

Removing Tata Chemicals is the easy part — the harder question is what Kenya intends to build in its place

Tata Chemicals

Ruto has made his position plain. He argues that the previous arrangement failed to deliver sufficient economic value to Kajiado, particularly through local manufacturing and job creation. :



Magadi was never just about soda ash: Kenya's new fight for its natural wealth

By: Levis Wangamati

For more than a century, something valuable has been sitting in Kenya's soil while the country has struggled to turn that value into broad-based industrial wealth. The story of Lake Magadi — its ancient alkaline waters, its vast deposits of trona and the long succession of extraction arrangements that have governed them — is, in miniature, the story of Kenya's complicated relationship with its own natural endowment. Now, with President William Ruto's decision to push Tata Chemicals out of its Magadi soda ash operations and his announcement that the mining contract will be opened to fresh competition, that old



President William Ruto

story has reached a new and potentially decisive chapter. What Kenya does with it will reveal more about the country's economic ambitions than any policy document or development plan ever could. The question is no longer simply whether Tata Chemicals should stay or go. That particular argument, charged as it has become, is in many ways the less important one. The more consequential question is what Kenya intends to do with the opportunity created by the company's departure. If a new investor arrives, extracts the same mineral, ships it out in largely the same unprocessed form and leaves Kenya argu-

Contd Page 10

Emirates launches world's first electric Premium Economy seat with full-height privacy screen

UAE



Page 12

Tesla launches driverless Cybercab robotaxi service in Austin, Texas

Cybercab robotaxi
America



Page 16

Corruption and greed drove me to write Chaos Within Kinsmen, says South Sudanese playwright

Books



Page 18

Asia



Page 20

Microsoft appoints Angela as East Africa country lead P4

Motivation Page 8
The mindset that separates successful learners from the rest

News Backpage
John Keats: Beauty, Pain, Escapism, and the Poetic Imagination



Music hub to transform Kadoma youth

Drug and substance abuse continues to strip young people of their futures across the world. From opioids and alcohol in wealthier nations to crystal meth, marijuana and codeine across Africa, millions of youths are caught in cycles of addiction, unemployment and despair. The United

Nations estimates that more than 296 million people globally used drugs in 2023, with young people aged between 15 and 24 the most severely affected. In Zimbabwe, the crisis is felt in towns and cities alike. Idleness, peer pressure and a shortage of recreational facilities have left many youths exposed to substance abuse, crime and deteriorating mental health. Community leaders and social development experts broadly agree that prevention through skills training, sport, music and mentorship offers one of the most effective

reponses. It is against that backdrop that a Kadoma-based music production company has moved to act. Skinner

Contd Page 14

FREE
REGISTRATION

START
NOW!

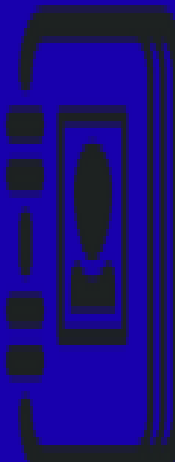


CLASSIFY

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

www.businessavaibale.com



Rising insecurity requires professional attention, not political theatre

By: Collins Kibet
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Security cannot be reduced to rhetoric. It is a professional responsibility that demands competent institutions, reliable intelligence, properly equipped personnel and a justice system capable of responding swiftly and fairly. The greatest threat to public safety is not only the criminal operating in the shadows. It is equally the possibility that political noise could distract the state from its most fundamental obligation: the protection of life and property.
- The consequences of failing that obligation ripple outward in ways that statistics rarely capture. When a trader closes early because the streets feel unsafe, when parents calculate the risks of letting children travel after dark, when communities quietly lose confidence in the agencies meant to protect them — the damage extends far beyond individual incidents. Insecurity disrupts livelihoods, discourages investment, undermines education and deepens economic hardship for people who are already carrying more than enough.



Kenya is confronting an increasingly uncomfortable security reality

Kenya is confronting an increasingly uncomfortable security reality. From urban centres to rural communities, fear is quietly becoming part of everyday life. Reports of robberies, violent crime, banditry and unexplained disappearances continue to raise serious questions about the country's capacity to protect its citizens — and about whether those entrusted with answering that question are asking it honestly. Yet whenever insecurity dominates public debate, the conversation too often collapses into political accusations, blame games and competing narratives carefully constructed for electoral advantage. That approach does not make anyone safer. It obscures the real issue, which is the safety of ordinary Kenyans who have no interest in who scores the political point, only in whether they can walk home without fear. Security cannot be reduced to rhetoric. It is a professional responsibility that

demands competent institutions, reliable intelligence, properly equipped personnel and a justice system capable of responding swiftly and fairly. The greatest threat to public safety is not only the criminal operating in the shadows. It is equally the possibility that political noise could distract the state from its most fundamental obligation: the protection of life and property. The consequences of failing that obligation ripple outward in ways that statistics rarely capture. When a trader closes early because the streets feel unsafe, when parents calculate the risks of letting children travel after dark, when communities quietly lose confidence in the agencies meant to protect them — the damage extends far beyond individual incidents. Insecurity disrupts livelihoods, discourages investment, undermines education and deepens economic hardship for people who are already carrying more than enough. Kenya must move deliber-

ately from reactive security management towards a preventive, intelligence-driven approach that anticipates threats rather than merely responding to them after harm has been done. Authorities need to strengthen intelligence gathering, invest in community policing, tighten border surveillance, build investigative capacity and develop rapid-response mechanisms that actually function when they are needed. Security officers must receive adequate training, proper equipment and genuine institutional support. An officer who is poorly equipped, inadequately trained and unsupported cannot be expected to deliver professional results, and blaming them for systemic failures that begin far above their rank is neither fair nor productive. Professionalism, however, must be inseparable from accountability. A secure Kenya cannot be built on tolerating abuses of power. The fight against crime must operate within the

Constitution, respect human dignity and honour the rule of law — not as an inconvenient constraint, but as the very foundation of legitimate authority. Citizens should be protected from criminals without becoming victims of unlawful state action. When security forces operate outside the law, they do not supplement justice. They erode the public trust that effective policing depends upon. Political leaders carry their own responsibility here, and it is one that too many have been willing to abdicate. Insecurity must not become a weapon for political mobilisation. Crime does not belong to one political party, one ethnic community or one region of the country. It is a national problem that demands a national response, and security cannot be selectively discussed depending on who currently occupies the offices responsible for it. Leaders who raise the alarm loudly in opposition and fall silent in government — or

vice versa — are not contributing to solutions. They are contributing to the cynicism that makes solutions harder to achieve.

Citizens, too, have a role that cannot be outsourced. Communities that cooperate with security agencies, share credible information and resist the pull of mob justice and vigilantism make the work of professional policing more effective. The frustration that drives people towards taking the law into their own hands is understandable — institutions that move slowly and deliver justice inconsistently test the patience of even the most law-abiding communities. But vigilantism does not resolve that frustration. It creates another cycle of violence, another set of victims and another layer of insecurity that the state must then manage on top of everything else.

The question Kenya should be asking is not who can speak most forcefully about insecurity, but who is genuinely prepared to address it — professionally, consistently and without regard for whether the victims or perpetrators are politically convenient.

The country does not need more theatre. It needs stronger institutions, credible investigations, effective policing, impartial justice and leadership that places the safety of citizens demonstrably above political convenience.

Because when Kenyans become afraid to walk freely, conduct business, travel at night or express themselves without looking over their shoulders, insecurity ceases to be merely a policing problem. It becomes a test of whether the state is able and willing to honour the most basic promise it makes to the people who live with it.

Reach Editorial Team on:

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Diaspora Times Global



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



Associate Publisher & Senior
Editor UK & G. Britain
Shamlal Puri, London
E: media@adlinkinternational.com
(advertising inquiries only)
shamlalpuril4@gmail.com
(editorial)
Phone 0044 330 606 1438.
WhatsApp 00447432220184



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



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



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

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



LOCAL
BUSINESS
DIRECTORY
NEAR ME

SCAN TO REGISTER

Contact Us:



+254 720 918 828



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Business

Microsoft appoints Angela Nganga as East Africa country lead

The Nairobi-based executive brings over two decades of technology and policy experience to one of the company's most strategically important regional roles

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Nganga, who is based in Nairobi, will oversee Microsoft's engagements across the region with a focus on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, skills development and partnerships with governments, businesses and startups. The appointment signals the company's intent to deepen its presence in a region that has emerged as one of Africa's most active technology and innovation hubs.

- "I am delighted to lead Microsoft's work in East Africa as the region strengthens its position as an innovation and AI hub," Nganga said, adding that her priorities would include building AI skills and workforce readiness while helping East African companies become producers — not merely consumers — of artificial intelligence technology. The distinction is a meaningful one in a continent where much of the technology shaping daily life is still designed and built elsewhere.



Angela Nganga/courtesy

Microsoft has appointed Angela Nganga as its Country Lead for East Africa, placing one of its most experienced regional executives at the helm of the company's operations across Kenya and the wider East African market.

Nganga, who is based in Nairobi, will oversee Microsoft's engagements across the region with a focus on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, skills development and partnerships with governments, businesses and startups. The appointment signals the company's intent to deepen

its presence in a region that has emerged as one of Africa's most active technology and innovation hubs.

"I am delighted to lead Microsoft's work in East Africa as the region strengthens its position as an innovation and AI hub," Nganga said, adding that her priorities would include building AI skills and workforce readiness while helping East African companies become producers — not merely consumers — of artificial intelligence technology. The distinction is a meaningful one in a continent where much of the technology

shaping daily life is still designed and built elsewhere.

Nganga is not new to the company or the region. She joined Microsoft in 2012 and has held a succession of senior roles that have taken her across Africa and the broader Middle East and Africa territory. She served as Regional Director of Customer Success for East and West Africa, Director of Corporate Affairs for the Middle East and Africa, and Education Industry Director for Africa — a portfolio that spans the commercial, institutional and policy dimensions of technology de-

ployment at scale.

Before joining Microsoft, she built her career at the intersection of technology, public affairs and policy, holding senior roles at Telkom Kenya and AAR Health Services. That background, spanning more than 20 years across technology, telecommunications, healthcare and public policy, gives her an unusually broad vantage point from which to navigate the complex relationships between the private sector, governments and the communities that technology is meant to serve.

The appointment comes at a

pivotal moment for the region. Kenya in particular has positioned itself as a gateway for technology investment in sub-Saharan Africa, with a growing startup ecosystem, an expanding pool of technical talent and increasing government attention to digital infrastructure and AI readiness. Microsoft has been an active participant in that environment, but the scale of ambition now attached to AI across both the public and private sectors demands a level of strategic engagement that goes well beyond product sales.

Nganga's mandate — to work with governments, businesses and startups to expand AI skills and help local companies develop their own AI solutions — reflects that shift. The goal is not simply to sell cloud services or software licences. It is to help build the conditions under which East African organisations can shape AI outcomes rather than simply adopt them.

Whether that ambition translates into measurable change will depend on execution. But in Nganga, Microsoft has chosen someone who has spent more than a decade learning how the region works from the inside.

The Diaspora Times Global

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



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

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

Grow your business
with us

SKYVIEW
Smart Solutions



OUR SERVICES:

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



Call us on

+91 811 576 6421 +966 53 879 2285



Visit our website

www.skyviewads.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

The Impact of Interaction with Artificial Intelligence on the Psychology of Children and Adolescents: Psychological Risks and Opportunities of Virtual Companions



By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Abstract.

This article discusses the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies into the lives of children and adolescents and its dual impact on their psychological development. While virtual companions create unprecedented opportunities for personalizing the educational process, developing social skills, and providing emotional support, the psychological risks of interacting with these technologies—including lack of empathy, technological dependence, and information security issues—can negatively affect the mental health and social adaptation of the younger generation. The article analyzes the positive role of AI-based virtual companions in cognitive development, motivation, and academic performance, while also examining their potential for emotional support in reducing stress and anxiety. Furthermore, serious risks such as over-reliance on AI, absence of human empathy, and personal data security are thoroughly analyzed.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, vir-

tual companions, child psychology, adolescent psychology, psychological risks, psychological opportunities, digital development, technological dependence.

Introduction

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and their deep integration into daily life—especially into the world of children and adolescents—remains a pressing topic for modern psychological research. Virtual companions, namely AI-based conversational agents, create unprecedented opportunities for the younger generation to learn, develop social skills, and even receive emotional support. For instance, AI systems can personalize learning, stimulate children's interests, and help them master complex concepts. However, there are also psychological risks and negative consequences associated with interacting with these technologies, which can significantly affect the mental health, social development, and moral values of children and adolescents. Issues such as over-reliance on AI, a lack of human empathy and face-to-face interaction, and personal data security require serious attention. Understanding the balance between these dual impacts—opportunities and risks—is essential to ensuring the healthy development of the younger generation in a digital environment.

Main Body

The impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies on child and adolescent psychology is complex and multifaceted, opening doors to new opportunities while carrying serious risks. This section provides a de-

tailed analysis of the positive effects of virtual companions and AI tools on youth development, highlighting their role in enhancing educational, social, and emotional capacity. Additionally, the psychological risks of interacting with these technologies—including lack of empathy, technological dependence, data security, and ethical dilemmas—are thoroughly examined. The goal is to comprehensively evaluate the effect of AI interaction on the mental health, social adaptation, and moral values of children and adolescents [4].

AI-based virtual companions and educational platforms can play a key role in the cognitive development of children and adolescents. AI systems allow for the personalization of the learning process, adapting to the individual needs and learning pace of each child. For example, AI-based adaptive learning programs present materials tailored to a child's knowledge level and interests, making complex concepts easier to understand. This approach boosts learning motivation and improves academic performance. Young children may perceive AI-based devices intuitively as living entities, which positively influences their imagination, speech, and logical thinking. AI games, educational software, and robots in early childhood education help enhance language skills, form mathematical concepts, and foster an interest in the arts [3].

Virtual companions also offer unprecedented opportunities for emotional support. AI chatbots can serve as effective tools for coping with stress, anxiety, and feelings of loneliness, particularly during adolescence. These virtual assistants

create a personal, convenient, and confidential communication environment, allowing teenagers to speak openly about their problems. This is especially vital for users who are hesitant to seek professional psychological help or have limited access to it. For example, chatbots based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), such as Woebot, analyze emotional states through text and offer guidance, gaining popularity among youth. Applications like Replika, which act as artificial friends, assess mental states through conversation and offer emotional support via motivational and comforting responses. Such systems can aid adolescents in developing emotional intelligence and managing their emotions.

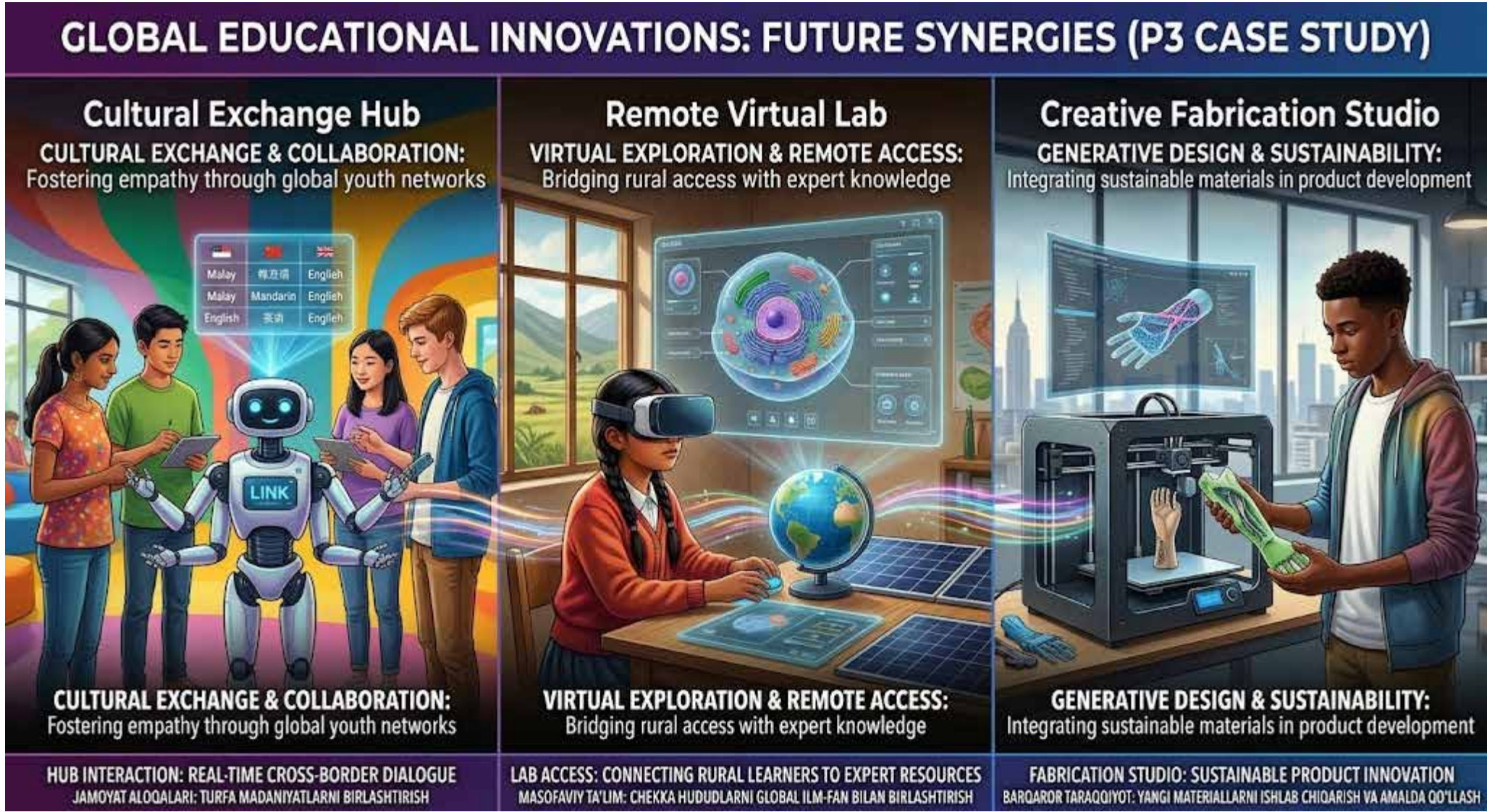
AI technologies also open new avenues for developing social skills. Certain virtual companions allow children to simulate social situations, learn rules of interaction, and practice empathy. This can be especially beneficial for children with social anxiety or autism spectrum disorders, as they can explore social interactions within a safe, controlled environment. Furthermore, AI systems can help identify dangerous situations early. In some schools (for instance, in China), AI systems monitor students' attention levels, fatigue, and stress in real-time, allowing teachers to detect negative changes in a student's psychological state early and take appropriate action [1]. Early detection capabilities and rapid analysis play a crucial role in protecting the mental health of children and teens.

In addition, AI technologies function as interactive tools that help children and adolescents acquire

new knowledge and skills. They can present information across various disciplines in an engaging, accessible format, provide step-by-step guidance for complex problem-solving, and stimulate creative thinking. AI-based games and applications help improve problem-solving abilities, critical thinking, and digital literacy—preparing youth for the future digital society. Virtual companions also assist children in self-expression, forming independent opinions, and refining communication skills by offering opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions, and explore diverse topics.

Alongside the positive aspects of interacting with AI, there are significant psychological risks that can negatively affect child and adolescent development. These risks primarily stem from the unique nature of human interaction and the inherent limitations of AI. One of the primary risks is the lack of empathy and genuine human connection. AI systems cannot deeply feel human emotions or respond to them authentically. While virtual companions can simulate empathy, they cannot build real emotional bonds. For children and adolescents, emotional connection, understanding, and support are integral components of human relationships. Excessive interaction with AI may hinder the development of empathy skills in children, weakening their ability to understand and adapt to the feelings of others, potentially leading to weakened real-life connections and social isolation.

The Impact of Interaction with Artificial Intelligence on the Psychology of Children and Adolescents: Psychological Risks and Opportunities of Virtual Companions



Contd from Page 6
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Another serious risk is technological dependence and misplaced trust in artificial intelligence. Children and adolescents may become overly attached to AI, viewing virtual companions as substitutes for real friends or advisors. This shift can lead to withdrawal from real-world social relationships and a decline in social skills [5]. Excessive reliance on AI can be particularly dangerous regarding mental health; users may depend entirely on AI and delay or forgo professional psychological assistance. Furthermore, AI systems carry the risk of drawing incorrect conclusions or offering inappropriate advice when handling complex psychological conditions or incomplete information, which can severely impact a young person's mental well-being.

Information security and confidentiality are also key psychological risks in AI interaction. During conversations with virtual companions, children and adolescents may share sensitive personal details. Misuse, unauthorized sharing, or theft of this data through cyberattacks poses severe risks. Without proper data protection, youth face risks of privacy violations, cyberbullying, or other negative consequences. Moreover, AI technologies can be exploited for information manipulation, altering children's worldviews, moral values, and decision-making processes. High trust in AI directly impacts children's thinking, as they may view AI as a "magical" or infal-

lible source of truth [3]. The influence of AI on the moral development of children and adolescents warrants special attention. The information and moral norms presented through virtual companions play a key role in shaping their value systems. If AI systems promote flawed or controversial moral principles, it can negatively warp young people's moral frameworks. It is essential to cultivate a conscious and critical attitude toward technology in children, explaining that AI is merely a human-directed tool and that human values remain supreme. Otherwise, children may view AI as an absolute authority or source of ultimate truth, losing their critical thinking skills—which undermines their ability to make independent decisions and resolve ethical dilemmas.

A further psychological risk of interacting with virtual companions is the tendency to oversimplify complex human relationships. AI systems cannot fully grasp the subtle nuances of human communication, such as facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice. This limitation may weaken a child's ability to read and adapt to subtle cues in real-world interactions. As a result, children and adolescents may feel uncomfortable in real social settings and tend to avoid face-to-face contact [7]. Additionally, AI agents sometimes generate inaccurate or misleading information, leading children to form misconceptions or distort reality—an issue that poses serious problems, particularly regarding scientific or historical facts. Suggestions and Recommendations Given the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence technologies,

there is an urgent need to continuously monitor and assess their impact on child and adolescent psychology. To leverage the opportunities offered by virtual companions while minimizing potential harm, a comprehensive approach is required. This approach must encompass not only technological solutions, but also pedagogical, psychological, and ethical standards. Collaboration among parents, educators, developers, and policymakers is vital to ensuring safe, healthy development for youth in digital environments. Every aspect of AI interaction should be thoroughly analyzed regarding its influence on cognitive, emotional, social, and moral growth. Only through this

collective effort can we properly define the role of AI in the lives of children and adolescents, maximizing its positive potential while effectively managing associated risks.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence offers unprecedented opportunities in personalized education, cognitive development, and emotional support, fostering language acquisition and logical thinking. However, interaction with virtual companions also carries serious psychological risks, including a lack of empathy, technological dependence, social isolation, and information security vulnerabilities. Forming a conscious, critical attitude toward AI in children—emphasizing that AI

is merely a human-controlled tool and that human values must take precedence—is essential. Parents, educators, and policymakers must remain vigilant, advocating for ethically grounded approaches to ensure responsible and safe AI usage. This will safeguard the healthy development of the younger generation in the digital environment and build a solid foundation for their future prospects.

Gulchekhrakhon Abdurasuljon qizi Umrzaqova
4th-year student of the Psychology program, Faculty of Social Sciences, Alfraganus University



Motivation

Take ownership: The mindset that separates successful learners from the rest

Blaming teachers, exams and circumstances is easy — but the students who truly succeed have learned to look inward first

By: Ashford Kimani
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Walk into any classroom and you will find students navigating vastly different realities. Some come from financially stable homes where textbooks are plentiful and parents follow up on homework each evening. Others study by candlelight in cramped conditions, with little adult guidance and basic materials that are hard to come by. Yet history repeatedly demonstrates that many of the world's most remarkable achievers emerged not from comfort and privilege but from genuine hardship. Their secret was never perfect circumstances. It was personal responsibility.
- Owning one's education begins with an honest acceptance that learning is, at its core, the learner's responsibility. Teachers facilitate. Parents encourage. Schools provide whatever resources they can. But no teacher, however gifted, can learn on behalf of a student. The decision to pay attention during a lesson, complete assignments with care, revise consistently across the term, and ask questions when a concept remains unclear — that decision ultimately belongs to the learner and no one else.



The mindset that separates successful learners from the rest

A timeless Roman proverb declares: “Non ducor, duco” — I am not led, I lead. The message behind this ancient wisdom is deceptively simple yet genuinely transformative: those who succeed in life accept responsibility for their choices rather than surrendering to circumstances. True and lasting success begins the moment a person recognises that they are the captain of their own destiny, not a passenger carried along by the currents of luck and blame.

For learners, this proverb carries particular weight. In today's competitive academic environment, it is remarkably easy to point fingers at difficult teachers, demanding examinations, inadequate resources or family challenges whenever results disappoint. And while these factors can genuinely influence learning outcomes, they should never be allowed to harden into permanent excuses for underperformance. Outstanding learners understand something that their struggling peers often miss: although they cannot control every circumstance that surrounds them, they can always control their attitude, their effort and their response to whatever comes their way.

Walk into any classroom and you will find students navigating vastly different realities. Some come from financially stable homes where textbooks are plentiful and parents follow up on homework each evening. Others study by candlelight in cramped conditions, with little adult guidance and ba-

sic materials that are hard to come by. Yet history repeatedly demonstrates that many of the world's most remarkable achievers emerged not from comfort and privilege but from genuine hardship. Their secret was never perfect circumstances. It was personal responsibility. Owning one's education begins with an honest acceptance that learning is, at its core, the learner's responsibility. Teachers facilitate. Parents encourage. Schools provide whatever resources they can. But no teacher, however gifted, can learn on behalf of a student. The decision to pay attention during a lesson, complete assignments with care, revise consistently across the term, and ask questions when a concept remains unclear — that decision ultimately belongs to the learner and no one else.

Consider two students who receive identical poor marks in the same examination. The first immediately blames the teacher for setting unfair questions, insists that luck was against them, and moves on without reflection. The second studies the results carefully, identifies the weak areas, seeks help from their teacher, and develops a more targeted revision strategy for the next paper. Several months later, the second student is recording remarkable improvement. The difference was not intelligence or resources. It was the decision to treat failure as feedback rather than as a permanent verdict.

Successful learners develop what psychologists describe as an internal locus of con-

trol — the deep conviction that their actions significantly influence their outcomes. Rather than saying “I failed because the paper was hard,” they ask themselves: “What can I do differently before the next examination?” That shift in thinking, subtle as it sounds, changes everything. It moves energy away from complaint and towards solution.

Taking ownership also demands discipline, and discipline is built through daily habits rather than occasional bursts of effort. Academic excellence rarely results from frantic last-minute cramming. It is constructed slowly and steadily — through attending lessons on time, completing homework without being chased, reading beyond classroom notes, practising difficult questions until they no longer feel difficult, and managing time with enough intentionality to protect the hours that matter. Every small positive decision made consistently across weeks and months compounds, almost invisibly, into impressive achievement.

Ownership extends well beyond academics. Learners who accept responsibility also take charge of their behaviour, their friendships and their relationship with technology. They understand, sometimes through hard experience, that excessive time on social media, endless gaming and constant entertainment can silently consume the study hours they can never recover. Rather than blaming distractions, they build routines that guard their learn-

ing time and honour their own ambitions.

One of the most stubborn barriers to ownership is the culture of inherited excuses. Statements such as “Mathematics is not my subject,” “Our school never performs well anyway,” or “People in my family were never academic” function like invisible chains. These beliefs become self-fulfilling prophecies because they discourage genuine effort long before a student has given themselves a real chance. The learner who has already decided they cannot succeed will rarely discover whether they could.

Learners who embrace accountability, by contrast, develop resilience. They come to understand that setbacks are temporary conditions, not permanent identities. A poor grade is not a label to carry forward — it is an invitation to identify what went wrong and correct it. Every mistake points to an area requiring more practice. Every challenge, if approached with honesty and effort, carries within it the seed of growth.

Teachers notice and respond warmly to learners who take responsibility. Such students ask thoughtful questions, admit confusion without embarrassment, acknowledge mistakes openly, and bring genuine energy to classroom participation. They become partners in the learning process rather than passive recipients of whatever information lands in front of them. Their attitude frequently lifts the mood of those around them.

Parents, too, have a vital role

to play — not by shielding children from the consequences of poor preparation, but by helping them reflect honestly on their study habits, their organisation and their commitment. There is a meaningful difference between supporting a child and excusing them. The former builds capability. The latter quietly erodes it. The Roman proverb ultimately reminds us that leadership begins with leading oneself. Every learner is, in a real sense, the chief executive of their own education. Success is not determined solely by intelligence, wealth or favourable circumstances. More often, it is shaped by the daily decision to work a little harder, remain disciplined through difficulty, learn honestly from mistakes and persevere when progress feels slow.

Winners are not people who never encounter obstacles. They are people who refuse to hand over responsibility for their future to those obstacles.

For every learner who aspires to excellence, the challenge is straightforward: stop asking who is responsible for your failure and start asking what you can do today to become a better student tomorrow. The moment that question replaces the other one, genuine success becomes not just possible but inevitable.

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

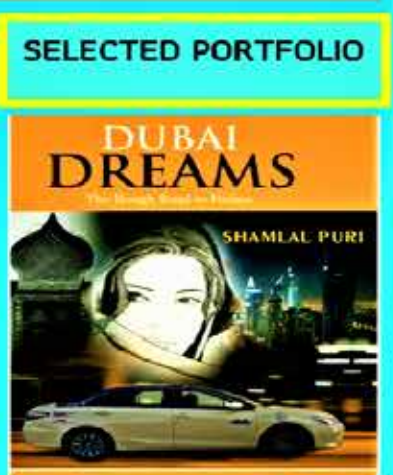
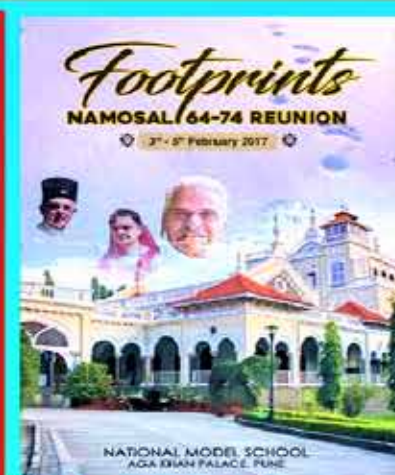
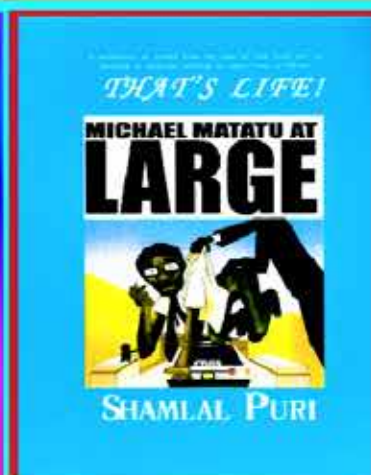
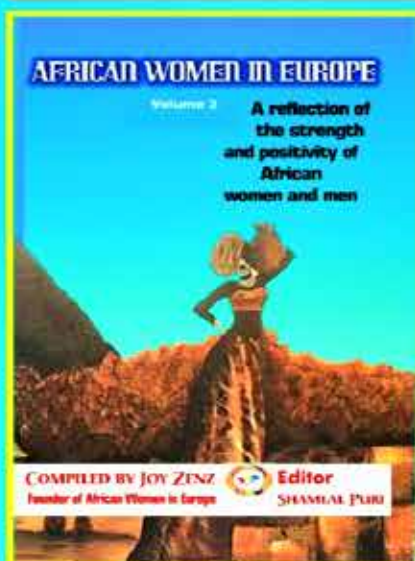
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

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

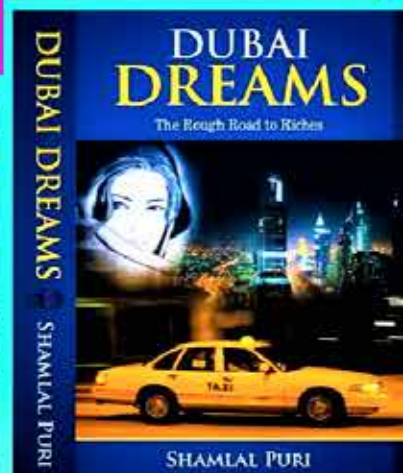
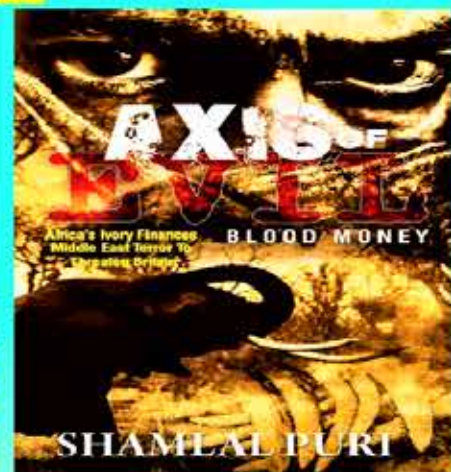
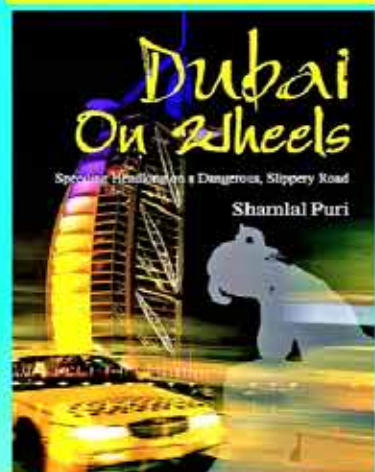
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

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

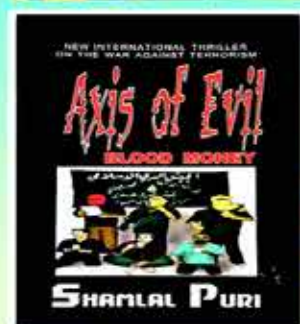
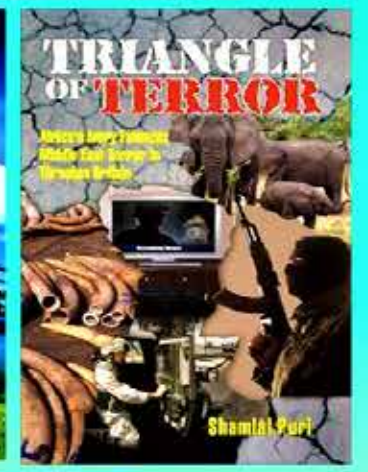
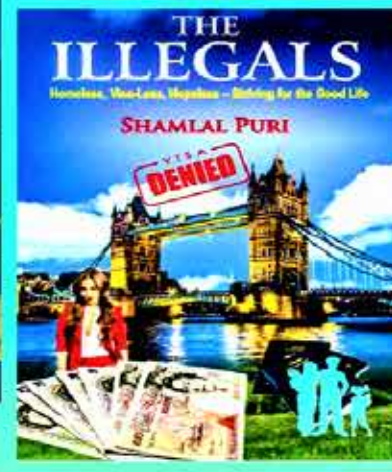
We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



SELECTED PORTFOLIO



BEST SELLER NOVELS



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

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



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

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

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

African News

Magadi was never just about soda ash: Kenya's new fight for its natural wealth

By: Levis Wangamati
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

• That frustration resonates with something real. Kenya has spent decades talking about industrialisation while remaining trapped at the lower end of the value chain — growing agricultural products and exporting them before adequate processing, extracting minerals and debating their benefits only after they have left the country, producing raw materials while importing the finished goods manufactured from those very same resources elsewhere. The result is an economy that can possess extraordinary natural wealth without possessing the industrial capacity to transform that wealth into lasting and widely shared prosperity. Magadi presents a particularly striking illustration of that failure, and Ruto is not wrong to name it.

• Soda ash is not an obscure mineral with limited relevance to modern industry. Sodium carbonate, which is derived from the trona extracted at Lake Magadi, is a significant industrial input used in glass manufacturing, detergents, chemicals and water treatment.

ing about the same structural problems two or three decades from now, then changing the company's name on the gate will have achieved very little. Kenya does not merely need a new operator at Magadi. It needs a fundamentally new economic bargain — one built not on the extraction of raw materials but on the deliberate construction of industrial value around them.

Ruto has made his position plain. He argues that the previous arrangement failed to deliver sufficient economic value to Kajiado, particularly through local manufacturing and job creation. He announced that the Magadi contract would be re-advised so that multiple companies could compete, with new arrangements expected to prioritise local processing over raw mineral exports. "That Tata company has had the contract for 100 years, yet it has not built anything in Kajiado," the president said at a rally in the county. "It has not established a factory here, and it has not employed our people. The other day, I told them to pack their bags and leave." Any incoming investor, he added, would be required to establish glass and chemical manufacturing facilities in Kajiado as a condition of the new contract.

That frustration resonates with something real. Kenya has spent decades talking about industrialisation while remaining trapped at the lower end of the value chain — growing agricultural products and exporting them before adequate processing, extracting minerals and debating their benefits only after they have left the country, producing raw materials while importing the finished goods manufactured from those very same resources elsewhere. The result is an economy that can possess extraordinary natural wealth without possessing the industrial capacity to transform that wealth into lasting and widely shared prosperity. Magadi presents a particularly striking illustration of that failure, and Ruto is not wrong to name it.

Soda ash is not an obscure mineral with limited relevance to modern industry. Sodium carbonate, which is derived from the trona extracted at Lake Magadi, is a significant industrial input used in glass manufacturing,



Lake Magadia

detergents, chemicals and water treatment. It sits at the base of supply chains that extend into construction, packaging, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods. The Magadi operation has therefore always represented more than an extraction business — it has been, potentially, the first link in an entire industrial chain. The tragedy is not that Kenya allowed a foreign company to mine at Magadi. The tragedy is that Kenya repeatedly allowed that first link to be treated as the destination, rather than as the starting point of something larger. This is why Ruto's emphasis on establishing glass and chemical manufacturing facilities in Kajiado deserves serious and sustained attention, not merely as political rhetoric but as a genuine economic proposition. If implemented with discipline and transparency, local processing could create a multiplier effect that transforms the region. Instead of Kenya earning only from the raw mineral extracted from the lake, businesses could emerge around processing, manufacturing, transport, maintenance, engineering, packaging and logistics. Employment would not be confined to a mine or a single processing plant. It could spread across an industrial ecosystem — one that gradually builds skills, attracts investment in related sectors and creates the kind of eco-

nomic density that eventually supports wider regional development.

Former Cabinet secretary Moses Kuria, who held the Investments, Trade and Industry docket in the previous administration, has been among the most vocal supporters of the government's position. He has pointed to Indonesia as a model worth studying carefully. Indonesia banned exports of raw nickel and has since become the world's sixteenth largest economy and the dominant global producer of the mineral, accounting for 68 per cent of global production. The country's decision to force value addition domestically attracted billions in processing and manufacturing investment and created industrial capacity that would not otherwise have existed. "Indonesia's economy has ballooned because they banned exports of raw nickel," Kuria said. "So far our economy has survived on what is above the surface. To move forward, we must focus on what lies below it." The Indonesian comparison is instructive but not without its complications. Indonesia is a country of 280 million people with a large domestic market, deep manufacturing traditions and considerable state capacity to enforce and manage complex industrial transitions. Kenya operates in a different context — smaller, more trade-dependent,

with institutions that have historically struggled to enforce complex contractual arrangements consistently. The lesson from Indonesia is not that Kenya should simply copy the policy. It is that determined, strategic resource nationalism, when backed by credible institutions and genuine industrial planning, can produce transformative results. The question is whether Kenya has the institutional depth to execute the ambition.

That brings an uncomfortable truth to the surface. Good economic nationalism is not simply about telling foreign companies to leave. It is about creating conditions under which investment produces measurable national benefits while remaining predictable, transparent and attractive to serious capital. If Kenya wants investors to commit hundreds of millions of dollars to factories, processing facilities and manufacturing plants, it must also demonstrate convincingly that contracts will be honoured, regulations will be clear and consistently applied, and disputes will be resolved through credible legal institutions rather than sudden political declarations that create uncertainty across the entire investment environment.

That distinction matters especially here, because Tata Chemicals has disputed the government's charac-

terisation of its conduct. The company has said it is compliant with its regulatory requirements and has expressed willingness to resolve the dispute through legal and regulatory dialogue. The government, meanwhile, has raised concerns about the level of local investment and the economic benefits flowing to Kajiado. Both positions deserve scrutiny. The government must explain precisely what obligations were breached, what evidence supports its position and what legal framework governs the transition from one operator to the next. The company must equally be held accountable for demonstrating what it has genuinely contributed to Kenya, to Kajiado and to the communities living alongside the lake over the course of more than a century of operations. National interest should not mean accepting government claims uncritically, just as foreign investment should not mean treating multinational corporations as beyond legitimate examination and accountability.

There is also an uncomfortable historical question that Kenya must confront honestly: why did it take so long? If the Magadi arrangement truly failed to deliver adequate local value addi-

Contd Page 11

African News

Magadi was never just about soda ash: Kenya's new fight for its natural wealth

Contd from Page 10

xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

Worth Noting:

- **Former Cabinet secretary Moses Kuria, who held the Investments, Trade and Industry docket in the previous administration, has been among the most vocal supporters of the government's position. He has pointed to Indonesia as a model worth studying carefully. Indonesia banned exports of raw nickel and has since become the world's sixteenth largest economy and the dominant global producer of the mineral, accounting for 68 per cent of global production.**
- **The country's decision to force value addition domestically attracted billions in processing and manufacturing investment and created industrial capacity that would not otherwise have existed. "Indonesia's economy has ballooned because they banned exports of raw nickel," Kuria said. "So far our economy has survived on what is above the surface. To move forward, we must focus on what lies below it."**

tion across its long history, then successive Kenyan governments — including those that extended the lease long after independence — cannot simply remove themselves from responsibility for that outcome. The current administration inherited the problem, but it did not create the entire century of arrangements and extensions surrounding it. Kenya has a tendency to discover economic problems only when they become politically convenient. A contract can survive for years without serious review. A regulatory dispute can simmer quietly without resolution. A community can raise concerns without receiving meaningful response. Then political attention arrives and the country suddenly behaves as though the problem materialised yesterday, conveniently absolved of any institutional memory that preceded the current moment. That approach is expensive, both financially and reputationally. Governments should negotiate strong agreements from the very beginning rather than leaving future administrations to inherit weak ones and stage dramatic interventions as a substitute for the careful governance that should have prevented the problem in the first place. Magadi should therefore become a permanent lesson in how Kenya negotiates every major natural-resource agreement going forward, not only the next one at the lake. Any new contract should contain clear, specific and enforceable requirements for local employment, local procurement, environmental protection, community development contributions, tax compliance and measurable value addition targets. These should not be vague aspirations buried in ceremonial signing statements. They should be binding obligations with defined timelines, transparent monitoring mechanisms and real consequences for non-compliance. If an investor promises a manufacturing plant, Kenya should know precisely when it will be commissioned, how many people it will employ at each stage, what salary levels those employees will receive, what proportion of inputs will be sourced locally and what environmental standards will govern operations through-



Lake Magadia

out the life of the contract. Ambiguity in natural-resource agreements is not a neutral condition. It is an invitation to the kind of disputes that have defined too much of Kenya's resource history. The communities living alongside natural resources must also have a meaningful and structural stake in the outcomes those resources produce. It is not enough for a mineral to be extracted from a county while the people living beside its source see little meaningful transformation in their schools, roads, health facilities, businesses or employment prospects across generations. Resource wealth becomes politically volatile and economically wasteful when communities can watch trucks carrying away what lies beneath their land without seeing corresponding opportunity returning to their neighbourhoods in any tangible form. Community benefit arrangements must be built into contracts from the outset, not offered as charitable gestures at the discretion of investors or political patrons. Competitive bidding is essential to making any of this work credibly. If the Magadi opportunity is genuinely valuable — and the long history of international interest in the concession suggests that it is — then Kenya should not replace one exclusive arrangement

with another negotiated in opacity. Serious investors should be invited through a transparent, competitive process. Conditions should be published clearly and in advance. Companies should be required to compete not only on financial offers but on the quality of their technology, the credibility of their manufacturing commitments, their employment projections, their environmental standards and the specificity of their local value addition plans. Competition gives Kenya greater bargaining power and reduces the risk of negotiating from weakness. The government must also give serious and sustained attention to workers throughout any transition period. The economic and political debate about contracts and minerals cannot become so abstract and elevated that the people whose daily livelihoods depend on the Magadi operation disappear from the conversation. Employees, suppliers, transport operators and the surrounding businesses whose incomes are connected to the operation all carry real and immediate vulnerabilities during periods of ownership transition and operational uncertainty. An industrial policy that builds factories in principle while destroying livelihoods in practice would undermine its own stated purpose and generate the kind of com-

munity grievance that follows resource projects for decades. There is, finally, the largest question sitting behind everything else: what kind of economy does Kenya want to become, and is the country genuinely prepared to do what that ambition requires? Industrialisation has appeared in government plans, political manifestos and national development strategies with remarkable consistency for more than half a century. It has been promised, planned, launched and relaunched. But industrialisation cannot remain a recurring aspiration in speeches. It has to become visible — in factories producing goods, in skilled workers earning decent wages, in Kenyan-owned suppliers growing alongside anchor industries, in stronger and more diversified manufacturing chains, and in communities that can point to concrete and lasting improvements created by the resources that lie beneath their feet. Magadi could become a genuine turning point in that story. It could demonstrate that Kenya is prepared to move decisively beyond simply exporting what nature provides and toward building durable industries around what nature has given the country to work with. But that transformation will not happen because a multinational company has been

removed from a concession. It will happen only if Kenya builds and sustains a transparent, credible system capable of attracting serious long-term investment while demanding, measuring and enforcing serious value in return. The real victory will not be the day Tata Chemicals leaves Magadi. Nor will it be the day another company arrives to take its place. The real victory will be the day a mineral extracted from the alkaline waters of Lake Magadi is no longer seen primarily as a commodity Kenya can sell, but as the foundation of an industry Kenya has chosen to build. Magadi was never just about soda ash. It is about whether Kenya will continue exporting opportunity alongside its resources, or finally develop the discipline, the institutions and the long-term vision to process its natural wealth into prosperity at home. The country has another chance to get this bargain right. This time, the contract must be not merely profitable on paper, but genuinely and verifiably transformative on the ground, in the county, and in the lives of the people who have lived beside that ancient lake for generations, waiting for its wealth to find its way home.

UAE

Emirates launches world's first electric Premium Economy seat with full-height privacy screen

The new cabin, debuting on the Airbus A350, is now available on daily flights from Entebbe, Tunis and Cape Town — bringing a new standard of mid-cabin travel to African passengers

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Emirates unveiled the world's first electrically powered Premium Economy seat featuring a full-height adjustable privacy screen on September 4, debuting the innovation on its newly received Airbus A350 aircraft and making it immediately available to passengers travelling from three African cities.

The new seat, installed in a spacious 2-3-2 configuration with just 28 seats per cabin, allows passengers to raise or lower a privacy divider to the full height of the seat at the touch of a button — a feature that has never before appeared in a Premium Economy cabin anywhere in the world. Passengers can lock the screen in position and adjust their seating preferences through an integrated Passenger Control Unit offering dedicated lounge and meal modes, making the entire experience fully controllable without leaving their seat.

For African travellers, the timing carries particular significance. Emirates confirmed that the A350 Premium Economy product is now available on its daily services between Dubai and Entebbe, Tunis and Cape Town, giving passengers in those markets direct access to the airline's latest cabin generation. Travellers connecting from other African destinations across the Emirates network can link through Dubai to A350-operated flights serving key hubs across Asia, Europe and Australia, extending the reach of the new product to a far broader continental audience.

The seat itself represents a considered leap forward in mid-cabin design. Each seat measures 20 inches wide with a pitch of up to 39 inches on the A350 — dimensions that create a genuinely spacious environment by the standards of any class below business. The seat reclines into a full cradle position without encroaching on the row behind, a design decision that carries real consequence on long-haul routes where the quality of rest shapes the entire travel experience. The electric privacy divider, which extends to the full height of the seat, addresses one of the most persistent complaints of Premium Economy passengers — the sense of being visible and exposed to neighbours for the duration of a flight. Passengers can now create a genuinely private environment for sleep, work or relaxation, raising or lowering the screen at will and locking it in position with minimal effort.

The cabin also introduces wireless charging to Premium Economy for the first time across the Emirates fleet. Every seat includes USB-C ports and a thoughtfully designed



Emirates unveiled the world's first electrically powered Premium Economy seat

tray table with an integrated phone holder, which effectively transforms a personal device into a convenient second screen during meals or entertainment — a small detail that reflects the broader philosophy behind the product's design.

Emirates has equipped the new seat with its widely acclaimed U-Dream headrest, crafted by Safran Seats in leather and engineered to provide exceptional neck and head support. The headrest wings can be adjusted into multiple positions, allowing passengers to find a configuration suited to their preferred sleeping posture. A manually deployable leather footrest adds a further layer of comfort and helps reduce leg fatigue on longer sectors — a welcome addition for the Entebbe, Cape Town and Tunis routes, which cover substantial distances.

The inflight entertainment system continues to set the standard for the category. Each seat is fitted with a 13.3-inch 4K HDR touchscreen with ultra-responsive navigation, offering access to more than 6,500 channels of films, television programmes, music, podcasts and games on Emirates' award-winning ice platform. On newly delivered A350 aircraft, the camera experience has also been enhanced, with new left and right exterior perspectives joining the existing forward and downward feeds to give passengers a more im-

mersive view of the world outside — a feature that proves particularly compelling during take-off, landing and flight over iconic landscapes.

The dining offer in the new cabin reflects the airline's stated ambition to position Premium Economy as genuinely closer to business class than to economy in substance and experience. Meals are prepared by Emirates chefs and served on Royal Doulton fine china, with linen napkins and Robert Welch stainless-steel cutlery completing a table setting that would not look out of place in a premium restaurant. Regionally inspired menus ensure that the food itself carries relevance and character rather than the anonymous quality too often associated with altitude dining.

The wine programme is exceptional by any measure. Premium Economy passengers are offered Chandon Vintage Brut 2021, an Australian sparkling wine available exclusively to this cabin across the Emirates network. From September, select routes introduce Chablis Premier Cru Jean-Marc Brocard 2024 — a wine that showcases the mineral precision for which that Burgundy appellation is celebrated — alongside La Parde de Haut-Bailly 2014, a refined Bordeaux from one of the Pessac-Léognan region's most respected estates. October brings a historic first for the airline: Wis-

ton Estate Brut NV will become Emirates' debut English sparkling wine, served exclusively in Premium Economy on United Kingdom routes. These selections sit within a wine portfolio into which Emirates has invested more than \$1B since 2006 — a commitment to quality that distinguishes the airline's beverage programme from virtually all competitors in the category.

On long-haul services, Premium Economy passengers receive exclusive reusable amenity kits developed in partnership with United for Wildlife. Crafted from bio-based materials including cactus leather alternatives, the collectible bags are designed around four natural habitats and the endangered species associated with each, making them objects worth keeping rather than discarding on arrival. The kits introduce Aveda plant-powered skincare products to Premium Economy for the first time, complemented by the standard travel essentials of socks, eyeshades, earplugs and a dental kit. The use of sustainable materials throughout the collection signals the airline's awareness that luxury and environmental responsibility are not mutually exclusive.

Emirates launched Premium Economy in 2022 and has expanded it progressively across its growing fleet. Since its introduction, the cabin has earned consistent external rec-

ognition, being named Best Premium Economy Class at the Business Traveller Middle East Awards in both 2024 and 2025 and receiving the same distinction at the 2025 ULTRAs Awards. The airline has described the product as inspired by its signature Business Class experience — a reference point that has shaped decisions on seating, dining, entertainment and service at every stage of the cabin's development.

The electrically powered privacy screen marks the most recent in a long line of Emirates firsts across more than three decades of aviation innovation, from pioneering on-board connectivity and inflight Wi-Fi to introducing successive generations of entertainment technology. For the airline, each innovation is framed as part of a consistent commitment to helping customers, in its own words, fly better.

For the growing number of African passengers who now have direct access to the new product from Entebbe, Cape Town and Tunis, the commitment has taken a tangible and immediately available form. The middle of the aircraft has rarely offered this much.

NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

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

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

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Intagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

MUSIC

Music hub to transform Kadoma youth

A Zimbabwean music production company has broken ground on a multi-purpose youth facility it says will tackle substance abuse and unemployment through skills, sport and music.



By: Chimeno Azriel
azrielchimeno@gmail.com
Zimbabwe

Worth Noting:

- It is against that backdrop that a Kadoma-based music production company has moved to act. Skinner Music Production, a community-based organisation established in 2023 and registered with the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and Zimura, is planning a multi-purpose Youth Sports Hub aimed at changing the trajectory of young people in Kadoma and surrounding areas.
- The facility will bring together a youth centre, a rehabilitation centre, a school of music and a sports centre under one roof. The initiative is led by a family team: husband and wife Gift Masikini and Lilian Rugonye, alongside their eldest son Brendon Masikini.
- With youth unemployment, substance abuse and limited access to creative spaces worsening across Mashonaland West, the directors say the hub is designed to provide skills, mentorship, wellness support and concrete career pathways.



The Directors Gift Masikini and Wife Lilian Rugonye



Director Brendon Masikini



The Skinner Music Production Studio

Music Production, a community-based organisation established in 2023 and registered with the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and Zimura, is planning a multi-purpose Youth Sports Hub aimed at changing the trajectory of young people in Kadoma and surrounding areas.

The facility will bring together a youth centre, a rehabilitation centre, a school of music and a sports centre under one roof. The initiative is led by a family team: husband and wife Gift Masikini and Lilian Rugonye, alongside their eldest son Brendon Masikini. With youth unemployment,

substance abuse and limited access to creative spaces worsening across Mashonaland West, the directors say the hub is designed to provide skills, mentorship, wellness support and concrete career pathways. "Our purpose is to empower the youth in Kadoma and the surrounding areas by

giving them skills, discipline and hope," the Masikini family said. Since its founding in 2023, Skinner Music Production has established a presence in Zimbabwe's music industry. As a registered community organisation, it already operates a fully equipped recording studio open to

musicians in Kadoma and across the country. The production house is also home to Delighted Voices Choir, a gospel ensemble of 30 young people drawn from across Zimbabwe. The choir has recorded two albums and is working on a music video for its latest single.

Gift Masikini, the director, said the studio was available to all artists regardless of where they came from. "We believe every young person deserves a platform," he said. On the choir, Masikini said music had kept the members focused. "We want to expand that impact," he added.

The organisation has also identified three income-generating ventures to keep young musicians financially active outside the studio. "We are starting a poultry project, a car wash and an events business," Masikini said. "These will keep the group busy when they are not in the studio and teach them entrepreneurship."

Skinner Music Production held a fundraising dinner to kickstart construction of the Youth Hub. The event drew government officials, business owners and corporate representatives. Marian Chombo, Minister of State for Mashonaland West Provincial Affairs and Devolution, attended alongside

MUSIC

Music hub to transform Kadoma youth

A Zimbabwean music production company has broken ground on a multi-purpose youth facility it says will tackle substance abuse and unemployment through skills, sport and music.

Contd from Page 14
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
.....

Worth Noting:

- Skinner Music Production held a fund-raising dinner to kick-start construction of the Youth Hub. The event drew government officials, business owners and corporate representatives. Marian Chombo, Minister of State for Mashonaland West Provincial Affairs and Devolution, attended alongside other senior officials.
- “We were grateful for the turnout and honoured by the presence of the minister and other government leaders,” Masikini said. “We appeal to the corporate world and business community to come on board and help us build these facilities.”
- The dinner also produced a concrete commitment from local authorities. The City of Kadoma and Sanyati Rural District Council pledged to make land available for the construction of the hub.
- “Land is the foundation,” Masikini said. “Now we can plan properly and invite more partners to build with us.”



Delighted Voices Choir performing

other senior officials. “We were grateful for the turnout and honoured by the presence of the minister and other government leaders,” Masikini said. “We appeal to the corporate world and business community to come on board and help us build these facilities.” The dinner also produced a concrete commitment from local authorities. The City of Kadoma and Sanyati Rural District Council pledged to make land available for the construction of the hub. “Land is the foundation,” Masikini said. “Now we can plan properly and invite more partners to build with us.” The planned facility is conceived as a four-in-one community asset. The youth centre will host mentorship programmes, life skills training, entrepreneurship workshops and peer support. The rehabilitation centre will provide counselling, awareness campaigns and referral pathways for those affected by substance abuse. The school of music, building on the existing studio, will offer vocal training, instrument lessons, music production, sound engineering and music business education. The sports centre will provide indoor and outdoor facilities to promote physical fitness, discipline and teamwork. The family anticipates broad benefits for Kadoma and

surrounding areas, including Rimuka, Ngezi and Eiffel Flats. Construction is expected to generate short-term employment, while the operational hub and associated businesses will create longer-term opportunities. The organisation also plans to partner with the National Arts Council, Zimura, Kadoma City Council, Sanyati Rural District Council, the Ministry of Youth, schools, churches and NGOs. “We don’t want to just produce songs,” Masikini said. “We want to produce responsible citizens, employable graduates and healthy communities.” The project is now in the planning and resource mobilisation phase following yesterday’s fundraising dinner and the council pledges. The organisation is finalising architectural designs, launching the poultry, car wash and events ventures, and engaging additional donors and corporate partners. A formal construction timeline will be announced once funding and land processes are concluded. Skinner Music Production is calling on stakeholders and well-wishers to contribute materials, funding, expertise or volunteer time.



Director Gift Masikini stressing a point



Part of Delighted Voices Choir crew

America

Tesla launches driverless Cybercab robotaxi service in Austin, Texas

The two-seat vehicle with no steering wheel or pedals marks the commercial debut of fully autonomous ride-hailing — but regulators are already watching

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

The Cybercab is a two-seat vehicle featuring butterfly doors and a large interactive touchscreen. It relies entirely on camera-based vision and sensor technology for navigation, with no manual override controls available to passengers in the traditional sense. For safety, the vehicle is fitted with a dedicated stop button: when pressed, the Cybercab initiates an immediate pull-over at the next safe opportunity and connects the passenger directly with Tesla's Robotaxi Support team. The vehicle's rear trunk is sized to accommodate two standard checked suitcases and two carry-on bags, making it a practical option for airport transfers and longer urban journeys. Rides are requested through Tesla's Robotaxi app, which dispatches either a Cybercab or a Model Y depending on vehicle availability and the number of passengers in the party. The system uses dynamic pricing, and Tesla executives at Thursday's event promised what they described as "a first-class experience at coach price" — a pitch aimed squarely at cost-conscious urban commuters who might otherwise turn to traditional ride-hailing services such as Uber or Lyft.



U.S. electric vehicle maker Tesla on Thursday launched its driverless Cybercab in Austin

Tesla launched its driverless Cybercab robotaxi service in Austin, Texas on Thursday, beginning limited commercial ride-hailing operations with a vehicle that has no steering wheel, no accelerator pedal and no brake pedal — and that its chief executive described as the first car built specifically for unsupervised full self-driving. The launch marks a significant moment in the long and frequently delayed story of autonomous vehicle commercialisation in the United States. Tesla first unveiled the Cybercab prototype in October 2024, began production in 2026 and conducted engineering tests of production vehicles on public roads in the second quarter of this year before Thursday's public debut in one of America's fastest-growing cities. In a promotional video released on the day of the launch, Tesla chief executive Elon Musk made the stakes of the moment explicit. "The first car that is specifically built for unsupervised full self-driving," he said of the Cybercab, a description that sets it apart not only from conventional vehicles but from Tesla's own existing fleet, which has long offered driver-assistance features that still require human supervision. Musk did not attend the launch event in

person, according to Reuters, which cited attendees present at the occasion. The Cybercab is a two-seat vehicle featuring butterfly doors and a large interactive touchscreen. It relies entirely on camera-based vision and sensor technology for navigation, with no manual override controls available to passengers in the traditional sense. For safety, the vehicle is fitted with a dedicated stop button: when pressed, the Cybercab initiates an immediate pull-over at the next safe opportunity and connects the passenger directly with Tesla's Robotaxi Support team. The vehicle's rear trunk is sized to accommodate two standard checked suitcases and two carry-on bags, making it a practical option for airport transfers and longer urban journeys. Rides are requested through Tesla's Robotaxi app, which dispatches either a Cybercab or a Model Y depending on vehicle availability and the number of passengers in the party. The system uses dynamic pricing, and Tesla executives at Thursday's event promised what they described as "a first-class experience at coach price" — a pitch aimed squarely at cost-conscious urban commuters who might otherwise turn to traditional ride-hailing services such as

Uber or Lyft. The commercial ambitions behind the launch are considerable, but several key details remain conspicuously absent. Tesla has not disclosed the official purchase price for prospective commercial buyers, delivery dates or a timeline for expanding the service beyond Austin. The company confirmed that applications from commercial buyers can now be submitted, but the absence of concrete terms will give potential fleet operators reason to pause before committing. The scale of the current operation is also modest. As of Wednesday evening, Tesla had 420 autonomous vehicles registered in Texas, of which 45 were Cybercabs. The company has not disclosed the total number of Cybercabs currently in active operation, leaving the precise footprint of the launch difficult to assess from publicly available information. What is clear is that this is a beginning rather than a fully formed network — a deliberate, carefully managed entry into commercial autonomous transport rather than the sweeping rollout that some in the industry have long anticipated. Regulatory attention arrived almost simultaneously with the launch itself. The United

States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Thursday that it is in contact with Tesla and is evaluating the situation. The statement was measured in its language but significant in its timing, underscoring that federal oversight of fully autonomous commercial vehicles remains an active and unresolved question. Autonomous vehicle regulation in the United States has developed unevenly across states, with Texas having adopted a relatively permissive posture towards self-driving technology — a factor that almost certainly influenced Tesla's decision to launch there rather than in a more restrictive jurisdiction. The broader context for the Cybercab launch is one of intensifying competition in the autonomous vehicle space. Alphabet's Waymo has been operating commercial driverless services in several American cities, including San Francisco and Phoenix, for a number of years and has established a meaningful operational track record. Cruise, General Motors' autonomous vehicle unit, suffered a significant setback in 2023 following a high-profile incident in San Francisco that led to the suspension of its robotaxi service and triggered regulatory scrutiny that damaged the broader

industry's public credibility. Tesla enters the commercial field later than Waymo but with a considerably larger installed base of vehicles collecting real-world driving data through its existing consumer fleet — a dataset that the company has consistently argued gives it a long-term advantage in training its autonomous systems. The Cybercab's design philosophy reflects a deliberate break from the transitional approach that has characterised much of the autonomous vehicle industry. Most self-driving vehicles deployed commercially retain manual controls as a fallback — either because regulations require it or because operators want a human safety net available. The Cybercab has none. There is no steering wheel for a nervous passenger to grab, no pedal to press in an emergency. The stop button and the remote support connection are the entirety of the human intervention available. That is either a statement of profound engineering confidence or a calculated gamble, depending on one's assessment of where the technology currently stands — and that assessment, for now, belongs to the regulators as much as to Tesla. For the passengers who climbed into a Cybercab in Austin on Thursday, the experience will have been unlike anything previously available in commercial transport. A vehicle that drives itself entirely, navigates city streets without a human at the wheel and delivers passengers to their destination through software and sensors alone is no longer a concept or a demonstration. It is a service with a price and an app and a trunk large enough for luggage. Whether it works as reliably, as safely and as broadly as Tesla needs it to in order to justify the commercial structure being built around it remains the defining question of what comes next. The Cybercab has launched. The harder work begins now.

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

LEADERSHIP AS A CALL TO PURPOSE

Transforming Communities
Through Visionary Leadership



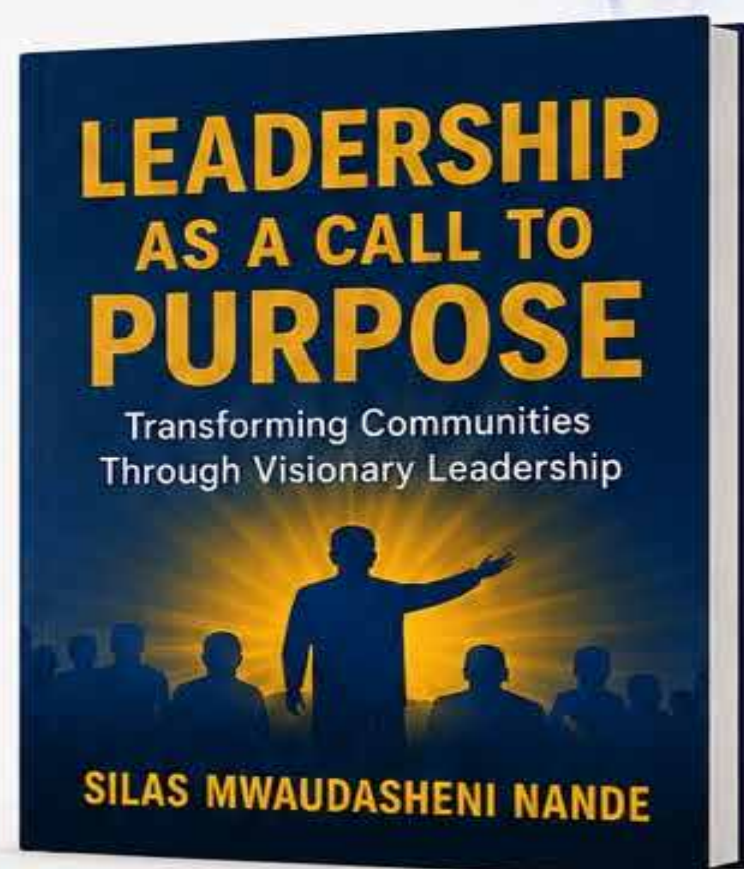
NOW AVAILABLE FOR
PRE-ORDERS!



AVAILABLE FROM
**END OF
AUGUST 2026**



PRICE
N\$350



VISION.



IMPACT.



LEGACY.



+264 81 260 3654



Nande Silas



Silas Nande

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Diaspora

Corruption and greed drove me to write Chaos Within Kinsmen, says South Sudanese playwright

Mooch Simon's new play uses fiction to hold a mirror to societies where injustice has become routine and silence has become complicit

By: Munyal Manunyi
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- **Chaos Within Kinsmen places greed and its consequences at the centre of its narrative. Through culture, power and dissenting voices, Simon examines how communities respond — or fail to respond — when injustice becomes the norm and the people best positioned to challenge it choose silence. The play is deliberately provocative. Simon does not want readers to simply follow a story. He wants them to recognise something in it, to feel implicated, and to ask themselves what they would do when faced with the same choices.**
- **"I hope readers would understand the evil that comes with too much political blindness and embrace the righteousness attached to love and teamwork that flourish under unity," he said. It is a call not only for reflection but for action — an argument that collective responsibility is both possible and necessary in societies where institutions have failed.**

When Mooch Simon sat down to write his latest play, he was not looking for a plot. He was looking at the world around him — the corruption, the political indifference, the quiet normalisation of greed — and decided that what he saw deserved a stage.

Simon, a South Sudanese writer, playwright and poet, recently launched *Chaos Within Kinsmen* in Juba, presenting what he describes as a direct response to the moral and political deterioration he has witnessed in his society. The play, he says, was born from darkness — not the dramatic darkness of fiction, but the everyday kind that allows corruption to take root and political responsibility to wither.

"This play was inspired by the darkness that provides room for corruption and greed to gain weight, out-sizing the political goodness of a society," Simon said. He added that his writing draws consistently from the social, economic and political realities of life in South Sudan, making his work less a creative escape from his environment than an honest reckoning with it.

Chaos Within Kinsmen places greed and its consequences at the centre of its narrative. Through culture, power and dissenting voices, Simon examines how communities respond — or fail to respond — when injustice becomes the norm and the people best positioned to challenge it choose silence. The play is deliberately provocative. Simon does not want readers to simply follow a story. He wants them to recognise something in it, to feel implicated, and to ask themselves what they would do when faced with the same choices.

"I hope readers would understand the evil that comes with too much political blindness and embrace the righteousness attached to love and teamwork that flourish under unity," he said. It is a call not only for reflection but for action — an argument that collective responsibility is both possible and necessary in societies where institutions have failed.

Simon's perspective has been broadened significantly by travel. His journeys across East Africa have ex-

posed him to different cultures, different systems of governance and different ways in which ordinary people navigate the pressures of political and economic life. He regards those experiences as essential to his writing, providing texture and depth that no amount of research from a single vantage point could replicate.

"Travelling across East African countries has helped me gain so much on how people relate politically, economically and socially," he said. "The richness in cultural diversity has enlightened my ability to see deep into the genesis of this work."

As a writer, Simon moves comfortably across forms. Poetry and playwriting both play significant roles in his creative life, each shaping the other in ways he finds difficult to fully separate. Public speaking, he adds, occupies a distinct space — one that allows him to connect directly with audiences in a way that the written page, for all its power, cannot always replicate. "Both poetry and playwriting have significantly influenced my writing because I am so deeply drawn to the way they embrace my creativity," he said.

Simon is the author of *Two Worlds Collide* and *Chaos Within Kinsmen*, and has co-authored the poetry anthology *Rainbow*. His poems have been published in literary magazines across the region, and his work has been recognised with several awards during a career that continues to expand in both scope and ambition.

A consistent thread running through that career is his belief that African writers must take firm ownership of the stories that define their continent. He is direct on this point, and increasingly so. Outside voices have shaped perceptions of Africa for long enough. Simon believes the responsibility for correcting that — for telling stories that are rooted in lived experience rather than external interpretation — rests with African writers themselves.

"My advice to young writers across Africa is that we should be the ones to tell our own stories, because they cannot truly be ours when they are told by someone else," he said. It is advice that



Mooch Simon's new play



Mooch Simon

carries the weight of personal conviction rather than rhetorical flourish, spoken by a writer who has consistently chosen to engage with difficult realities rather than retreat from them.

The launch of *Chaos Within Kinsmen* is not a conclusion.

Simon confirmed that new projects are already underway, with more books expected to follow. The work, it seems, is far from done. What he hopes lingers in the minds of those who read *Chaos Within Kinsmen* is something more lasting

than the memory of a good story — a willingness to look honestly at the political blindness and institutional decay that surround them, and to consider seriously what it might cost if no one chooses to say so.

The Diaspora Times Global



For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

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

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

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

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Diaspora

Independence: Uzbekistan’s dream of yesterday, pride of today, and hope for tomorrow

The Historical Significance of Uzbekistan’s Independence, National Identity, and the Responsibility of a New Generation



By: Madina Mirzayeva
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- For centuries, the land of Central Asia has been one of the important centers of science, trade, craftsmanship, and culture. Great scholars and thinkers emerged from this region and made remarkable contributions to world civilization. Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, Mirzo Ulugbek, and Alisher Navoi all left an enduring legacy in the development of human knowledge and culture.
- For a people with such a rich historical heritage, the aspiration to determine its own destiny was a natural expression of national consciousness.
- By the end of the twentieth century, political and economic processes within the Soviet Union had begun to change rapidly. Questions of state sovereignty and the right of the republics to determine their own futures increasingly came to the forefront.
- On June 20, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR adopted the Declaration of State Sovereignty, marking an important political step toward independence.



The Historical Significance of Uzbekistan’s Independence, National Identity, and the Responsibility of a New Generation

There are moments in the history of every nation that are remembered not simply as dates, but as turning points that open a new chapter in the destiny of a people. For Uzbekistan, August 31, 1991, was one such historic event, but also as a symbol of national pride and confidence in the future.

Independence is much more than political or legal sovereignty. It represents a nation’s right to determine its own destiny, choose its own path of development, preserve its national values, and have its own voice in the international community.

Today, as Uzbekistan approaches the 35th anniversary of its independence, it is particularly important to reflect on the meaning of this concept. The meaning of independence evolves with time: yesterday, it was a dream of freedom; today, it is an opportunity that has been achieved; and tomorrow, it will remain a responsibility to strengthen and develop that achievement.

Yesterday’s Dream: The Journey Toward Freedom

The history of Uzbekistan’s independence cannot be limited to the events of 1991 alone. The roots of the aspiration for independence reach deep into the history of the Uzbek people.

For centuries, the land of Central Asia has been one of the important centers of science, trade, craftsmanship, and culture. Great scholars and thinkers emerged from this region and made remarkable contributions to world civilization. Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, Mirzo Ulugbek, and Alisher Navoi all left an enduring legacy in the development of human knowledge and culture.

For a people with such a rich historical heritage, the aspiration to determine its own destiny was a natural expression of national consciousness.

By the end of the twentieth century, political and economic processes within the Soviet Union had begun to change rapidly. Questions of state sovereignty and the right of the republics to determine their own futures increasingly came to the forefront.

On June 20, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR adopted the Declaration

of State Sovereignty, marking an important political step toward independence. Then, on August 31, 1991, a historic decision was made: the Republic of Uzbekistan declared its state independence.

This event opened a new chapter in the history of the Uzbek people.

Islam Karimov and the Early Years of Independence

The name of Islam Abduganievich Karimov occupies a significant place in the history of Uzbekistan’s independence.

As the leader of Uzbekistan during the period immediately preceding independence and in the challenging years that followed, Islam Karimov played a central role in the formation of the newly independent state and its institutions.

Following the historic decision of August 31, 1991, the country faced enormous challenges. Uzbekistan now had to establish its own system of state governance, develop a national legal framework, formulate independent economic policies, and establish its position as a sovereign state within the international community.

The first years of independence were not easy. The transition away from the unified economic system of the Soviet Union, the creation of new economic relations, and the establishment

of state institutions presented serious challenges.

Under these circumstances, the political and legal foundations of independent Uzbekistan were gradually established. The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 8, 1992, became an important milestone in strengthening the legal foundations of the independent state.

Looking back at this period, Islam Karimov’s role should be understood within the complex historical circumstances of the time. During his leadership, Uzbekistan established itself as an independent state, developed its political institutions, and began building relations with the international community.

At the same time, evaluating the legacy of any historical figure requires an objective and nuanced approach. Historical personalities are best understood not through one-sided praise or criticism, but through a careful examination of the political and social conditions of their time and the long-term consequences of their decisions.

Today’s Pride: National Identity and Renewal

Independence gave the Uzbek people an opportunity to rediscover their history

and view their national heritage from a new perspective. The study and preservation of historical heritage, the restoration of cultural traditions, and the promotion of the achievements of great ancestors became important elements of strengthening national identity.

Today, historic cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva are not only sources of national pride for Uzbekistan but also important parts of the world’s cultural heritage.

National identity does not mean simply taking pride in the past. It means drawing strength from the past while confidently taking one’s place in the modern world. A person who knows their history understands their identity. A generation that understands its identity can move toward the future with greater confidence.

Independence and the New Generation

The lives and aspirations of today’s young people in Uzbekistan offer one of the clearest reflections of what independence means. Young people today have opportunities to pursue education, learn foreign languages, participate in international competitions

Diaspora

Independence: Uzbekistan's dream of yesterday, pride of today, and hope for tomorrow

The Historical Significance of Uzbekistan's Independence, National Identity, and the Responsibility of a New Generation

Contd from Page 20

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The name of Islam Abduganievich Karimov occupies a significant place in the history of Uzbekistan's independence.
- As the leader of Uzbekistan during the period immediately preceding independence and in the challenging years that followed, Islam Karimov played a central role in the formation of the newly independent state and its institutions.
- Following the historic decision of August 31, 1991, the country faced enormous challenges. Uzbekistan now had to establish its own system of state governance, develop a national legal framework, formulate independent economic policies, and establish its position as a sovereign state within the international community.
- The first years of independence were not easy. The transition away from the unified economic system of the Soviet Union, the creation of new economic relations, and the establishment of state institutions presented serious challenges.

and conferences, conduct research, create, and share their ideas with audiences around the world.

A young journalist can dream of publishing an article in an international publication. A young scholar can collaborate with researchers from different countries. A young writer can introduce their work to an international audience.

All of these possibilities are closely connected with the opportunities provided by an independent state.

Yet opportunity alone does not guarantee achievement. Achievement requires knowledge, hard work, and responsibility.

Therefore, today's generation faces an important question:

How are we using the opportunities that independence has given us?

Each of us answers this question through our actions.

Hope for Tomorrow: Who Will Build the Future?

When we speak about the future of Uzbekistan, it is natural to think first of its young people.

Today's school student may become tomorrow's scientist, doctor, engineer, journalist, teacher, entrepreneur, or public leader.

That is why the future of independence depends not only on government policies and institutions, but also on the knowledge, values, and worldview of the younger generation.

The future cannot be built through dreams alone. It must be built through knowledge.

Love for one's homeland is also expressed not merely through words, but through actions. Studying diligently, working honestly, pursuing knowledge, contributing to society, protecting the environment, and respecting others are all meaningful forms of service to one's country.

Uzbekistan and the World
Independence enabled Uzbekistan to become an independent participant in international relations and to determine its own path on the global stage.

Today, Uzbekistan is developing political, economic, scientific, educational, and cultural relations with countries around the world.

The country's international

image, however, is shaped not only by state institutions but also by its citizens.

Uzbek students studying abroad, athletes competing in international events, scholars conducting research, and young journalists contributing to international publications all help shape how Uzbekistan is seen by the world.

In this sense, the achievements of a young Uzbek can represent not only personal success but also a positive image of the country.

Independence Is More Than a Celebration

When Independence Day arrives, streets are decorated with national flags, celebrations are held, and a sense of pride fills people's hearts.

Yet the true meaning of independence does not end with a single day of celebration.

Independence is a value that reveals itself every day.

It can be seen in the determination of a student who studies diligently, in the honest work of a professional, in the efforts of a researcher seeking new knowledge, and in the words of a journalist telling the world about their homeland.

To love independence is to value the opportunities it provides.

To value independence is to understand our responsibility toward the future.

From the Past Toward the Future

August 31, 1991, opened a new chapter in the history of Uzbekistan. But history did not stop there.

Every new generation adds its own words to that chapter.

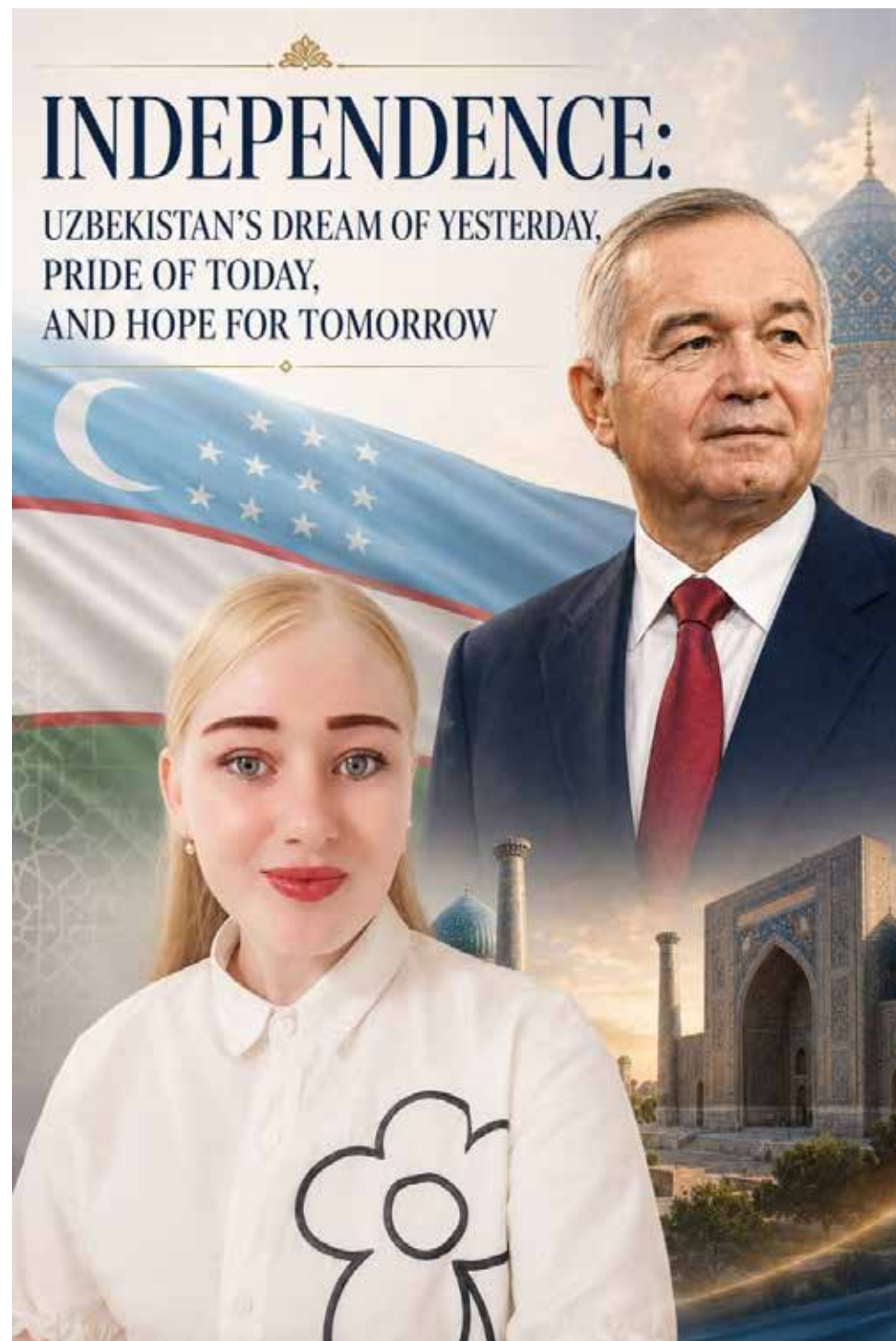
Today, we remember yesterday's dreams of independence. We take pride in the opportunities of today. And we look toward tomorrow with hope.

In this sense, independence connects three dimensions of time:

yesterday's dream, today's pride, and tomorrow's hope.

If previous generations dreamed of independence, today's generation carries the responsibility of protecting and developing it. The generations of tomorrow, in turn, must build upon the opportunities created today and strive toward even greater achievements.

Our responsibility is to remember our history, appreciate



ciate the present, and build the future through knowledge.

Independence does not promise us a ready-made future. Rather, it gives us the opportunity to create our own future.

Perhaps this is the greatest meaning of independence.

Conclusion

The independence of Uzbekistan is not simply a date preserved in history. It is a living value that gains new meaning with every generation.

It teaches us to preserve the heritage of our ancestors, appreciate the opportunities of the present, and remain conscious of our responsibility toward the future.

Independence is the fulfillment of yesterday's dream, the source of today's pride, and the greatest hope for tomorrow.

The future of Uzbekistan belongs to the generation that can transform this hope into reality through knowledge, hard work, and noble aspirations.

Author Bio

Madina Mirzayeva is a young Uzbek journalist, writer, and aspiring researcher from Kasbi District, Qashqadaryo Region, Uzbekistan. She is a student at School No. 16 "Jasorat" in Kasbi District. With a strong interest in journalism, literature, education, and international communication, she has participated in various national and international literary, educational, and youth initiatives. Her work focuses on youth, education, national identity, cultural heritage, and Uzbekistan's place in the global community. As a member of the new generation of Uzbek writers

and young journalists, she is committed to developing her skills, sharing meaningful stories, and contributing to cross-cultural dialogue through writing and media.

Uzbek language: From national heritage to the digital future

The Uzbek Language in a Changing World



By: **Sirojiddinov Asliddin Abduvohidjon**
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Language has never been a static phenomenon. It changes together with society, absorbs new concepts and responds to new forms of human interaction. The Uzbek language is also experiencing such a period of transformation. The development of digital technologies, globalization, social networks and international communication is creating new opportunities for Uzbek, while at the same time presenting challenges that cannot be ignored. For many years, discussions about the Uzbek language have mainly focused on its status, purity, correct spelling and protection from unnecessary foreign influence. These issues remain important. Yet the modern understanding of language development should be broader. A language cannot become stronger simply because people speak about its importance. It becomes stronger when people use it confidently in education, science, technology, business, media and digital communication.

This is particularly important for younger generations. A young person today may communicate with friends in Uzbek, study scientific materials in English, use Russian-language software and receive information from international social media platforms. Such multilingual interaction is a natural part of modern life. The question is not whether Uzbek should compete with other languages, but whether Uzbek has enough resources and opportunities to remain active in this changing linguistic environment.

In this sense, the future of Uzbek depends on its ability to move beyond the traditional boundaries of literature and everyday conversation and become an effective language of modern knowledge.

Between Linguistic Heritage and Modern Reality

The Uzbek language has a remarkable literary and cultural heritage. Its development is closely connected with centuries of intellectual and artistic activity in Central Asia. The literary works of Alisher Navoi demonstrated the extraordinary expressive capacity of the Turkic language and established a powerful tradition that continues to influence Uzbek linguistic and literary culture. This heritage gives Uzbek an im-

portant advantage: the language already possesses a deep cultural foundation. It has accumulated vocabulary and expressive forms capable of describing human emotions, social relations, philosophical ideas and the complexity of everyday life. At the same time, heritage alone cannot guarantee the future of a language. A language may have a magnificent literary history but still face difficulties if it cannot adequately respond to contemporary needs.

Consider the vocabulary of modern technology. Terms related to artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, digital security, biotechnology and other rapidly developing fields enter public discourse almost every day. In many cases, speakers use English terms because they encounter them first in international scientific literature, software interfaces or online content.

This process itself is not unusual. Almost every major language borrows words from other languages. The problem begins when a language becomes unable to produce, standardize and popularize its own terminology for new areas of knowledge.

Therefore, the task should not be to isolate Uzbek from other languages. The real objective should be to make Uzbek strong enough to communicate with the world without losing its own identity.

Digital Communication: A New Test for Uzbek

Perhaps the most visible linguistic transformation is taking place on the internet. Social networks have changed not only what people communicate about but also how they communicate. Short messages, informal expressions, abbreviations, emojis and mixed-language sentences have become common.

Young users frequently combine Uzbek with English or Russian words. Sometimes this is simply a natural consequence of multilingual communication. At other times, how-

ever, foreign words are used even when clear Uzbek equivalents already exist.

This situation should not be approached only through criticism. Young people are not necessarily abandoning Uzbek; rather, they are adapting language to a new communication environment. The challenge for linguists and society is to understand this process and guide it constructively.

Digital communication also creates an important opportunity. Never before has it been possible to produce and distribute Uzbek-language content on such a large scale. A single educational video, scientific article, podcast or social media publication can reach thousands of people. This means that every Uzbek speaker can, in a certain sense, become a participant in the development of the language.

The question is therefore not simply "How can we prevent incorrect Uzbek online?" but also "How can we create so much attractive and high-quality Uzbek content that users naturally choose Uzbek?" That change in perspective is essential.

Uzbek and Artificial Intelligence

The emergence of artificial intelligence makes this question even more urgent. AI systems learn languages from enormous quantities of digital data. Languages with extensive electronic corpora, digitized books, annotated texts, speech databases and high-quality linguistic resources have a considerable technological advantage.

For Uzbek, this creates both a challenge and an opportunity.

If Uzbek-language texts, audio materials and terminology are systematically collected and processed, they can support the development of better automatic translation, speech recognition, text-to-speech systems, spelling assistants and AI-based educational tools.

Imagine a student asking a computer a complex academic question in Uzbek and receiving a reliable answer in fluent Uzbek. Imagine elderly people using voice commands in their native language to access digital services. Imagine Uzbek-speaking researchers being able to search international scientific information and receive high-quality machine-assisted translations.

These are not merely technological conveniences. They are directly connected with the future position of Uzbek in society.

A language that is absent from modern technologies gradually becomes less convenient for its speakers. Conversely, a language that functions successfully in digital platforms gains new users, new terminology and new areas of application. Therefore, digitizing Uzbek should be understood as a form of language development, not simply as a technological project.

What Should Be Done?

The development of Uzbek in the modern era requires practical measures rather than only slogans.

First, high-quality national digital language resources should be continuously expanded. Electronic dictionaries, terminology databases, text corpora and speech databases should become accessible to researchers, teachers, developers and ordinary users.

Second, Uzbek terminology in science and technology should be developed systematically. New terms should be discussed by linguists and specialists in the relevant fields before being introduced widely.

Third, educational institutions should encourage students not only to speak Uzbek correctly but also to produce modern knowledge in Uzbek. Scientific articles, educational videos, digital textbooks and popular science materials in Uzbek can significantly increase the language's presence in intellectual life.

Fourth, media organizations and

content creators have an important responsibility. Correct Uzbek does not have to be boring Uzbek. High-quality language can be attractive, modern and entertaining.

Finally, technological companies and programmers should be encouraged to develop Uzbek-language interfaces, voice technologies, translation tools and artificial intelligence applications. The participation of Uzbek in the digital economy should become a practical priority.

The future of the Uzbek language will not be determined only by laws or official documents. It will also be determined by millions of everyday choices: what language we use in education, what language we publish scientific knowledge in, what language we choose on social networks and what language we teach our technologies to understand.

Our linguistic heritage gives us a strong foundation, but the future requires movement forward.

We do not need to protect Uzbek by closing it to the world. We need to strengthen it so that it can confidently communicate with the world. The Uzbek language has already proved its ability to express the deepest ideas of literature, philosophy and culture. Now it faces another historical task: to demonstrate that it can also become a language of science, innovation, artificial intelligence and the digital future.

And perhaps the greatest expression of love for one's mother tongue is not simply saying "Jonajon o'zbek tilim", but creating conditions in which future generations can say these words with the same pride—and use their language confidently in every sphere of modern life.

Sirojiddinov Asliddin Abduvohidjon o'g'li
PhD Researcher, Gulistan State University
Gulistan, Uzbekistan.

The interpretation of homeland, national identity and spiritual values in Abdulla Oripov's poetry



Saidqulova Nozima
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Abdulla Oripov

Worth Noting:

- One of the strongest aspects of Abdulla Oripov's poetry is also the issue of national identity. The poet deeply values the historical memory, language, customs, spiritual heritage, and values of the Uzbek people. In his work, national identity is not just a theme, but one of the main pillars of his entire poetic worldview.
- National identity, first of all, starts with a person searching for answers to questions like "Who am I?", "Which nation's child am I?", "Who were my ancestors?". Abdulla Oripov brings these questions to the reader's heart through poetry. A person reading his poems feels their own identity, native language, history, and national roots anew. For a poet, the value of their mother tongue is extremely high. Language is the soul of a nation. The history, worldview, hopes, and spiritual wealth of a people primarily live in their language.

Introduction

Homeland - is a sacred feeling that is born in a person's heart, grows throughout life, and never loses its significance. For a person, the homeland is not just the land where they were born and raised, but a great concept embodying their memories, dreams, ancestors, language, national values, and future. Although the theme of homeland has been celebrated by many creators in Uzbek poetry, in Abdulla Oripov's work this theme stands out with unique depth, sincerity, and national spirit.

When we read Abdulla Oripov's poetry, we feel that the concept of Homeland is not just a simple geographical place. For the poet, Homeland is a mother's lullaby, childhood memories, the melody of the mother tongue, the spirit of ancestors, the people's suffering, and their hope for the future. In his lines, the Homeland sometimes appears with pride, sometimes with pain, and sometimes with deep longing. This aspect enhances the impact of the poet's work.

The homeland is the most sacred place in a poet's heart

The theme of the Motherland forms a unique poetic world in Abdulla Oripov's work. The poet doesn't just glorify the Motherland; he connects its fate with his own. The joy of the Motherland becomes the poet's joy, and its pain turns into the ache of his heart.

One of the most important aspects of the poet's views on the homeland is his sincere love for his native land. This love is nourished not by lofty words but by simple and heartfelt feelings. For Abdulla Oripov, every inch of his homeland is dear. In his poems, the landscapes of the country, the native soil, the life of the people, and the national spirit all complement each other. When the poet writes about the Motherland, he also refers to its history. Because a people who forget their history struggle to understand their identity. In Abdulla Oripov's work, the memory of ancestors, national heroes, and the trials the people have gone through appear as part of the concept of the Motherland. In the poet's view, today's generation needs to look at yesterday to understand who they are and not forget the path their ancestors walked.

In his poems about the homeland, the poet's love for his motherland is sometimes expressed as pride, and sometimes as longing. This gives his work a life-like breath. After all, true patriotism is not just about praise. Loving your country means being able to see its shortcomings, feeling the people's pain, and taking responsibility for the future.

National identity is the artistic expression of the people's spirit

One of the strongest aspects of Abdulla Oripov's poetry is also the issue of national identity. The poet deeply values the historical memory, language, customs, spir-

itual heritage, and values of the Uzbek people. In his work, national identity is not just a theme, but one of the main pillars of his entire poetic worldview.

National identity, first of all, starts with a person searching for answers to questions like "Who am I?", "Which nation's child am I?", "Who were my ancestors?". Abdulla Oripov brings these questions to the reader's heart through poetry. A person reading his poems feels their own identity, native language, history, and national roots anew. For a poet, the value of their mother tongue is extremely high. Language is the soul of a nation. The history, worldview, hopes, and spiritual wealth of a people primarily live in their language. That's why in Abdulla Oripov's work, his respect for language is closely connected with the notion of national identity. In the poet's lines, soaked with national spirit, the people's natural character, hospitality, honor, respect for elders, and regard for the young are all reflected. All of these are artistic expressions of national identity. In Abdulla Oripov's work, understanding national identity never comes at the expense of other peoples. On the contrary, a person who understands their own identity can also respect other nations and peoples. The poet's views on nationality align with humanistic and universal values.

Spiritual values are the measure of a person's heart

In Abdulla Oripov's poetry,

it's really hard to imagine themes of homeland and national identity without spiritual values. In his works, concepts like honesty, conscience, honor, loyalty, compassion, respect for parents, humanity, and justice hold a special place. This, in turn, reflects the writer's high moral standards, and the poems written with this perspective help readers develop virtuous qualities.

The poet was a person who judged people not just by their appearance or social status, but by their heart and deeds. In his view, a person's true wealth is their spiritual purity. He emphasized that material possessions, positions, or fame might be temporary, but a person's good name and noble deeds live on in the memory of generations. In many of Abdulla Oripov's poems, the notion of conscience appears as a person's inner judge. A person cannot escape from their own heart. The truth hidden from society cannot be hidden from the conscience. In this sense, the poet's work encourages the reader to look into their own heart.

In the poet's spiritual views, respect for parents and ancestors also holds an important place. Because a person's spiritual roots begin with family, parents, and a mother's lullaby. Remembering ancestors means preserving historical memory. Where there is historical memory, national identity is also strengthened.

The importance of Abdulla Oripov's poetry for today's generation

In today's era of globalization, young people's worldview is constantly expanding. Different cultures, ideas, and perspectives are quickly becoming part of people's lives. In such a situation, preserving national identity, respecting the native language, and valuing spiritual values is extremely important.

Abdulla Oripov's poetry is significant for today's generation in this regard as well. His works combine qualities like love for the homeland, responsibility towards the people, national pride, and humanity into a whole. The poet's lines about the homeland encourage the younger generation not just to love their country, but also to understand their duty to it. Because love for the homeland is shown not only in

words but in actions. Studying well, working honestly, thinking about the people's interests, preserving the mother tongue, valuing history and culture - all of these are different ways of serving the homeland. Another important feature of Abdulla Oripov's work is that he doesn't limit the reader with ready-made conclusions. His lines encourage people to think, feel, and reflect on their own lives. That's why his poetry doesn't lose its value over the years.

Conclusion

Abdulla Oripov's poetry is that of a poet with a unique artistic world where national spirit, love for the homeland, and human values come together. In his work, the homeland is not just a simple concept, but is portrayed as a sacred feeling that lives in the deepest layers of the human heart. National identity, meanwhile, is interpreted in connection with history, language, collective memory, and the heritage of ancestors.

The poet's moral views encourage people to be conscientious, honest, loyal, and compassionate. His poetry urges the reader to understand themselves, love their homeland, and preserve their national values. Abdulla Oripov's poems are like a voice from the people's hearts, heard from afar. In this voice, the essence of the motherland, the memory of ancestors, the people's dreams, and the spiritual heritage passed to future generations are all embodied. The poet's lines remind us of one truth: the more a person understands their homeland, language, history, and spiritual roots, the deeper they comprehend their own self. In this sense, Abdulla Oripov's work is a priceless treasure of Uzbek poetry, and his artistic views on the homeland, national identity, and spiritual values remain relevant today and will continue to be important for future generations.

Saidqulova Nozima To'liqin daughter
Karshi State Technical University
Irrigation engineering faculty of master

John Keats: Beauty, Pain, Escapism, and the Poetic Imagination

Muhammad Kashif; BS English – 5th Semester, (A project of Romantic poetry suggested by Muhammad Adnan Gujjar) University of Chenab, Gujrat, Pakistan

By: **Muhammad Kashif**
xxxxxxxxxxxx

John Keats is known as one of the most famous Romantic poets. His life was full of miseries and difficulties. Early in his life, he lost his father. Six years later, his mother also died of tuberculosis. These parental losses had a profound impact on his life and literary work.

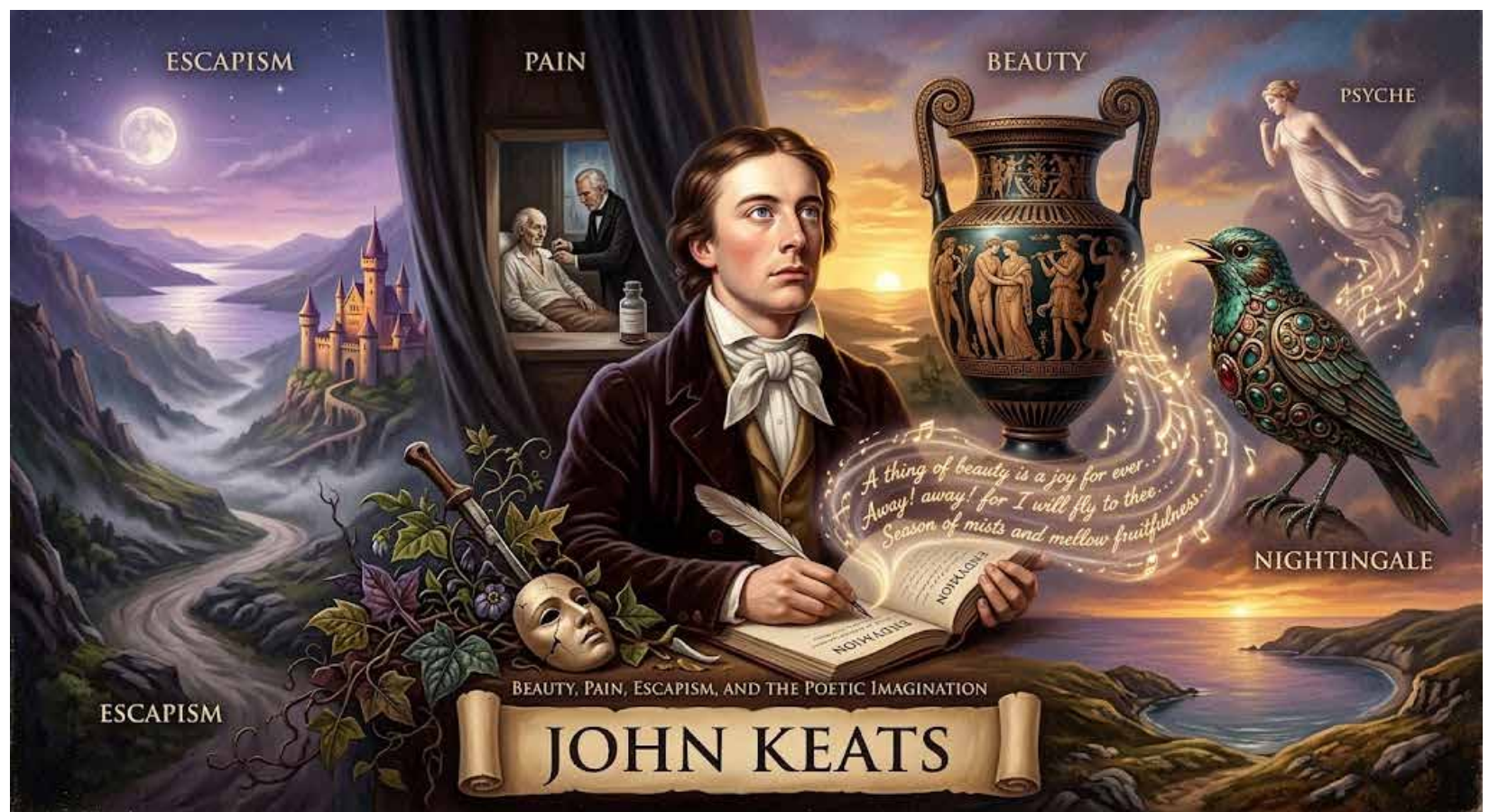
Keats also trained as a surgeon and became a licensed apothecary in 1816. He had a deep affection for the literary works of Edmund Spenser. Spenser's famous work, *The Faerie Queene*, inspired him greatly.

John Keats wrote his first sonnet, "O Solitude!", which contributed to his introduction to important literary figures and literary circles, including Percy Bysshe Shelley and William Wordsworth.

Moreover, an important aspect of Keats's poetry is the theme of uncertainty. In poems such as *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, and *To Autumn*, it becomes clear that his poetry does not always provide a single, definite vision. Instead, the reader engages with multiple perspectives and interpretations. Furthermore, grief and pain can be seen throughout his work. In "On Seeing a Butterfly," he addresses the butterfly and expresses a desire to remain close to it. He wishes that it would not fly away so that he could experience comfort and recall memories associated with his childhood. A sense of loneliness can also be felt throughout his poetry. In *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, he initially praises the beauty and permanence of art. Through this beautiful depiction, he explores the transcendent relationship between art, beauty, and the sorrowful reality of human life.

John Keats is often called the poet of beauty. His poetic philosophy suggests that beauty is closely connected with truth and human understanding. Critics have debated this approach, with some arguing that aesthetic experience can provide insight but should not necessarily be regarded as a direct source of knowledge. Keats's poetry does not always provide a clear resolution to such questions; instead, he leaves the reader with the freedom to interpret and draw conclusions.

Unlike Wordsworth's emphasis on nature or Shelley's tendency towards abstract ideas, Keats strongly emphasized the importance of the five senses. A beautiful portrayal of taste, touch, smell, sight, and sound can



be observed in *The Eve of St. Agnes*. His poetry frequently transforms sensory experience into an aesthetic and imaginative experience.

His materialist tendency also emphasizes the physical world as an important ground for meaning and feeling. The themes of mortality and loss are particularly vivid in his poetry. The roots of these themes can partly be traced to the tragedies of his life. Keats's brother Tom died of tuberculosis, and Keats himself later suffered from the same disease. He experienced profound grief and emotional suffering. His letters reveal his psychological struggles and his complex relationship with religious belief.

Additionally, Keats's relationship with Fanny Brawne contributed to his emotional turmoil. Critics argue that his love for Fanny Brawne became an important source of inspiration for his poetry. This can be seen particularly in works such as *The Eve of St. Agnes* and "Bright Star," where romantic longing and idealized love are powerfully represented. Although some critics may consider such longing ordinary, Keats transformed his personal emotions into enduring works of art through his poetic imagination.

John Keats has sometimes been described as an escapist. The Battle of Waterloo took place in 1815, while England was also experiencing considerable political and economic unrest, including the aftermath of the

Peterloo Massacre and widespread social difficulties. Keats did not directly engage extensively with the political and economic conditions of his country in his poetry. Instead, he often turned towards beauty, imagination, nature, art, and dreams. This is one reason why the element of escapism can be observed in his poetry. He immerses himself in beautiful descriptions and imagines an ideal world beyond ordinary suffering. Critics have therefore interpreted his emphasis on beauty and the senses as, in part, a retreat from the political turmoil of his age. However, his Romanticism and imaginative escapism do not make his poetry insignificant; rather, they reveal his unique response to suffering and reality.

Moreover, the soul of a poet is sensitive. A poet deeply feels the happenings around him, and external circumstances can leave a profound impact on his way of thinking. The same can be observed in the life and poetry of John Keats. Throughout his life, he longed for happiness and permanence. The early deaths of his parents and, later, his brother deeply affected him.

Another element that remained close to Keats was pain. Literary critics often suggest that his suffering contributed to the development of his poetic genius. For Keats, pain was not merely a punishment; it became an important part of his artistic and intellectual growth. A crucial

feature of Keats's poetry is his sensitivity towards the feelings and experiences of others. He takes seemingly ordinary objects and transforms them into sources of beauty and reflection. For example, in *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, he looks at an ancient Greek urn and discovers profound meaning in its artistic representation.

His poetry vividly demonstrates that objects and experiences in nature and art can possess their own beauty and value. From a butterfly to a starry night, almost every subject can become worthy of poetic appreciation. Although escapism is an important element of his poetry, readers can also discover the miracles of nature and reconsider the significance of things that they normally overlook. His poetry invites the wandering soul to find peace and encourages readers to rethink their ideas about ordinary experiences and their surroundings.

The master of poetic depiction, John Keats, gives us a valuable lesson through both his life and his poetry: sorrow and suffering are genuine aspects of human existence, but they can also be transformed through imagination and art. Although his life was full of troubles, he continued to write about beauty and the seemingly small but meaningful things around him. Some of his writings leave the reader free to enter a world of imagination. Keats believed in the power of the poet's imagination and

in the ability of poetry to hold apparently contradictory experiences together. His poetry has the power not merely to introduce the reader to a new concept but to transform the reader's emotional and imaginative experience.

In conclusion, John Keats lived for only twenty-five years, but his poetry and ideas about beauty, imagination, love, and mortality remain alive to this day. His life raises an important question: is it better to live for a hundred years without leaving a significant legacy, or to live a short life while creating something that inspires generations? Keats's life was short but deeply influential. His famous association of truth and beauty remains one of the most memorable ideas in Romantic poetry. Although he had a brief lifespan, his journey demonstrates that a short life can be extraordinarily meaningful when lived with dedication and creative potential. His life is a powerful example of determination. Despite struggling with tuberculosis, personal loss, and emotional suffering, he continued to write and develop his poetic art. Like a warrior fighting against overwhelming enemies, Keats continued to pursue his artistic vision. His life and poetry remain a true inspiration for young writers who strive to create meaningful literature despite the difficulties and obstacles they encounter.