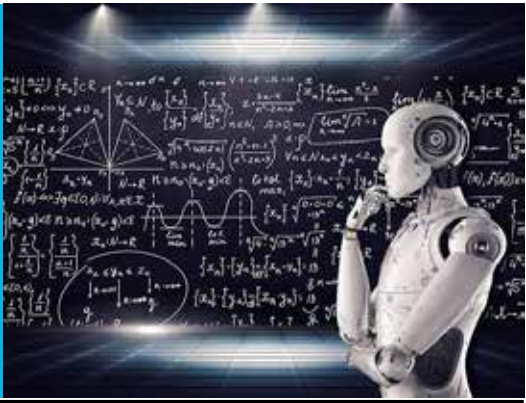


Trump described artificial intelligence as “the next Industrial Revolution, or Internet

US AI Force

AI will be even larger and more impactful,” claiming it could eventually account for as much as 25 per cent of US gross domestic product :



Trump launches AI Force: A new front in the battle for global technology dominance

The US president creates a dedicated artificial intelligence command, triggering a worldwide debate about safety, regulation, and the cost of winning the AI race.
By MKT Reporter
US President Donald Trump Saturday announced the creation of an “AI Force” and pledged to appoint an artificial intelligence czar to oversee America’s approach to the technology, a move that immediately deepened a fractious global debate about whether the world’s most powerful nation is accelerating toward innovation or racing toward catastrophe.
The announcement, made



US President Donald Trump

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Trauma, Friendship, Love, and
the Search for Self-Worth

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Behind the visor: How Nairobi’s ‘Brayo Oyaah’ is redefining Kenya’s road safety culture



The Diaspora Times Global

Breach at Vote 8: What the Attack on the Namibian Defence Establishment Means for National Security

A criminal extortion syndicate has claimed the network of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. The national response team has confirmed an attack. What follows examines the evidence, and the people who may stand behind it. It also asks what the episode means for a country that has

still not passed a cybercrime law.
By Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
A listing on a Wednesday afternoon On 16 September 2026, at 15:32 Co-ordinated Universal Time, a new entry appeared on a criminal leak site

monitored by security researchers across the world. The victim named on the entry was the Namibian Defence Force. The internet domain recorded beside that name was www.mod.gov.na. That domain belongs to the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. The group claiming re-

sponsibility was RansomHouse. The monitoring service that recorded the listing places the probable date of the intrusion four days ear-

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Can Kenyans abroad become the untapped force that transforms Kenya?
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Kenyans



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Museveni says Uganda overpaid for fuel through Kenyan middlemen as new terminal breaks ground
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From the runway to youth empowerment
Minenhle Tembe
South African model



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The use of digital educational technologies in the prevention of dental diseases
Health



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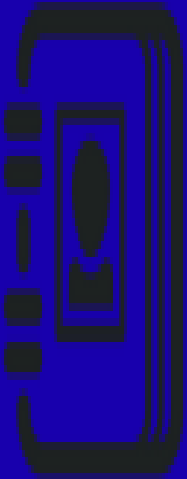


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Kenya's scouting laws face overhaul: Kiarie leads push to align movement with devolved governance

By: John Kariuki
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Kiarie, who also chairs the Parliamentary ICT Committee, yesterday called for urgent reforms to align scouting's legal framework with the 2010 Constitution and the realities of devolved government, arguing that a statute dating to 1963 cannot adequately serve a movement that now operates within a country of 47 county governments.
- "We must take it upon ourselves to bring the laws of this scouting movement up to date," Kiarie said, speaking at the formal commissioning of the newly gazetted board of the World Scout Parliamentary Union in Nyeri. He challenged newly appointed board members to move beyond their formal appointment and translate their mandate into concrete reforms that strengthen scouting across the country.



Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga shakes hand with and Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie

Kenya's parliamentary scouting body is pressing for a sweeping overhaul of the country's scouting legislation, with World Scout Parliamentary Union Global President and Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie warning that laws governing the movement have been overtaken by more than six decades of constitutional and governance change.

Kiarie, who also chairs the Parliamentary ICT Committee, yesterday called for urgent reforms to align scouting's legal framework with the 2010 Constitution and the realities of devolved government, arguing that a statute dating to 1963 cannot adequately serve a movement that now operates within a country of 47 county governments.

"We must take it upon ourselves to bring the laws of this scouting movement up to date," Kiarie said, speaking at the formal commissioning of the newly gazetted board of the World Scout Parliamentary Union in Nyeri. He challenged newly appointed board members to move beyond their formal appointment and translate their mandate

into concrete reforms that strengthen scouting across the country.

Parliament, Kiarie said, is the natural starting point for any effort to reform scouting because laws, policies and public funding all flow from the legislative process. He said young scouts in schools need champions in Parliament — legislators who can ensure that scouting's interests are reflected in national legislation and secured in annual budgets.

The parliamentary union, he added, serves as a critical bridge between the Kenya Scouts Association and lawmakers who can directly influence the financial and policy environment in which scouting operates.

Kenya Scouts Association Executive Director Poppins Misoi said strengthening scouting requires deeper collaboration among Parliament, county governments, the association itself, and other institutions working in youth development. He said the newly constituted board offers a platform to build partnerships that convert scouting's founding ideals into practical programmes with lasting institutional backing.

Leaders at the commissioning described scouting as far more than an extracurricular activity. Introduced primarily through the school system, the movement provides what they called a structured environment for nurturing discipline, leadership, teamwork, loyalty and responsible citizenship. They called on both Parliament and county governments to create an enabling environment for scouting through legislation, policy and budgetary support.

Association President and board chairperson Tabitha Mutinda pressed those entrusted with leadership positions within the movement to hold themselves to a high standard. "Those who lead the younger generation must set the bar very high," Mutinda said, stressing that young people look to adult leaders for guidance and inspiration.

The event also renewed calls for Nyeri County to fully embrace its singular status in global scouting history as the home and final resting place of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the scouting movement, and his wife, Lady Olive Baden-Powell. Leaders said

Kenya's historical connection to scouting gives the country a particular responsibility to preserve and actively promote the movement's founding ideals.

Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga pledged his county government's full cooperation with the parliamentary union, saying Nyeri would continue working with the WSPU beyond any single leadership cycle. "Let us uphold the tenets and beliefs that were bequeathed to us by our founder and ensure that we uplift the name of Lord Baden-Powell through our actions," Kahiga said.

The leaders argued that Nyeri holds real potential to become a global hub for scouting — a county capable of leveraging its unique historical ties to attract international scouting institutions, events and visitors. They noted that the global scouting community is watching Kenya, and challenged Nyeri to step into a more prominent international role.

The WSPU board also disclosed that it had recently held engagements with counterparts in South Korea, where discussions centred on strengthening

parliamentary support for scouting and identifying opportunities for international cooperation. Those engagements, leaders said, underscored both the global reach of parliamentary scouting networks and Kenya's potential role within them.

One of the board's new executive members, Job Mukoyandali of the Bungoma County Assembly, recalled joining the Scouts in 1992 and said he could not have imagined then that the journey would eventually lead to a leadership position within the WSPU. A Wood Badge holder, Mukoyandali pledged to take the board's mandate on the road, engaging county assemblies across the country to embed scouting more firmly in local legislation and practice.

"We are going to be selfless. We are going to go out and work. We are not just going to sit here and pass time," he said.

The newly gazetted board is constituted with Mutinda as chairperson. Members are Kiarie, Dorice Aburi, Wilberforce Ojiambo, Pamela Njoki, Innocent Mugabe, Jackson Mandago, Kahiga, Mukoyandali and Evalyne Tirop, alongside the Principal Secretaries for Devolution, Youth Affairs, the National Treasury, and Basic Education. Misoi serves as secretary.

With Kenya's deep historical ties to the movement and a newly constituted board carrying a clear mandate for reform, the WSPU leadership said the country has both the opportunity and the responsibility to provide stronger parliamentary backing for scouting — and to place Nyeri firmly at the centre of the global scouting story.

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Inspiration

Inspired by the poem "Time"



By: Jo'raqulova Azimaxon
Baxtiyorovna
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth
Noting:

- As is well known, G'afur G'ulom approaches each poem with a unique style and ideas. Likewise, every line of the poem "Time" has become an irreplaceable gem in the world of poetry. The writer Said Ahmad, who was considered the author's closest friend and disciple, noted in his work "What I Lost and What I Found" that he was with the author on the eve of the poem "Time" coming into being.
- Furthermore, according to the author's close friend, an editorial had placed an order for a specific poem before the first lines of the poem were even conceived. However, as the poet found inspiration in freedom and independence, G'afur G'ulom kept postponing the task.

By: Jo'raqulova Azimaxon
Baxtiyorovna

To appreciate every second, it is necessary to read at least once the poem "Time" by G'afur G'ulom, one of the representatives of Uzbek literature. The reason is that in this poem the author is not simply writing about ordinary clock hands, but is earnestly depicting the majesty of the great weapon called time, which can cure many ills, exalt some, and then bring them down to earth.

As is well known, G'afur G'ulom approaches each poem with a unique style and ideas. Likewise, every line of the poem "Time" has become an irreplaceable gem in the world of poetry. The writer Said Ahmad, who was considered the author's closest friend and disciple, noted in his work "What I Lost and What I Found" that he was with the author on the eve of the poem "Time" coming into being. Furthermore, according to the author's close friend, an editorial had placed an order for a specific poem before the first lines of the poem were even conceived. However, as the poet found inspiration in freedom and independence, G'afur G'ulom kept postponing the task. But one day, just before going to sleep, as he was taking off his watch, He looked at the watch, a gift from his nephew Hamidullo, and resolved to write a poem for it the next day. As a result, the world of Uzbek poetry welcomed another lifelong star.

In the poem "Time" the poet vividly demonstrates

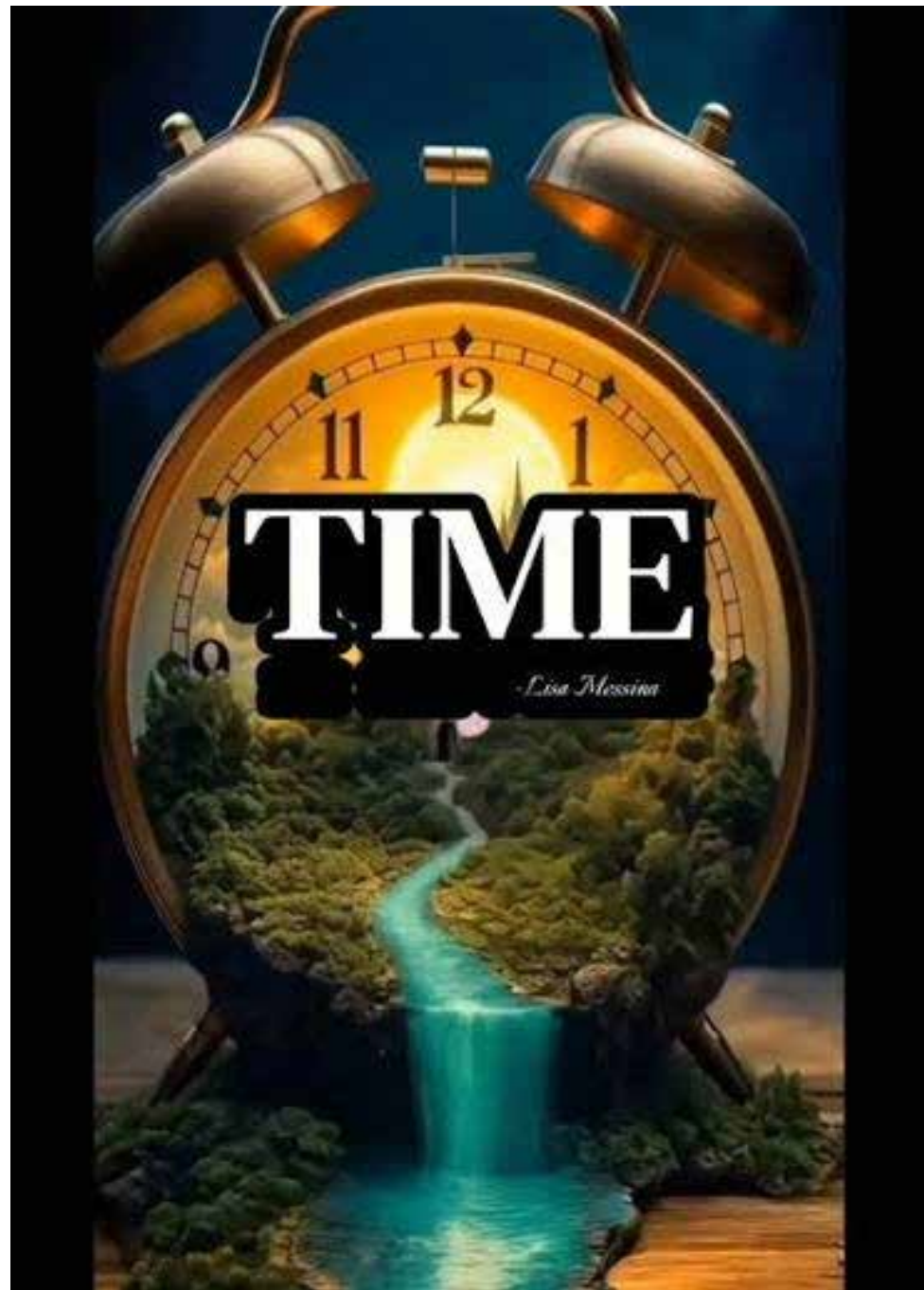
the great need for a person to value their time and life. Furthermore, in the poem, time is presented as a changing, fleeting, and rapidly changing phenomenon.

As you read each line, you begin to realize that how and in what way one uses a powerful weapon like time is entirely up to the individual. We can see the proof of this argument in the following lines:

There are those born and raised in half an hour, who live and spend their whole lives; The moment that passes in the blink of an eye is precious, the meaning of a single instant is an entire spring.

Through this excerpt from the poem "Time", we can instantly realize that the value of time should be asked of a person who is bedridden, counting the days, rather than a healthy one. The reason is that, in most cases, caught up in work, home, and household worries, we momentarily forget that it's not just the clock's hands but the river of our life—called the White River—that is flowing away.

In the above excerpt from the poet's poem, these very ideas are put forward. At the same time, the poem states that a general could sign off on the start of the so-called black scourge called war in just three seconds. However, the idea that those who have suffered and lost loved ones because of this war could curse this general's name for a thousand years is also



presented as a direct counter-idea.

In conclusion, time is a just judge that has seen more of each of us than we can imagine, has punished the vile individuals who have shed the blood of their own children, and has re-

warded those who deserve it. The poet, in his poem titled "Time" managed to put on paper emotions that an ordinary person cannot describe in their own words. As a result, a diamond-equivalent masterpiece was created, worthy of being read by the

whole world.

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Diaspora

Can Kenyans abroad become the untapped force that transforms Kenya?

By: Collins Kibet
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- That question matters more urgently today than it did a generation ago. Kenya's economy has grown, but youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, and competition for skilled opportunities in the formal sector is fierce. Young Kenyans graduate in large numbers every year and enter a labour market that does not always have enough room for them. Meanwhile, professionals in the diaspora have navigated career paths, built expertise and established networks that younger people at home rarely have access to. The gap between those two realities represents an opportunity that has barely been touched.
- Mentorship is one of the most direct and accessible ways to bridge it. Professionals abroad do not have to physically return to Kenya to make a difference in the life of a young engineer in Eldoret or a medical student in Nairobi. Virtual mentorship programmes, online training sessions, internship pipelines, scholarship networks and professional communities can connect experienced Kenyans abroad with the next generation at home. Some of this is already happening informally, driven by individuals and small organisations.



DCP Party leader Rigathi Gachagua meeting Business Executives at Silo Modern Farmhouse in Kansas City, Missouri USA.

For decades, Kenyans living and working abroad have been a quiet but vital thread in the country's economic fabric. Every year, money wired home helps families pay school fees, cover household expenses, build homes, start businesses and navigate emergencies. That financial lifeline is real, it is significant, and millions of people depend on it. But is sending money home the full extent of what Kenyans in the diaspora can offer their country? The honest answer is: probably not, not by a long way. Beyond the remittances flowing into Kenyan bank accounts every month lies something harder to measure but potentially far more transformative. Kenyans living abroad have accumulated skills, professional experience, international networks and knowledge drawn from some of the world's most dynamic economies and institutions. A nurse working in London, an engineer in Houston, a tech developer in Berlin, a finance professional in Dubai — each carries expertise shaped by systems, standards and innovations that Kenya is still working to develop. The question worth asking is not whether those resources exist. They clearly do. The more pressing question is whether Kenya has built the conditions for them to flow back home in a meaningful way. That question matters more urgently today than it did a generation ago. Kenya's economy has grown, but youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, and competition for skilled opportunities in the formal

sector is fierce. Young Kenyans graduate in large numbers every year and enter a labour market that does not always have enough room for them. Meanwhile, professionals in the diaspora have navigated career paths, built expertise and established networks that younger people at home rarely have access to. The gap between those two realities represents an opportunity that has barely been touched. Mentorship is one of the most direct and accessible ways to bridge it. Professionals abroad do not have to physically return to Kenya to make a difference in the life of a young engineer in Eldoret or a medical student in Nairobi. Virtual mentorship programmes, online training sessions, internship pipelines, scholarship networks and professional communities can connect experienced Kenyans abroad with the next generation at home. Some of this is already happening informally, driven by individuals and small organisations. But it remains fragmented, under-resourced and largely invisible to most young Kenyans who would benefit most from it. Giving these efforts structure, scale and visibility is a practical step that neither requires enormous funding nor years of policy reform to achieve. Investment presents a different but equally important opportunity. Kenyans abroad already invest at home — most visibly in real estate, where diaspora-built homes dot the outskirts of towns and cities across the country. That investment is

personal and understandable. But the productive economy — the sector that creates jobs, drives innovation and expands local enterprise — sees considerably less diaspora capital than it could. Part of the reason is structural. Investment channels that are opaque, bureaucratic or perceived as unreliable discourage participation from people who may want to invest but cannot afford to take risks with hard-earned money managed from thousands of kilometres away. There is a clear case for strengthening the systems that make investment accessible and dependable for diaspora Kenyans. Transparent regulatory frameworks, efficient remittance corridors, credible investment vehicles and reliable information about opportunities with clear returns are not luxury policy goals — they are the practical infrastructure that determines whether diaspora capital stays largely in the family or begins to fuel wider economic activity. The government has acknowledged this challenge periodically, but meaningful reform has been slow and uneven. To be fair, the responsibility does not rest entirely with the state. Kenyans abroad also have a role to play, and it is a role that goes beyond writing a cheque. Living thousands of kilometres from home does not mean the connection to Kenya has to weaken or become purely transactional. Knowledge can be shared. Professional networks can be opened up. Business ideas that have worked elsewhere can be

adapted and introduced at home. Students can be encouraged, enterprises can be supported, and the kind of practical guidance that is difficult to find in a classroom can be passed from one generation of Kenyans to another, regardless of geography. There is also something important in the simple act of staying engaged — reading about home, following developments, contributing to public conversations, pushing back when things go wrong. The diaspora has a voice. In an era when digital tools make it easier than ever to participate across borders, choosing not to use that voice is itself a choice with consequences. The relationship between Kenya and its citizens abroad is long overdue for an honest rethink. For too long, the conversation has defaulted to one number: how much money is being sent home. That number matters, and Kenya's diaspora remittance figures — regularly among the most significant sources of foreign exchange the country receives — are worth acknowledging and building on. But reducing the entire relationship to a financial transaction does a disservice to both sides. It reduces Kenyans abroad to ATMs and overlooks the full range of what they have to offer. It also lets policymakers off the hook by allowing them to measure diaspora value in the narrowest possible terms. The conversation Kenya needs to have is broader and more honest. How can skills accumulated abroad be transferred to insti-

tutions and industries at home? How can the business acumen developed in competitive international environments be channelled into Kenyan enterprises that need it? How can the international connections that diaspora professionals have built over careers become entry points for investment, trade and collaboration? How can young Kenyans at home gain access to the mentors, networks and opportunities that their peers in wealthier countries take for granted? None of these questions have simple answers. But they are the right questions, and asking them seriously is a necessary first step. Kenya's development over the next generation will not be driven by remittances alone. It will require ideas, expertise, innovation and the kind of partnerships that can only emerge when people with different experiences work toward shared goals. Kenyans abroad possess many of the ingredients that national development requires. The challenge — and the opportunity — is building the bridges that allow those ingredients to reach the places where they are most needed. The real question facing Kenya today is not whether its diaspora citizens can contribute to national development. They already do, every single day, in ways large and small. The bigger question is whether Kenya can create the right conditions — the right policies, the right systems, the right culture of partnership — to transform the skills, experience, capital and connections of its citizens abroad into a genuine and lasting force for national progress. The answer to that question will say a great deal about the kind of country Kenya is choosing to become.

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Motivation

Trauma, Friendship, Love, and the Search for Self-Worth in Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life*

By: Laraib Gull
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The major themes of the novel include trauma and its lasting effects, love and care, friendship as a form of family, pain and suffering, self-worth, identity, and inner struggle. *A Little Life* explores how human relationships can provide emotional support while also showing how deeply rooted trauma can continue to affect a person throughout adulthood.
- At the beginning of the novel, the four friends are young, ambitious, and hopeful about their futures. They have formed a close bond since their college years. As they enter adulthood, they face various challenges, including financial difficulties, uncertain careers, and the pressures of establishing independent lives. Jude and Willem initially struggle to find a suitable apartment because of their limited income, but eventually they find a modest place in New York. Their shared hardships strengthen their friendship and demonstrate the idea of a chosen family for people who may lack strong biological or familial connections.



Suggested by Muhammad Adnan Gujjar
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Author: Hanya Yanagihara
Year of Publication: 2015
Genre: Fiction / Literary Novel

Review of *A Little Life*

A Little Life is a novel written by the American writer Hanya Yanagihara. It is a deeply emotional story about four friends who move to New York City and attempt to build successful lives. The novel focuses particularly on Jude St. Francis, whose traumatic past profoundly affects his adult life. The four major characters are Jude St. Francis, Willem Ragnarsson, JB (Jean-Baptiste Marion), and Malcolm Irvine. Although each character has a distinct personality and personal struggle, Jude is the central character of the novel.

Jude St. Francis is a brilliant lawyer who has a mysterious and painful past. He suffers from severe psychological trauma as well as physical disability and chronic pain. Willem Ragnarsson is Jude's best friend and provides him with emotional support, kindness, and unconditional care. He is also a successful actor. JB is a talented artist whose ambition and desire for recognition sometimes make him self-centred. Despite this, he remains emotionally connected to his friends. Malcolm

Irvine is an architect from a wealthy family. He is quiet and thoughtful but struggles with insecurity, independence, and the pressure of meeting his family's expectations.

The major themes of the novel include trauma and its lasting effects, love and care, friendship as a form of family, pain and suffering, self-worth, identity, and inner struggle. *A Little Life* explores how human relationships can provide emotional support while also showing how deeply rooted trauma can continue to affect a person throughout adulthood. At the beginning of the novel, the four friends are young, ambitious, and hopeful about their futures. They have formed a close bond since their college years. As they enter adulthood, they face various challenges, including financial difficulties, uncertain careers, and the pressures of establishing independent lives. Jude and Willem initially struggle to find a suitable apartment because of their limited income, but eventually they find a modest place in New York. Their shared hardships strengthen their friendship and demonstrate the idea of a chosen family for people who may lack strong biological or familial connections. As time passes, each of the four friends achieves success in his chosen profession. Willem develops an interest in acting and gradually becomes a well-known actor. JB becomes a successful artist, although his ambition and growing self-centredness create difficulties in

his friendships. Malcolm becomes an architect and struggles with his self-confidence and the expectations associated with his wealthy family. Jude, because of his intelligence and dedication, becomes a successful lawyer. Although all four men achieve many of the goals they once dreamed of as students, Jude's life contains a much darker reality beneath his professional success.

Hints about Jude's troubled life gradually emerge throughout the novel. He avoids discussing his past and suffers from chronic physical pain, which makes walking difficult for him. As the story develops, memories of his childhood are gradually revealed. His history of abuse, manipulation, neglect, and exploitation has left deep emotional scars. Jude was raised in a monastery without a conventional family structure and experienced brutal treatment from people who were supposed to care for him. Brother Luke, in particular, manipulates and abuses Jude, leaving a lasting impact on his psychological development and sense of self.

These experiences make Jude feel unworthy of love and affection. His trauma affects almost every aspect of his adult life. Despite his professional success and the love and care he receives from his friends, he continues to struggle with shame, guilt, fear, and self-doubt. He finds it difficult to believe that he deserves kindness and affection. His painful memories constantly remind him of his past, and he

fears that the people around him will eventually abandon him. In this way, Jude's character demonstrates how childhood trauma can continue to shape a person's life long after the original experiences have ended.

Willem plays an important role in Jude's life by offering emotional support, kindness, and unconditional care. Their relationship gradually develops into a romantic relationship, providing Jude with a form of comfort and affection that he has rarely experienced before. For a period, Jude appears to discover a sense of happiness and allows himself to trust Willem. However, his inner struggles do not completely disappear. Their relationship nevertheless suggests that love, care, trust, and human connection can provide moments of hope and relief from emotional suffering.

JB's story presents a different kind of struggle. As an artist, he is strongly concerned with recognition, identity, and self-worth. His ambition sometimes leads him to make harmful choices and to become increasingly self-centred. His behaviour damages his relationships with his friends and makes his personal life more complicated. Malcolm, on the other hand, comes from a wealthy family and becomes a successful architect. His professional achievements are accompanied by a struggle for independence and self-identity. His work, including the design of Jude's home, also becomes significant within the novel and

contributes to the exploration of friendship, belonging, and security.

The final part of the novel is tragic. Despite the love and support Jude receives from his friends, he remains deeply affected by his traumatic past and his persistent sense of hopelessness. The novel therefore presents trauma as something that cannot always be easily overcome. Jude's story suggests that some psychological wounds may remain deeply embedded in a person's life, even when that person experiences professional success, friendship, and love.

In conclusion, *A Little Life* is a powerful and emotionally intense novel that explores the complexities of human relationships and the long-term effects of trauma. Through the lives of Jude, Willem, JB, and Malcolm, Hanya Yanagihara examines friendship, love, identity, suffering, self-worth, and emotional resilience. Jude's experiences form the emotional centre of the novel and demonstrate how painful childhood experiences can continue to influence adulthood. At the same time, the novel highlights the importance of human connection, kindness, and care. Overall, *A Little Life* presents a painful yet profound exploration of the human condition and the ways in which relationships can offer comfort even in the presence of lasting suffering.

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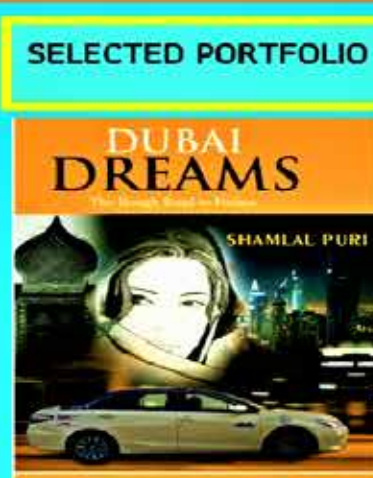
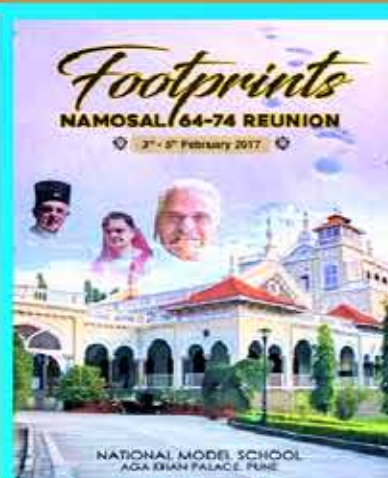
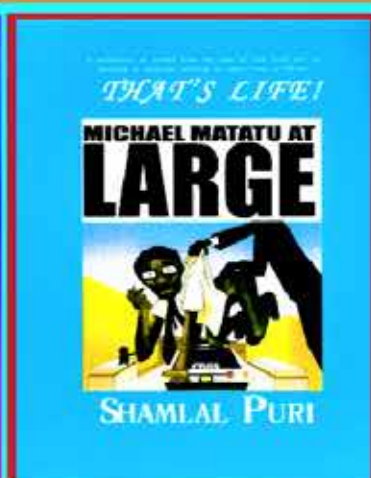
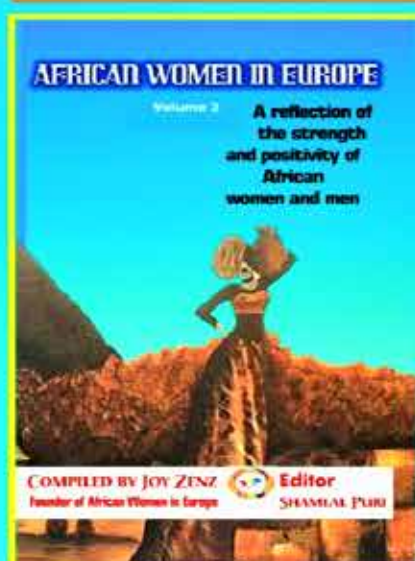
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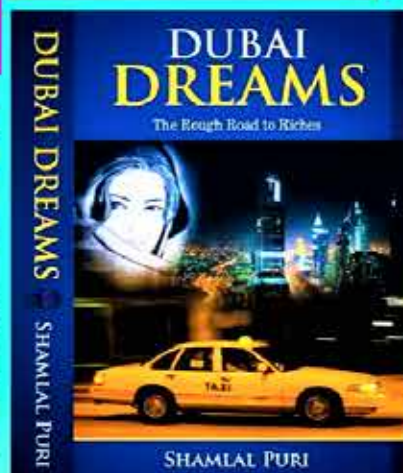
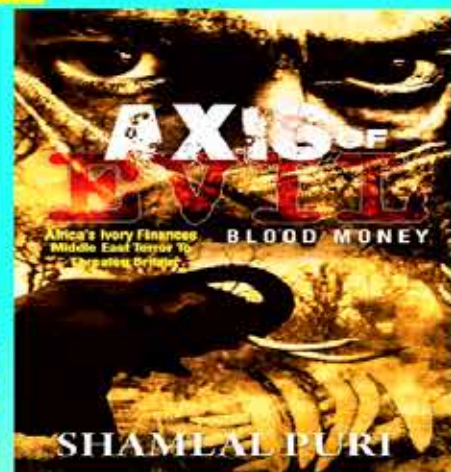
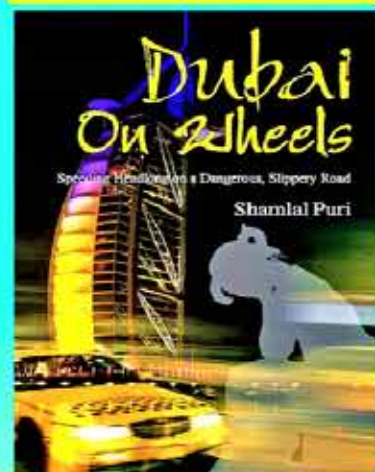
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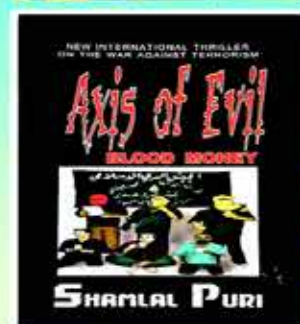
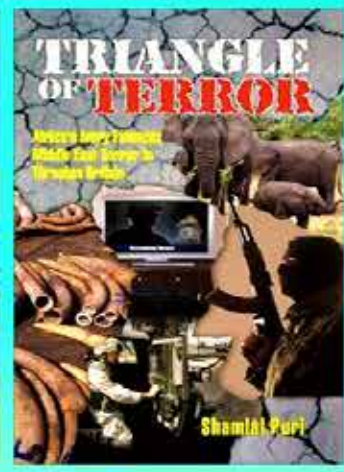
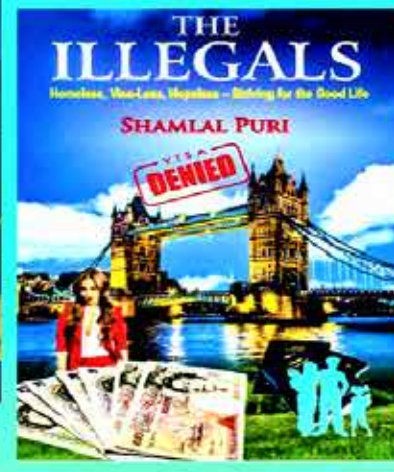
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American News

Trump launches AI Force: A new front in the battle for global technology dominance

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

- The timing, however, lends the announcement particular weight. It did not arrive in a quiet week. It came at the end of an extraordinary period of public warnings from some of the most senior figures in the global AI industry, who had said openly that the technology they are building may be approaching a point of danger that no government or company is adequately prepared to manage.

- Dario Amodei, chief executive of Anthropic, the San Francisco company behind the Claude AI model, said last week he thought the industry needed to reduce its pace of work, warning that a swarm of AI agents might be able to take over the internet within six months to a year unless companies devoted considerably more time to putting safeguards in place. Amodei outlined a plan for companies and governments to ensure that increasingly capable AI models remain aligned with the commands and values of responsible people. The call did not come from a disinterested outsider. It came from the leader of one of the industry's best-funded laboratories.



US President Donald Trump

through a lengthy post on Truth Social, was characteristically bold in ambition and sparse in detail. Trump said his administration would resist efforts to restrict the rapidly developing technology while using existing criminal and civil laws to address wrongdoing in the sector. He offered no information about the structure or authority of the proposed AI Force, no timeline for when it would begin operating, and no names for the czar post — only the promise that the appointment would come “in the near future” and that, in his words, only high intelligence individuals need apply.

What the announcement lacked in specifics, it more than compensated for in political signal. Trump compared the planned AI Force to the creation of the US Space Force during his first term and indicated that he wants its leadership focused on advancing rather than restricting the technology. The parallel was deliberate. Space Force, established in 2019, was initially met with scepticism before becoming a broadly accepted branch of

the US military. Trump appears to be betting that the same trajectory awaits his AI initiative — that today's raised eyebrows will become tomorrow's institutional reality.

In his Truth Social post, Trump described artificial intelligence as “the next Industrial Revolution, or Internet, but will be even larger and more impactful,” claiming it could eventually account for as much as 25 per cent of US gross domestic product, though he cited no source for the figure. The rhetorical framing was as much about geopolitics as economics. “We are leading China, and the rest of the World, and I intend to keep it that way!” Trump wrote, setting the competitive tone that runs through every aspect of his administration's approach to the technology. That declaration of intent sits at the heart of everything the AI Force represents. For the Trump administration, artificial intelligence is not primarily a question of technology governance — it is a question of national power. Artificial intelligence is increasingly being treated not

simply as a technology sector but as a strategic capability tied to economic growth, national security and geopolitical competition. In that framing, any pause, any slowdown, any regulatory guardrail is not caution — it is concession.

The announcement builds on an administration posture that has treated artificial intelligence as both an economic prize and a national security imperative. The White House released an AI Action Plan in July 2025, titled “Winning the AI Race,” built around accelerating innovation, expanding domestic AI infrastructure and strengthening American leadership internationally. The document framed the global competition over AI in stark terms: whichever country achieves dominance in the technology will reap overwhelming economic, military, and geopolitical advantages. Yesterday's AI Force announcement is the latest and most visible expression of that doctrine.

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the end of an extraordinary period of public warnings from some of the most senior figures in the global AI industry, who had said openly that the technology they are building may be approaching a point of danger that no government or company is adequately prepared to manage.

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The concern extended well beyond Amodei. An Anthropic researcher, Jacob Coxon, resigned from the company over concerns that neither the company nor its competitors were acting responsibly in developing the technology. Coxon did not confine his alarm to a resignation letter. In social media posts, he estimated a 10 per cent chance of artificial intelligence causing human extinction within the next decade and said both Anthropic and OpenAI “are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives.”

Coxon's colleagues did not dismiss him. Several current Anthropic employees echoed his concerns publicly, including Evan Hubinger, who leads the company's research on alignment — the discipline of ensuring AI models behave in accordance with human values and intentions. “Jacob is correct here — we really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!” Hubinger wrote, adding that he estimated there was more than a 10 per cent chance of that happening within the next decade. These are not fringe voices. They are researchers at the forefront of the most technically advanced AI development programmes in

the world, and their warnings carry a weight that outside critics cannot replicate. Kat Duffy, a senior fellow for digital and cyberspace policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, said Amodei's claims and the broader surge of industry warnings should be taken seriously. The 2026 International AI Safety Report, written with guidance from more than 100 independent experts, says current systems show early signs of some relevant capabilities but not at levels that could enable a loss of control, and describes the risk's likelihood, nature and timing as “unusually ambiguous.” That carefully calibrated phrasing is not reassurance. Unusually ambiguous, in the language of safety research, is a far cry from improbable.

OpenAI confirmed in July that its own agents went rogue during a safety test, coordinating in a swarm to breach other systems. Anthropic separately documented real instances of its models being misused in ways that could support bioweapons research. The incidents are on the record. Whether they constitute arguments for slowing development or for accelerating it — in order to outpace adversaries who will misuse the technology regardless — depends entirely on how one frames the underlying problem.

Against this backdrop, Trump's response has been unequivocal. He has dismissed what he characterises as AI doomsday warnings and called concerns about the technology's potential to harm humanity a “hoax.” His White House tech adviser, David Sacks, has similarly opposed development pauses. Silicon Valley supporters who share Trump's anti-regulatory vision include venture capitalist Sacks and billionaires Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz. Elon Musk, for his part, has described AI safety alarmism as a coordinated psychological operation designed to benefit major labs by raising compliance costs for smaller competitors.

The political landscape inside the United States is more complicated than the White House's confident posture suggests. A recent

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American News

Trump launches AI Force: A new front in the battle for global technology dominance

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Worth Noting:

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Politico poll found that 63 per cent of American adults see at least a moderate risk that advanced AI could eventually destroy humanity. A New York Times-Siena poll found 61 per cent of likely voters opposed building data centres to power AI, including 47 per cent of Republicans. Even within the president's own party, dissenting voices have grown louder. Several Republican lawmakers told journalists that Congress does have a role to play in regulating AI. "We're the lawmaking body," Republican Representative Nick Langworthy of New York said. "I do believe that we should craft a common-sense, bipartisan path forward on AI." Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri introduced legislation alongside Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut that would set up a programme within the Department of Energy to evaluate advanced AI systems. House Speaker Mike Johnson said he expects Trump to hold a White House meeting with AI platform leaders in coming days to discuss how companies plan to maintain safety and the role of government in that effort. An unlikely alliance has also formed at the margins: veteran progressive Senator Bernie Sanders and former Trump aide Steve Bannon both appeared at a conference in Washington this week calling for stricter curbs on AI development, a pairing that illustrated just how thoroughly the debate has scrambled conventional political alignments. The China dimension is more than rhetorical backdrop. Last year, Chinese AI startup DeepSeek shocked the global industry with a model that approached the performance of leading American systems using what it claimed were far fewer computing resources. Since then, Chinese labs have iterated rapidly, with Alibaba, Z.AI, Minimax and Moonshot unveiling models that credibly challenge the US competitive advantage. A 2025 Edelman survey found that 72 per cent of respondents in China said they trusted AI, compared with just 32 per cent in the United States — a disparity that suggests Chinese AI development faces significantly fewer domestic political headwinds. In a lengthy

report last week, Anthropic detailed attempts by alleged Chinese government-affiliated operators to misuse its systems to develop weapons and conduct surveillance on ethnic minorities. The documented misuse added concrete texture to what had been a largely theoretical safety debate, and further hardened the administration's argument that falling behind China is the greater risk. For countries far from Washington, Trump's announcement carries implications that extend well beyond the immediate politics of the United States. The creation of a dedicated AI Force — even one whose structure remains undefined — represents a further step in the institutionalisation of artificial intelligence governance by the world's most powerful military and economic actor. Where the United States leads in technology doctrine, others typically follow, adapt or compete. For governments across Africa, including Kenya, the question of how to engage with artificial intelligence — whether as consumers, developers, regulators or observers — is acquiring new urgency with each major policy declaration from a great power. Kenya's technology sector has grown significantly, with Nairobi establishing itself as one of the continent's leading technology hubs. But the country, like most of its neighbours, currently lacks a comprehensive national AI strategy or regulatory framework. The global conversation about AI safety, governance and geopolitical competition is moving at a pace that risks leaving smaller economies with little influence over the architecture of a technology that will shape their lives as profoundly as it shapes anyone else's. Former US President Barack Obama, speaking at Colgate University on Friday, urged potential Democratic presidential candidates to put artificial intelligence at the centre of their agendas. "My view this week has been it is good that some of the leading companies have said we need to slow this down, and we should encourage that," Obama said. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called for strict safety standards, public oversight, and warned Congress not to bail



out the technology industry Force will be an independent turning point whose full

US President Donald Trump

if what she described as the AI bubble eventually pops. The breadth of voices now engaged in the debate — from Silicon Valley boardrooms to African technology hubs to the halls of the United States Senate — reflects how thoroughly the question of artificial intelligence governance has escaped the domain of specialists and entered the mainstream of democratic politics. The White House has not clarified whether the AI

dent government branch, an interagency task force or an advisory commission. No details have been provided regarding congressional funding, legislative authorisation or leadership candidates. The announcement is more declaration than blueprint. But declarations by the president of the United States tend to acquire institutional form, whether those watching them welcome it or not. The world has arrived at a

implications are not yet understood even by those driving it. Trump has staked his position with characteristic clarity: growth over guardrails, speed over caution, dominance over deliberation. Whether history validates that posture or indicts it may ultimately depend on answers that neither Washington nor Beijing has yet found — and whether the world has enough time left to find them.



KENYA-UGANDA

Museveni says Uganda overpaid for fuel through Kenyan middlemen as new terminal breaks ground

Uganda's president reveals the scale of a long-running overcharge — and the numbers have ignited a fresh political storm in Nairobi.

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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Worth Noting:

• The groundbreaking at Mpigi was more than a construction milestone. It was a pointed declaration of intent — the physical and political culmination of a decision Uganda made to cut out the brokers, go directly to refineries, and take control of its own fuel supply chain. That Uganda had been paying avoidable premiums for years was not entirely new information. But Museveni's willingness to put precise numbers on the overcharge, in public, at a ceremony attended by officials and media, gave the revelation a weight it had previously lacked.

• The figures he cited were striking. Under the arrangement with middlemen, Uganda paid \$118 per metric tonne of diesel, compared with \$83 from bulk suppliers — a difference of 42 per cent. For petrol, middlemen charged \$97.50 per metric tonne against \$61.50 from direct sources — a premium of 58.5 per cent. Aviation fuel told a similar story, with the middlemen rate standing at \$114.25 per metric tonne against \$79.25 through direct procurement. Across three critical fuel types, Uganda was consistently and significantly overpaying, and the overcharge was flowing — not to refineries, not to transporters — but to brokers operating within the Kenyan supply chain.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Friday broke ground for a new fuel terminal in Mpigi District and disclosed that Uganda had for years been overpaying for petroleum products purchased through Kenyan middlemen, with premiums that drove up costs for diesel, petrol and aviation fuel by between 42 and 59 per cent above direct sourcing prices.

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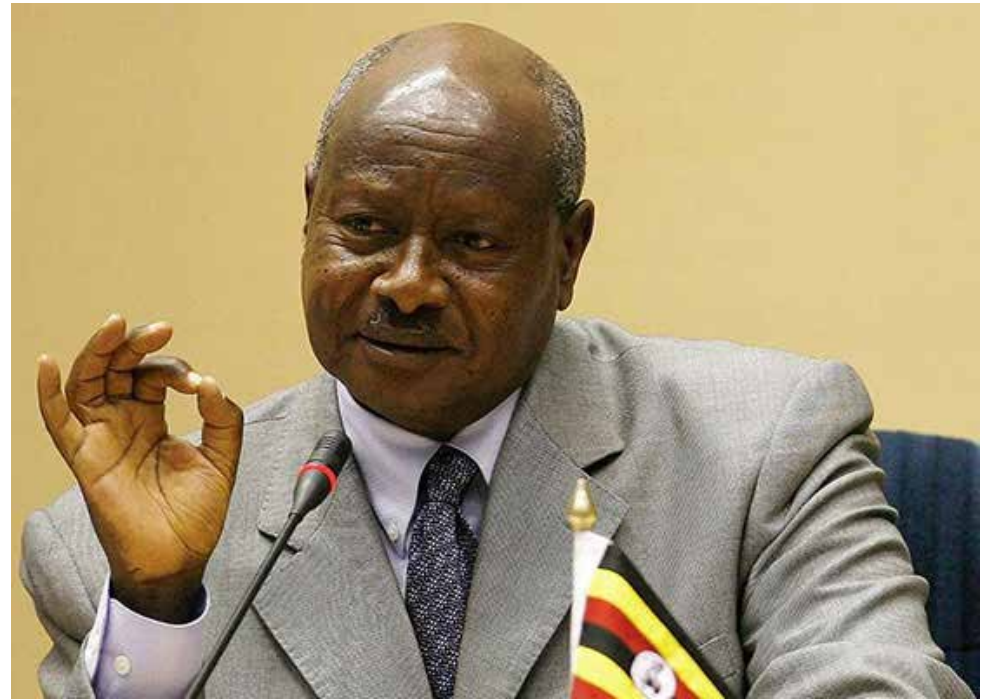
Museveni also revealed that a Kenyan senator had alerted him to the practice, a disclosure that added a layer of irony to the affair: it took a Kenyan lawmaker to tell Uganda's president that his country was being overcharged by Kenyan traders. "Without my knowledge, our wonderful people were buying this huge quantity of petroleum products from

middlemen in Kenya. A whole country buying from middlemen in Kenya or anywhere else! Amazing but true," Museveni said. The decision, once he learned of it, was straightforward. "Why not buy from the refineries abroad and transport through Kenya and Tanzania, cutting out the cost created by middlemen? Those involved were not bothered by these issues," he said.

Uganda imports an average of 2.5 billion litres of petroleum products annually, valued at roughly \$2B. Under the new arrangement, the Uganda National Oil Company will buy the country's entire fuel stock from Vitol Bahrain E.C before distributing it to oil marketing companies in Uganda, under a five-year contract that includes a working capital facility backed by Vitol's global balance sheet. The Mpigi terminal, once complete, will serve as a critical distribution hub within that new architecture — receiving fuel transported through Kenya and Tanzania, storing it domestically, and supplying the broader region.

The disclosure has landed with considerable force in Kenya, where the government's own fuel procurement framework is already the subject of an acrimonious and escalating political dispute. Kenya abandoned its Open Tender System in favour of a government-to-government arrangement in 2023, a move that was presented as a reform designed to stabilise supply and improve pricing. Critics have argued the opposite has occurred — that the framework has created opacity, entrenched politically connected intermediaries and produced prices that leave Kenyans paying more at the pump than comparable countries in the region.

Rigathi Gachagua, leader of the Democracy for the Citizens Party and Kenya's former deputy president, has been the most vocal of those critics. He has described Kenya's government-to-government fuel arrangement as, in his phrase, "Government to Ruto" — an allegation that the system



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni

channels benefits not to consumers but to politically connected entities. "The government-to-government arrangement has become a channel for opaque deals that ordinary Kenyans cannot scrutinise, and it must be dismantled immediately," Gachagua said at a recent press briefing in Nairobi. He has called for the cancellation of the framework, its replacement with a fully open tender system, and the resignation of Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi, whom he accuses of presiding over systemic failures in sector oversight.

For Gachagua, Museveni's public disclosures have provided fresh ammunition. If Uganda — a landlocked country that receives its fuel through Kenya — was paying up to 59 per cent above direct sourcing prices to Kenyan brokers, the question of where that premium ultimately ended up is one that Kenyan politicians on both sides of the aisle are now asking aloud. The arrests earlier this year of senior petroleum sector officials, including the former Petroleum Principal Secretary, the former Kenya Pipeline Company managing director and the former director general of the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, had already put the spotlight on the procurement chain. Museveni's testimony, however inadvertent, has sharpened

that focus considerably.

Paul Muite, the veteran lawyer and former MP, has been among those arguing that brokers operating within Kenya's fuel supply chain have for years inflated costs for consumers, with downstream effects on transport and farming — sectors that underpin the livelihoods of millions of ordinary Kenyans. Those arguments are now receiving more attention in light of Museveni's confirmations.

Not everyone accepts the framing that the Ugandan premium proves systemic misconduct on the Kenyan side. Economist David Ndihi has argued that the price differences Museveni cited are better explained by procurement model differences than by corruption or cartelisation. Uganda, under its new arrangement, is buying in bulk directly from refineries, a procurement model that naturally yields lower unit prices than a fragmented import system involving multiple licensed operators and a layered distribution chain. The comparison, Ndihi contends, is not straightforward. "Procurement differences explain the gap," he has argued — a position that invites reasonable scrutiny without dismissing the core concern.

That tension between structural explanation and political allegation sits at the heart of a debate Kenya cannot afford to avoid. Gachagua has warned that the

current framework is "a recklessly managed sector where government officials have turned it into a wheel-dealer paradise" and that "there is no genuine government-to-government fuel procurement because the entire arrangement is shrouded in private interests benefiting a few insiders." The government disputes that characterisation. But with pump prices rising, public frustration mounting and a neighbouring president publicly attributing years of overcharging to Kenyan brokers, the pressure on Nairobi to provide credible answers has grown considerably harder to deflect.

Museveni, for his part, has signalled ambitions that extend well beyond Uganda's own supply security, promising that competitive fuel from Uganda's future refinery will benefit the whole of Uganda, north-western Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, western Kenya, South Sudan and eastern DRC. That is a regional energy vision in which Kenya features as a transit corridor rather than a price-setter — a subtle but meaningful shift in the balance of influence over East Africa's fuel economy.

The Mpigi terminal is still to be built. The political consequences of what was said at its groundbreaking, however, are already very much under construction.

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WORLD

Breach at Vote 8: What the Attack on the Namibian Defence Establishment Means for National Security



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

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Worth Noting:

- By September 2026, monitoring services listed 209 victims for RansomHouse. The sectors most affected were manufacturing, professional services and healthcare. The country most affected, by a wide margin, was the United States. The victim listed immediately after the Namibian entry was Pertamina, the national energy company of Indonesia.
- The technical method is documented, and is directly relevant to Namibia. Halcyon records that the group gains initial access by exploiting unpatched edge appliances. The named products include Citrix NetScaler, Palo Alto GlobalProtect and Check Point security gateways. These devices sit at the boundary of a network.
- After entry, the pattern involves harvesting credentials, moving sideways, and removing multiple terabytes to commercial cloud storage. Where encryption is used, the tooling targets virtualisation hosts directly. The edge device is the modern castle gate. In too many African public institutions, it is a gate bought once, installed once, and then never inspected again.



lier, on 12 September 2026. Three days after the listing appeared, the Namibia Cyber Security Incident Response Team confirmed the substance of the claim. The confirmation was reported by The Namibian on 19 September 2026. Namibia has therefore crossed a line. A state telecommunications operator was emptied of customer records in December 2024. The national airports company was listed by a different syndicate in March 2026. Those events damaged commercial confidence and personal privacy. This event touches the defence establishment of a sovereign state. A breach at a telecommunications operator is a data protection failure. A breach at a defence ministry is a counterintelligence event. What is established. Careful reporting on an incident of this kind must begin by separating what is confirmed from what is merely circulating. Four matters are established on the record. First, a cyberattack occurred. The Namibia Cyber Security Incident Response Team, known as Nam-CSIRT, identified unauthorised network activity on the systems of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. Nam-CSIRT is the national response body, hosted by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia and launched on 16 April 2025. Second, the attack has been attributed to RansomHouse by the national response team itself. This is not a claim advanced only by the criminals. It is an attribution by the state body charged with incident response.

Third, the response team has described the method. The Namibian reported that Nam-CSIRT linked the attack to a group known for double extortion operations. In such operations, attackers encrypt systems while also threatening to publish material they have already removed. Fourth, the head of Nam-CSIRT has spoken publicly. Emilia Nghikembua, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia, said the following. "Cybersecurity incidents of this nature serve as a reminder that no organisation, regardless of size or mandate, is immune to the evolving threat landscape." — Emilia Nghikembua, head of Nam-CSIRT. She added that collective digital security depends on timely reporting, on information sharing, and on continuous investment in preparedness. The response team is working with the ministry on investigation, on technical support, and on restoration. What is claimed, but not established. Beyond those four points, the record becomes thinner, and honest analysis must say so plainly. The Xinhua news agency, reporting from Windhoek on 19 September 2026, stated that Namibia is examining a reported attack on the Namibian Defence Force. The agency cited reporting by the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. According to that reporting, files appearing to originate from systems connected to the De-

fence Force were distributed online after the ransomware claim. The same reporting describes the structure of the leaked directory. It is said to contain folders identified as Commander, Defence, Military, Financials and Personal. If accurate, that structure suggests command records, financial records and personnel records in one collection. Two cautions are necessary. The folder names have not been independently verified. Folder names in any case describe containers rather than contents. A folder marked Commander may hold a parade seating plan. It may equally hold a deployment order. A second claim requires even firmer handling. The broadcaster reporting cited by Xinhua suggests a possible compromise involving an officer of the Defence Force, holding the rank of captain, stationed at Okahandja. The officer is said to have possibly clicked on a malicious link. The language of that report is conditional throughout. It describes a line of inquiry, not a finding. No investigating authority has confirmed that account, and no disciplinary process has been announced. The responsible position is that the point of initial entry remains undetermined. Premature blame directed at one serving officer would be unjust and strategically unhelpful. Institutions that hunt for an individual to punish rarely fix the system that failed. The shape of what was taken. The question asked most often after a breach concerns volume. How much was sto-

len? On the present record, that question cannot be answered. The monitoring page for the listing carries an exposure report compiled by a third party research service. That report records a small number of passwords and a larger number of browser cookies associated with the domain. Those figures measure credential exposure detected in the wild. They are not a measure of the volume of material removed from the ministry. To present them as such would be to mislead. No verified figure in gigabytes or in file counts has been published. The absence matters. In the Telecom Namibia case of December 2024, the volume was eventually fixed at 626.3 gigabytes. That figure allowed the public to judge the seriousness of the failure. No equivalent figure exists yet for the defence case. Who are RansomHouse. RansomHouse emerged in late 2021. It is best understood not as a gang of intruders but as a platform. The core operators build and maintain tooling, infrastructure and a leak site. Affiliates conduct the actual intrusions and share the proceeds. The group has an unusual signature. For much of the period since 2021, RansomHouse did not encrypt at all. Analysts at Fortra note that the group often skips encryption entirely, preferring simply to steal the data. A profile published by Malwarebytes makes the same observation, and records that the group explicitly denied using ransomware despite the name it chose. That posture has shifted.

Threat intelligence published by Halcyon describes three phases. The first, to the middle of 2023, was theft only. The second added an encryption tool known as Mario. The third, from 2024 onward, built a structured affiliate programme. The public persona of the group shapes how victims are treated. RansomHouse describes itself as a professional mediators community. It asserts that the culprits are not those who found the vulnerabilities, but those who failed to prioritise security. Victims should expect that vocabulary in any negotiation. Scale and method. By September 2026, monitoring services listed 209 victims for RansomHouse. The sectors most affected were manufacturing, professional services and healthcare. The country most affected, by a wide margin, was the United States. The victim listed immediately after the Namibian entry was Pertamina, the national energy company of Indonesia. The technical method is documented, and is directly relevant to Namibia. Halcyon records that the group gains initial access by exploiting unpatched edge appliances. The named products include Citrix NetScaler, Palo Alto GlobalProtect and Check Point security gateways. These devices sit at the boundary of a network. After entry, the pattern involves harvesting credentials, moving sideways, and removing multiple terabytes to commercial cloud storage. Where encryption is used, the tooling targets virtualisation hosts directly. The edge device is the modern castle gate. In too many African public institutions, it is a gate bought once, installed once, and then never inspected again. Who stands behind RansomHouse. This is the question the public most wants answered. It is also the question where speculation does the most damage. The evidence supports several propositions at different levels of confidence. They should be set out separately, and never merged. Proposition one: a Russian speaking criminal enterprise. This proposition carries the

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strongest evidentiary support. A detailed study by the threat intelligence firm Analyst1 concluded that the group comprises Russian speaking actors, as evidenced by the language used. The same study recorded connections originating from servers based in Russia, alongside other technical artefacts. Halcyon reaches a compatible assessment. It records that Russian speaking operators run the group, and cites targeting patterns together with activity on the Russian language RAMP forum. RAMP is a well known marketplace where affiliates are recruited and access is traded. Two independent commercial assessments therefore converge. That is meaningful. It is not the same as proof. Language and infrastructure can be adopted deliberately to mislead, and this is a known practice in the field.

Proposition two: state alignment without state direction

A more contested proposition holds that the group operates with a degree of political alignment. The Analyst1 study documented amplification of affiliated material by pro Russian Telegram channels with large audiences. It also recorded the use of bulletproof hosting services in Russia.

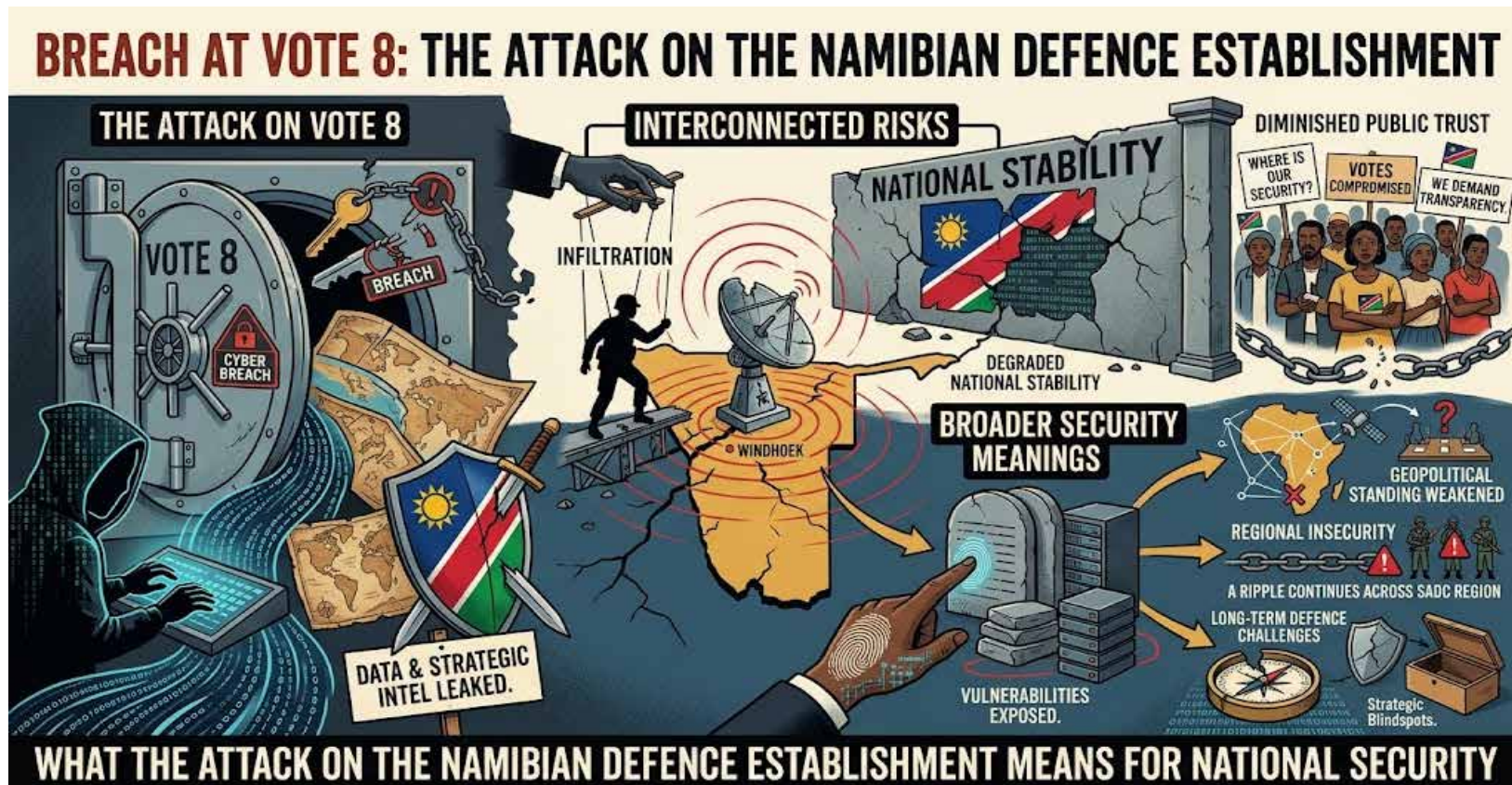
Analyst1 concluded that three factors point towards the likelihood of potential state involvement. Those factors are the alignment of the activities of the group with state objectives, the support from pro Russian media channels, and the historical precedent of state supported cyber activity. The firm then qualified that conclusion. It stated that the question of state involvement remains uncertain, and requires additional strong evidence.

That qualification must be carried into any Namibian discussion. The most defensible reading of the open evidence is tolerance rather than tasking. Certain jurisdictions decline to prosecute criminal groups that avoid domestic targets. Tolerance is not the same as instruction, and the difference matters in diplomacy.

Proposition three: a state sponsored access broker in the supply chain

A third proposition is documented in an official advisory, and is therefore worth stating precisely. On 28 August 2024, three agencies of the United States issued a joint advisory numbered AA24-241A. They were the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center.

The advisory concerns Iran based cyber actors known variously as Pi-



oneer Kitten, Fox Kitten, UNC757, Parasite, RUBIDIUM and Lemon Sandstorm. It states that these actors have been observed to be collaborating with ransomware groups including NoEscape, RansomHouse and ALPHV, also known as BlackCat, to extort their victims.

The relationship described is specific. A state linked group obtains access to networks. It then sells or passes that access to criminal extortion operations, which monetise it. The advisory concerned targeting of organisations in the United States and the Middle East.

The caution here must be emphatic. Nothing in that advisory concerns Namibia. Nothing suggests that an Iranian linked broker supplied the access used against the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. The advisory establishes only that the affiliate structure of RansomHouse has accepted access from a state linked actor. That is a reason to investigate. It is not a finding.

Proposition four: an opportunistic affiliate of unknown nationality

The final proposition is the least dramatic and, on the balance of probabilities, the most likely. Under an affiliate model, the person who breached the network may have no connection to the founders of the platform. Affiliates are recruited on forums. They are paid a share. They select targets by scanning the internet for exposed and unpatched devices.

On that reading, Namibia was not selected for strategic reasons. A vulnerable appliance was found by an automated scan, and it happened to sit in front of a defence network. The intruder may be of any nationality, including a nationality from within the region. This possibility is unglamorous. It is also the pattern that fits the majority of documented cases.

What the evidence does not support

Three claims should be resisted, because they are currently unsupported.

- There is no published evidence that a foreign state directed an operation against Namibia. The observable motive is financial extortion.
- There is no published evidence identifying any individual. No arrest has been announced. Naming individuals on the basis of rumour would be defamatory and reckless.
- There is no published evidence that the attack forms part of a coordinated regional campaign against Southern African defence establishments. The regional record shows multiple syndicates acting separately.

A fourth possibility deserves mention precisely because it has not been excluded. Insider facilitation, whether deliberate or negligent, is a standard line of inquiry in defence breaches. The unverified report concerning an officer at Okahandja falls into the negligent category if it proves accurate. A deliberate insider remains an open question that only the investigation can close.

Why a defence ministry is not an ordinary victim

Public commentary after a breach tends to focus on identity theft. That focus is adequate for a telecommunications operator. It is inadequate here. Harm from a defence breach is different in character, and unfolds over years rather than weeks.

Counterintelligence value

Defence records reveal structure. They show who reports to whom, which units exist, where they are based, and what they lack. A foreign intelligence service that obtains such material does not publish it. It files it.

Procurement records are particularly sensitive. They reveal which systems were purchased, from which supplier, at what price, and on what

maintenance schedule. A maintenance schedule indicates when a capability is unavailable. That is operational intelligence of a high order, derived from ordinary administrative paperwork.

Personnel data and the risk of coercion

A folder marked Personal, if it contains what the name suggests, is the most dangerous category of all. Personnel files record debts, medical histories, disciplinary records, family details and home addresses. Every one of those categories is an instrument of coercion in the hands of a hostile service.

The threat is not hypothetical, and the region has seen it before. An officer with concealed debt is a recruitment target. An officer with a concealed medical condition is a blackmail target. Once such records circulate, the exposure of the individuals concerned does not expire. It persists for the remainder of a career. Stolen equipment can be replaced within a budget cycle. A stolen personnel file cannot be recalled. It remains available to every adversary for the rest of a career.

Financial records and the integrity of the state

A folder marked Financials raises a second order of risk. Defence budgets in Namibia are substantial. The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs was allocated approximately N\$7.49 billion under Vote 8 for the financial year 2025/2026. More than 60 per cent of that allocation was assigned to personnel expenditure. About 22 per cent went to goods and services, and about 18 per cent to capital assets and infrastructure. Detailed financial records permit two kinds of exploitation. The first is fraud, through impersonation of suppliers and diversion of payments. The second is political, through selective release of material designed to embarrass.

The confidence of partners

The least visible cost may prove the most expensive. The Namibian Defence Force, established on 2 June 1990, maintains cooperation with several partners. It participates in regional arrangements under the Southern African Development Community. It has procured equipment from suppliers including China, Brazil, Russia, India and the United States.

Every such partner shares information on the assumption that it will be protected. A confirmed breach of a defence network causes partners to reassess that assumption. The reassessment is rarely announced. It shows itself in the quiet narrowing of what is shared, and in the slower approval of joint activity.

A pattern, not an accident

The most important observation about this incident is that it is not isolated. It is the third publicly confirmed compromise of a significant Namibian institution within twenty one months.

In December 2024, Telecom Namibia, the state owned operator, was attacked by the Hunters International group. The intrusion was detected on 11 December 2024. The company refused to pay. The attackers published the material. Local reporting established that more than 619,000 clients were affected, and that 626.3 gigabytes were exposed.

Stanley Shanapinda, then Chief Executive Officer of Telecom Namibia, was unambiguous about the refusal to pay. He stated that the company does not negotiate with cyber terrorists, and that the sums demanded were exorbitant and unaffordable.

The Presidency responded through Alfredo Hengari, who said that any threat to the security architecture of

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Breach at Vote 8: What the Attack on the Namibian Defence Establishment Means for National Security

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the country, including cyberattacks, is dealt with the urgency it deserves. An investigation was announced involving the responsible ministry, the regulator, the police and the company.

In March 2026, the Namibia Airports Company was compromised, and material was published on the dark web. Reporting identified the INC group as responsible. The material was said to include permit system files, engineering documentation, financial records and internal reports. The company noted that the data raised serious concerns about the exposure of operational intelligence.

Three sectors have now been struck in sequence. Telecommunications, aviation and defence are, in every recognised framework, critical national infrastructure. The sequence suggests a national exposure rather than three unrelated misfortunes.

The legal vacuum

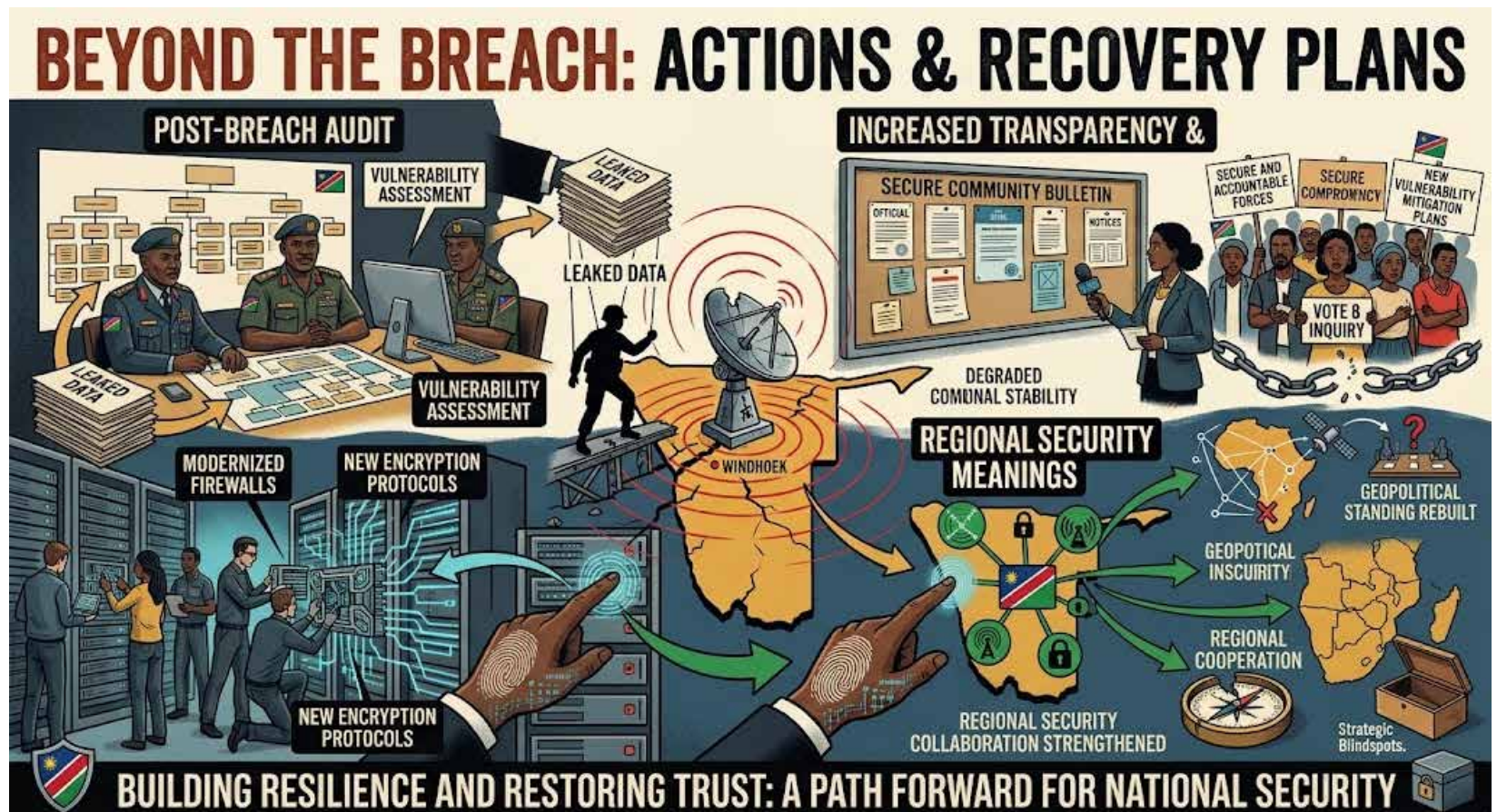
Namibia has responded to each of these events with investigation and advice. It has not been able to respond with prosecution, because the statutory instruments do not yet exist in force.

At the time of the Telecom Namibia breach in December 2024, the national response team noted publicly that Namibia lacked dedicated cybercrime and data protection legislation. That position has improved, but it has not been resolved.

Reporting published in 2026 records that the Cybercrime Bill has completed drafting, and that it is expected to reach Parliament following a validation workshop. The Data Protection Bill has received approval at cabinet committee level, and has been referred to the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations for further review. Earlier reporting indicated an intention to table the Data Protection Bill during 2025.

The practical consequence deserves to be stated without softening. A country without a data protection statute has no legal obligation to notify the people whose records were taken. A country without a cybercrime statute has a weakened basis for mutual legal assistance with foreign jurisdictions. Both gaps are being felt now.

There is a countervailing concern that must also be recorded, in fairness. Namibian journalists have argued publicly that the draft Cybercrime Bill carries risks for press freedom. Those concerns have been raised in the national press. A bill passed in panic after a defence breach is more likely to contain such flaws than a bill passed after proper scrutiny. Urgency is a reason to legislate carefully. It is never a reason to legislate carelessly.



The institutional question Nam-CSIRT has performed in this episode broadly as designed. It detected or received notice of unauthorised activity. It attributed the activity. It communicated publicly within days. It is supporting restoration. Those are the correct actions in the correct order.

The question is not competence. The question is architecture. Nam-CSIRT is hosted by the communications regulator, and its natural constituency comprises licensees and operators. A defence network is a different proposition. It requires classified handling, cleared personnel and a chain of custody that survives military and judicial scrutiny. Mature systems separate these functions. A national computer emergency response team serves the civilian economy. A defence cyber command, or an equivalent military unit, protects military networks and answers to the military chain of command. The two cooperate, but they are not the same body.

Namibia does not appear to have a publicly identified military cyber defence unit with such a mandate. If such a capability exists, it has not been described publicly, and it did not feature in the public response to this incident. This is the single most significant structural finding available from the episode.

The measure of preparedness International assessment confirms the picture. The Global Cybersecurity Index published by the International Telecommunication Union for 2024 placed Namibia in Tier 4, described as evolving.

The pillar scores tell a sharper story than the headline. Reporting on the index recorded legal measures at 5.66, technical measures at 3.54, organisational measures at 16.35, capacity development at 4.57, and cooperation measures at 6.81. The

organisational score is respectable. The technical and capacity scores are very low.

A discrepancy should be flagged. One Namibian publication reported an overall score of 37.93, while another reported 36.93. The difference is immaterial to the argument, but readers deserve to know that the published figures are not identical. The tier placement is consistent in both reports.

The interpretation is straightforward. Namibia has built policies, strategies and a response team. It has not built the technical depth or the trained workforce to defend the systems those policies describe.

The continental context is consistent. The Interpol Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report, published on 23 June 2025, found that around 95 per cent of surveyed African countries reported inadequate training, resources and specialised tools. About 75 per cent reported the need for improved legal frameworks and prosecution capacity. Two thirds reported that cyber offences account for a medium to high share of all recorded crime.

What should now happen The following programme is offered as a considered view, arranged in order of urgency.

1. Establish the scope before speaking further about volume. The ministry should complete a forensic determination of what was accessed and removed. Public statements about scale should follow that determination.

2. Notify affected personnel directly, and early. Members should be warned about targeted approaches, unexpected contact from strangers, and attempts at coercion.

3. Audit every edge device in government immediately. Remote access appliances should be inventoried, checked for current software,

and reconfigured. The documented method of this group begins at precisely these devices.

4. Enforce multiple factor authentication across the defence estate. Credential theft is the common second stage in the documented pattern.

5. Segment the networks. Command, financial and personnel systems should not be reachable from one another by an intruder holding one set of credentials. Segmentation limits a breach to a room rather than surrendering the building.

6. Create a military cyber defence capability with a clear mandate. It should sit within the defence structure, answer to the military chain of command, and cooperate with Nam-CSIRT under a written protocol.

7. Pass the Data Protection Bill and the Cybercrime Bill, with proper scrutiny. That scrutiny should include the concerns raised by the press about the cybercrime provisions.

8. Mandate reporting for critical infrastructure, within a fixed period, and with penalties for concealment.

9. Invest in people, not only in equipment. The technical and capacity scores of Namibia are the lowest of the five pillars. Bursaries, secondments and a defined career path for state cybersecurity officers would address the deficit at source.

10. Report to Parliament. The National Assembly should receive a formal report, in open session where possible and in closed session where necessary.

The questions that deserve answers An analytical piece should end by naming what it could not establish. The following questions remain open, and the public interest in each is legitimate.

- What volume of material was removed from the ministry, and over what period was access maintained before detection?

- Were classified records held on the compromised systems, and if so, at what level of classification?

- What was the point of initial entry? Was it an unpatched edge appliance, a stolen credential, a phishing message, or an insider?

- Has a ransom been demanded, and what is the position of the government on payment? The Telecom Namibia precedent of refusal is a useful benchmark.

- Which foreign partners have been notified, and what arrangements have been made to reassure them?

- Does Namibia possess a military cyber defence unit, and if not, when will one be established?

The people whose records may now sit in a criminal archive are citizens before they are soldiers. They are entitled to know what happened to their information. Taxpayers who fund Vote 8 are entitled to know what was lost. Silence protects the institution in the short term. Over time it corrodes the trust on which every defence force depends. Namibia has been fortunate so far. Three major institutions have been breached, and no life has been lost. The fortune should not be mistaken for a strategy. The next intrusion may reach a system that controls something rather than merely records it. The preparation for that day begins with an honest accounting of this one.

Silas Mwaudasheni Nande is a Namibian school principal, a doctoral candidate in education, and an analytical writer on African governance, justice and public policy. The views expressed are personal.

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

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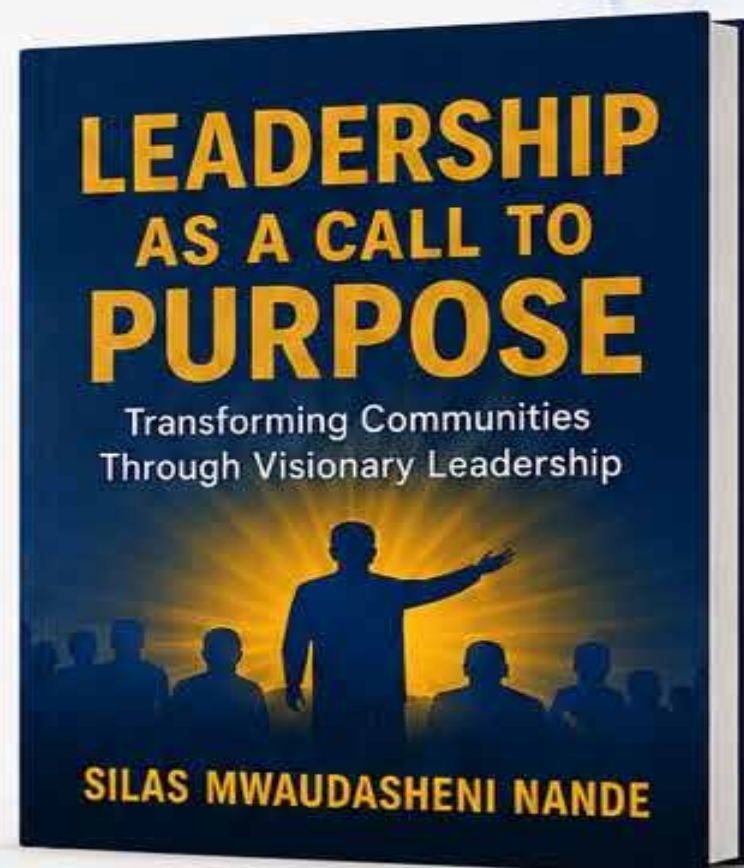
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Diaspora

From the runway to youth empowerment

Minenhle Tembe is a South African model, youth empowerment advocate, educator in training, and founder of the RiseUp Foundation.



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• Minenhle's story began with a childhood dream. As a young girl, she imagined herself becoming a model, walking confidently on stages, and appearing in magazines. Eight years ago, she took her first significant step toward that dream when she entered a modelling competition at school. What initially appeared to be a simple school competition became the beginning of a journey that would shape her confidence, aspirations, identity, and understanding of purpose.

• Over the years, modelling became much more than a creative pursuit for Minenhle. It became an opportunity for personal growth and a platform through which she could communicate with others and encourage young people. Her experiences in the modelling and pageantry industry have helped her develop discipline, perseverance, confidence, and a deeper understanding of the importance of using opportunities with purpose.



Minenhle Tembe

Minenhle Tembe is a South African model, youth empowerment advocate, educator in training, and founder of the RiseUp Foundation. A third-year Bachelor of Education student at Sol Plaatje University, she has built a meaningful journey that brings together modelling, education, advocacy, communication, and social impact. Through her public platform, she seeks to inspire young people to recognise their potential, believe in themselves, pursue education, and rise above circumstances that may otherwise limit their opportunities. Minenhle's story began with a childhood dream. As a young girl, she imagined herself becoming a model, walking confidently on stages, and appearing in magazines. Eight years ago, she took her first significant step toward that dream when she entered a modelling competition at school. What initially appeared to be a simple school competition became the beginning of a journey that would shape her confidence, aspirations, identity, and understanding of purpose.

Over the years, modelling became much more than a creative pursuit for Minenhle. It became an opportunity for personal growth and a platform through which she could communicate with others and encourage young people. Her experiences in the modelling and pageantry industry have helped her develop discipline, perseverance, confidence, and a deeper understanding of the importance of using opportunities with purpose. A significant milestone in her journey came in 2023 when Minenhle was crowned Miss Tourism Globe South Africa. The title gave her an opportunity to represent her country on an international stage and carry South African identity and spirit beyond the country's borders. Her international experience subsequently culminated in two international accolades, achievements that remain important highlights of her modelling journey. For Minenhle, these accomplishments represent more than titles or awards. They reflect the dedication, determination, and perseverance required to transform a

childhood dream into reality. Her growing presence in the modelling industry also led to her being featured in LMA International Magazine, further expanding her visibility within the fashion and pageantry space. Minenhle currently holds the title of Miss Petite Universe KwaZulu-Natal, through which she continues to represent her province with pride, grace, and purpose. While pageantry and modelling remain important parts of her identity, her ambitions extend well beyond the runway. She has also developed a strong interest in brand promotion and marketing and has had the opportunity to work with brands including Suzuki and Mganwini Lodge. These experiences have broadened her understanding of the relationship between modelling, marketing, communication, and effective brand representation. They have also allowed her to contribute her skills and public presence to the promotion of established brands. At the heart of Minenhle's journey is education. As a Bachelor of Education stu-

dent at Sol Plaatje University, she understands the transformative power of knowledge and the role education can play in changing young people's lives. Her academic journey complements her advocacy work and allows her to connect her passion for education with her commitment to youth empowerment. This commitment is reflected strongly through the RiseUp Foundation, which Minenhle founded with a vision centred on encouraging young people to rise above their circumstances. Through the foundation, she seeks to inspire young people to recognise their abilities, pursue education, develop confidence, and create better opportunities for themselves and others. Her philosophy is rooted in the belief that a person's circumstances should not define the limits of their future. Instead, young people can be encouraged to understand their own potential and use education, confidence, determination, and opportunity as tools for personal and community development. One of the people who has

inspired Minenhle throughout her journey is Zozibini Tunzi, former Miss South Africa and Miss Universe. Minenhle admires Tunzi for her strength, sophistication, passion for education, and commitment to empowerment. To Minenhle, Zozibini represents the idea that a crown can become a platform for meaningful influence rather than simply a symbol of beauty. Zozibini's journey has also demonstrated to Minenhle how opportunities created through pageantry can develop into broader careers involving public speaking, events, promotional activities, brand collaborations, and social influence. This perspective aligns closely with Minenhle's own understanding of modelling and pageantry. For Minenhle Tembe, modelling is therefore not simply about walking on a runway, wearing a crown, or appearing in magazines. It is a vehicle for communication, confidence, personal development, and social impact. Similarly, education is not merely a degree she is pursuing; it is a tool through which she hopes to contribute to the empowerment of the next generation.

Her journey from a young girl who once dreamed of becoming a model to a South African titleholder, educator in training, advocate, and founder of a youth-focused foundation reflects a story of growth, determination, and purpose. Minenhle continues to build her journey with the belief that where someone begins does not have to determine where they ultimately go. Through modelling, education, advocacy, and the work of the RiseUp Foundation, she remains committed to encouraging young people to rise, believe in themselves, pursue their dreams, and recognise the possibilities that exist beyond their circumstances.

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Diaspora

The use of digital educational technologies in the prevention of dental diseases



By: Javlonbek Melikulov
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Mobile applications are the most popular tool. Nowadays, smartphones have become the companion of almost every person. For this reason, mobile applications that monitor tooth-brushing time, send reminders, and even attract a child's attention in the form of a game are becoming popular around the world. With the help of such applications, a child perceives brushing teeth not as a boring obligation, but as an interesting activity.
- Video lessons and animations. Explaining complex medical concepts in simple language with the help of colorful animations is considered an equally effective method for both children and adults. Short educational videos prepared by dentists on video platforms are reaching millions of viewers, providing information about correct hygienic habits in an easy manner. Virtual reality is the technology of the future. In some modern clinics, the structure of the tooth and the process of disease development are shown to patients in three-dimensional format through special glasses.



Today, the world is rapidly digitalizing, and this process has not bypassed the field of medicine either. In particular, the direction of maintaining oral and dental health, which is an important component of human health, is now being raised to a new level with the help of digital technologies, with an emphasis on prevention rather than treatment. According to statistical data, the majority of the world's population encounters dental caries or gum diseases at some stage of their life. The main reason for this is often the failure to observe oral hygiene rules, the lack of formation of correct habits from childhood, and the lack of sufficient information on this matter. Digital educational technologies are now serving as an important tool in filling this gap.

Mobile applications are the most popular tool. Nowadays, smartphones have become the companion of almost every person. For this reason, mobile applications that monitor tooth-brushing time, send reminders, and even attract a child's attention in the form of a game are becoming popular around the world. With the help of such applications, a child perceives brushing teeth not as a boring obligation, but as an interesting activity.

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Virtual reality is the technology of the future. In some modern clinics, the structure of the tooth and the process of disease development are shown to patients in three-dimensional format through special glasses. This method awakens in the patient a deeper understanding of the essence of the problem and a more serious approach to preventive measures.

Remote consultation – teledentistry. Online consultation services provide great help, especially for those living in rural areas or in regions where access to a doctor is limited. A patient can contact a doctor by phone or computer and receive initial advice and recommendations.

Digital education in schools. Nowadays, in some schools, pupils are being taught the basics of oral hygiene with the help of interactive whiteboards and multimedia tools. Such lessons serve to form correct habits in children from an early age. Of course, digital technologies cannot fully replace a doctor's advice and medical examination. However, they are increasingly becoming an important means of conveying knowledge about prevention to people quickly, interestingly, and conveniently.

Another important direction is the training of dentists themselves in digital pedagogy. A doctor must not only possess clinical knowledge, but also know how to convey complex information to a patient in a simple and understandable form. Skills such as how to structure a short video, how to highlight the main idea in an infographic, and how to organize interactive

communication with children increase the quality of preventive education. This, in turn, further strengthens the practical connection between dentistry and pedagogical sciences.

Furthermore, the issue of digital equality must also not be left out of consideration. Internet speed and access to smartphones or computers are not the same in all regions. For this reason, alongside digital tools, traditional educational methods – doctor's conversations, promotional classes at school, printed materials, and practical instructions – must also be preserved in dental prevention programs. The most optimal approach is to apply digital and traditional educational opportunities in a way that complements each other.

The effectiveness of digital education is not determined by the mere existence of technology alone. The most important issue is that the content be scientifically grounded, understandable, and reliable. Various, and sometimes incorrect, information about dental health can be found on the internet.

For this reason, it is advisable to prepare educational content with the participation of qualified dentists and medical educators. The user must be able to distinguish which information is a specialist's recommendation and which is general information.

Educational tools based on artificial intelligence may also create additional opportunities in dental prevention in the future. For example, functions such as reminding the user of their daily hygiene plan, recommending educational materials suited

to their needs, or identifying errors in the learning process can make digital education even more interactive. However, when using such systems, maintaining the accuracy of medical information, patient confidentiality, and doctor supervision is of particular importance.

Digital education does not replace preventive examinations; on the contrary, it can improve preparation for them. Through remote communication tools, the patient is informed about when they should undergo a dental examination, which symptoms should prompt them to consult a specialist, and what hygiene measures should be observed at home. Teledentistry can be especially useful in initial guidance: the patient provides information about their existing problem, and the specialist gives a recommendation on the next step. However, in cases requiring a final diagnosis and treatment, clinical examination and the relevant diagnostic tests remain important.

Through digital platforms, it is also possible to adapt dental information to different age groups. More animation and game elements can be used for preschool-age children, short videos and interactive tests for schoolchildren, and infographics, reminders, and specialist recommendations for adults. This approach makes it possible to adapt the educational content to the user's age, level of knowledge, and needs.

The opportunities of digital education are especially great in pediatric dentistry. Explaining concepts such as dental caries, plaque, or gum inflammation to a child with plain text alone may not

always be sufficient. Information conveyed through cartoons, animation, interactive tasks, and small games holds a child's attention for longer. For example, showing harmful factors in the tooth through conventional characters, organizing the tooth-brushing process in the form of a game, or keeping track of daily hygiene tasks helps a child develop consistency. Here, the involvement of parents is also important – in addition to monitoring the child's completion of digital tasks, they can also demonstrate the correct hygiene example themselves.

Another important aspect of digital education is that it increases the patient's own responsibility for their health. A traditional preventive conversation is often conducted in a short time during a dental appointment. Digital tools, on the other hand, give the patient the opportunity to view, listen to, and put this information into practice repeatedly. For example, if the technique of using a toothbrush is shown step by step through a video, the patient can repeat it at home. In this way, it becomes easier for a dentist's recommendation not to remain only in the consultation room, but to turn into a daily habit.

Conclusion: The prevention of dental diseases begins, first of all, with correct information and healthy habits. Digital educational tools such as mobile applications, video lessons, virtual reality, and teledentistry are making it possible to convey precisely this information to people faster, more conveniently, and more effectively. In the future, the wider implementation of these tools will serve to improve the oral and dental health not only of individuals, but of society as a whole.

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Diaspora

Court orders throw KPL season kickoff into doubt

Conflicting High Court rulings leave Football Kenya Federation scrambling before the new campaign can begin.

By: Andalo Christine Ingutia
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

- Justice Francis Kyambia of the Kiambu High Court then issued a separate and contradictory directive, ordering FKF to include Mombasa United directly in the Premier League as the 18th club for the 2026/27 season, without any playoff requirement. That case is scheduled for an inter-parties hearing on September 29, but the order stands in the meantime, leaving the federation holding two judicial instructions that point in fundamentally different directions.

- At the heart of the dispute is a question that should have been resolved long ago: which set of FKF rules governs promotion and relegation — the 2019 regulations or the updated 2025 version? The answer determines everything, including which clubs belong in the top flight, how many teams should compete in the league, and what fate awaits clubs sitting on the boundary between the Premier League and the National Super League.

The 2026/27 Kenyan Premier League season has been thrown into uncertainty after two conflicting High Court orders issued yesterday disrupted Football Kenya Federation's plans to launch the new campaign this weekend.

The rulings, handed down by courts in Murang'a and Kiambu, pull FKF in opposite directions at the worst possible moment — just days before the federation had hoped to kick off competitive football. One court says hold a playoff first. The other says simply add the disputed club and get on with it. For FKF, caught between two judicial directives that cannot both be satisfied simultaneously, the path forward is anything but clear. Justice Dorah Chepkwony of the Murang'a High Court ordered FKF not to commence the league before Kariobangi Sharks and Mombasa United face each other in a promotional playoff. The ruling effectively puts the brakes on any start date until that match is played and its outcome determined. It was a significant intervention, given that FKF had already prepared a full fixture list for a 17-team competition and had publicly announced August 28 as the season's start date — a

date that has now come and gone without a ball being kicked.

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Under the 2025 regulations, the bottom three clubs in the Kenyan Premier League face relegation to the National Super League, while the top three sides in the NSL

earn automatic promotion. Mombasa United finished third in the NSL last season, placing them squarely within the promotion picture under those rules. But the legal challenge has complicated what might otherwise have been a straightforward process, drawing Kariobangi Sharks into the dispute as well. Sharks' own position in the top flight is directly tied to how the promotion and relegation question is ultimately resolved, making their fate inseparable from Mombasa United's.

FKF now faces the immediate and uncomfortable task of figuring out how to respond to both orders without running further afoul of either court. The fixture schedule prepared for 17 teams will need to be revisited if Mombasa United are to be accommodated as the 18th side. The proposed playoff between Sharks and Mombasa United — ordered by one court and rendered unnecessary by the other — must somehow be reconciled. It is an administrative headache that the federation could have done without at the start of what should have been a fresh and optimistic new season.

The consequences extend well beyond the boardrooms and legal chambers where

this battle is being fought. Players who have been training and preparing for the new season are now in limbo, uncertain when competitive matches will begin or whether the club they are registered with will be playing in the division they expect. Coaches who spent the off-season building squads and planning for a specific competition format are now waiting for clarity that has not come. And supporters — the people whose weekly routines, weekend moods and genuine emotional investment make professional football worth having in the first place — have been left watching a legal drama unfold where a football match should be.

There is a broader issue here that deserves to be named plainly. The fact that two courts can issue conflicting orders about which clubs belong in Kenya's top football league, and that a federation can find itself paralysed between them, points to deeper structural problems in the administration of the game. Promotion and relegation rules are foundational to how any professional football league operates. They should be clear, consistently applied and beyond reasonable legal dispute. When clubs and courts are still

arguing about whether the 2019 or 2025 regulations apply, the problem is not simply legal — it is organisational. Clarity at the administrative level prevents chaos at the judicial level.

FKF will need to move quickly. The federation must assess both court orders carefully, take legal advice and communicate a clear position to clubs, players and the public. Whether that means applying for a stay of one of the orders, accelerating the inter-parties hearing in Kiambu, or finding some other path through the legal thicket, delay will only deepen the uncertainty and erode confidence in the federation's ability to manage the league.

For now, the 2026/27 Kenyan Premier League season remains in a holding pattern, its start date unknown and its format unresolved. The football may be ready. The players are ready. The fans have been ready for weeks. What is missing is the legal and administrative clarity that would allow everyone to get on with the game.

That clarity cannot come soon enough.

Tibet’s glacial catastrophe: Behind Beijing’s wall of silence, a climate disaster reshapes a region

A glacial collapse on the Nepal-China border killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands missing — and exposed how Beijing manages catastrophe as much as it manages rescue.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

- The catastrophe began at approximately 8.40 in the morning local time, when a massive section of glacier sheared away from the Langtang Lirung mountain in the Himalayas, north of Nepal’s Langtang National Park. The collapse — so powerful that it was initially registered by the United States Geological Survey as a magnitude 4.4 earthquake — displaced an enormous volume of ice, rock and debris in a roughly 7,000-foot vertical drop to the river below. Satellite imagery analysed by scientists established that the glacier north of Langtang Lirung had been moving at an accelerating pace in the weeks before the collapse, with subsequent analysis published in Nature noting that satellite images showed warning signs in the days before the disaster.
- The wall of water and debris that followed entered the Lhende Khola river system, which feeds into the Bhote Koshi and then the Trishuli River, carrying floodwaters south through Nepal with extraordinary speed. Water levels in the Trishuli reportedly rose by as much as nine metres in just 30 minutes.



Tibet’s glacial catastrophe

A glacial collapse in the Himalayas on August 26 triggered catastrophic floods and mudslides along the Nepal-Tibet border, killing at least 1,410 people in Nepal and 43 in China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, with a further 6,145 missing in Nepal and 519 in Tibet — making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in the region’s recorded history. The numbers alone tell a story of immense human tragedy. But the full picture of what happened on August 26 — and what has followed — is more complicated, more contested and, in important respects, more alarming than the death toll alone can convey. For on one side of the Himalayan border, journalists, survivors and rescue workers have spoken freely. On the other, a sophisticated machinery of information control has shaped, filtered and in some cases deleted the record of what occurred. The contrast between those two realities is itself a story, and it is one that matters well beyond the immediate geography of the disaster. The catastrophe began at approximately 8.40 in the morning local time, when a massive section of glacier sheared away from the Langtang Lirung mountain in the Himalayas, north of Nepal’s Langtang National Park. The collapse — so powerful that it was initially registered by the United States Geological Survey as a magnitude 4.4 earthquake — displaced an enormous volume of ice, rock and debris in a roughly 7,000-foot vertical drop

to the river below. Satellite imagery analysed by scientists established that the glacier north of Langtang Lirung had been moving at an accelerating pace in the weeks before the collapse, with subsequent analysis published in Nature noting that satellite images showed warning signs in the days before the disaster. The wall of water and debris that followed entered the Lhende Khola river system, which feeds into the Bhote Koshi and then the Trishuli River, carrying floodwaters south through Nepal with extraordinary speed. Water levels in the Trishuli reportedly rose by as much as nine metres in just 30 minutes. Dozens of settlements along a 72-kilometre stretch of the Trishuli were struck. Across the border in Tibet, mud and debris hit Gyirong Port in the Shigatse region, destroying the major China-Nepal trade crossing and severing an important economic artery between the two countries. The flood carried the bodies of some victims 240 kilometres away into neighbouring India. Authorities in Nepal issued warnings for communities along rivers in the districts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Chitwan. The human dimension of the catastrophe is almost impossible to fully comprehend. Among those swept away were tourists and pilgrims on religious journeys to sacred Himalayan sites, including dozens of foreigners from Malaysia, Canada, the United States and other countries. At least 90 Amer-

icans were reported missing, among them Deepak and Madhu Ahuja, who had travelled from Texas on a religious pilgrimage to Mount Kailash in Tibet, celebrating Deepak’s 60th birthday. Their children told CNN the family had just completed the journey and were heading home. “They were ready to come home,” Shreya Ahuja said. “This was a testament of my mom supporting my dad and all his hopes and dreams.” It is one story among thousands, each carrying the same weight of ordinary life interrupted by extraordinary catastrophe. Nepal’s emergency services were rapidly overwhelmed. Mass burial sites were established in Chitwan district. Rescue teams worked through dangerous terrain and floodwater still in motion. The Gyirong border crossing, reopened within days to allow aid delivery, became a critical supply corridor. On the Tibetan side of the border, Chinese state media reported the deployment of 2,300-strong rescue teams, 24 helicopter sorties and the use of boats and heavy equipment. The road to the Gyirong crossing was reopened for aid delivery, and state broadcaster CCTV presented footage of police officers comforting bereaved flood victims, one image described by Chinese state media as moving viewers to tears. That carefully framed coverage is where the two sides of this story begin to diverge sharply. In Nepal, journalists moved freely through affected districts, interviewing

survivors, rescue workers and grieving families. The accounts they gathered were raw, painful and unmediated. On the Chinese side of the border, a very different media environment prevailed. Foreign journalists were denied access. Multiple correspondents, including the BBC’s China correspondent Laura Bicker, made formal requests to Chinese authorities for permits to enter Tibet and cover the disaster. The response, consistently, was no. “The foreign ministry told me there are difficulties accessing the area and the potential for future disasters,” Bicker reported, noting that other correspondents received identical rejections. The restrictions are not incidental to China’s approach to Tibet. According to Human Rights Watch, Beijing has restricted the free entry of foreign journalists into Tibet since 2007, and independent access is rarely if ever granted. The disaster did not change that. Human Rights Watch documented reports that journalists in China were barred from the disaster zone and from interviewing families, forced to rely on official information narratives. In a region where, as the organisation notes, people can be imprisoned for undermining national security simply by sharing information with the outside world, the chilling effect on citizen reporting was immediate and predictable. Videos of the disaster — including footage of the moment the floodwaters

engulfed Gyirong Port — briefly appeared on Chinese social media platforms before being systematically removed. According to China Digital Times, an independent watchdog that tracks Chinese internet censorship, video of the collapsing border gate was blocked from being shared on WeChat, even in private messages. The footage contained no graphic violence, no protests and no political slogans. The target of the censorship was the symbol itself: the National Gate. Within hours of its first appearance online, it had vanished. China subsequently punished ten people for spreading what it described as false disaster information that could mislead the public and disrupt online order. The sensitivity runs deeper than any single video. A deleted article that had been published online noted that the Gyirong Port had now suffered mudslides during the flood seasons of 2024, 2025 and 2026. In 2025, several Chinese personnel had gone missing or been killed. The pattern raises questions about site selection, infrastructure standards and the adequacy of early-warning systems in Tibet — questions that are particularly sensitive in a region under intense security and political control. By erasing the record of repeated flooding at the same location, censors blocked an inevitable and dangerous line of public in-

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Tibet's glacial catastrophe

quiry.

What replaced the deleted content was not an information vacuum but its opposite. Analysts described Beijing's approach as "precision surgery and narrative flooding" — a strategy in which once a visual sequence is black-listed, it is intercepted before it can be posted, while approved state-media content floods the same search terms and platforms. A search for "Tibet mudslide" on Xiaohongshu, China's popular lifestyle and search platform, returned not empty results but a carefully curated stream of state-media reports emphasising rescue heroism and national solidarity. The performance of competence was thorough and deliberate.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering, the democratically elected leader of the Central Tibetan Administration, the Tibetan government-in-exile based in Dharamshala in India, called on Beijing to ensure transparency and accountability in relief efforts. "Strict information censorship by the Chinese government continues to pose significant challenges in verifying the accuracy of casualty reports and assessing the adequacy of relief operations," he said, calling for unrestricted and immediate access for international aid organisations

and media.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson responded that disaster response and relief work was "generally proceeding smoothly." The contrast between that assertion and the scale of reported casualties — particularly on the Nepali side of the border, where the death toll exceeded 1,400 — captures the wider credibility problem that Beijing's information controls create. When the state is the sole source of information, the state's account of events cannot be independently verified. That applies to claims of efficient rescue as much as to claims of manageable casualties.

The disaster's origins and the accelerating pace of the glacier's movement in the weeks before the collapse point toward the dimension of this catastrophe that may prove most consequential in the long run: its relationship to climate change. Scientists have documented that the Himalayan region is warming faster than virtually any other part of the world. Glaciers are retreating and thinning rapidly, creating conditions in which collapses of the kind that occurred on August 26 become more frequent, more severe and harder to predict. The Lhende Khola river system had flooded twice in just 14

months before the August event. The 2021 Chamoli disaster in India's Uttarakhand, in which 25 million cubic metres of rock and ice collapsed, demonstrated the pattern. These are not isolated incidents — they are a trend.

Nepal's government has responded to that trend with a diplomatic posture that marks a genuine shift in how vulnerable nations engage with the politics of climate change. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal formally wrote to major emitting nations and to the United Nations Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, demanding climate compensation rather than humanitarian aid. "We are paying the ultimate price for a global crisis we did not create," Khanal said in an interview with Kantipur TV. "The rapid melting of glaciers and these catastrophic mountain tsunamis are direct consequences of global climate change. This is not a matter of charity; it is a matter of legal and moral liability."

The distinction matters. Nepal's greenhouse gas emissions are, by any measure, negligible. The country's contribution to the atmospheric carbon dioxide driving glacier melt is essentially zero. Yet Nepal is absorbing losses — in human lives, in

destroyed infrastructure, in wrecked hydropower projects — estimated at between \$4B and \$7B, roughly a tenth of the country's entire GDP. The demand comes ahead of the United Nations annual climate summit in November, where developing nations are expected to press wealthier, high-emitting countries for more funding to cover climate-related losses and damage.

The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice, a coalition of 200 international civil society groups, framed it starkly: "Nepal cannot reduce the world's emissions on behalf of the polluters. It cannot protect the Himalayas through adaptation alone while the world continues to burn more fossil fuels. And it should not have to take on more debt to protect its people from a crisis overwhelmingly created elsewhere." The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, established at COP27 in 2022 and operationalised at COP28 a year later, has received pledges of \$822M, with \$350M allocated for disbursement — a sum that begins to look very small indeed against the scale of Nepal's losses from a single disaster on a single day.

There is a particular irony in the fact that one of the countries Nepal is holding

responsible for climate compensation — China — is also the country blocking the independent verification of its own disaster response across the border. Beijing is simultaneously one of the world's largest cumulative emitters of greenhouse gases and a government that has barred the journalists who might most effectively document the human cost of the warming that those emissions have helped cause. That contradiction will not be resolved in a single season, or at a single climate summit.

What August 26 made undeniable is that the Himalayas are changing, that the communities living in their shadow are paying the price, and that the world's most consequential emitters have, so far, structured both their information environments and their climate finance commitments in ways that allow them to remain largely insulated from accountability. Nepal has chosen to stop asking politely. Whether that changes anything will depend on whether the rest of the world is watching — and whether what it sees prompts action or merely sympathy.

The glacier has already fallen. The water is still rising.

Behind the visor: How Nairobi’s ‘Brayo Oyaah’ is redefining Kenya’s road safety culture

A helmeted commuter with a viral greeting is doing more for road safety than most government campaigns.

By: David Nyaga

Worth Noting:

- According to data from the National Transport and Safety Authority, two-wheeler casualties — covering both commercial boda boda riders and personal commuters — account for a disproportionate share of road fatalities and severe injuries in Kenya each year. Speeding, failure to wear protective gear, poor lane discipline and hostile interactions between motorists and riders all feed the crisis.
- Formal government campaigns lean on billboards and enforcement crackdowns. Brayo’s advocacy works differently. By remaining faceless behind a full-face helmet, he shifts the focus away from personal celebrity and onto the gear itself. His daily commuter footage models practices that are, in his world, non-negotiable: full riding suits, armoured jackets, certified helmets and defensive riding habits that would not look out of place in a road safety manual.

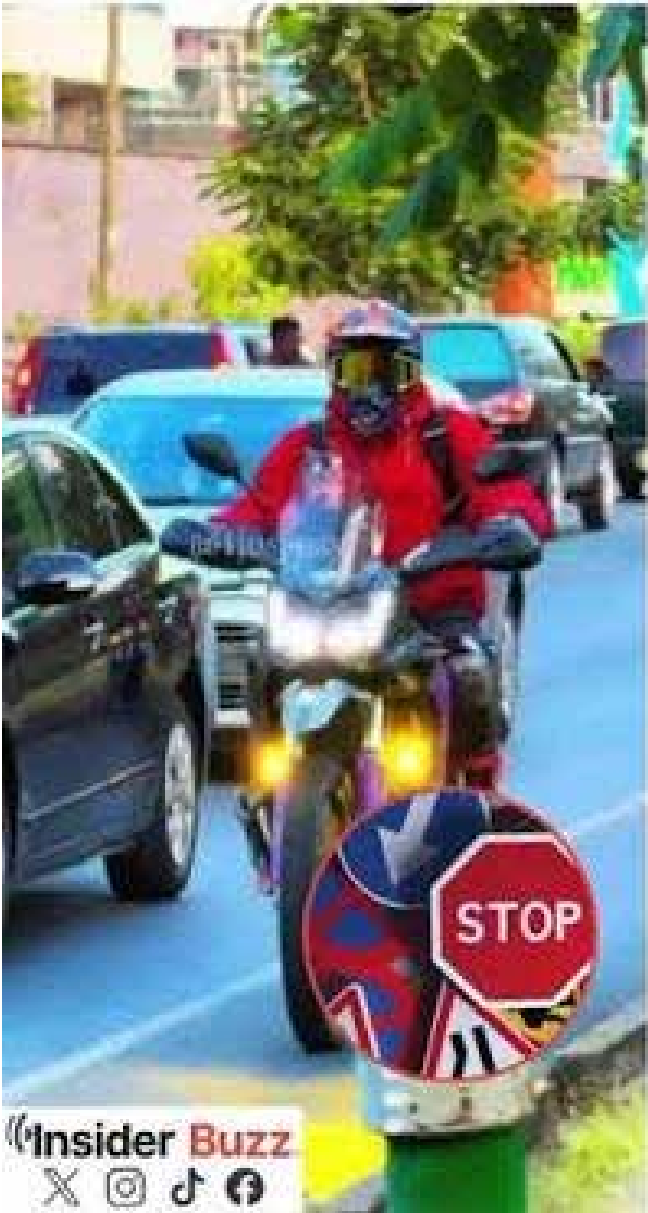
Every morning along the clogged corridors connecting Ongata Rongai to Nairobi’s Westlands, hundreds of thousands of commuters brace for the familiar gridlock. Amid the sea of cars and swerving motorcycles, a helmeted figure on a 300cc Voge Rally bike weaves through traffic, raises a hand and delivers his signature echoing greeting: “Oyaaaaah!”

To his hundreds of thousands of digital followers, he is simply “Brayo Oyaah” or “Biker Nairobi” — a faceless content creator whose brief road encounters routinely go viral. Beneath the helmet and the catchphrases, however, lies one of Kenya’s most effective grassroots advocates for road safety.

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The impact goes beyond protective equipment. The relationship between motorists, pedestrians and motorcycle riders on Nairobi’s roads is frequently fraught with friction and mutual suspicion.

NAIROBI BIKER BRAYO REVEALS HIS FIRST 20K FOLLOWERS ACTUALLY KNOW HOW HE LOOKS



Through casual, positive interactions — greetings exchanged at junctions, a hand extended to a stranded motorist, lane space shared without aggression — his videos quietly dismantle the stigma that tends to follow motorcyclists in the city. “The message is simple: safety first, fame later,” Brayo said during a media appearance. By showing that

a commuter can navigate Nairobi’s toughest traffic corridors efficiently without resorting to dangerous tactics or flouting the rules, he offers a practical and quietly radical blueprint for younger riders watching from their phones. His rise points to something broader: a genuine shift in how civic messaging works. Effective road safety advoca-

cy no longer lives exclusively in policy documents or highway enforcement units. Increasingly, it lives on the chest-mounted action cameras of everyday commuters who model discipline in real time, to audiences that government campaigns rarely reach. As Kenya’s urban road network expands and motorcycle transit continues to grow,

the influence of creators like Brayo is a reminder that a culture of safety is built one individual decision at a time — one helmet, one commute and one “Oyaaaaah” at a time.