dispute, the failure that destroyed the CoD and repeatedly damaged the RDP. It would need a policy programme distinct enough from SWAPO's own developmental framework that voters could identify a genuine choice rather than a change of faces. And it would need a demonstrated record, at whatever level of government it currently holds, be that a handful of local councils, a regional council seat, or a parliamentary bench, of translating its criticism of SWAPO's shortcomings into visible, measurable improvements in service delivery, legislative output, or institutional accountability. None of Namibia's current opposition parties has yet assembled all four elements simultaneously, and history since 1994 suggests that assembling even two or three of them has proven sufficient to produce only a temporary

surge rather than a durable path to government.

A Necessary Caveat

Fairness requires acknowledging the counter-argument. Namibia's opposition parties operate under genuine structural disadvantages that are not entirely of their own making. SWAPO retains the residual moral authority of the liberation struggle in a country where many voters, particularly older and rural voters, continue to associate the party with independence itself rather than with its subsequent record in office. State resources, media access, and the machinery of incumbency remain heavily tilted toward the ruling party, and opposition figures have raised credible concerns about irregularities in ballot printing and voting extensions during the 2024 election. It is also fair to note that thirty-six years is a short span in which to expect any opposition movement to overturn a deeply embedded liberation party, and that the IPC in particular is still a young formation, only five years old, that may yet mature institutionally in ways the CoD and RDP did not. Some analysts would argue the 2025 local election reversal reflects low turnout and limited public awareness rather than a genuine collapse in opposition support, and that the true test will come only at the next general election in 2029. These are reasonable points, and they counsel patience rather than

premature dismissal of Namibia's opposition project as a whole.

Conclusion

Even allowing for these structural disadvantages, the empirical record since 1994 is difficult to read optimistically. Three decades of opposition formations, the DTA and its PDM successor, the CoD, the RDP, and now the IPC, AR, and LPM, have followed a strikingly consistent cycle of sharp rise followed by stall or collapse, without a single party managing to consolidate its gains into a sustained, expanding, institutionally resilient alternative capable of credibly presenting itself as ready to govern the whole country. The 2024 general election demonstrated that a large enough number of Namibians are willing to vote for change when a compelling enough figure and moment present themselves. The 2025 local elections demonstrated, just as clearly, that willingness to protest at the ballot box has not yet translated into an opposition capable of the sustained organisational discipline, internal cohesion, distinct policy vision, and demonstrated governing competence that taking over a country actually requires. Until an opposition party or leader emerges that can hold its gains from one election cycle to the next, manage its own internal succession without fracturing, and show Namibians a genuinely different way of using the public offices already entrusted to it, the honest assessment is that

no party has yet distinguished itself as ready to govern Namibia better than the SWAPO-led government it seeks to replace. That is not a verdict on Namibian democracy, which remains genuinely competitive and increasingly contested. It is a verdict on the current generation of opposition leadership, and an invitation, addressed as much to Namibia's opposition parties as to its ruling party, to do the harder and less visible work of building institutions rather than merely capturing moments. Namibia does not lack political competition. It lacks, for now, a political alternative that has proven, through sustained performance rather than a single dramatic election result, that it could run the machinery of the state better than the party currently entrusted with it. Building that alternative will require Namibia's opposition leaders to treat every local council seat, every parliamentary committee assignment, and every year between general elections as an opportunity to demonstrate governing competence in miniature, rather than as a waiting room for the next national contest. Until that discipline is demonstrated consistently, over more than one electoral cycle, the honest and factual conclusion remains that Namibia is still waiting for the opposition party, and the opposition leader, capable of turning thirty-six years of accumulated public frustration into a genuinely credible government-in-waiting.

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Diaspora

Airtel Money targets Kenya's small businesses with dedicated Bizna Wallet and cashback rewards

As mobile money becomes the backbone of Kenya's informal economy, Airtel Money is betting that financial tools built specifically for small traders will unlock the next wave of digital adoption.

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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Airtel Money Kenya yesterday launched Bizna Wallet, a dedicated business digital wallet designed to help the country's vast small business community separate their commercial finances from personal accounts — a structural gap that has long undermined the financial management capacity of millions of Kenyan micro-entrepreneurs despite high mobile money penetration. The product, unveiled at a launch event in Nairobi, targets kiosk owners, market traders, boda boda riders, matatu operators and other micro-business operators who currently manage business income through personal mobile money wallets — a practice that creates cash flow confusion, complicates financial record-keeping and makes it difficult for entrepreneurs to accurately track the performance of their businesses or build the transaction histories that formal financial institutions require for credit assessment.

The scale of the market opportunity is considerable. Kenya's small and medium enterprise sector is estimated to account for more than 80 percent of total employment and contributes a significant share of the country's gross domestic product, yet the sector has historically been underserved by financial products designed specifically for its operational realities. Mobile money transformed access to basic financial services for millions of Kenyans, but the tools available to small business operators have largely remained the same consumer-oriented products that individual users access — products not designed for the distinct cash flow patterns, payment volumes and financial management needs of a trading business.

The Mastercard SME Confidence Index provides useful context for the moment Airtel Money is entering. According to the index, 95 percent of Kenya's small and medium enterprises now accept mobile payments — a figure that underscores how thoroughly digital payment infrastructure has penetrated even the most informal reaches of the Kenyan economy. The challenge is no longer getting small businesses onto mobile money. It is building the financial management layer on top of that foundation that allows businesses to operate more efficiently, access credit and grow sustainably.

Bizna Wallet is Airtel Money's answer to that challenge. The product gives small business operators a dedicated wallet that is structurally separate from their personal Airtel Money account, enabling a clean di-

vision between business income and personal finances that accountants and financial advisers have long recommended but that the available digital tools have made practically difficult to maintain.

Beyond the structural separation, Bizna Wallet offers functionality specifically designed for trading environments: daily sales monitoring, access to mini statements that provide a running record of business transactions, the ability to receive payments across mobile money networks — including from customers using competing platforms — and protection against unauthorised payment reversals, a feature that addresses one of the more persistent pain points for small traders operating in high-volume, cash-equivalent digital payment environments.

Michael Bonke, Airtel Money Kenya's Acting Managing Director, said the product had been developed in direct response to the practical financial management challenges that entrepreneurs across the country encounter daily. "Small businesses are at the heart of Kenya's economy, yet many entrepreneurs still rely on personal wallets to manage business finances," Bonke said at the launch. "Airtel Money Bizna Wallet is designed to enable them to separate business income from personal finances, monitor their daily sales, access mini statements, receive payments across mobile money networks and protect business payments from unauthorised reversals — giving entrepreneurs greater visibility over their cash flow and more stable business operations."

The emphasis on cross-network payment acceptance is strategically significant in the Kenyan mobile money landscape, where Safaricom's M-Pesa commands a dominant market share that means most of any small trader's customers are likely to be M-Pesa users. A business wallet that can receive payments from across the mobile money ecosystem removes a potential friction point that might otherwise deter traders from committing fully to a single platform.

Bonke was direct about the commercial logic underpinning the product. "Our goal is to provide solutions that help businesses operate more efficiently while making digital financial services more accessible and rewarding," he said — a formulation that captures both the service dimension and the competitive positioning Airtel Money is seeking to establish in a market where it is challenging a deeply entrenched incumbent.

Alongside the Bizna Wallet launch, Airtel Money announced a significant expansion of its Rudishiwa cashback proposition — a rewards programme that the company is extending from its existing cus-



(L-R) Acting Airtel Money Kenya MD Bonke Michael, Airtel Kenya Marketing Director Prisca Murigu and Airtel Kenya MD Djibril Tobe during the launch of Bizna Wallet, a dedicated business wallet designed to help Kenya's small businesses better manage their finances through a simple, secure and efficient digital solution.

tomers base to all Airtel Money users in Kenya. Under the expanded programme, customers receive 50 percent cashback on eligible transactions including paybill payments, transfers to other mobile money networks, bank-to-wallet transfers and wallet-to-bank transfers.

The cashback offer is available to all registered Airtel Money customers in Kenya who complete qualifying transactions of KSh101 or more, with no opt-in requirement. The rewards are applied instantly and credited as cash — not airtime — into a dedicated cashback wallet accessible through both the USSD shortcode 334# and the My Airtel App. Customers can transfer funds from the cashback wallet into their main Airtel Money wallet and use them across the full range of Airtel Money services.

The distinction between cash rewards and airtime rewards is commercially meaningful and represents a deliberate evolution of Airtel Money's incentive strategy. Airtime rewards, while valuable to prepaid mobile customers, carry a perceived ceiling — they are useful primarily for communication rather than as broadly fungible economic value. Cash rewards that land in a spendable wallet carry no such limitation and are considerably more attractive to business users whose primary interest is in financial tools rather than communication benefits.

Bonke framed the cashback expansion as part of a broader investment strategy oriented toward building long-term customer relationships rather than generating short-term transaction volumes. "As Kenya's digital economy continues to grow, so do the needs of businesses and consumers," he said. "At Airtel Mon-

ey, we are continuously investing in technology, expanding our reach and developing innovative solutions that make financial services simpler, more secure and more relevant for our customers. Initially, we had airtime rewards, and now we have introduced real cash rewards that go into your cashback wallet for every eligible transaction. Customers can transfer the cash from the cashback wallet into the main Airtel Money wallet."

The combination of Bizna Wallet and the expanded Rudishiwa cashback programme represents a two-pronged competitive strategy targeting both the business and consumer segments simultaneously. For business customers, Bizna Wallet offers structural financial management benefits that personal mobile money accounts cannot replicate. For individual consumers and business operators alike, the cashback programme creates a financial incentive to route eligible transactions through Airtel Money rather than competing platforms — a retention and acquisition tool aimed at both protecting existing customers and attracting new ones.

The launches come at a moment when Kenya's mobile money market is experiencing renewed competitive pressure and regulatory evolution. The Central Bank of Kenya has been working to strengthen interoperability across mobile money platforms, a policy direction that creates both opportunities and challenges for all market participants. Greater interoperability lowers the switching costs for consumers and businesses, making product differentiation and service quality more important competitive variables than platform lock-in.

In that environment, Airtel Money's strategy of building products specifically designed for the small business segment — rather than competing on transaction fees or network coverage alone — reflects a considered bet that the next phase of mobile money growth in Kenya will be driven by financial management capability rather than basic access.

Kenya's informal economy, which remains the primary employer and income source for the majority of the country's working population, generates enormous transaction volumes that are only partially captured in formal financial data. Every kiosk sale paid by mobile money, every boda boda fare transferred digitally, every market stall payment processed through a smartphone represents a data point that, aggregated across a dedicated business wallet, could eventually provide the credit history and cash flow documentation that gives small entrepreneurs access to formal financing.

That longer-term credit access dimension — though not explicitly marketed as a feature of the Bizna Wallet launch — is arguably the most significant potential benefit of the product for Kenya's small business community. The entrepreneurs who build transaction histories through a dedicated business wallet today are the same entrepreneurs who will be able to approach lenders with documented evidence of their business performance tomorrow.

For Kenya's millions of small traders, Bizna Wallet may ultimately prove to be less a payment tool and more a financial passport — the first step in a journey from the informal economy toward the formal financial system.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

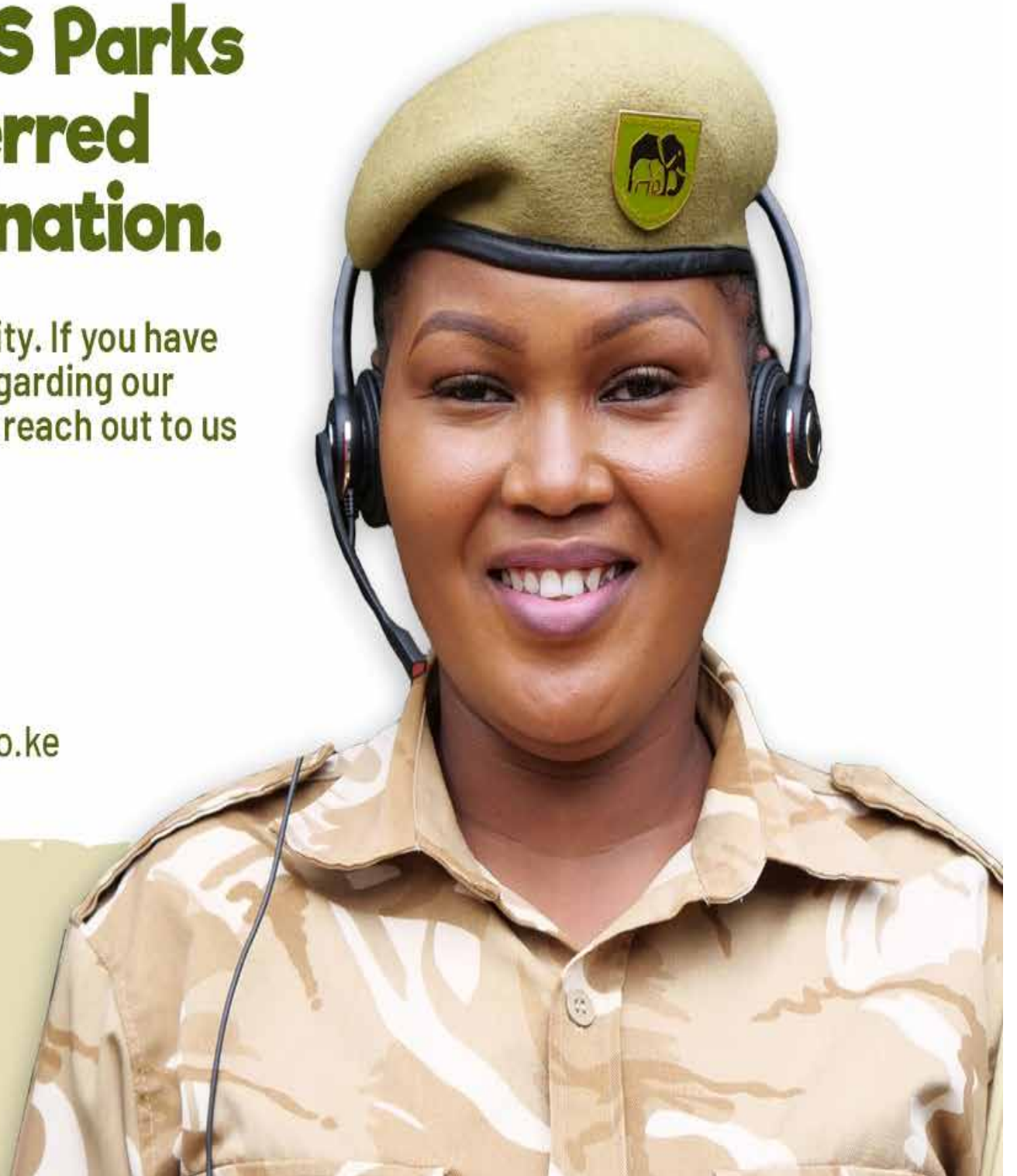
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INTELLECTUALISM IN CONTEMPORARY
AZERBAIJANI POETRY: (The Philosophical Layer
in the Works of Tarana Turan Rahimli)*Lutviyya ASGARZADEH, Doctor of Philological Sciences*By: Lutviyya ASGARZADEH
xxxxxxxxxxxxxWorth
Noting:

- In the examples we have provided, being a poet is presented not merely as the art of composing words, but as a process of spiritual migration, inner suffering, and inner alchemy (transformation).
- The poet is a metaphysical being who is "traveling toward himself for a thousand years until knowing himself," an eternal traveler in search of the self, carrying within herself the memory of humanity and walking throughout her life toward her inner "self." The expression "a thousand years" in the line indicates that time has not an individual but a collective character.
- The poet does not live merely for a few decades like an ordinary person; she descends into the layers of history and traverses the millennial path of culture and spirit. Until finding her true identity, she undergoes a path of inner evolution. In other words, being a poet is a process of self-awareness (irfan).

The renowned poet, literary scholar, Doctor of Philological Sciences Tarana Turan Rahimli is known in contemporary Azerbaijani literary studies as a scholar recognized for her fundamental research, and at the same time, as one of the figures enriching the literary process with her scientific and theoretical perspectives, a member of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union (AWU) and the Azerbaijan Journalists' Union (AJU), and a recipient of a Presidential Scholarship. Her creative work is characterized by her profound philosophical poetry and successful research.

The intellectualism in Tarana Turan's poetry prompts the reader to think. The philosophical symbols and underlying meanings in her poems testify to her profound knowledge of the historical, symbolic, and philosophical weight of words, as well as to the richness of her scholarly background. The philosophical questions concerning time, existence, human destiny, and the laws governing the universe in Tarana Turan's poetry are precisely the artistic form of scientific cognition. Her deep analysis of the world and classical literary movements as a scholar enables her to create intellectual freedom and universal themes in her own poetry.

In contemporary Azerbaijani poetry, intellectualism does not merely remain confined to the aesthetic form of the literary text, but necessitates its penetration into the divine and human layers of existence. From this perspective, Tarana Turan Rahimli, who demonstrates in her creative work a successful transformation of classical Sufi-Irfani thought and pantheistic philosophy into contemporary lyric poetry, is one of the most intellectual and profound voices of contemporary Azerbaijani poetry. Her poems are not merely rhymed lines, but a spiritual laboratory in which human existence, time, and destiny are questioned. In this laboratory, the position of the lyrical persona in the face of the destructive power of time is interpreted on the basis of the principles of philosophical hermeneu-

tics, and the position of the contemporary artist in relation to the Universe, Time, and God is illuminated on a scholarly plane.

In the article, we will attempt to explore the interconnected themes of time, the universe, God, love, and the poet's destiny in the creative work of Tarana Turan Rahimli, whose poetry transcends boundaries, has been published in more than 50 countries and in various languages, and who is known for her profound artistic-philosophical poems, and to examine their deep and hidden philosophical layers.

For us, the first and most important point is to understand the poet's philosophical view of the poet's destiny. Her poem "Poets" is a perfect answer to the questions "Who is a poet?" and "What is being a poet?" presented on a philosophical, mystical, and psychological plane:

They come toward themselves
Till the day they know who they are.
They come to life and pass away thousand times
Till their death-hour comes.

They set webs like spiders,
They pull the nets inside of them.
Whatever grief they have,
gather in heart
And the grief turns to a new poem.

In the examples we have provided, being a poet is presented not merely as the art of composing words, but as a process of spiritual migration, inner suffering, and inner alchemy (transformation). The poet is a metaphysical being who is "traveling toward himself for a thousand years until knowing himself," an eternal traveler in search of the self, carrying within herself the memory of humanity and walking throughout her life toward her inner "self." The expression "a thousand years" in the line indicates that time has not an individual but a collective character. The poet does not live merely for a few decades like an ordinary person; she descends into the layers of history and traverses the



Tarana Turan Rahimli

being entirely from her own soul and emotions. The poet simply gathers this web not outward, but "inside herself." Drawing the events she observes into her inner world, the poet passes them through her own spiritual filter and burns intensely within:

They set webs like spiders,
They pull the nets inside of them.
"Whatever grief they have,
gather in heart, /
And the grief turns to a new poem."

The philosophical essence of these lines lies in the poem being the aesthetic form of the inner burning, of the human and individual sorrows endured, and in the poet being a self-sacrificing person who melts the pain and grief of the world within her own breast. These lines also explain the mystical source

The author personifies the mountain, spring, and rock (personification). Finding in nature the understanding she cannot find among people, the poet is in pantheistic unity with nature; she confides in the stone and the rock, teaches the stone to speak, shakes the rock's hand, yet does not know the language of her own blind fate. It is well known that stone is a symbol of silence and lack of reaction. Through the power of poetry, the poet, who gives voice even to the most speechless beings, cannot find the "language of blind fate." This demonstrates the existential helplessness and drama of the human being in the face of the destiny of the universe:

The God always protect them,

They pass away being hung from their words,
They don't let the words be choked.
They are tired out worn-out life,
They die in order to come to life again.

I think of the trees that die every autumn and are re-born every spring. Here, too, death is not the end, but the soul's attainment of supreme freedom. The expression "dies by hanging from her word" demonstrates the artist's becoming a victim of the truth she has written and of her artistic principles (as in the philosophy of Nasimi or Mansur al-Hallaj). The poet sacrifices herself so that

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INTELLECTUALISM IN CONTEMPORARY
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Worth
Noting:

- Being a poet is a form of being chosen. Throughout the creative process, the poet must preserve the pure child-like soul that remains untouched by the ugliness of the world and looks at everything with wonder, as if seeing it for the first time. The poet is ready to sacrifice her own life and lifetime for the survival of the word. The "light of God" in the line refers to the light — the divine inspiration — in Sufi philosophy. The poet's creativity is directly connected to a divine source.
- The paradox in "God make this child grow old, but not be adult" expresses the dialectic between the artist's physical aging and the unshakable purity of her soul. The world makes her physically old; her sorrows turn her hair gray, yet God preserves within her the "pure child" who feels the world as clean and innocent. Because if the child were to grow up, purity would be lost; and if purity were lost, poetry would not be born.

"the word may not be suffocated," so that the truth may live. In the end, the poet relinquishes her biological existence so that the word may not be suffocated. The lines that form the final chord of the poem, "They are tired out worn-out life, / They die in order to come to life again" express a philosophy of renunciation of the material world.

Earthly life is a "worn-out" garment. For her, physical death is not an end, but the soul's liberation from its chains and its rebirth (metamorphosis) in the eternal realm of art and in the presence of God.

Overall, the final philosophical formula emerging from Tarana Turan Rahimli's poem "Poets" is as follows: the poet is a self-sacrificing soul, burdened with all the suffering of the world, coming through millennia-old paths and finding herself in art, while being a poet is the process through which endured suffering, deaths, and inner burning are mystically transformed into aesthetic words (smoke). Being a poet is a divine mission that gives voice to stones, the ability to preserve the soul in childlike purity even in physical old age, and the self-sacrifice of being able to renounce one's biological existence so that the word may survive. It should be noted that in this poem, which the poet dedicated to the memory of Adil Mirseyid, the self-sacrificing artist whom we lost prematurely, she has brought the philosophy of self-sacrifice and "dying by hanging from the word" onto a real plane. We believe that by filtering Tarana Turan Rahimli's poem "Poets," which constitutes an entire creative manifesto, through a philosophical and poetic lens, we have to some extent revealed the poetic manifesto of the poet's creative work.

In the poet's creative work, built upon profound emotions such as the flow of time and inner spiritual maturity, the secrets of life and the subtle details of human psychology come to the fore. In the poems of the poet, who is not confined solely to the material world but yearns for spiritual elevation and divine love, this philosophical aspiration manifests it-

self mainly in the following directions: understanding time and life through rebirth, striving toward the divine being and purity, and the philosophy of silence and endurance. Although the poet accepts the transience of the material body, she longs for the soul to be reborn in poetry and in the lines of verse.

With the philosophy of "I have lived this life," the lyrical persona expresses a desire to return spiritually to the depths of history. The lyrical persona knows that all roads, closed from every direction, will ultimately lead to God and wishes to distance herself from human ugliness. At times, the poet prefers to remain silent in the face of injustices, yet, like an inner volcano, she wants the word to "emerge from its sheath" when the time comes. We can analyze all of this through the lines in Tarana Turan Rahimli's poetry that question the contradiction between the transience of physical death and the eternity of the soul and art, thereby revealing the philosophical depth of her poetry:

In which season will I pass away?

In the corner of a sheet of paper.

Within a single line of verse.

Will I be born again?

Will they know that I have not died?

The poet presents poetry here as a refuge of eternity against the transience of the material world. The human fear of physical absence is replaced by the artist's philosophy of taking refuge in verse. The philosophy of "rebirth" does not express existing in reality, but rather existing within the word. In the following lines, let us trace the influence of time on human psychology and memory, as well as the philosophy of "endurance" and solitude:

Again I can't sleep

This night patience tests me.

The longest night of my life

At last will put an end of me.

For the poet, night is not merely a segment of time, but a courtroom in which the individual confronts



Lutviyya Asgarzadeh

philosophy transferred into contemporary poetry in literary art.

Let us analyze, through examples, the poet's lines that embody this philosophy (the closing of worldly doors and the metaphor of hope):

Sorrow entered with its army,

I was a child, left outside the door.

Like autumn leaves, the years fell away,

God, I did not grow up; I grew old as a child.

The author uses the metaphor of the "door" here. The closing of worldly doors does not shake the lyrical persona, because she knows that there is an absolute "Open Door" (the door of God) in the universe. A person's solitude is the moment when they are closest to God.

within this chaos.

The nights and daytime

As if fights against me.

I am competing with a second,

The hours escape out of my hands.

Here, the conflict between time and the human being is brought onto a philosophical plane. Time does not merely pass; it is characterized as an enemy that actively "declares war" against the human being. In the line "Time declares war on me," time is personified (personification). Through the concepts of "second" and "hour," the lyrical persona's desperate struggle to gain every moment and not be late for life is artistically expressed. The essence of the lines lies in the philosophy of time acquiring a spatial character, that is, real time

I am going embracing the next day.

I don't live my own life,

I only fly above it.

Time moves at such a speed that a person cannot remain still in space, cannot find the opportunity to deeply feel and "live" life, but simply "flies over it." The expression "I embrace tomorrow and move on" signifies an aspiration toward the future, yet at the same time, the confession "I am not living; I am flying over it and moving on" conveys the lyrical persona's shaken final realization. Life is artistically concluded as not a real lived experience, but a rapid transitional passage.

Another important thread in the poet's creative work is the metaphysics of love and separation. For Tarana Turan Rahimli, love is a concept higher than a human emo-

INTELLECTUALISM IN CONTEMPORARY AZERBAIJANI POETRY: (The Philosophical Layer in the Works of Tarana Turan Rahimli)

Lutviyya ASGARZADEH, Doctor of Philological Sciences

Contd from Page 21

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Worth Noting:

- The philosophical essence of these lines lies in the poem being the aesthetic form of the inner burning, of the human and individual sorrows endured, and in the poet being a self-sacrificing person who melts the pain and grief of the world within her own breast.
- These lines also explain the mystical source of poetry. The poet draws all the injustices, sufferings, and lovelessness in the world ("whatever pain there is") into her own breast. This pain burns within through a philosophical fire. Here, the expression "It smokes and poetry emerges" is the culmination of the creative act. The poem is the smoke of the soul blazing with pain, of the inner volcano, while the poet is a being who burns herself and radiates light (the word) around her.
- In the following lines, the cosmic (natural), divine (theological), and self-sacrificing (metaphysical) layers of the poet's identity are artistically completed. In these stanzas, Tarana Turan analyzes the creative person's direct dialogue with nature and God, as well as her self-sacrifice for the sake of the word.

tion—it is a stage of purification of the soul. Let us take a look at her poem "The tears of my eyes will curse you," which touches upon the mystical philosophy of love and separation. The poem is one of the most powerful examples reflecting the ruptures in human relationships and the philosophical-mystical essence of love and separation. In this poem, the poet presents love not as an ordinary feeling, but as a metaphysical force that purifies the human soul and shapes its destiny. Let us analyze the mystical and philosophical layers in the poem through its lines:

Let my variegated sorrow be only mine,
Take your love and don't reprobate me.

Here, separation is not a physical distancing, but a spiritual exchange. At the moment of separation, the poet divides the energy of emotions into two. Sorrow remains in the lyrical persona's inner world ("within herself"), while love is conveyed to the other side as a burden, a sacred trust. The expression "variegated sorrows" here is an interesting metaphor demonstrating that the author gives sorrow different artistic shades. The depiction of love as something physical that can be "taken away" shows that feelings have lost their dependence on space. In contemporary poetry, dreams and imagination are a hidden space of the human inner world. They add a mystical and secret atmosphere to the poem. The lyrical persona forbids the other side from entering these mystical spaces:

Do not come even into my dreams, even into my imagination,
Forget me like the dreams you have killed.

The expression "the killing of dreams" here is a philosophical reference to the dual power of love, which both creates and destroys. The simile "the dreams you have killed" demonstrates the scale of the spiritual devastation caused by separation within the lyrical persona's inner world:

Don't say that this world is

betrayed,
Don't scold me for I bent at my destiny so.
I was more patient than the mountains,
They changed me, I wasn't so long ago.

The lines also question the philosophy of fate (fatalism) and the limits of human will. No matter how strong and as enduring as a mountain a person may be, they are compelled to accept their helplessness in the face of the cosmic laws brought about by love and separation.

The expressions "more enduring than a mountain" and "more patient than stone" are exaggerated (hyperbolic) comparisons derived from folk consciousness. These comparisons symbolize the extraordinary strength demonstrated by the lyrical persona in an attempt to restrain the volcano erupting within her.

The idea "'The tears of my eyes will curse you,'" which stands at the heart of the poem and in its title, is based on a mystical belief. In philosophy, this is the relationship between cause and effect and karmic justice.* Tears shed unjustly are not merely an ordinary fluid, but an energetic force that will spiritually pursue the other person. The expression "the tears will catch you" is an artistic warning, as well as a declaration of the inviolability of love. The poet does not curse the other person; she simply expresses, with philosophical serenity, that the disrupted moral balance of the universe will inevitably be restored.

Overall, the philosophical layer and philosophical thought in Tarana Turan Rahimli's poetry are very strong. We can trace this through her poem "I Grew Up," which becomes an artistic expression not so much of her poetic self, but of the scholarly intellect seeking refuge in the philosophical power of the word and choosing the path of "ripening" rather than "burning" by passing sorrow through the filter of cognition. As one of the most perfect examples where her scientific-intellectual thought intersects with her philosophical poetry, the poem "I Grew Up" is not merely an expression of a feeling, but a



Tarana Turan Rahimli

strange wish,
I directed towards light and sound.
I drunk off the love
I grew up drinking such loves.

Here, "Light" and "Sound" are not merely visual or visual-auditory elements. In intellectual poetry, light represents cognition, science, and spiritual enlightenment, while sound represents the harmony of the universe and the word. The poet "drinks" love in one breath not merely at the level of the body or emotion, but as a philosophical substance that illuminates the soul. This is an expression of the scholar's passion for knowledge, thirsting for scientific truth:

I took hands of the expectation,
I was lost in the corners of life.
I cut the grief to my height
I grew up in this way.

transformation of the concept "I was raw, I ripened, I burned" (Rumi) in Eastern philosophy (Sufism). However, the poet chooses not to "burn into ashes," but to "ripen" (to become wise) within the fire. This is also the direct "business card" of her scholarly activity in poetry. A scholar, too, does not burn and disappear in experiments and trials; rather, they become enriched with knowledge, "ripen," and gain wisdom.

Thus, the deep philosophical layer and intellectualism in Tarana Turan's poems are not accidental; they are a reflection of the analytical cognition that flows from her scholarly activity into her artistic creativity, a synthesis of emotion and intellect. In this article, we have observed the influence of her fundamental research as a scholar and Doctor of Philological Sciences on her creative work, the impact of her academic mastery of the

slightly open the mysterious and magical door of your poetry. We hope that this effort has been successful. May the artistic light of your pen, united with the depth of your scholarly thought, always penetrate the hearts of readers; may your lines withstand the test of time and live eternally!!!

5 August, 2026

*Karmic justice is a moral belief system expressing that every good or bad deed performed by a person will sooner or later return to them. This concept is based on ancient Eastern philosophy and the law of Karma.

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Biden’s cancer spreads to bones as son Hunter reveals president’s painful decline

The former president who led the free world until January is now fighting a battle far more personal — and his son’s raw words to the BBC have laid bare the human cost of a very public illness.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

- The disclosure represents a significant and sobering escalation from the picture Biden himself had painted as recently as last month, when the former president described his radiation and hormone therapy as going “really well” during a public announcement about an upcoming memoir. The contrast between that measured optimism and his son’s Friday account — delivered with visible emotion and unmistakable grief — has drawn international attention to the condition of a man who, less than seven months ago, held the most powerful office on earth.
- Hunter Biden did not conceal the personal toll the illness is taking on the family. “It’s really, really hard, and it’s really sad to watch,” he said, appearing to become emotional at several points during the wide-ranging BBC Newsnight interview. The words carried the weight of a son watching a parent’s decline in circumstances that are at once intensely private and inescapably public — a tension that has defined the Biden family’s relationship with America and the world for decades.

Joe Biden’s prostate cancer has spread further into his bones despite ongoing treatment, his son Hunter Biden has revealed in an emotional interview with BBC Newsnight — the most candid and distressing public account yet of the former United States president’s deteriorating health since his diagnosis was disclosed three months ago.

Hunter Biden, speaking in an interview published late Friday, confirmed that his father’s condition had worsened beyond the bone metastasis first disclosed in May 2025, just four months after the 83-year-old left the White House as the oldest person ever to serve as president of the United States. “The cancer has spread, is metastasized into his bones and further,” Hunter said. “It’s very painful, and it’s very debilitating in many respects, but he’s still out there. He’s still doing his thing — he so believes in this country.”

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Former President Joe Biden

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Biden’s prostate cancer diagnosis was first disclosed in May 2025, when his office confirmed that he had been found to have an aggressive form of the disease that had already spread to his bones at the point of detection. Aggressive prostate cancer with bone metastasis is a serious but not immediately terminal diagnosis — many patients live for years with appropriate treatment — but the prognosis depends heavily on how the cancer responds to therapy and how extensively it continues to spread. Hunter’s confirmation that the disease has progressed despite treatment suggests the response has not been as complete as the former president’s own public comments had implied.

The medical reality of metastatic prostate cancer requires context. When prostate cancer spreads to the bones — a process known as osseous metastasis — it typically causes significant pain, fatigue and reduced mobility, symptoms Hunter described accurately when he spoke of the condition being “very painful and debilitating.” Treatment at this stage generally focuses on controlling the disease’s progression and managing symptoms rather than achieving a cure, and the choice of radiation combined with hormone therapy, which Biden had been undergoing, is a standard and often effective approach for slowing bone metastasis. That the cancer appears to have continued spreading despite this regimen indicates a disease that is proving resistant to first-line management.

Biden turns 83 this November. He served as president from January 2021 to January 2025, completing one term after defeating Donald Trump in the 2020 election. His decision in 2024 to seek a second term at the age of 81 generated sustained and ultimately fatal political controversy. A widely watched debate performance against Trump in June 2024, in which Biden appeared visibly confused and struggled to complete his thoughts, triggered a wave of alarm within the Democratic Party and among the broader electorate that questioning of his cognitive fitness had previously struggled to crystallise.

Under intense pressure from senior Democrats, donors and party figures who concluded that his candidacy had become electorally untenable, Biden withdrew from the presidential race in July 2024 — a decision that ended his political career but came too late to fundamentally reshape the Democratic primary process in the way a conventional competitive primary might have. He endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris, who secured the Democratic nomination but ultimately lost the November 2024 election to Trump in a result that returned the Republican to the White House and concluded Biden’s half-century career in American public life.

The questions that dogged Biden’s final years in office — about his cognitive sharpness, his physical resilience and his capacity to manage the demands of the presidency at an age no predecessor had attempted — have acquired a painful retrospective dimension in the light of his cancer diagnosis. Whether his medical condition predated or contributed to the visible decline his debate performance exposed remains a matter of public speculation that his family and physicians have not directly addressed.

What is not speculative is the human reality that Hunter Biden conveyed on Friday. A father who spent his life in public service, who buried a wife and daughter in a 1972 car crash and a son to brain cancer in 2015, who climbed back from personal devastation repeatedly to reach the summit of American political life, is now confronting a disease that his own body is struggling to contain and that his family is struggling to watch.

The global reaction to Hunter Biden’s BBC disclosure has been swift and largely sympathetic, cutting across political lines in a way that reflects the universal recognition of mortality that serious illness tends to produce. Former political opponents, international leaders and members of the public who disagreed profoundly with Biden’s policies have expressed concern and good wishes — a reminder that the office of the presidency and the person who holds it are ultimately separable, and that the person, in the end, is what endures.

Biden has not made a public statement in response to his son’s interview. His office has not issued a medical update. The former president, according to Hunter, remains engaged and purposeful despite his condition — still, in his son’s words, doing his thing, still believing in the country he served for more than fifty years.

Whether that belief, and the man who holds it, has time remaining to be expressed publicly is now the question that his family, his country and the watching world must sit with.