

NHS staffs have been called “dirty foreigners” and “monkeys”, other derogatory terms and disturbingly xenophobic comments

UK’s National Health Service

This is bound to rock the UK’s reputation as a nation of a rainbow of colours, with people from various parts of the world, to its foundations:



UK’s National Health Service In Bizarre Colour Bar Crisis: ON THE WARPATH -VIOLENT RACIST WHITE BRITONS SHUN TREATMENT FROM NON-WHITE MEDICS

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



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

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Stress disorder: When the body remains in survival mode P 4
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Why most teachers in C4 schools have internalised failure
News Backpage
Nuclear energy debate must begin with public trust and shared responsibility



A Woman at the Helm of the United Nations: Weighing the Call by President Nandi-Ndaitwah

At the 81st session of the General Assembly, the President of Namibia asked the world to end 81 years of male leadership at the United Nations. This analysis examines what her call means, whether it will be heeded, and which women could realistically take the post.

By Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
A Call Made at the Decisive Hour
On Wednesday, 23 September 2026, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah stood at the rostrum of the United Nations General Assembly

in New York. She used the national statement of Namibia to make a direct and unusual appeal. She asked member states to elect a woman as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.
Her reasoning was simple. Since the founding of the organisation in 1945,

no woman has held its highest office. She argued that the leadership of the United Nations has yet to reflect the gender equality it promotes across

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Mashujaa day must leave more than memories in Uasin Gishu

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Kenyans abroad

Is the American dream turning into an immigration nightmare?

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RS South Africa supports next-generation edge AI with NVIDIA Jetson Orin Nano 2
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Delegate the Labour, Keep the Judgment
Artificial Intelligence in Namibian Schools
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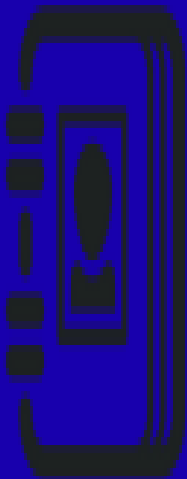


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Fine Spinners targets Kenya's US apparel supply chain with \$5m investment

By: Jane Njambi
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Kenya sits at the heart of the company's regional ambitions. International apparel brands currently produce garments for export through Kenya's EPZs, sourcing much of their fabric from China and India. Fine Spinners sees a clear opening to offer a closer, regionally integrated alternative.
- "We see significant potential in strengthening regional textile supply chains and supplying high-quality fabric to apparel manufacturers in Kenya," said Sav Bedi, chief executive of Fine Spinners Uganda Limited. "This investment gives us additional capacity and technology to serve international customers while expanding our presence across the region."



Sav Bedi - CEO - Fine Spinners Uganda Limited

Fine Spinners Uganda Limited is investing \$5 million in new textile machinery as it positions itself to play a significantly larger role in Kenya's apparel export industry, targeting fabric supply contracts with major US brands manufacturing garments in the country's Export Processing Zones. The Kampala-based manufacturer announced yesterday that the investment will increase its mill capacity by between 30 and 40 percent, adding an estimated 30 to 40 tonnes of yarn and between 150,000 and 200,000 garments a month. The expansion reflects growing regional demand for textile inputs and a deliberate strategic push into Kenya's established apparel manufacturing ecosystem. Kenya sits at the heart of the company's regional ambitions. International apparel brands currently produce garments for export through Kenya's EPZs, sourcing much of their fabric from China and India. Fine Spinners sees a clear

opening to offer a closer, regionally integrated alternative.

"We see significant potential in strengthening regional textile supply chains and supplying high-quality fabric to apparel manufacturers in Kenya," said Sav Bedi, chief executive of Fine Spinners Uganda Limited. "This investment gives us additional capacity and technology to serve international customers while expanding our presence across the region."

Uganda's current exclusion from the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the US trade preference programme that gives eligible African countries duty-free access to American markets, shapes the logic of the Kenya strategy. Because AGOA restrictions limit Uganda's ability to export garments directly to the US, Fine Spinners is choosing to supply fabric to manufacturers already operating within Kenya's EPZ framework, effectively plugging into an export corridor it

cannot access independently. The arrangement allows the company to benefit from international apparel demand while leveraging its integrated manufacturing base in Kampala.

The \$5m investment is being deployed across the company's manufacturing operations, with machinery sourced from some of the world's most respected textile technology suppliers. Spinning equipment comes from Saurer and Rieter of Switzerland. Weaving and warping machinery is supplied by Picanol of Belgium and Prashant of India. Knitting technology comes from Pai-Lung of Taiwan, while dyeing and finishing equipment is provided by Fongs of Hong Kong and Bianco of Italy. Stentering machinery from Bruckner of Germany and laboratory and quality-control technology from Datacolour of Switzerland complete the line-up. The bulk of the machinery has already been delivered and commissioned, with pre-production trials cur-

rently under way. The weaving plant is on site, with commissioning scheduled to begin next month, indicating that the company expects to be in a position to begin serving new customers within a relatively short timeframe.

Fine Spinners currently supplies customers across a diverse international market, including buyers in Germany, Denmark, Spain, Gabon, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. The new capacity is intended to support the company's entry into Japan and a deeper push into European markets, while strengthening its ability to serve the broader East African region.

Kenya, however, represents the most immediate commercial priority. The country's well-developed apparel manufacturing and export infrastructure, combined with its active EPZ operations, makes it a natural anchor for the company's regional supply chain strategy. For US brands producing in Kenya, the prospect

of sourcing fabric from a nearby, fully integrated East African mill — rather than shipping material from Asia — carries obvious logistical and cost advantages, particularly as global supply chain vulnerabilities continue to prompt buyers to diversify their sourcing relationships. The investment also arrives at a moment when regional textile integration is attracting growing attention from both policymakers and private investors. East Africa has long imported the bulk of its fabric requirements from Asia despite having the agricultural base — particularly cotton — to support a more self-sufficient textile industry. Manufacturers such as Fine Spinners that invest in building genuine regional supply chain capacity are positioning themselves to benefit as that dynamic gradually shifts.

For Kenya's EPZ manufacturers and the US brands they supply, the expansion of a regionally based, technology-equipped fabric supplier offers a practical supply chain option that did not previously exist at this scale. For Fine Spinners, Kenya is both a near-term revenue opportunity and a gateway to a much larger international market it could not otherwise reach directly.

Whether the investment delivers on its commercial promise will depend on the company's ability to meet the quality, volume and delivery standards demanded by international brands. The technology partnerships and pre-production trials currently under way suggest the groundwork is being laid carefully.

What is clear is that Fine Spinners is making a serious bet on East African textile integration — and that Kenya is central to how that bet plays out.

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Health

Stress disorder: When the body remains in survival mode

By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Stress is a normal part of being human. When we face a demand — a deadline, a threat, a difficult conversation — the brain activates a cascade of responses. Cortisol and adrenaline rise, the heart rate increases, attention narrows. Once the demand passes, the body restores its balance. This is healthy, adaptive stress doing exactly what it should. Stress disorder is something different. It occurs when that system fails to return to baseline — when the body remains locked in survival mode long after the external threat has gone. Clinically, this shows up across Acute Stress Disorder, Adjustment Disorder and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The common thread running through all three is persistent hyperarousal, intrusive memories, avoidance, shifts in mood and cognition, and physical complaints that medical tests cannot explain.

The concept of allostatic load helps explain why. Allostatic load is the accumulated cost of chronic adaptation. When stress is repeated without recovery — without safety, without being heard — that cost builds. The amygdala, the brain's threat-detection centre, becomes overactive. The prefrontal cortex, which governs regulation and decision-making, becomes underactive. The hippocampus, which helps distinguish past from present, loses efficiency. The result is a person who reacts to a minor present-day stressor with the full force of a past survival response. A racing heart at 2am. A tension headache at 4pm. Digestive disturbance, musculoskeletal pain, broken sleep, irritability or emotional numbness. These are not character flaws. They are physiological markers of prolonged threat exposure.

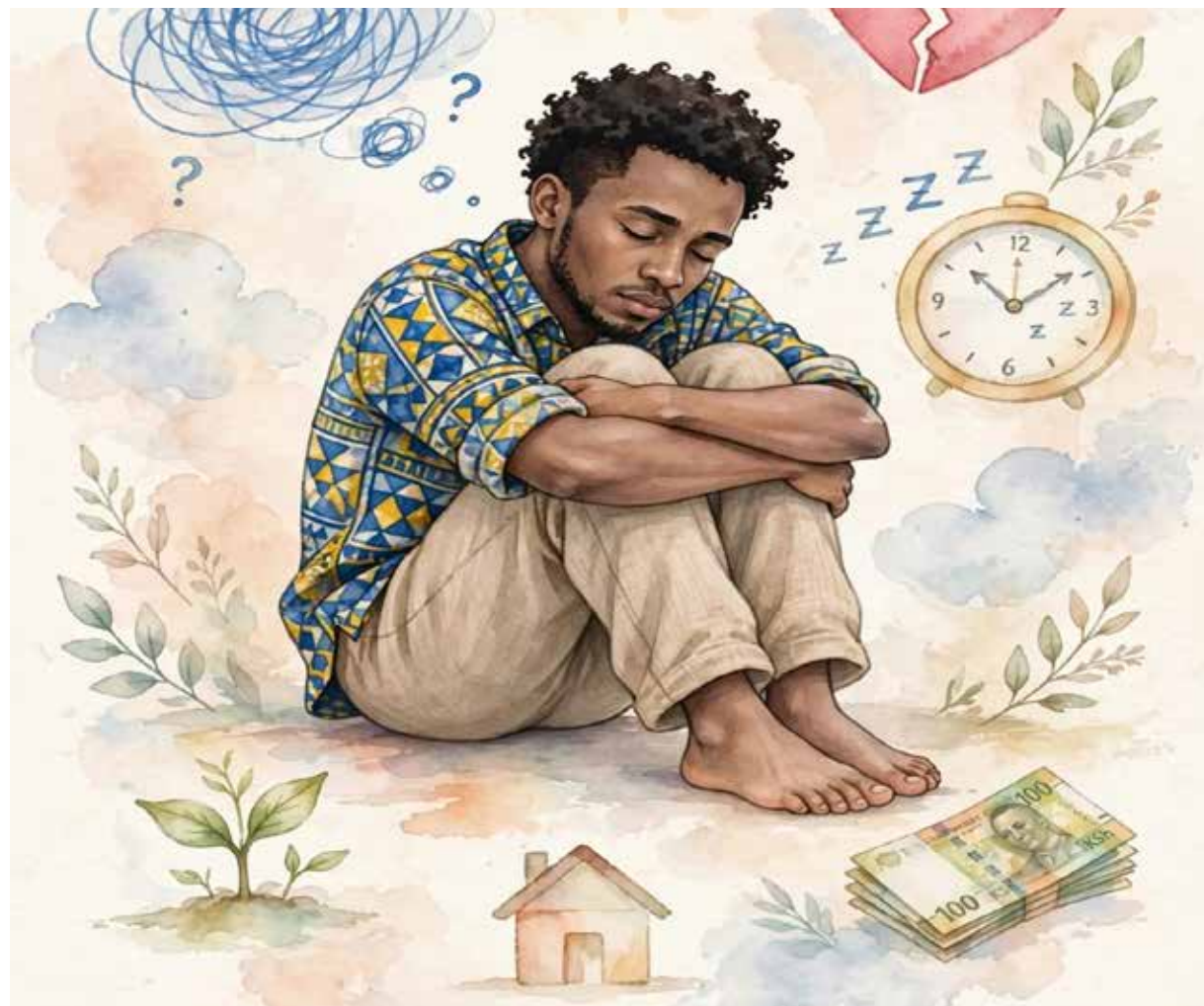
Research led by Felitti and Anda involving more than 17,000 participants demonstrated a clear dose-response relationship between early adversity and later health outcomes. Individuals with four or more adverse childhood experiences faced significantly higher risk of depression, anxiety, cardiovascular disease, cancer and chronic pain. Not because of weakness or curse, but because early adversity shapes the developing nervous system to remain permanently watchful.

In the African context, this matters enormously. Cultural scripts around strength often teach emotional containment as a form of resilience. A man does not cry. A good woman endures. The firstborn must not fail. Do not trouble others with your tears. These become silent contracts, internalised in childhood and carried silently into adulthood. They are socially adaptive in contexts of scarcity, but psychologically costly when they prevent help-seeking, emotional expression and rest.

The result is what researchers call high-functioning distress. The person continues to provide, to work, to show up — while internally depleted. Where psychological language carries stigma, the body speaks instead, driving repeated hospital visits with investigations that return normal results.

Healing, from a psychological standpoint, requires the restoration of safety — not merely the removal of the stressor. It does not mean forgetting. It means being able to remember without being physiologically overwhelmed.

Evidence-based approaches begin with psychoeducation and grounding. Physiologically, the ninety-second rule is instructive: the initial neurochemical surge of an emotion lasts approximately ninety seconds. If rumination does not reignite it, the body can return to baseline. Practical techniques — diaphragmatic breathing at a ratio of four



Stress

seconds inhale to six seconds exhale, orienting to the present by noticing five things seen, four touched and three heard, and naming the emotion as it arises — all help re-engage prefrontal regulation and calm the threat response.

Cognitively, identifying silent contracts is essential. An individual learns to ask: when was this belief formed, and is it still serving me? The contract "in this family we do not show tears" can be examined and gently rewritten as "I can be strong and still ask for support." This is not a rejection of culture. It is an updating of survival strategy.

Behaviourally, small consistent acts of recovery reduce allostatic load over time. Brief morning moments

without digital stimulation, adequate hydration, structured sleep and three lines of expressive writing daily — recording current feelings rather than events — have shown measurable efficacy in reducing perceived stress.

Socially, African healing has always been communal. Co-regulation through a trusted peer, elder, faith community or counsellor provides the external safety signal that allows the nervous system to settle. The goal is not to be fixed. It is to be heard — to receive the message: I am here. You are safe.

Indicators warranting professional referral include sleep disturbance lasting more than two weeks, persistent physical pain without medi-

cal cause, panic-like chest tightness, irritability leading to relationship breakdown or property destruction, persistent guilt or feelings of worthlessness, and passive thoughts of death. Kenya's mental health helpline 1199 and USLO Care on 0718 770 343 provide immediate support. Not every whisper is wisdom. Some are wounds speaking. Across Africa, one truth resonates quietly in consulting rooms and communities alike: we are not lazy — we are exhausted from carrying contracts we never signed. We are not cursed — we are patterned. And patterns, when noticed without judgment, can be relearned.

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Tech

AFRICLOUD opens Lagos region and local-currency payments across African markets

The company’s third African region keeps Nigerian workloads in Nigeria, while customers from Abidjan to Nairobi can now pay in the currency they earn — no international card required

By: Jane Wangui
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

For African businesses trying to build on cloud infrastructure, the compromises have long been exhausting and, frankly, unnecessary. Traffic that leaves the continent and crawls back. Payments demanded in dollars behind an international card that most businesses on the continent do not hold. Data sitting under another country’s law, governed by rules the customer never agreed to and cannot easily challenge.

AFRICLOUD, a cloud infrastructure company headquartered in Miami Beach, has moved to remove all three obstacles at once. The company yesterday announced the opening of its third African region in Lagos alongside the rollout of local-currency payment acceptance across West, Central, East and Southern Africa — a combination that allows businesses across the continent to run servers in Nigeria, South Africa or Portugal from a single account and pay for them the way they already pay for everything else.

The Lagos region is the centrepiece of the announcement and the piece that completes AFRICLOUD’s African infrastructure map. Compute and storage for Nigerian customers now stay in Nigeria, running under the Nigeria Data Protection Act rather than the legal frameworks of a distant jurisdiction. The region also serves customers in Accra, Abidjan, Lomé, Douala and Ouagadougou, meaning that traffic from landlocked West African cities that once reached comparable cloud infrastructure by travelling through Europe can now stay on terrestrial West African fibre.

That routing difference is not merely technical. For businesses running customer-facing applications, financial platforms or health services, latency — the delay between a request and a response — determines whether a product feels fast or frustrating. Keeping West African traffic in West Africa closes that gap in a meaningful way.

AFRICLOUD’s own continent-wide measurements place 42 of the 53 African countries it has assessed within a best-case round-trip time of 70 milliseconds across its three-region network. Those 42 countries are home to approximately 1.28 billion people. The Johannesburg region serves Southern and East Africa. The Lisbon region serves North Africa and Europe, and connects to Brazil over a direct subsea cable route. Together, the three regions give the company a footprint that reaches the majority of the continent’s population with infrastructure that is, for the first time, genuinely close.



The payment expansion addresses what has quietly been one of the most persistent barriers to cloud adoption across Africa. Purchasing cloud services has historically required an international credit or debit card, a requirement that excluded a large proportion of African businesses — not because they lacked the revenue to pay, but because the payment mechanism itself was inaccessible.

AFRICLOUD’s updated billing system accepts the naira, the cedi, the Kenyan and Ugandan shillings, the CFA franc and a range of other local currencies across West, Central, East and Southern Africa. Customers can pay by local card, bank transfer, USSD or mobile money, with no international card required at any stage. Mobile money is live in twelve African countries. Cards, PayPal and more than 300 cryptocurrencies are also accepted across all three regions.

The significance of the mobile money integration is difficult to overstate. According to the GSMA, 74 per cent of the world’s mobile money activity by transaction count took place in Africa in 2024. Building a cloud payment architecture that works with mobile money is not a courtesy gesture toward African customers — it is an acknowledgement of where African commerce actually lives.

“African businesses have been asked to choose between infrastructure

that is close, infrastructure they can actually pay for, and infrastructure that keeps their data under their own law,” said Oluniyi Ajao, founder of AFRICLOUD. “Removing that choice is the reason we built this.”

Ajao added that the Lagos opening completes a geographic logic the company has been building toward. “A company in Accra or Abidjan now reaches West African infrastructure without leaving the region, and pays for it in the currency it earns.”

The data residency dimension of the expansion deserves attention beyond the headline. Businesses operating in regulated industries — financial services, healthcare, telecommunications — frequently face legal or contractual obligations about where their data must be stored and which legal framework governs it. AFRICLOUD’s architecture allows customers to select their governing jurisdiction server by server from a single dashboard. Nigerian data runs under the Nigeria Data Protection Act. South African data runs under the Protection of Personal Information Act. European workloads run under EU law. The customer makes that selection at the point of deployment, without needing separate accounts or separate relationships with different providers. That level of granular control has typically been available only to large enterprises with the resources to negotiate bespoke arrangements with global cloud providers. Mak-

ing it accessible through a standard dashboard, at the pricing level of a regional cloud provider, extends a meaningful capability to the small and medium-sized businesses that constitute the majority of Africa’s private sector.

All three AFRICLOUD regions run identical underlying infrastructure: AMD EPYC processors with all-NVMe storage, IPv4 and IPv6 connectivity on every server, and deployment times of approximately two minutes for a new server. Dedicated servers are built to order across all three regions, giving customers the option of shared or dedicated resource environments depending on their workload requirements and budget.

The broader context for the Lagos launch is a continent at an inflection point in its relationship with digital infrastructure. Africa’s internet economy has grown rapidly over the past decade, driven by mobile connectivity, fintech expansion, e-commerce and a generation of developers and entrepreneurs building products for African markets. That growth has consistently outpaced the availability of locally anchored cloud infrastructure, forcing businesses to rely on data centres in Europe or the United States with all the latency, currency and legal jurisdiction complications that entails.

Several global cloud providers have made moves into Africa in recent years, with data centres es-

tablished in South Africa, Kenya and Egypt among other markets. AFRICLOUD’s approach differs in emphasis: rather than adapting a global platform for African use, the company has built its payment architecture, regional footprint and data residency model around the specific structural barriers that have historically kept African businesses from adopting cloud infrastructure at scale.

Whether that approach translates into commercial success will depend on execution — on whether the infrastructure performs consistently, whether customer support meets the expectations of businesses operating in fast-moving markets, and whether the pricing model remains competitive as larger players continue to invest in the region.

What the Lagos launch and the local-currency payment rollout demonstrate is that the technical and commercial architecture for genuinely Africa-native cloud infrastructure is no longer theoretical. For a business owner in Lagos, Nairobi, Abidjan or Accra, the combination of local data residency, local currency payment and low-latency regional infrastructure now exists within a single platform.

The compromise era, at least for AFRICLOUD’s customers, appears to be over.

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Education

Why most teachers in C4 schools have internalised failure

Years of hardship, invisible effort and relentless disappointment have quietly broken the professional spirit of many educators in Kenya's most marginalised schools

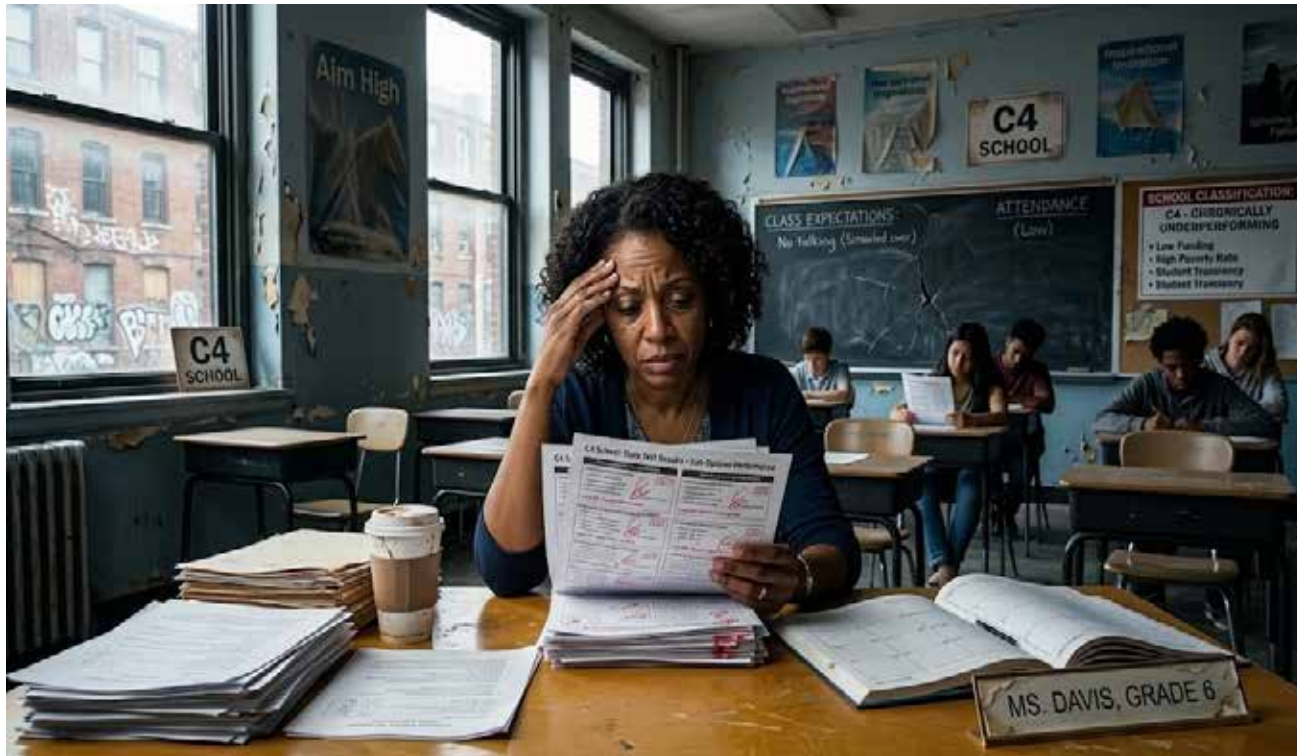
By: Ashford Kimani

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Worth Noting:

- In some institutions, a mean score of D+ is celebrated like a national achievement because the school has struggled for years without better. Teachers openly say things like, "Our students cannot compete with national schools," or "These children cannot pass Mathematics," or "This area has never produced doctors." Such statements reveal something deeper than academic struggle. They reveal wounded professional belief systems.

- One major cause is prolonged exposure to poor results. Imagine teaching for ten years in a school where learners rarely qualify for university. Every year, a teacher prepares candidates, runs remedial lessons, motivates students and sacrifices personal time — only for results to remain painfully low. After repeated disappointments, many teachers unconsciously lower expectations simply to protect themselves emotionally from frustration.



Teacher in class

Internalised failure is a psychological condition in which individuals repeatedly encounter setbacks, disappointment and difficult environments until they unconsciously accept that failure is normal, permanent and unavoidable. It happens when people stop expecting success even before making a serious attempt. A person carrying internalised failure may continue reporting to work and performing routine duties, but internally they have surrendered hope. They no longer believe meaningful change is possible.

Consider sport. If a football team loses every season for ten consecutive years, players and supporters eventually approach matches expecting defeat. Even with talented individuals on the pitch, they enter mentally beaten. A student who repeatedly performs poorly in Mathematics tells a similar story. Over time that learner begins saying, "Maths is not for me," even before attempting a problem. The mind slowly accepts failure as identity.

That same phenomenon is quietly affecting many teachers in C4 schools across Kenya.

In hardship and marginalised schools, teachers have gradually internalised poor performance, low expectations and educational hopelessness — not because they are incompetent or lazy, but because years of operating in difficult environments

have psychologically conditioned many of them to believe that excellence belongs to other schools and other regions.

In some institutions, a mean score of D+ is celebrated like a national achievement because the school has struggled for years without better. Teachers openly say things like, "Our students cannot compete with national schools," or "These children cannot pass Mathematics," or "This area has never produced doctors." Such statements reveal something deeper than academic struggle. They reveal wounded professional belief systems. One major cause is prolonged exposure to poor results. Imagine teaching for ten years in a school where learners rarely qualify for university. Every year, a teacher prepares candidates, runs remedial lessons, motivates students and sacrifices personal time — only for results to remain painfully low. After repeated disappointments, many teachers unconsciously lower expectations simply to protect themselves emotionally from frustration.

Human beings naturally adapt to their environments. When poor grades are normalised over years, mediocrity slowly becomes acceptable. Survival replaces ambition. Staffroom conversations shift from how to produce engineers and surgeons to how to avoid embarrassment on results day. The difficult socio-economic

realities surrounding many C4 schools compound the problem. Some learners arrive from homes affected by extreme poverty, alcoholism, drug abuse, broken families and hunger. In certain regions, children walk several kilometres to school daily, often without breakfast or basic learning materials. Teachers themselves sometimes work in remote postings with poor housing, unreliable electricity and limited professional support.

When educators continuously struggle against such realities without visible improvement, emotional exhaustion sets in. The mind begins whispering a dangerous message: "Nothing will ever change here." That is precisely how internalised failure takes root.

Kenya's comparison culture within education has worsened matters. Elite national schools dominate headlines and rankings while struggling schools appear in the news mainly during unrest or poor performance announcements. Teachers in marginalised institutions rarely receive recognition for the extraordinary work they do under harsh conditions. They watch learners from wealthier schools access laboratories, digital tools and mentorship while their own students share worn textbooks. Such visible inequality slowly kills morale.

Internalised failure also

manifests in reduced professional growth. Teachers who once pursued workshops, innovation and career development gradually become passive. New teaching methods are resisted. Technology is ignored. Some stop reading or researching modern instructional approaches because, deep inside, they no longer expect transformative outcomes.

The tragedy is that this mindset spreads. New teachers posted to struggling schools often arrive energetic and ambitious, but after months of absorbing a negative school culture, some adopt the same defeated thinking. Staffrooms become centres of complaint and blame rather than spaces for problem-solving and innovation.

Learners, in turn, borrow this mindset from the adults around them. Children observe adult attitudes closely. If teachers consistently speak the language of limitation, students internalise inferiority. A bright child dreaming of becoming a pilot or neurosurgeon may quietly lower ambitions after repeatedly hearing, "People from this school do not reach such levels." That is how communities remain trapped in cycles of educational underachievement.

Yet history proves that difficult environments do not automatically produce failure. Some of the world's greatest achievers emerged from villages, informal settlements and under-resourced schools. What dis-

tinguished them was not privilege alone, but the presence of teachers who refused to surrender mentally.

Across Kenya today, there are teachers in hardship areas still producing extraordinary results. Some have built strong reading cultures in schools without libraries. Others run mentorship programmes from personal resources. Some use improvised materials creatively to teach science concepts. Others expose learners to debates, writing competitions, music festivals and technology initiatives despite limited facilities. Such teachers demonstrate a truth that cannot be overstated: belief is powerful.

The greatest danger facing many struggling schools is therefore not the absence of buildings or textbooks alone. The deeper danger is psychological defeat. Once teachers stop believing in possibilities, classrooms lose their transformative power. School leadership has a critical role in reversing this. Principals who celebrate small improvements, motivate staff and build collective vision can gradually restore hope. Teacher training institutions must equally prepare educators for the psychological demands of challenging postings. Academic qualification alone is insufficient. Teachers need emotional resilience, adaptability and the capacity to inspire hope under difficult circumstances.

Most importantly, teachers themselves must guard their minds. A difficult environment should never be allowed to produce a defeated mindset. Circumstances may be hard, but children still need adults who believe in their potential.

Every Kenyan child — whether from Turkana, Ki-bra, Mandera, Tana River, Mathare or Gatundu — deserves educators who communicate possibility rather than defeat.

The day teachers in struggling schools recover their belief, many institutions currently dismissed as hopeless will begin producing stories that inspire the nation.

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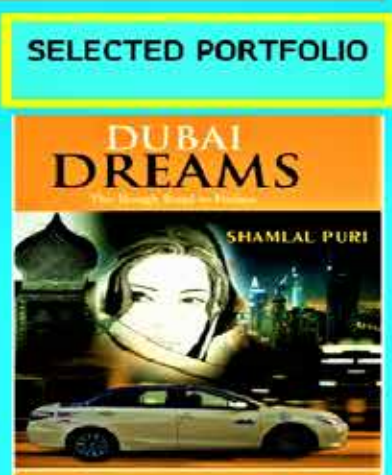
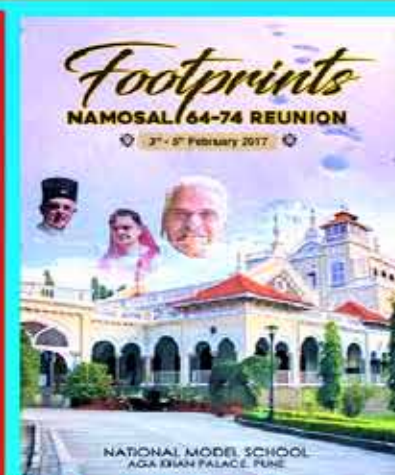
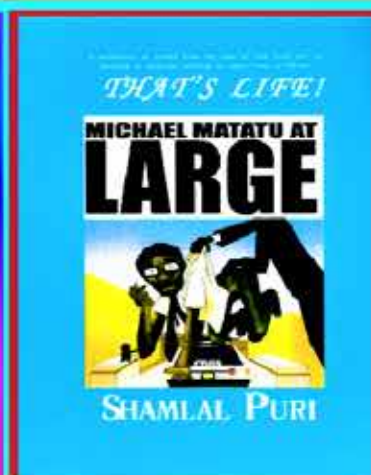
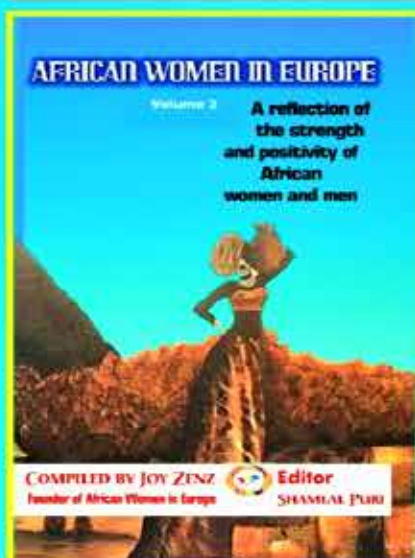
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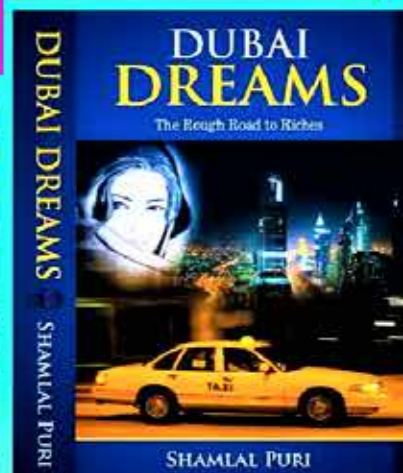
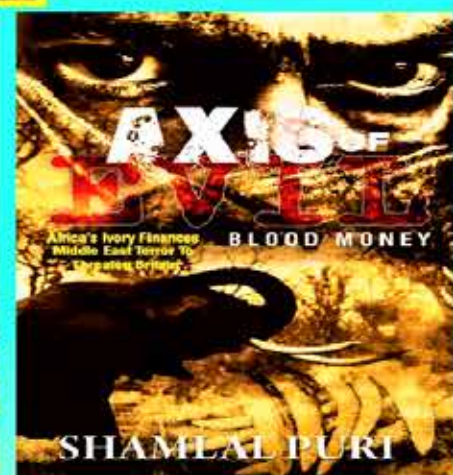
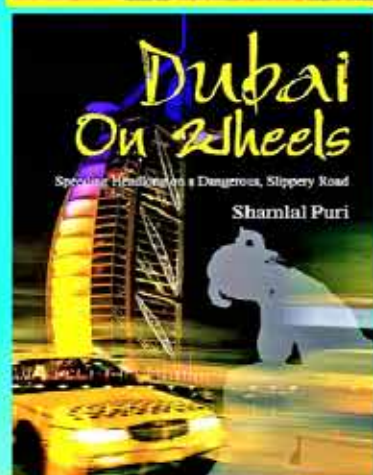
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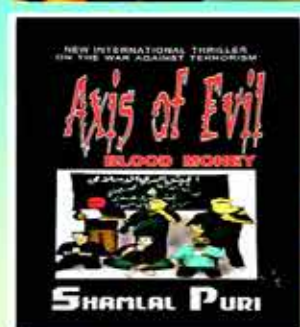
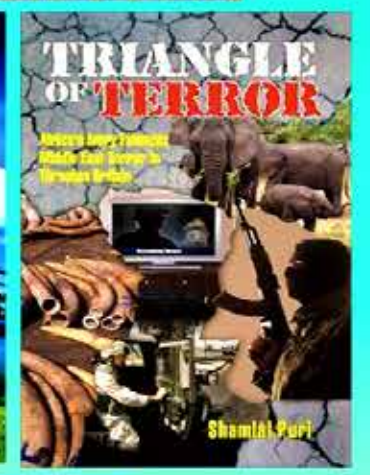
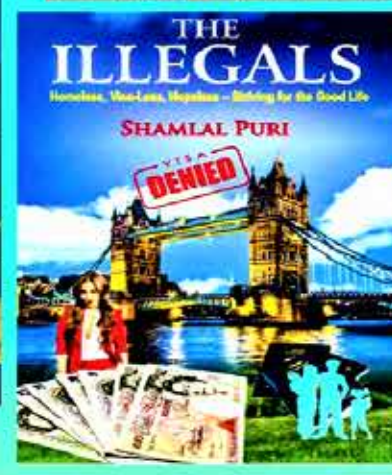
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UK News

UK's National Health Service In Bizarre Colour Bar Crisis: ON THE WARPATH - VIOLENT RACIST WHITE BRITONS SHUN TREATMENT FROM NON-WHITE MEDICS



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trustworthy, she felt unwanted in a country where she was providing life-saving services to patients irrespective of their colour.

These patients forget that even the NHS nurses and medics are not just people in uniform; they too have to be given their dignity for the life-saving jobs they are doing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

using racial slurs such as "monkeys" or "dirty foreigners" and questioned their professional competence based on the colour of their skin.

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

The report noted several incidents of hatred.

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

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

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

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

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

"It's happened to me on two different occasions, when the patient is looking at me quite clearly in terms of my skin colour."

Mr Awah is skilled at cannulating patients, and colleagues will often call on him to help with particu-

larly awkward cannulations. On three separate occasions, patients have then said to him, "Are you sure you've done this before?"

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

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

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

At the height of the Brexit crisis, two Western European medics were shouted at by White British patients: "Wait till we kick you out of Britain after we leave the European Union." Sadly, some of the non-white staff see this happening so often that they just accept it as something they had to put up with as part of their job.



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



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



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

An Asian diaspora sonographer in the British Midlands said several patients have openly told her, "This country isn't the same, with all those people coming here and taking our jobs."

She said such incidents were becoming "more prevalent", blaming the media and certain political parties, where people openly express such

views without thinking.

It is no secret that the Reform Party, which openly bases its politics on racial discrimination, has given native Brits an open licence to express such views. It plays the race card so

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openly that little is left to the imagination of white Britons.

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

One Asian patient in London, who did not wish to be identified, said when he was travelling in an ambulance bus transporting several patients to their local hospital, a senior citizen white woman sitting next to him was complaining about foreigners who had “swamped Britain”.

She moaned that many of the doctors and nurses at the hospital where they were going were black and she hated to be touched, let alone treated by them.

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

The cowardly white female patient shut her mouth.

Caribbean Nurse Yvonne still recalls the day when, on her rounds of the ward, she was punched hard in the stomach that she landed on the floor, spraining her arm. She had only gone to ask how her patient was feeling after taking his medication.

Another nurse, from Eastern Europe, working at a hospital in the Midlands, was spat at for no reason other than she was not British and the patient could not understand her accent.

Nurse Annette does not feel comfortable when she is alone on the rounds of her hospital ward. There is always the inbuilt fear of unprovoked attack or verbal abuse because she is black.

Not only nurses but also auxiliary staff are treated badly. Mohammed, a security officer, had worked at a London hospital for many years and was very polite to everyone he met, but one day a patient kicked him in the jaw and broke his teeth. He could not understand the reason for this unprovoked attack.

Rightly so, the hospitals say, “We don’t tolerate verbal or physical abuse,” adding that offending patients “could be blocked and prosecuted.”

On their part, nurses say they work in the hospitals to help and not to hurt patients.

It is not only Black and Asian medics who are abused and attacked; even in some situations, white doctors and nurses are also attacked by angry patients, but these are rare cases.



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

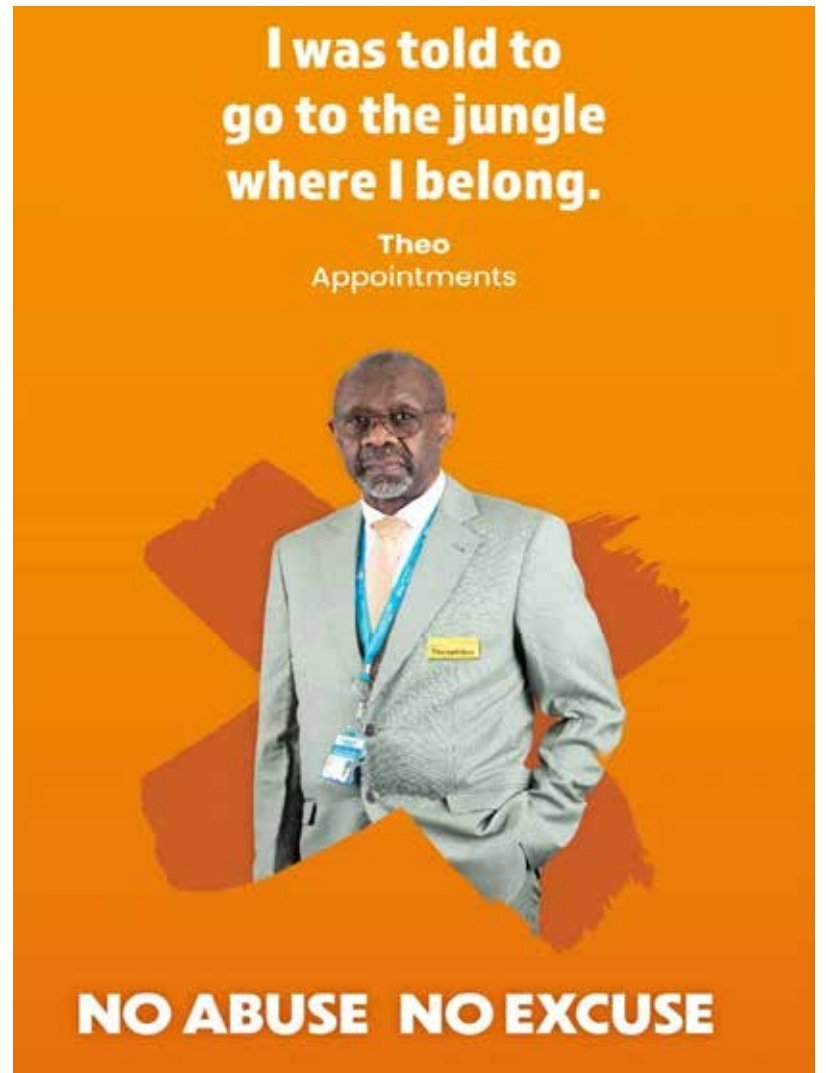


Blunt message...All NHS doctors in Britain's hospitals, local and foreign, are there to serve their patients, not to harm them.

In a poster by the NHS East Kent Hospital University, a White child says emotionally, “My daddy is a nurse. Please keep him safe at work.” Another poster with an innocent White girl pleads, “My mummy is a doctor. Please keep her safe at work.”

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



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



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

Mashujaa day

Mashujaa day must leave more than memories in Uasin Gishu

“A nation’s greatness is measured not by the splendour of its ceremonies, but by the dignity and opportunity it creates for its people.”



BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo

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For the first time, Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet will jointly carry the national spotlight when Kenya marks Mashujaa Day on October 20, 2026, with Eldoret serving as the principal stage. A thematic week running from October 13 to 18 will focus on security, sports and the economy, bringing national leaders, investors, athletes, businesses and citizens into the North Rift. It is an extraordinary moment for the region. But when the flags come down, the stages are dismantled, the convoys disappear and the television cameras move elsewhere, one uncomfortable question will remain: what will Mashujaa Day have left behind for the ordinary people of this region? That is the question that must haunt every planner, leader and institution involved.

Because national celebrations are not merely spectacles. They are occasions on which government demonstrates what it believes about its citizens. If this Mashujaa Week is genuinely about the economy, then its economic footprint must be visible beyond conference halls and official speeches. A farmer cannot eat a policy document. A young graduate cannot pay rent with a summit slogan. A small trader cannot employ another worker because a dignitary delivered an eloquent speech about inclusive growth. And a person with a disability does not become economically empowered because they were invited into a photograph with a government official. Development becomes meaningful only when it travels the final distance from the boardroom to the household.

That is why the people of Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet are entitled to ask: How much of the economic activity generated by Mashujaa Week will actually remain here? How many local enterprises will supply food, transport, accommodation, construction, branding, cleaning, security, entertainment and other services? How much agricultural produce will be purchased from local farmers? How many young people, women and persons with disabilities will obtain genuine business opportunities? How much money will circulate among local businesses rather than merely pass through the region? These are not hostile questions. They are the questions of responsible citizens. Indeed, government has an opportunity to demonstrate that public

expenditure can become a catalyst for local enterprise without compromising procurement law, competition, transparency or value for money. Eligible youth, women and persons with disabilities already have a recognised pathway to public procurement through the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities framework. Mashujaa Week should demonstrate what meaningful inclusion looks like when the principle meets reality. There must be no room for the familiar theatre in which ordinary citizens are displayed as beneficiaries while economic opportunities quietly circulate among those already connected to power.

The Kenya Economic Summit, therefore, must not become another sophisticated conversation about Kenyans conducted largely without them. Kenya has held countless conferences on agriculture, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, investment and employment. The country does not suffer from a shortage of policy vocabulary. It suffers when policy promises fail to make the difficult journey into implementation. If agriculture is discussed, farmers should leave with stronger markets. If manufacturing is discussed, local suppliers should see opportunities. If finance is discussed, small enterprises should see realistic pathways to affordable capital. If digital transformation is discussed, young people should see routes into the digital economy. If tourism and culture are celebrated, artists, craftspeople and cultural entrepreneurs should participate in the value chain. Otherwise, economic dialogue risks becoming a ritual in which the people being discussed remain outside the room.

Mashujaa Day itself should also force us to reconsider who we call a hero. Across the North Rift are countless Kenyans whose contribution to the nation will never be captured by official titles. There are teachers who educated generations, farmers who feed communities, nurses and other health workers who serve under immense pressure, athletes who have carried Kenya’s flag across the world, entrepreneurs who create employment, environmentalists who protect our natural heritage, caregivers who quietly sacrifice for vulnerable relatives and community volunteers who solve problems long before government notices them. These, too, are Mashujaa.

The legitimacy of national recognition is strengthened when ordinary citizens can see themselves in the story of national heroism. This is particularly true for persons with disabilities. For decades, disability inclusion has featured prominently in official speeches. What is now required is not another declaration of inclusion, but evidence of it. Per-

KES 63 MILLION UP FOR GRABS

MASHUJAA DAY TOURNAMENT

Champions Edition

3 COUNTIES • 3 SPORTS • 3 CO-CHAMPIONS

WARD FINALS	SUB COUNTY FINALS	COUNTY FINALS
28&27 SEPTEMBER	3&4 OCTOBER	10&11 OCTOBER

INTER COUNTY FINALS

MARATHON	VOLLEYBALL	FOOTBALL
ELGEYO MARAKWET 18 OCTOBER	NANDI COUNTY 19 OCTOBER	UASIN GISHU 20 OCTOBER

Logos for the participating counties: Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi County, and Uasin Gishu.

sons with disabilities should not merely sit in the audience, appear in ceremonial photographs or receive symbolic acknowledgement. They should participate in planning, procurement, exhibitions, sports, cultural activities, entrepreneurship forums and post-event evaluation. Accessibility must extend beyond ramps. It means accessible venues and sanitation facilities, appropriate pathways, accessible information, communication support and reasonable accommodation. It means ensuring that participation is possible, dignified and substantive. But physical accessibility is only half the equation.

Economic inclusion is the harder test. How many disability-owned enterprises will secure legitimate opportunities? How many persons with disabilities will participate as suppliers, exhibitors, artists, athletes, innovators and entrepreneurs? What measurable value will reach disability-owned businesses? These questions should not be answered with applause. They should be answered with numbers. The same standard must apply to women, youth, small traders, farmers and other citizens who frequently remain at the margins of decision-making. And after

the celebrations, the public should demand a Mashujaa Day Economic and Social Impact Statement.

The people deserve to know how much was spent, how much went to local suppliers, how many enterprises participated, how many temporary and longer-term opportunities were created, how much agricultural produce was sourced locally, how many youth, women and persons with disabilities benefited, what cultural enterprises earned, and what investments, partnerships and markets survived beyond October 20. This would not diminish the celebration. It would give it credibility. The Government has already described the 2026 celebrations as an opportunity to showcase development and programmes delivering tangible benefits to citizens. That ambition should therefore be judged not only by the quality of the ceremony, but by the economic and social footprint it leaves behind. Uasin Gishu should welcome Mashujaa Day with pride. It should open its doors to Kenya, showcase its hospitality and celebrate the extraordinary contribution of the North Rift to sport, agriculture, enterprise and national life.

But pride must never become an

excuse for silence. When the final speech is delivered at Kipchoge Keino Stadium and the last convoy leaves Eldoret, an ordinary resident should be able to point to something tangible: a contract, a customer, a job, a market, an investment, a business connection, a cultural opportunity, an accessible facility or a policy commitment that actually changed something. That is the real test.

Let Kenya come to Eldoret to honour its heroes. But let the people of Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet have something tangible to celebrate when Kenya leaves. Because a Mashujaa celebration worthy of its name should not merely create memories. It should create opportunities. And when the history of Mashujaa Day 2026 is eventually written, the most important chapter should not be how magnificent the ceremony looked. It should be how many ordinary Kenyans could honestly say: “Something changed for me because the nation came here.”

“The true measure of a celebration is not the applause it attracts, but the lives it leaves better and the historical impact associated with the occasion with it.”

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Theo, an African diaspora professional, in the NHS appointments department at a London hospital, recalls the day when, in no uncertain terms, an angry white patient barked these words: "I was told to go to the jungle where I belong."

Little do many white Britons know that many African countries are developed with modern structures, education, etc. It shows how many White Britons are backwards in their thinking and almost illiterate. One patient ridiculed a radiographer's headscarf, saying they couldn't understand her mild Yorkshire accent. Another patient refused to be X-rayed by a black radiographer, saying "Black people frighten me."

The Society of Radiographers surveyed members about their experiences of racism at work. One respondent said: "Some patients always complain because of the colour of skin of people attending them." Another spoke of "Patients not acknowledging you but directing questions to your junior."

Some cases were even more overt. One respondent spoke of: "Patients describing healthcare staff as dirty foreigners," and another said: "I have witnessed a colleague being called a monkey by a patient."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The NHS has a diverse workforce – which is one of its strengths. We are clear: discrimination, harassment, racism, bullying or intimidation – whether expressed verbally or in behaviour – is unacceptable and has no place in the NHS."

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is no doubt that every nurse and doctor of whatever colour is extremely good in their jobs.

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

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



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



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

Namibia

A Woman at the Helm of the United Nations: Weighing the Call by President Nandi-Ndaitwah



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyetimes

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the international system. Namibia, she said, believes that “it is time that a woman is elected as secretary general of our organisation”.

The timing was deliberate. The second term of António Guterres ends on 31 December 2026, and his successor is due to take office in January 2027. The Security Council has already held three secret straw polls. No candidate has yet emerged as a clear favourite.

The call therefore landed in the middle of a live contest. It was not a ceremonial wish for a distant future. It was a political intervention in a process that could conclude within weeks. That fact alone makes it worth close examination.

This article examines the call from several angles. It considers what the President said and why she said it. It explains how the Secretary-General is actually chosen. It asks whether her voice carries real weight in that process. It then assesses what the call means for the United Nations, for world leaders and for women in senior leadership. Finally, it identifies the women who could realistically take the post.

What the President Said, and What She Did Not Say

The appeal did not stand alone. The President placed it within a wider address delivered under the session theme of restoring trust and managing transformation. Gender equality and the leadership of women sat at the centre of that address.

She reaffirmed the commitment of Namibia to gender equality and to Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She also expressed solidarity with people affected by conflict in Sudan and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. She argued that these conflicts show the need for a United Nations able to respond more effectively to threats against peace.

Other themes followed. She restated support for the Common African Position on Security Council reform, expressed through the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. She called for reform of the international financial architecture. She also raised climate justice, noting that Namibia contributes less than 0.01 per cent of global emissions.

The speaker also mattered. Her official biography records that she first



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

addressed the United Nations Committee on Decolonization in 1974. She did so as part of a SWAPO delegation (Office of the President, n.d.). More than five decades later, she returned to the same building as a head of state. Few leaders can claim so long a personal relationship with the organisation they now seek to reform.

Two features of the appeal deserve attention. First, the President tied the question to institutional credibility rather than to sentiment. Her argument was that an organisation which preaches equality must practise it at the top. Second, she pledged that Namibia would work with whoever succeeds Guterres. That pledge softens the edge of the demand. It signals a firm preference, not an ultimatum.

Equally important is what she did not say. Press reports of the speech do not indicate that she has endorsed any named candidate. She did not ask the General Assembly to reject a male nominee. She did not propose a procedural rule to guarantee the outcome. The call was a statement of principle, and it was deliberately left open.

Nine Men in 81 Years

The record the President challenged is stark. Nine people have led the United Nations since 1946, and every one of them has been a man. The Charter itself says nothing about the qualifications, gender or tenure of the office holder. Over time, member states have filled that silence with resolutions and practice.

The imbalance is not a new subject of debate. In 2016, under pressure from civil society and the General Assembly, the selection process became more transparent. Seven of the 13 candidates that year were women. Yet only Irina Bokova and Helen Clark reached the top five in the final straw poll, placing fourth and fifth.

Since then, the language of member states has hardened. On 5 September 2025, the General Assembly adopted resolution 79/327, which governs the present process. The joint letter that opened the 2026 contest noted with regret that no woman has ever held the position. It encouraged member states to “strongly consider nominating women as candidates”. Analysts writing for Just Security described this as the first time the

joint letter had used such explicit language. Their statements tracker found that, by mid November 2025, 145 countries had raised concern about the lack of gender balance in the leadership of the United Nations. That figure had risen from 97 countries in February 2025.

The President therefore did not invent a new cause. She added the voice of a sitting head of state to a coalition that already existed. Her distinctive contribution was to state the case plainly, from the podium, at the decisive moment.

How a Secretary-General Is Actually Chosen

To judge whether the call can succeed, one must understand the machinery. Article 97 of the Charter provides that the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The wording appears to share power between the two organs. In practice, the balance is uneven.

The Security Council controls the shortlist. Its 15 members hold informal and anonymous straw polls. In each poll, a member marks

every candidate as encouraged, discouraged or without an opinion expressed. The results are not published, although they are often leaked.

A formal recommendation requires at least nine votes. It also requires that none of the five permanent members casts a veto. Those members are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The General Assembly then makes the appointment.

The Assembly does hold the final word. In principle, it could reject a recommendation and ask the Council to reconsider. Diplomats, however, generally avoid such divisive steps. The practical power therefore rests with the Council, and above all with its permanent members.

This structure matters for the Namibian call. The General Assembly, where Namibia votes, has the numbers but limited direct power. Namibia is not among the elected members of the Security Council in 2026. It therefore casts no ballot in the straw polls that shape the result. There is a further complication. The ballots used in 2026 have not distinguished the votes of permanent members from those of elected members. A single discouragement may therefore conceal a veto. Candidates and their sponsors often cannot tell whether they face a fatal objection or a mild reservation.

The State of the Race

Three straw polls have been held, on 30 July, 21 August and 18 September 2026. The figures that follow come from results obtained and verified with several diplomatic sources. They are reported figures, not official records.

In the third poll, Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica received nine encouragements, five discouragements and one abstention of opinion. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett of Guyana followed closely with eight encouragements. Grynspan had led the first poll, and Rodrigues Birkett had led the second.

Rafael Grossi of Argentina fell to five encouragements against eight discouragements. Olara Otunnu of Uganda and Macky Sall of Senegal also received five encouragements each. María Fernanda Espinosa of Ecuador received three. Ivonne A-Baki received none.

Michelle Bachelet of Chile received one encouragement and 11 discouragements. She withdrew the following day. She said she did not regret the challenge. She added that “the time was not right” for the kind of candidacy she represented. Her departure left seven candidates, four of whom are women.

The arithmetic is revealing. The two leading candidates in the most

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recent poll are both women. Pass-Blue reported that sources suggested two of the discouragements against Grynspan may have come from China and Russia. If that report is accurate, she still faces a possible veto. The race, in short, remains open. The pattern of abstention tells the same story. Security Council Report calculated that almost one third of ballots in the second poll expressed no opinion. The share of such ballots fell only marginally from the first poll, from approximately 34.3 per cent to 32.5 per cent. In 2016, by contrast, that share fell more sharply at the same stage.

Many Council members, in other words, have not yet committed themselves. That is precisely the audience a public appeal can reach. Undecided governments are more open to argument than those that have already chosen.

Transparency remains contested. Denmark, Greece and Latvia called for the straw poll results to be released publicly. Several other members opposed this, and the Council agreed by consensus to keep the results confidential. The outgoing President of the General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock, stressed in a September letter that the Council should be held accountable for a timely recommendation. Comparison with 2016 underlines the uncertainty. António Guterres never fell below 11 encouragements in any straw poll that year. No candidate in 2026 has approached that level of consensus. A fourth poll may follow once the high-level week of the General Assembly ends on 28 September.

Can the President Be Taken Seriously?

The honest answer has two parts. She should be taken seriously as an authoritative voice on this question. She cannot, on her own, determine the result.

The Case for Her Credibility

Few serving leaders have a longer record on women in international affairs. Her official biography records that she served as Rapporteur General of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. It also records that she was chief negotiator for the African Group during the preparations for that conference.

Namibia also holds a special place in the history of Resolution 1325. The resolution was adopted unanimously on 31 October 2000, during the Namibian presidency of the Security Council. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, one of the civil society leaders

behind the resolution, recalls that Namibia took the lead in tabling it, with Bangladesh as cosponsor. The official biography credits the President with initiating the Council discussion that produced it.

Her legislative record at home points the same way. She served as the first Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare. Her biography credits her with championing the Married Persons Equality Act of 1996 and the Combating of Domestic Violence Act of 2003. These laws show that her advocacy on gender predates her presidency by decades. It is not a slogan adopted for a single speech.

Her domestic record lends further weight. She is the first woman to serve as President of Namibia. In her address to the 80th session of the General Assembly in 2025, she reported that the Namibian cabinet was 57 per cent women.

Her appeal also aligns with a large and growing bloc. A statement delivered for the Non-Aligned Movement in November 2025 acknowledged that there has yet to be a woman Secretary-General. France and the United Kingdom have taken strong positions in favour. China stated in November 2025 that it would be pleased to see female candidates presented. Namibia speaks with this current, not against it.

The Limits of Her Influence

Credibility, however, is not the same as leverage. Namibia casts no straw poll ballot and holds no veto. Its influence runs through persuasion, coalition building and the General Assembly. Those channels matter, but they are indirect.

The permanent members remain cautious. At a General Assembly meeting in February 2025, the Russian deputy permanent representative spoke on this point. He argued that “gender is one of the criteria, but it should not play a decisive role”. The United States, under the Trump administration, has pushed back against gendered language across the United Nations system.

Washington has nonetheless left the door open. In July 2026, Ambassador Dan Negrea told reporters in New York that the next leader “could be a woman, absolutely”. He did not indicate which candidate the United States favours. The position of Washington therefore remains decisive and unknown.

Africa itself is divided on the race. Macky Sall was nominated by Burundi rather than by his own country. An attempt to secure African Union endorsement through a silence procedure failed in March 2026, when 20 member states broke the silence. The Government of Senegal stated that it had not been associated with the initiative.

This background matters for reading the Namibian call. A demand for a woman implicitly favours the lead-



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

ing Latin American and Caribbean women over the two African men in the race. The President did not say so. Yet the logic of her statement points in that direction. It suggests that, in this contest, Namibia places the principle of gender equity above a narrow continental claim.

There is also a test of consistency. A leader who calls for equality abroad invites scrutiny at home. Critics will ask whether Namibian women enjoy the progress in security, economic opportunity and protection from violence that the President demands for the United Nations. That scrutiny is legitimate. It does not weaken the call, but it will shape how seriously others receive it.

The Verdict

The President is best understood as a champion of a norm, not a king-maker. Her authority on this issue is moral and historical. Her power over the outcome is indirect. Her call adds weight to a trend that was already moving. It will not, by itself, persuade a permanent member to lift a veto.

Three Scenarios for the Coming Weeks

The effect of the call will depend on how the race unfolds. Three broad scenarios are plausible on current evidence.

In the first scenario, the Council gathers around one of the two leading women. Grynspan and Rodrigues Birkett have each topped at least one straw poll. If the reported objections from permanent members soften, one of them could secure nine votes without a veto. In that case, the Namibian call would be remembered as part of a successful chorus.

In the second scenario, the Council remains deadlocked. The permanent members may then look beyond the formal list for a late entrant. Whether that person is a woman will de-

pend on which names states are prepared to nominate. Here, calls such as the one from Namibia could shape the search from the outset.

In the third scenario, the Council recommends a man. The General Assembly would then face a choice between accepting the recommendation and resisting it. The Just Security analysis argues that states wanting a woman should organise early, for example through indicative Assembly votes. In this scenario, the Namibian call would become a test of whether the Assembly majority is willing to act on its words.

What the Call Means for the United Nations

For the organisation, the call touches a nerve of legitimacy. The United Nations urges governments to include women in parliaments, cabinets and peace processes. Yet its own summit has remained male for 81 years. That contradiction weakens the moral authority of the institution whenever it lectures others.

The next Secretary-General will inherit an institution under severe strain. Earlier this year, Guterres warned member states of a looming financial collapse. Unpaid dues had reached approximately 1.57 billion United States dollars by the end of 2025. Guterres has also described the Security Council as close to paralysed by the vetoes of its permanent members.

In such a setting, a woman Secretary-General would not solve structural problems. The authors of the Just Security analysis caution against placing the burden of renewing the United Nations on a single leader. Gender is a question of representation and credibility. It is not a substitute for funding, reform or political will among the great powers.

Yet symbolism matters in diplomacy. The office of Secretary-General works largely through persuasion. Richard Gowan of the International Crisis Group told the Council on

Foreign Relations that its influence rests on intangible factors. These include the pulpit the office provides, the willingness of states to follow its agenda and global public opinion. A historic appointment would enlarge that pulpit.

There is also a risk. If the first woman is appointed only after the institution has been weakened, she may be blamed for failures she did not cause. Member states that support a woman in the post must also support the resources she will need to succeed. Otherwise, the breakthrough could become a trap.

What the Call Means for World Leaders

For the permanent members, the call raises the political cost of a male nominee. The joint letter that launched the process carried the authority of both organs. It was signed by the presidents of both bodies. Rejecting every woman on the list would now require public explanation.

For the elected members of the Council, the call offers political cover. The Just Security analysis notes that if seven elected members insisted on a woman, they could block any candidate who failed that test. Denmark and Latvia, both elected members in 2026, have backed statements with very strong support for a woman Secretary-General.

For African leaders, the call is a reminder that the continent can shape outcomes without fielding the winner. Africa did not unite behind a single candidate this year. It can still act as a bloc on principles, including gender equity and Security Council reform. The President advanced both arguments in the same speech. For leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean, the call converges with regional expectations. Only one Lat-

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Namibia

A Woman at the Helm of the United Nations: Weighing the Call by President Nandi-Ndaitwah

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in American, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, has held the office. Gowan warned that dishonouring the regional claim this time could come back to haunt member states in future contests. Both leading candidates come from that region.

Leaders who share the view of the President have practical options. They can use bilateral meetings to press permanent members on their straw poll choices. They can coordinate positions within regional groups before the final Council vote. They can also nominate qualified women for the many other senior posts that the next Secretary-General will fill. Representation at the top is easier to defend when the pipeline beneath it is also balanced.

For all leaders, the call poses a simple test. Governments that sign resolutions on gender parity must now decide whether those commitments apply to the most senior post they collectively control. Their answer will be visible to their own citizens.

What the Call Means for Women in Senior Leadership

The broader data explain why the appeal resonates. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women, only 28 countries were led by a woman head of state or government on 1 January 2026. A total of 101 countries have never had a woman leader.

Women hold 27.5 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide. That share rose by only 0.3 percentage points from 2025, the second consecutive year of the slowest growth since 2017. Women hold 22.4 per cent of cabinet posts, down from 23.3 per cent in 2024.

Women are also losing ground in parliamentary leadership. In January 2026, women held 19.9 per cent of Speaker posts, the first decline in 21 years. The same release reports that 76 per cent of women parliamentarians surveyed had faced intimidation by the public, compared with 68 per cent of men.

Portfolios remain sharply gendered. Women lead 90 per cent of gender equality ministries. Men continue to dominate defence, home affairs, justice and economic affairs. The same pattern appears at the global level. Women reach the social and humanitarian agencies more easily than the political summit.

Against this background, a woman Secretary-General would change the reference point for ambition. Girls from northern Namibia to the Andes would see a woman serving as the chief diplomat of the world. The appointment would not end discrimination. It would, however, remove the most visible exception to equality within the multilateral

system.

The President herself embodies this effect. In her 2025 address to the General Assembly, she encouraged every girl and woman by affirming that their voice matters. Her call in 2026 extends that message from national leadership to global leadership.

The Women Who Could Take the Job

The call would be empty if no credible women stood ready. That is not the case. Four women remain formally nominated, and several others have been named in public speculation.

The Formal Candidates

Rebeca Grynspan is the strongest woman in the race on current evidence. She is a former Vice President of Costa Rica and the Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development. She frames her campaign around restoring confidence, prioritising peacemaking and delivering results. She was the first woman to lead that trade body and played a role in the Black Sea Initiative. Commentators note that peace and security have featured less prominently in her background. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett has

served as Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations since 2020. She previously served as Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. She topped the second straw poll. Her vision statement centres on core Charter principles, human rights and development. She would be the first Secretary-General from the Caribbean. María Fernanda Espinosa is a former President of the General Assembly and a former Foreign Minister and Defence Minister of Ecuador. She knows the institution intimately. Her platform rests on peace and security, development, digital and energy transformation, delivery and credibility. Her polling has been modest, with three encouragements in September.

Ivonne A-Baki is a former Ecuadorian ambassador to the United States, France and Qatar. Tonga nominated her on 17 August 2026. Her vision emphasises preventing wars and rebuilding trust within the organisation. She received no encouragement in the third poll.

Women Outside the Formal Race

Nominations remain open until the Council makes its recommendation. PassBlue reported that member

states are speculating about possible late entrants behind whom the Council could unite. Speculation is not candidacy. None of the women below has been formally nominated. An analysis published by Inter Press Service in April 2026 named several women as possible late entrants. From Latin America and the Caribbean, it listed Alicia Bárcena of Mexico and Mia Mottley of Barbados. From beyond the region, it listed Amina Mohammed of Nigeria, the current Deputy Secretary-General, and Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria.

Each would bring distinct strengths. Mottley is a sitting head of government with a global profile on climate and development finance. Bárcena has long experience within the United Nations system and in Mexican diplomacy. Mohammed knows the Secretariat from the inside. Georgieva leads a major international financial institution.

Each would also face obstacles. These include national duties, regional rotation and the preferences of the permanent members. A late entrant would also need a nominating state and enough time to win support before the Council decides. Their names nonetheless show that the pool of qualified women is deeper than the formal list suggests.

Conclusion

The call by President Nandi-Ndaitwah was principled, timely and consistent with her long record. It adds a respected African voice to a global coalition that already spans more than 140 states. It does not change the formal rules, and it cannot override a veto.

Its real value lies elsewhere. It sets a public standard against which the Security Council will be judged. If the Council recommends a man despite strong women in the field, it will need to explain why. If it recommends a woman, the President of Namibia will be remembered among those who insisted that the moment had come.

For the United Nations, the question is no longer whether a woman can lead. Two women led the most recent straw poll. The real question is whether the permanent members will allow one to do so. The answer is expected within weeks, and the world will be watching.

Silas Mwaudasheni Nande is a school principal, a PhD candidate in Education at the International University of Management, Windhoek, and an analytical writer on African governance, education, public policy and international affairs.



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

Diaspora

Kenyans abroad: Is the American dream turning into an immigration nightmare?

As deportation reports multiply and enforcement tightens, Kenya must ask whether it is adequately preparing its citizens for the realities of life overseas

By: Collins Kibet
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As deportation reports multiply and enforcement tightens, Kenya must ask whether it is adequately preparing its citizens for the realities of life overseas

By Collins Kibet

For years, the United States has represented hope for thousands of Kenyans. It has been the land where education opens doors, hard work builds careers and sacrifice eventually produces a better life. Families have saved for years to send a son or daughter there. Young professionals have packed their ambitions into suitcases and boarded long-haul flights with hearts full of possibility. But as reports of Kenyans facing immigration enforcement continue to emerge with uncomfortable regularity, one difficult question deserves to be asked openly: is the American dream becoming increasingly hard for some Kenyans to live?

Recent reporting indicated that 49 Kenyans were among 125 Africans reportedly facing deportation from the United States. The figures renewed attention on the immigration challenges confronting Kenyans living abroad. But what does deportation actually mean beyond the headlines? Is it simply a legal process involving immigration status, or can it become a life-altering crisis for families that have spent years building a future on foreign soil?

Behind every immigration case is a human story. A parent sending money home every month. A student three semesters away from graduating. A worker supporting siblings through school back in Nyeri or Kisumu. A family that has spent a decade establishing itself in a new country, raising children who now speak English with an American accent. When immigration uncertainty enters such a family's life, the consequences reach far beyond the individual facing proceedings. Entire households back in Kenya can be destabilised overnight.

Yet Kenyans continue to leave. The answer to why is not simple. Kenya has a young and ambitious population. Many seek opportunities that feel difficult to access at home. They travel for education, employment, business and professional advancement. For many, migration is not about abandoning Kenya. It is about searching for possibilities that seem limited locally. But does travelling abroad automatically guarantee a better life? It does not.

Life in another country comes with laws, expectations and non-negotiable responsibilities. Immigration status matters. Visa conditions matter. Employment regulations



Kenyans abroad

matter. And ignorance of those rules can carry severe consequences. The United States operates an immigration enforcement system that includes investigation, arrest, detention and formal removal proceedings. The machinery is real, and it moves quickly.

So the question that must be asked honestly is this: are Kenyans sufficiently prepared before they leave? Too often, migration is discussed primarily in terms of salaries, foreign currencies, successful social-media posts and aspirational lifestyles. Far less attention is paid to legal preparation, immigration compliance and the unglamorous realities of living thousands of kilometres from home. A young Kenyan may know precisely how much they hope to earn abroad, yet know very little about what happens when a visa expires. Someone may understand how to secure a job but have no idea about the conditions attached to their immigration category.

Preparation for migration must go beyond buying an air ticket and arranging accommodation. Kenyans planning to live abroad need accurate, practical information before they board a plane. They need to understand their visa conditions, employment rights, legal obligations and the channels available when difficulties arise. They should know, in advance, where to seek qualified assistance if something goes wrong — because things do go wrong, even for careful and law-abiding people. And when things do go wrong, who speaks for the Kenyan citizen? Who helps a family understand what is happening? Who ensures that a vul-

nerable Kenyan in a detention facility knows where to obtain reliable legal assistance? These questions carry real weight.

The Kenyan government cannot control immigration policy in a sovereign foreign country. What it can do is strengthen consular support, improve pre-departure information for citizens and ensure that Kenyans abroad know precisely where to turn when serious problems arise. Kenyan missions in cities with large diaspora populations must be accessible, visible and genuinely useful — not merely ceremonial presences. But responsibility cannot rest with government alone. Migrants carry responsibilities too. Following immigration rules is not optional. Obtaining information from official sources is considerably safer than relying on rumour, social-media posts or unverified agents who promise shortcuts for a fee. Anyone facing an immigration matter should seek qualified legal advice promptly rather than depending on informal assurances from people who may mean well but cannot actually help. This moment also calls for a more honest conversation about the Kenyan diaspora. Kenyans abroad are not simply people who send remittances home, though those remittances matter enormously to the national economy. They are students, professionals, entrepreneurs, parents and community builders. They contribute skills, networks and investments to both their host countries and to Kenya. Their experiences, however, are not uniform. Some achieve remarkable success. Others struggle with loneliness,

family separation, discrimination, financial pressure and immigration uncertainty that never quite disappears. That reality deserves to be acknowledged alongside the success stories. The carefully edited images of foreign cities on social media do not capture the full picture. Are Kenyans being sold a dream without being adequately prepared for its complexity?

That question deserves a serious institutional response. Before someone leaves Kenya, should they receive structured guidance on immigration laws, employment rights, cultural expectations and emergency contacts? Should universities and secondary schools incorporate practical international migration information into their curricula? Should Kenyan missions abroad conduct regular outreach to citizens who may not know where to turn when circumstances deteriorate?

These are not rhetorical questions. They are policy conversations that the government, educational institutions, diaspora organisations and civil society should be having with urgency.

It is equally important not to treat every immigration case as evidence of wrongdoing. An allegation, an arrest or a detention does not by itself establish guilt. Individual immigration cases involve specific legal circumstances, and due process matters. Families and communities back home deserve accurate information rather than panic, and individuals deserve to be treated with dignity regardless of their immigration status.

The Kenyan diaspora deserves

something more useful than either uncritical celebration or quiet fear. It deserves accurate information, adequate preparation and genuine institutional support.

Is the American dream dead for Kenyans? No single answer fits every story. For many, the United States remains a place of genuine education, professional growth and personal achievement. Kenyans have built successful careers, raised families and contributed meaningfully to American communities. But recent immigration cases make clear that opportunity abroad comes with responsibilities and risks that can no longer be treated as somebody else's concern.

The dream must not be measured only by how much money someone sends home. The more important question is whether Kenyans can pursue opportunities overseas while remaining legally informed, properly protected and genuinely connected to home.

Because going abroad should not mean going alone. Behind every passport is not merely a traveller. Behind every passport is a Kenyan — carrying hopes, family expectations, personal ambitions and a future that deserves to be protected, not left to chance.

Kenya must start that conversation now, before more families receive phone calls they were never prepared for.

Diaspora

RS South Africa supports next-generation edge AI with NVIDIA Jetson Orin Nano 2

New compact robotics computer opens possibilities for intelligent machines, robotics and vision AI across South African industry

By: Jacob Martins
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For engineers and developers working at the frontier of industrial automation, robotics and artificial intelligence, the gap between what is technically possible and what is practically deployable has long been defined by a familiar set of constraints: computing power, energy consumption and physical size. A system capable of genuine real-time AI decision-making has typically demanded either a large power draw, substantial physical infrastructure or both.

The NVIDIA Jetson Orin Nano 2 is designed to change that equation, and RS South Africa yesterday announced its support for the new platform as it prepares to bring the device to local customers when it becomes available in the first half of 2027.

The announcement matters for South Africa's industrial and engineering sectors at a moment when interest in AI-enabled automation is accelerating across manufacturing, mining, agriculture, logistics and infrastructure management. Edge AI — the ability to run sophisticated artificial intelligence processing directly on a device, in the field, without relying on a distant data centre — is increasingly central to how that automation is being built. The Jetson Orin Nano 2 represents NVIDIA's most capable entry-level edge AI platform to date, and its combination of performance, efficiency and compact form factor makes it relevant to a wide range of practical applications.

The headline specification is striking. The Jetson Orin Nano 2 delivers 78 TOPS of AI compute — a measure of the number of AI operations the processor can handle per second — alongside 8 GB of memory and an eight-core Arm CPU. Critically, it achieves twice the inference performance of its predecessor, the Jetson Orin Nano Super, while operating within the same compact physical footprint and 40-watt power envelope. At equivalent performance levels, it consumes 40 percent less power than the previous generation. That combination of doubled performance and reduced energy consumption is not merely impressive on a specification sheet. For real-world deployment, it translates directly into expanded possibilities. Systems that previously required larger, more power-hungry hardware can now be built around a smaller, lighter, more energy-efficient platform. Applications that were previously impractical for battery-powered or remote deployment — inspection drones, autonomous



delivery robots, portable vision AI systems — become considerably more feasible.

“As South African businesses increasingly explore how AI, robotics and automation can improve the way industrial systems operate, access to capable edge computing platforms will become increasingly important,” said Erick Wessels, sales director at RS South Africa. “The NVIDIA Jetson Orin Nano 2 brings substantial AI performance into a compact and energy-efficient platform, giving local developers and engineering teams new opportunities to explore intelligent machines, robotics and vision-based applications.”

The platform's improved Tensor Cores and higher memory bandwidth underpin its performance gains, enabling a new generation of applications that demand both strong AI processing and fast video handling. Delivery and inspection drones, autonomous robots operating in industrial environments, and machine vision systems capable of identifying defects, monitoring safety compliance or guiding automated equipment in real time are among the use cases the platform is designed to support.

South Africa's industrial landscape presents a particularly compelling context for these capabilities. The mining sector relies heavily on equipment operating in remote and hazardous environments where real-time autonomous decision-making could both improve safety and reduce operational costs. Agricul-

ture increasingly employs drone-based monitoring and precision interventions across large and geographically dispersed landholdings. Manufacturing and logistics operations are under sustained pressure to improve throughput and reduce error rates. In each of these contexts, the ability to deploy capable AI processing at the edge — close to where data is generated and decisions must be made, without the latency or connectivity dependencies of cloud-based processing — addresses a real and growing need.

The Jetson Orin Nano 2 is powered by NVIDIA's open AI software stack, which includes Jetson agent skills and access to a broad AI ecosystem. This matters beyond the hardware itself. One of the persistent challenges in enterprise AI adoption is the gap between proof-of-concept experimentation and reliable, scalable deployment. Platforms with strong software ecosystems, extensive developer tooling and broad community support reduce the time and cost of crossing that gap. Developers building on the Jetson Orin Nano 2 gain access to tools and frameworks that can accelerate the journey from initial concept to working system operating in the field.

RS's involvement in bringing the platform to South Africa builds on its established global distribution partnership with NVIDIA. Richard Curtin, senior vice-president for global AIoT suppliers and design solutions at RS, described the launch as a reflection of the depth of that relationship.

“This exciting product launch is a testament to the strong and successful partnership RS and NVIDIA have built since the introduction of the first Orin Nano in 2023,” Curtin said. “As a strategic global distribution partner, we are well positioned to help customers worldwide access and scale this latest AI innovation, and we encourage them to stay close to RS and RS DesignSpark for further announcements and early ordering opportunities.”

For South African engineers and developers, RS's distribution role means that access to the platform, technical support and ordering information will be available through an established local channel rather than requiring complex international procurement arrangements. That accessibility is particularly important for smaller engineering firms, university research groups and start-ups working on robotics and automation products, for whom navigating international supply chains can represent a significant operational burden.

Wessels underlined the practical significance of local availability. “We look forward to supporting customers in South Africa as they investigate the possibilities this technology can unlock,” he said.

The broader trajectory that the Jetson Orin Nano 2 represents is worth pausing on. Edge AI as a category has moved rapidly from research curiosity to industrial priority over the past several years. The drivers are straightforward: cloud connectivity is expensive, unreliable in

remote locations and introduces latency that is unacceptable for safety-critical or time-sensitive applications. The ability to process data and make decisions locally, in real time, on hardware that is power-efficient enough to operate on battery or solar power and compact enough to fit inside a drone or a handheld inspection device, fundamentally changes what is possible.

NVIDIA's Jetson platform has been at the centre of that shift, and the Orin Nano 2 extends the platform's reach into applications that were previously beyond the performance threshold of affordable, compact edge hardware. For South African organisations exploring how to deploy AI in the field — whether in a mine shaft, on a farm, inside a factory or across a logistics network — it represents a meaningful expansion of what is technically and commercially viable.

RS South Africa will provide further information on early ordering opportunities ahead of the platform's planned availability in the first half of 2027. Developers and engineering teams interested in evaluating the Jetson Orin Nano 2 for their applications are encouraged to follow announcements from RS and the RS DesignSpark platform as they emerge.

The next generation of intelligent machines is taking shape. For South Africa's engineering community, the tools to build it are arriving.

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

LEADERSHIP AS A CALL TO PURPOSE

Transforming Communities
Through Visionary Leadership



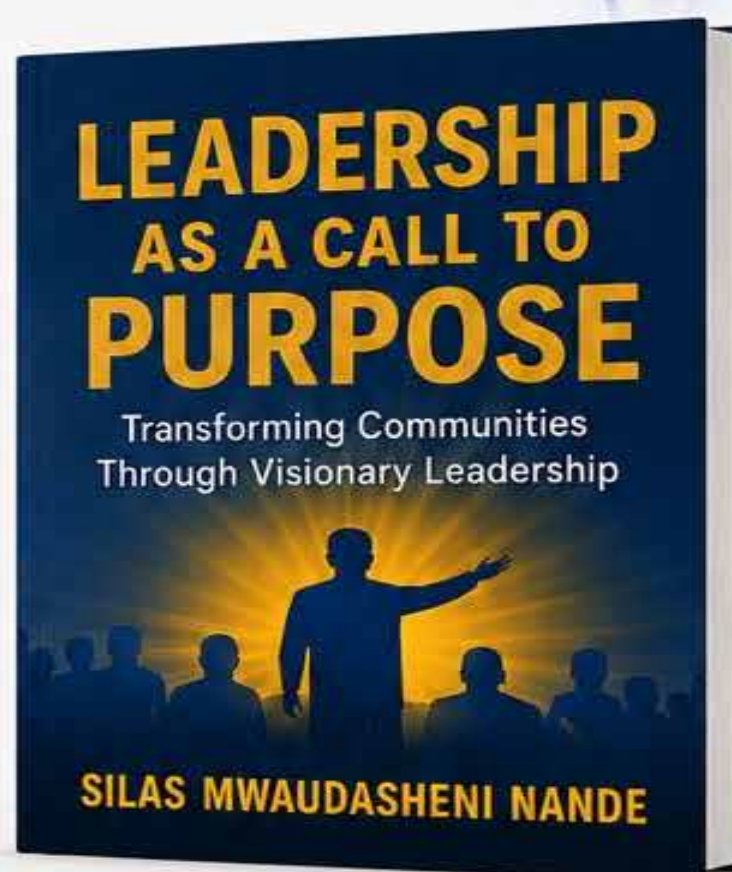
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Diaspora

Delegate the Labour, Keep the Judgement: Artificial Intelligence in Namibian Schools

A calculator does not weaken a mathematician. It weakens a pupil who never learned to multiply. That distinction decides whether artificial intelligence strengthens a school or hollows it out. The technology has already entered the staff room, the office of the principal and the administration block.



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

The arithmetic of an ordinary school week

Every teacher knows the shape of the week. There is the teaching, and then there is everything that surrounds the teaching. There are schemes of work and lesson preparations. There are worksheets, marking, mark sheets, remedial plans and reports. The second category consumes the evenings and the weekends.

The pressure is not imagined, and it is not peculiar to Namibia. UNESCO has recorded that sub Saharan Africa must recruit about 15 million teachers by 2030. The same assessment recorded one trained teacher for every 58 learners at primary level across the region. At secondary level the figure was about 43 learners for every trained teacher.

A school does not solve that ratio by exhortation. Teachers in this country already work hard, and most work beyond the hours they are paid for. The number of teachers is fixed by the establishment. The number of learners is fixed by the community. Only one variable remains open to a school, and that is the time consumed by tasks that never required professional judgement in the first place. The scarce resource in a Namibian school is not goodwill. It is the time of a qualified teacher.

What the evidence actually shows

Opinion on this subject is plentiful. Measurement is rarer, and it deserves more weight. The most substantial measurement available was published by Gallup, in partnership with the Walton Family Foundation, on 24 June 2025.

The survey covered 2,232 public school teachers. It was conducted between 18 March and 11 April 2025, through a nationally representative panel, with a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points. The findings were specific.

- Sixty per cent of teachers reported using artificial intelligence tools in their work.
- Thirty two per cent reported using such tools at least once a week.
- Teachers who used the tools weekly reported saving 5.9 hours in a working week.
- Across a school year of 37.4

weeks, that saving amounts to about six weeks of time returned.

The saving was not spread evenly across the duties of a teacher. Respondents reported time saved most often on the making of worksheets, at 84 per cent. Assessments followed at 83 per cent, administrative work at 81 per cent, lesson preparation at 80 per cent, and marking and feedback at 79 per cent.

Reported quality also rose. Majorities said the quality of their work improved, ranging from 57 per cent for marking and feedback to 74 per cent for administrative work. Teachers who used the tools weekly were roughly twice as likely as occasional users to report much higher quality. Two cautions belong beside those figures. These are perceptions reported by teachers, and not outcomes measured independently. The survey was conducted in the United States, and no equivalent study has been published for Namibia. The figures indicate a direction. They do not constitute a promise.

Evidence from the African continent

One rigorous study has been conducted closer to home. The World Bank reported on a pilot in Edo State, Nigeria, in a paper published on 9 January 2025. Learners attended an after school programme for six weeks, between June and July 2024, supported by a generative artificial intelligence tutor.

The measured gain was about 0.3 of a standard deviation. The authors described that gain as equivalent to nearly two years of ordinary learning, achieved in six weeks. Compared against a database of education interventions tested by randomised controlled trials in developing countries, the programme outperformed 80 per cent of them.

One point of clarity is needed here. The six weeks in the Nigerian study refers to the length of the programme itself. It has no connection to the six weeks of saved working time reported in the Gallup survey above. The first concerns how long learners were taught. The second concerns how much time teachers recovered across a year.

That result is striking, and it should still be treated with care. It concerns one subject area, one cohort and a short period. It has not been replicated in Namibian conditions. It is nevertheless the strongest African evidence currently available, and it points the same way as the survey data.

What this means for the teacher
Planning and daily preparation

The first honest use of artificial intelligence is drafting. A teacher can produce a first version of a scheme of work against the syllabus in min-



Artificial Intelligence in Namibian Schools

utes rather than hours. The draft will be imperfect. It will nevertheless be a starting point, and starting is the part that consumes the evening. The same applies to daily preparation. A teacher may ask for three different introductions to a lesson on photosynthesis. A teacher may ask for a worksheet at three levels of difficulty, for the fast learners, the middle group and those who struggle. A teacher may ask for a reading passage to be rewritten at a simpler reading level, without losing the content.

One caution is specific to Namibia. The national readiness assessment recorded a shortage of training data in indigenous languages. Output in Oshiwambo, Otjiherero, Khoekhoegowab or Rukwangali should therefore be checked closely by a first language speaker before it reaches a learner.

Assessment of learners

Assessment is where the time cost is heaviest and where the gain is largest. A teacher can draft a question paper aligned to stated objectives, build a marking memorandum, and produce a table of specification showing the spread of cognitive levels. A teacher can convert a column of raw marks into an item analysis that shows which question defeated the class.

A boundary must be drawn here, and it is not negotiable. The teacher awards the mark. The machine may draft the question, may suggest a rubric and may summarise a pattern. Professional judgement on the performance of a named child remains with the professional who knows that child.

Teaching itself

In the classroom the value is explanation. A teacher who has explained long division three times, and has

still not reached one child, can ask for four further approaches within a minute. A teacher can request analogies drawn from cattle, from mahangu fields or from the school tuck shop, rather than from a foreign textbook. Relevance is a pedagogical asset, and it has always been expensive to produce.

What this means for the principal

Evidence suggests that school leaders have adopted these tools faster than classroom teachers. A study by the RAND Corporation, published on 11 February 2025, examined the 2023 and 2024 school year. It found that 25 per cent of teachers had used artificial intelligence for instructional planning or teaching. It found that nearly 60 per cent of principals had used such tools in their work.

The reason is not difficult to identify. The working day of a principal is dominated by documents. There are annual plans, budgets, circulars, minutes, reports to the circuit, reports to the region, speeches and correspondence with parents. Every one of those begins with a blank page.

Planning and strategic management

A principal can convert a list of priorities into a structured annual plan, with objectives, indicators, responsible officers and target dates. A principal can ask for the weaknesses in a draft strategic plan to be identified before the management team meets. A principal can prepare an agenda, and then convert rough notes into formal minutes on the same afternoon.

Monitoring and evaluation of programmes

This is the most underused application in school leadership. A principal can submit three years of subject

results and ask for the trend, the outliers and the subjects in decline. A principal can ask which grade lost the most ground between the first and the second reporting period. A principal can request a class visit schedule that covers every teacher once a term without clashing with examinations.

A principal can also convert a folder of lesson observation notes into a summary of recurring strengths and recurring weaknesses. That summary then becomes the agenda for staff development, grounded in evidence rather than impression.

A warning belongs here. A principal who tables an unchecked report will eventually table an error, and the error will be public. Every figure must be traced back to the source document before the report is signed.

What this means for the administrative officer

The administrative officer is the post most often forgotten in this discussion, and the post where relief would be felt fastest. The duties are repetitive by design, and repetition is precisely what these tools handle well.

- Drafting routine correspondence, acknowledgements, invitations and standard letters to parents.
- Converting handwritten notes into formal minutes and circulars.
- Writing spreadsheet formulas for registers, stock records and petty cash reconciliation.
- Summarising long circulars from the circuit or the region into the three points that require action.
- Preparing inventory descriptions, filing indexes and standard forms.

Diaspora

Delegate the Labour, Keep the Judgement: Artificial Intelligence in Namibian Schools

A calculator does not weaken a mathematician. It weakens a pupil who never learned to multiply. That distinction decides whether artificial intelligence strengthens a school or hollows it out. The technology has already entered the staff room, the office of the principal and the administration block.

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One prohibition governs all of it. Personal information about a learner or a member of staff must never be entered into a public tool. That includes identity numbers, home addresses, medical details, disciplinary records and examination material.

This matters more in Namibia than in many countries. The national readiness assessment, launched on 14 August 2025, recorded that the Data Protection Bill had not been finalised. Where the law does not yet protect a learner, the professional standards of the school must.

The position of Namibia has already been taken

Some staff rooms still debate whether artificial intelligence belongs in a school. That debate has been overtaken by policy.

Hon. Dr Sanet Steenkamp, the Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture, set out the position in The Namibian on 2 July 2026. The Minister stated plainly that artificial intelligence cannot replace teachers. The approach adopted is human centric, with technology serving educational goals while human interaction and professional judgement are preserved.

The Minister was equally clear about the practical value. Artificial intelligence can assist with lesson planning, with assessments and with administrative work. Automating routine tasks frees teachers for mentoring and for the emotional development of learners. The Minister also required that consequential decisions affecting learners must not rest on a machine alone.

The structural position matches. On 20 August 2026 the Ministry launched the 2025 and 2026 Norms and Standards Framework for Schools. The framework prioritises digital literacy and the integration of information and communication technology, including applications of artificial intelligence. Deputy Minister Hon Dino Ballotti reminded the launch that standards are ultimately about people.

Implementation has also begun. A pilot at Luderitz Secondary School, launched in July 2025, ran as a five month research project with connectivity support from Telecom Namibia. The stated intention is expansion to 25 schools and 2,500 learners. The question before Namibian schools is no longer permission. It is competence.

Internationally, guidance already exists. UNESCO published its



Artificial Intelligence in Namibian Schools

Guidance for Generative AI in Education and Research on 7 September 2023. It calls for a human centred approach, for the protection of data privacy, and for an age limit on independent conversations between children and these platforms. It warns that most countries lack national regulation, leaving institutions unprepared to validate the tools they adopt.

The honest objection: does it make us lazy?

This objection deserves a serious answer rather than a dismissal, because there is evidence behind it. Michael Gerlich published a study in the journal Societies in 2025. It surveyed 666 participants in the United Kingdom and included 50 interviews. The study found a significant negative correlation between frequent use of artificial intelligence tools and critical thinking. The relationship was substantially mediated by cognitive offloading, meaning the habit of handing mental work to an external system.

Two findings from that study matter especially for schools. Younger participants showed greater dependence on the tools and lower critical thinking scores. Higher educational attainment was protective, and was associated with better critical thinking regardless of how often the tools were used.

A second paper, published in Frontiers in Psychology in 2025, calls this the cognitive paradox of artificial intelligence in education. Its authors conclude that artificial intelligence must be designed as an enabler rather than a substitute. That paper reports research from the University of Pennsylvania. Learners using a

chatbot answered 48 per cent more practice problems correctly. The same learners scored 17 per cent lower on conceptual understanding. Three qualifications are owed to the reader. Correlation is not causation. The Gerlich study surveyed the general population of one country, not teachers, and not Namibians. The Pennsylvania finding is reported here as it appears in the Frontiers paper, because the original study was not consulted directly.

Even with those qualifications, the danger is real, and it is specific. It is a danger of a particular way of using them. A teacher who copies a lesson plan unread has abandoned the profession, with or without a machine. Where the machine does the typing, the formatting, the first draft and the repetitive production, no thinking is lost. The thinking was never located there. Where the machine does the analysis, and the person accepts the output without examining it, something real is surrendered.

The professional therefore keeps the judgement and delegates the labour. A teacher who asks for a draft worksheet, and then adapts it for a particular class, has lost nothing and gained an hour. The reverse is also true, and it does not require a machine.

It is also worth remembering that the same anxiety accompanied earlier tools. The duplicating machine, the photocopier, the pocket calculator and the desktop computer each arrived with predictions of decline. None of them produced lazy teachers. Each of them returned time, and the profession absorbed them and moved on.

Ten rules for a school that intends to

use these tools well

Enthusiasm is not a policy. The following rules are offered as a starting point for any school that decides to proceed.

1. The professional signs the work. Responsibility for any document rests with the person whose name appears on it.
2. No personal information about a learner or a member of staff is ever entered into a public tool.
3. Every fact, date, figure, name and reference is verified before use. These systems produce confident errors.
4. The machine drafts. The human decides. That order is never reversed.
5. No mark is awarded, and no placement decision is taken, by a machine alone.
6. Use is declared wherever honesty requires it, including in work submitted for assessment.
7. Staff are trained before they are expected to comply. Budget for that training.
8. The school adopts a written policy of one page, and reviews it every year.
9. Learners are taught to use these tools openly and critically, rather than punished for discovering them alone.
10. The school reviews the effect after one term, and records what worked and what failed.

The tenth rule carries particular weight in Namibia. The RAND study of 2025 found that 45 per cent of principals reported having a school or district policy on artificial intelligence. It also found that more than 80 per cent of learners said their teachers had never explicitly taught them how to use these tools

for schoolwork. Adoption ran ahead of guidance, and Namibian schools have the opportunity not to repeat that error.

A breakthrough, properly understood

There is a further reason for Namibian schools to move deliberately rather than slowly. The RAND research found that teachers and principals in higher poverty schools reported markedly lower adoption than those in wealthier schools. Principals in the poorest schools were half as likely to provide guidance as principals in the wealthiest. That pattern is a warning for a country with the rural and urban disparities that Namibia carries. A tool that saves six weeks of professional time each year will widen the gap between schools if only some schools learn to use it. The remedy is training and access, delivered first where the need is greatest.

Artificial intelligence will not replace the teacher who stands before 40 learners in Ondobe. It cannot notice that a child has not eaten. It cannot telephone a guardian, sit with a grieving pupil, or decide that a boy needs encouragement rather than punishment. Those acts are the profession, and they are not automatable.

What the technology can do is take back the Sunday afternoon spent formatting a worksheet. It can take back the evening spent typing minutes. It can take back the hours spent building a question paper from nothing. On the available evidence that amounts to roughly six weeks of a working life each year.

Six weeks is not a trivial gift. Returned to a teacher, it becomes preparation, remediation and rest. Returned to a principal, it becomes time in classrooms rather than behind a desk. Returned to an administrative officer, it becomes accuracy instead of backlog. That is the case for embracing this technology, and it rests on evidence rather than on enthusiasm.

Artificial intelligence is here. It will not wait for the comfortable, and it will not punish the careful. Namibian educators should approach it as they would approach any powerful instrument entering a school. Learn it, govern it, set its limits in writing, and then put it to work.

Silas Mwaudasheni Nande is a Namibian school principal and an analytical writer on governance and public policy. He is a doctoral candidate in education, researching leadership of information and communication technology in rural schools. The views expressed are personal.

The role of phones and social media in the lives of older people

Today, mobile phones and social media are becoming an increasingly important part of everyday life. This process affects not only young people but also older adults.



By: Kurbanbayev Kilichbek Kuchkarovich
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The role of phones and social media in the lives of older people

Worth Noting:

- In Uzbek families, however, the lives of older people are traditionally closely connected with their children, grandchildren, relatives, and neighbors. For this reason, the phone can have a much broader meaning for an elderly person than simply being a communication device.
- For example, when a child living in another region calls their elderly parent regularly and asks about their health, this simple act can provide considerable emotional support. Seeing photographs and videos of grandchildren and participating in family group conversations can also help older people feel connected to their families.
- Through social media, older people can communicate with relatives and friends, receive information about family events, follow community news, and find materials related to their interests.
- Digital services are also creating new opportunities for older people to access certain social and public services. In Uzbekistan, mechanisms for identifying elderly people in need and providing them with social assistance at the community level have been developed.

Today, mobile phones and social media are becoming an increasingly important part of everyday life. This process affects not only young people but also older adults. For an elderly person who does not have the opportunity to live close to their children, grandchildren, or other relatives, even an ordinary mobile phone can become a means of maintaining affection, communication, and family connections across distance. In Uzbek society, respect for parents and older people, caring for elderly family members, and maintaining regular communication between parents, children, and grandchildren are deeply rooted cultural values. As children increasingly study or work in other cities and countries, mobile communication has become an important tool for maintaining these traditional family relationships. Today, an older person can hear the voice of a child, see a grandchild through a video call, receive family photographs, and participate in family group conversations. In this sense, a mobile phone is not merely a technological device; it can also serve as a means of strengthening social and family connections. At the same time, the benefits of technology should be considered alongside its potential risks. At an older age, certain changes related to vision, hearing, mobility, and information processing may occur. Therefore, the use of phones and social media should be approached not only from a technological perspective but also from medical, psychological, and

social perspectives. In Uzbekistan, social support for older people is also increasingly organized at the community level. The cooperation of families, mahallas, social services, and healthcare professionals plays an important role in protecting the well-being of elderly citizens.

Main Part

1. The Role of Phones and Social Media in the Lives of Older People

Old age is a natural stage of human life during which certain changes may occur in a person's social environment. Retirement, reduced daily interaction with colleagues and friends, the establishment of separate households by adult children, or living in another region can affect an older person's everyday social life. In Uzbek families, however, the lives of older people are traditionally closely connected with their children, grandchildren, relatives, and neighbors. For this reason, the phone can have a much broader meaning for an elderly person than simply being a communication device. For example, when a child living in another region calls their elderly parent regularly and asks about their health, this simple act can provide considerable emotional support. Seeing photographs and videos of grandchildren and participating in family group conversations can also help older people feel connected to their families. Through social media, older people can communicate

with relatives and friends, receive information about family events, follow community news, and find materials related to their interests. Digital services are also creating new opportunities for older people to access certain social and public services. In Uzbekistan, mechanisms for identifying elderly people in need and providing them with social assistance at the community level have been developed. Thus, phones and the internet can help older people maintain social connections, communicate with loved ones, and remain informed about important events in their communities.

2. Positive Effects of Information Technologies on Older People

The reasonable use of phones and social media can have several positive effects on the lives of older adults.

Strengthening Family Connections

In Uzbek culture, regularly asking about the well-being of one's parents is considered an important expression of respect and family responsibility. A phone allows these relationships to continue even when family members live far apart. A simple question such as, "How are you feeling, Mother?" or "Have you taken your medicine, Father?" can have significant emotional value for an elderly person. Maintaining Communication with Grandchildren Today, younger generations actively use digital technologies. When older people learn to use video calls,

voice messages, and photo sharing, communication between generations can become easier and more frequent. Technology can therefore help reduce the emotional distance between grandparents and grandchildren who live in different cities or countries.

Greater Access to Information

Older people can use the internet to obtain information about healthy nutrition, physical activity, disease prevention, healthy lifestyles, and healthcare services. However, medical information requires particular caution. Not every piece of information published on social media is scientifically reliable, and online advice should not automatically be considered a substitute for professional medical consultation.

Maintaining Social Activity

Through phones and social networks, older adults can continue communicating with relatives, friends, former colleagues, and acquaintances. This can be especially important for people who live alone or whose daily social interactions have decreased.

Adapting to Modern Life

Learning to use modern technologies can support older people's independence in everyday activities. For example, knowing how to find a telephone number, make a video call, use a map, or search for necessary in-

formation can make everyday life easier.

3. Negative Effects of Phones and Social Media

Although technology offers many benefits, excessive or uncontrolled use can also create certain problems.

Prolonged Screen Exposure

Spending too much time looking at a phone screen can contribute to eye fatigue, discomfort in the neck and shoulders, and reduced physical activity. For older adults, excessive inactivity can negatively affect their overall healthy lifestyle. Therefore, phone use should not replace walking, household activities, face-to-face conversations, or other forms of physical and social activity.

Disruption of Sleep

Spending a long time using a phone late at night may negatively affect sleep patterns. Regular and adequate sleep is an important component of well-being in older age.

Unreliable Medical Information

Social media contains numerous recommendations about medicines, traditional remedies, diets, and methods of treating diseases. Not all of these claims are scientifically supported. A treatment that appears to have helped one person may not be safe or appropriate for another. This is particularly important for older people who may take several medications at the same time. Changing, stopping, or adding medication based solely on information found online can be dangerous.

Online Fraud

Older people should also be protected against telephone and internet fraud. Personal information such as bank card details, passwords, and verification codes received by SMS should never be shared with strangers. In Uzbek families, children and grandchildren can play an important role in helping elderly relatives recognize suspicious messages and phone calls. When an older person receives a suspicious message or call, discussing it with a trusted family member before taking action can provide additional protection.

Reduction in Face-to-Face Communication

The role of phones and social media in the lives of older people

Today, mobile phones and social media are becoming an increasingly important part of everyday life. This process affects not only young people but also older adults.

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Worth Noting:

- In Uzbek culture, regularly asking about the well-being of one's parents is considered an important expression of respect and family responsibility. A phone allows these relationships to continue even when family members live far apart.
- A simple question such as, "How are you feeling, Mother?" or "Have you taken your medicine, Father?" can have significant emotional value for an elderly person.
- Maintaining Communication with Grandchildren
- Today, younger generations actively use digital technologies. When older people learn to use video calls, voice messages, and photo sharing, communication between generations can become easier and more frequent.
- Technology can therefore help reduce the emotional distance between grandparents and grandchildren who live in different cities or countries.



The role of phones and social media in the lives of older people

Communication through a phone cannot completely replace face-to-face interaction. In Uzbek culture, visiting elderly parents, asking about their well-being in person, sharing a meal, having a conversation, and receiving their blessing are important aspects of family life.

Therefore, making a phone call should not be viewed as a complete substitute for personal attention. Digital communication should complement, rather than replace, genuine human relationships.

4. Prevention: Recommendations from Healthcare Professionals for the Use of Social Media

Preventive measures are important in reducing the potential negative effects of excessive or unsafe technology use among older adults.

1. Use Phones Purposefully
A phone should not occupy an elderly person's entire day. It is more beneficial when used for communication, necessary information, educational content, and other meaningful activities.

2. Maintain Physical Activity
Older adults should avoid remaining seated with a phone for long periods. Whenever possible, they should take breaks, walk, engage in light physical activity, and maintain an active daily routine.

3. Choose Reliable Medical Sources

Health-related information should preferably be obtained from qualified healthcare professionals, medical institutions, and reliable health organizations. Information found on social media should not be considered a replacement for a medical examination or professional advice.

4. Do Not Make Independent Decisions About Medication

Older people should consult a healthcare professional before changing the dosage of a medicine, stopping a prescribed medication, or beginning a new treatment based on information found online.

5. Protect Personal Information

Older adults should be taught basic principles of digital security, including: never sharing SMS verification codes with strangers; never providing bank card details to unknown individuals; avoiding suspicious links; consulting a family member before responding to suspicious messages.

6. Support from Family Members

Older people should not be criticized for having difficulty using modern technology. Instead, family members should patiently help them learn.

Children and grandchildren

can show elderly relatives how to use important functions and write down simple instructions for future reference. Such support can make technology easier and safer to use.

7. Do Not Allow Technology to Replace Affection

One of the most important preventive principles is maintaining real human interaction. Calling an elderly parent is valuable, but visiting them in person, spending time together, listening to them, and receiving their blessing are also important expressions of family care. In Uzbek culture, the blessing of an elderly person is traditionally regarded as a source of spiritual support and family well-being. Therefore, technology should strengthen these relationships rather than replace them.

8. Cooperation Between Communities and Healthcare Professionals

Identifying elderly people who live alone or require additional care and understanding their social and medical needs are important components of prevention. Cooperation among family members, mahalla representatives, social workers, and healthcare professionals can help ensure that older people receive appropriate assistance.

Therefore, the use of phones and social media by older adults should not be con-

sidered merely a personal or technological issue. It is also connected with healthy ageing, social participation, digital safety, and quality of life.

Conclusion

Phones and social media have become important technological tools in the lives of older people, and their impact largely depends on how and for what purposes they are used.

In Uzbekistan, this issue has a particular cultural dimension. Mobile phones often serve as a bridge connecting elderly parents with their children, grandchildren, and relatives. For older people whose children live in another region or abroad, regular phone calls and video conversations can provide meaningful emotional support.

However, digital communication should not replace traditional family relationships. A phone call from a child may bring happiness to an elderly parent, but visiting them in person, sharing time together, listening to them, and receiving their blessing carry their own unique value.

Therefore, instead of completely restricting technology use among older people, it is more appropriate to develop a culture of safe, moderate, purposeful, and beneficial use of phones and

social media.

Family members, mahalla communities, social services, and healthcare professionals all have an important role to play in this process. Teaching an older person to use technology means helping them adapt to modern life; teaching them to use it safely means protecting their health, privacy, and well-being.

Most importantly, technology should never replace human warmth.

Let the phone shorten distances, but never let it replace love, attention, and family affection.

About the Author

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From 2013 to 2015, he studied at Tashkent Medical Academy, specializing in "OMX."

Since 2015, he has been working as a Specialized Subject Teacher at Abu Ali ibn Sino Public Health Technical School in Yangi-Yer City, Syrdarya Region, Uzbekistan.

His professional activities focus on teaching medical subjects, developing the professional knowledge and practical skills of future healthcare specialists, and promoting knowledge related to public health and healthy lifestyles.

Nuclear energy debate must begin with public trust and shared responsibility

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

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Kenya's planned nuclear town hall at Maseno University offers a rare chance to build the informed, honest national conversation that a decision of this magnitude demands

By James Kilonzo Bwire

The planned Nuclear Energy Town Hall Debate at Maseno University on October 30 represents something Kenya has rarely managed on complex national questions: a deliberate effort to bring government, academia, industry and citizens into the same room before major decisions are made, not after.

The courtesy call by representatives of the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency, KenGen, Maseno University and civil society organisations to the Vice Chancellor should therefore be understood as more than a preparatory meeting. It signals an intention to treat public participation as a genuine part of the decision-making process — not a communication exercise designed to secure approval for conclusions already reached elsewhere.

That distinction matters enormously. Nuclear energy cannot be managed as a matter for one government agency or one technical department. It raises questions that cut across energy planning, public policy, economics, environmental management, safety regulation, land use, waste management, public health and intergenerational responsibility. It also raises the deeper question of what kind of development Kenya seeks to pursue and whether the institutions required to manage complex technology responsibly are in place. A serious national conversation must involve people with different forms of knowledge and different accountabilities to the public. For nuclear energy specifically, public dialogue is not optional — it is structurally necessary. Many Kenyans will encounter the subject through political statements, social media or international news coverage of nuclear accidents and disputes. Others may associate nuclear power with weapons rather than electricity generation. Some will have genuine concerns about radiation, plant safety, radioactive waste, emergency preparedness and environmental consequences. Those concerns should not be dismissed as ignorance or reflexive opposition to development. They should be addressed through clear explanations, credible evidence and respectful engagement.

Public confidence in a national nuclear programme cannot be demanded. It must be earned through transparency, demonstrable competence and consistent accountability. The public must understand why nuclear energy is being considered,

what problem it is expected to solve, how it will complement Kenya's existing electricity mix and what safeguards will govern its development. Public education must also avoid presenting nuclear energy as an automatic answer to every energy challenge. Honest communication about both opportunities and limitations is the only foundation on which durable public trust can be built.

Maseno University's role in this process deserves particular attention. As an institution of higher learning, it carries a responsibility to promote evidence-based inquiry and independent thought — not simply to provide a venue. Its involvement should ensure the debate is not controlled entirely by official or industry perspectives. Researchers from engineering, environmental science, law, economics, public health and social sciences should each have space to examine nuclear energy from different angles. The university's co-ownership of the initiative implies a shared commitment to honest discussion, not a managed communication outcome.

Universities also have a responsibility to make complex issues genuinely accessible. Academic knowledge confined to specialised publications serves limited public purpose. Through student participation, public lectures and accessible research communication, Maseno and its peers can help communities understand both the technical and social dimensions of what is being proposed. The partnership between the university and other stakeholders should therefore extend well beyond the town hall itself.

KenGen's participation brings institutional experience in electricity generation and energy infrastructure. Its involvement can help the public understand nuclear power within the context of Kenya's broader electricity system — existing and planned generation sources, transmission requirements, demand growth and affordability. Nuclear energy should not be discussed in isolation from those realities. The debate should clarify whether nuclear generation is being considered as a complement to other sources or as a replacement for them, and on what timescale.

Industry participation must, however, be balanced by independent scrutiny. The public needs to hear from technical operators, but it must also have access to experts who can examine claims, identify risks and ask difficult questions. A credible forum is not one designed to produce automatic approval. Its purpose is to improve public understanding and enable citizens to evaluate the programme on the basis of evidence. Public acceptance built on incomplete information will not provide a stable foundation for a long-term



Kenya's planned nuclear town hall at Maseno University

national commitment of this scale. Civil society organisations bring a distinct and necessary perspective. They carry questions of accountability, environmental protection, social justice and community rights into spaces that might otherwise remain purely technical. Their involvement can help ensure that engagement reaches groups who may not ordinarily participate in such forums. Responsible criticism, when taken seriously, improves public policy by identifying weaknesses before they become costly problems. Government agencies, universities and industry should regard civil society as a partner in accountability, not as an obstacle to progress.

The debate must also cover the complete life cycle of nuclear energy — not merely electricity generation and economic projections. Site selection, construction, plant operation, emergency preparedness, decommissioning and the long-term management of radioactive waste each carry specific responsibilities and risks. Citizens should be clearly informed about how regulatory, promotional and operational functions will be separated, and why that separation matters. A regulator that lacks independence from the institutions it oversees provides no meaningful protection.

Emergency preparedness deserves direct and detailed attention. Communities near any future facility need to understand the systems designed to protect them, the roles of different institutions during an emergency and the information they would receive. That preparedness must be developed, tested and publicly explained well before construction begins, not after.

The question of radioactive waste requires equal honesty. The public

is entitled to know how radioactive materials will be handled, stored, transported and monitored across their entire operational life. Long-term responsibilities must be clearly assigned, and any uncertainty in this area should be acknowledged and addressed through research and international cooperation, not smoothed over with general assurances.

Affordability and financial accountability are equally important. Nuclear power projects require major long-term investment and strong institutional management. The public should be informed about how such a programme would be financed, how costs would be controlled and how consumers would be protected. Economic claims about future electricity prices and employment should be supported by clear assumptions and subjected to independent review.

Communication will determine whether the engagement succeeds or becomes another missed opportunity. Technical language must be explained in accessible terms without sacrificing accuracy. Questions raised during the debate should be recorded and answered publicly. The organisers should communicate clearly what was learned, which issues require further work and how public contributions will inform subsequent decisions.

The media carries its own responsibility here. Journalists and editors should report nuclear energy accurately, avoiding sensational treatment of technical or safety issues. Public understanding weakens when complex matters are reduced to political claims or isolated incidents. Good journalism can help prevent both unnecessary alarm and unjustified confidence.

Students at Maseno and across Kenya should be active participants, not passive observers. They are the future engineers, regulators, journalists, public officials and community leaders who will live with the consequences of decisions being taken now. Their questions and concerns deserve to be taken seriously.

A single town hall cannot resolve a question of this magnitude. It should mark the beginning of a sustained national engagement programme involving universities, schools, professional bodies, county governments, media institutions and local communities across the country. The public must be able to follow developments, examine new information as it emerges and hold institutions accountable for the commitments they make.

Kenya has an opportunity to demonstrate that decisions about complex technology and long-term national development can be handled with genuine openness and shared responsibility. The involvement of NuPEA, KenGen, Maseno University and civil society provides the institutional foundation. What matters now is ensuring that the spirit of cooperation shown during the courtesy call continues through the debate, beyond it and into the years of difficult, consequential work that follows.

The October 30 debate at Maseno should not be judged by how many people leave supporting nuclear power. It should be judged by how much better they understand the question — its possibilities, its risks and the shared responsibilities it carries for this generation and the next.