

The 33rd edition of the annual showpiece of the Middle Eastern travel industry was a crowd-puller with more than 80,000 attendees

Middle East

This year's ATM drew regional and international markets to Dubai, with more than 55 destination stands :



Tourism bonanza for the Middle East: FOUR DAYS WHEN THE WORLD CAME UNDER ONE ROOF IN DUBAI

By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor – UK
reporting from Dubai
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

Dubai, the Shangri-La of the Middle East, gave a spectacular welcome to thousands of participants who had descended on the city's prestigious Dubai World Trade Centre for this year's four-day Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2026.

The international travel and tourism community turned out in force, with decision-makers from the UAE, India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, Türkiye, Bahrain, South Africa, Morocco, Qatar, the United States and China convening



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai (right), tours Arabian Travel Market at Dubai World Trade Centre on the opening day.

at the beautiful Dubai World Trade Centre, the venue for major international gatherings, recently.

The 33rd edition of the annual showpiece of the Middle Eastern travel industry was a crowd-puller with more than 80,000 attendees.

They defied all the odds to attend the event, as this part of the Middle East has been overshadowed by war clouds from the ongoing conflict between Iran and the US.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, visited Arabian Travel Market 2026 (ATM) as the four-day global

Contd Pages 10,11,12

Kenyan hockey legends honoured in London

Sports
Awards



Page 6

The woman behind Kenya's nuclear conversation

Profile
Kenya



Page 15,16

One salary, many mouths: The weight of black tax

Payday in Nairobi isn't a windfall Tax



Page 18

The Day Washington Sanctioned a Court

ICC



Page 20

White House bars Microsoft from foreign worker P4

Poetry Page 8
Linguopoetic features of the Semantic subgroups of adjectives

News Backpage
Term two: The term that makes or breaks candidates



Development is more than economic growth: Africa's challenge and Kenya's path to shared prosperity

By Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo – PWD
Email; fkipchelimo@yahoo.com

Every time leaders in Africa and more specifically Kenya travel to every corner of the country and more specifically towards elections period to pronounce what is development

and what they have delivered or are intending to deliver towards development. In recent times, they come with real, skewed or abstract statistical data to drive their point home. Whether these approaches are true or false depends on the audience understanding of what is development

and the perspective of the speaker. A nation is not developed merely because it has impressive highways, modern buildings, expanding cities or rising economic statistics. Development becomes meaningful when ordinary citizens experience better living conditions, enjoy equal oppor-

tunities, access reliable public services and participate in shaping their country's future. The fundamental question is therefore not simply how

Contd Page 14

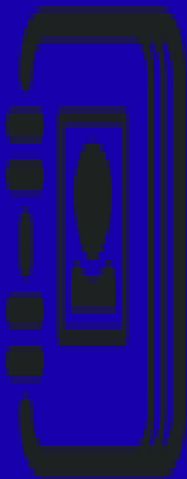


CLASSIFY

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

www.businessavaibale.com



An Open Letter To His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

They called it sovereignty. We call it hunger

An open letter to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on the law that broke the shilling and the warning buried in April.



By: **Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza**
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

They called it sovereignty. We call it hunger

An open letter to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on the law that broke the shilling and the warning buried in April.

By Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
Your Excellency,

I am writing this at 2:17am. I cannot sleep. A colleague — an Uber driver from Kampala — called earlier to borrow Shs 10,000 for fuel. Last month he borrowed 5,000. He said quietly, “Mukama, petrol is now 8,000.” He did not complain about the government. He just sounded tired.

Mzee, that tiredness is the subject of this letter.

On 28 April 2026, a man you trust with our money spoke like a prophet. Bank of Uganda Governor Michael Atingi-Ego sat before the Joint Committee and did not shout. He said plainly: “A country without reserves is not sovereign.” He explained that the previous year Uganda had recorded a surplus of \$1.5 billion — not because the country had sold more coffee, but because Ugandans in Dubai, London and Boston had sent money home. From that love, the country had built \$6 billion in reserves. “The moment you tamper with these inflows,” he warned, “we risk running down our reserves, and that is economic disaster.”

Then came the sentence that demanded the longest pause: “Bank of Uganda was never consulted.”

Mzee, how does a government write a law about money without consulting the keeper of money?

The legislation was the Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026, tabled on 15 April by Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka. Its name is attractive. But as Frantz Fanon warned, nationalism that does not include the

economic liberation of the people is an empty shell. Under the Bill, any person receiving more than Shs 400 million from outside Uganda without ministerial permission would be classified as a foreign agent — required to register, disclose funding and obtain a certificate. Failure: 20 years in prison. Influencing public opinion against government policy on behalf of a foreigner: criminal.

Mzee, in 2025, the Ugandan diaspora sent home \$2.5 billion. That money is not foreign. It is Ugandan — earned by a mother in Qatar who sleeps on a concrete floor so her daughter in Kabale can sleep under a roof.

The warnings came from across the political spectrum. Job Kijja cried: “You are giving the power of the Constitution to the Minister.” Ssemujju Nganda, who has observed Ugandan parliaments for three decades, said: “This is coming mainly to regulate political funding.” Lawyer Godber Tumushabe was unsparing: “We literally no longer have the 1995 Constitution.” Isaac Ssemakadde, president of the Uganda Law Society, speaking from exile because he fears to return home, called it simply: “An announcement of departure.” Joel Ssenyonyi argued the law was redundant — treason already criminalised, anti-money laundering laws already in place. Medard Sseggoni noted the absence of public consultation. Jonathan Odur reported that microphones had been switched off.

After seven hours on 6 May, it passed. On 22 May, it became law. The government then amended it — remittances exempted, foreign direct investment exempted. On paper, safe. But Adam Smith observed 250 years ago that money does not like to be frightened. Money does not read footnotes. It reads fear. When a government calls its own people foreign agents, their relatives abroad stop sending.

What the governor predicted in April came to pass exactly as he said it would. On 8 October, Reuters reported the Ugandan shilling had fallen 11 per cent since January — the worst depreciation in modern history. From 3,604 in March to 4,040, then 4,090, then 4,100.



Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

Offshore investors sold treasury bills and fled to Kenya and Tanzania. Manufacturers bought dollars in panic. Energy companies needed more as global oil prices climbed.

On 6 October, Ssenyonyi rose in parliament again — not triumphant, but sad. He quoted the governor’s April warning back to the chamber, then said simply: “It is biting hard.” Let me translate that into the language of daily life. It is traders in Kikuubo unable to clear containers from Mombasa — one container now costs millions of shillings more than six months ago. It is petrol at Shs 6,529 in August and 8,000 yesterday. A boda boda rider works an entire day to buy enough fuel to work tomorrow. As the novelist Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi observed: in Uganda, people do not die of politics. They die of transport costs.

On 9 October, Independence Day, you spoke in Entebbe. You said you were “totally against” the governor’s proposal to deploy reserves to stabilise the shilling, calling it squan-

dering resources to help people “importing dead people’s hair.”

Mzee, I paused the television there. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen wrote that poverty is not simply the absence of money — it is the absence of the capability to be heard. The woman importing hair extensions does not think of herself as importing dead people’s hair. She thinks of herself as importing her livelihood. When you reduce a national currency crisis to wigs, she does not hear economic policy. She hears her president laughing at her small business. You said a weak shilling helps exporters. That is true. But Uganda’s coffee farmer receives more shillings per dollar while buying fuel at 8,000 per litre to transport that coffee to Kampala, and fertiliser and medicine priced at 4,100 to the dollar. As Ngugi wa Thiong’o asks: how can a country export what it cannot afford to produce?

Mzee, I am 30. I was born in the Uganda you rebuilt. My father tells me that in 1986 there were no reserves — zero. You built \$6 billion

from zero. You know what zero means. Do not let seven hours in May unravel forty years.

I beg you, not as opposition, but as your muzukulu, to consider three things. Recall the Protection of Sovereignty Bill for genuine review — with the diaspora, with traders, with the Bank of Uganda. Let the governor deploy reserves prudently to calm the market, not to subsidise imports, but to show that \$6 billion is real. And come to Kikuubo. Without convoy. Ask that mama selling hair what her exchange rate means this week.

Your Excellency, our elder Ali Mazrui wrote that Africa’s sovereignty is not in its flags, but in its stomachs. Uganda was warned in April. The warning became law in May. The country is weeping in October. There is still time for history to record that when the shilling bled, Mzee listened.

Yours faithfully,
Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
Author and journalist
mukphix@gmail.com

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

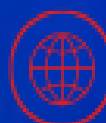
Contact Us:



+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

America

White House bars Microsoft from foreign worker visa programme

By: Diaspora Times Team

xxxxxxxxxxxx

The White House has barred Microsoft and seven other technology companies from hiring skilled international workers through a permanent residency programme, with Vice President JD Vance accusing the firms of fraud and of replacing American workers with what he called “foreign indentured servants.” Vance made the accusations at a White House conference where Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling announced that the US government would no longer process new or pending Permanent Labor Certification Program — known as PERM — applications from Microsoft, Adobe, Cognizant, Infosys, Tata, Wipro, HCL and Capgemini. The PERM programme is a principal pathway through which skilled foreign workers obtain Green Cards, allowing them to live and work in the United States indefinitely.

The move represents one of the most aggressive actions yet by the Trump administration against the H1b visa programme, a scheme capped at 85,000 visas annually that American technology companies have relied upon for decades to recruit highly specialised workers they say cannot be found domestically. Sonderling described firms such as Microsoft and American universities as “visa mills” that were “flooding” the country with foreign workers at the expense of domestic employees. Vance was unsparing in his targeting of Microsoft specifically, a company valued among the most expensive in the world and one that employs more than 200,000 people globally. “No company in the US has abused this system more than Microsoft,” he said. His central argument rested on



Microsoft Founder Bill Gates.

a comparison he drew between the company’s recent workforce decisions and its visa applications: Microsoft laid off approximately 6,000 workers while simultaneously filing 6,800 H1b visa applications over the same period, which Vance presented as direct evidence of foreign workers being used to undercut and replace American staff.

Microsoft pushed back firmly. A company spokeswoman told the BBC that 80 per cent of the H1b filings submitted during the last fiscal year related to employees already working at the company, not new

recruits brought in from abroad. She added that international workers hired through the programme receive identical compensation to their American counterparts. “The vast majority of Microsoft employees in the United States are Americans,” she said, adding that the company looked forward to providing the administration with additional information. According to Ellis, a firm that assists technology companies with international hiring, the median salary for an H1b worker at Microsoft stands at \$155,000.

The timing of the announcement

carried a particular edge. Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella was present at the White House on the same day to receive a medal for technology innovation from President Donald Trump, who introduced Nadella warmly, saying the administration was “honoured” to award him the recognition and that it was “so well-deserved.” Other technology figures who received medals at the same event included Elon Musk, Jensen Huang, Lisa Su, Sergey Brin and Michael Dell — none of whom featured in Vance’s criticism. Nadella and several of the other recipi-

ents had also attended recent White House events, including a lunch focused on artificial intelligence and a state dinner for Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Vance clarified his use of the phrase “foreign indentured servants” by pointing to the structural vulnerability of H1b holders: should such a worker be dismissed by the company that sponsored their visa, they are legally required to leave the country. The Trump administration last month proposed eliminating the existing 60-day grace period that currently allows dismissed visa holders some time to find alternative employment before being required to depart.

The crackdown is conspicuous for who it excludes as much as for who it targets. Amazon, Google, Meta, Apple and Nvidia — all of which rely heavily on the H1b programme and hire thousands of international workers annually — were absent from Vance’s list of accused companies. Critics of the administration’s immigration policy have long argued that its stated concern for American workers is selectively applied, and yesterday’s announcement does little to dispel that reading.

For the technology sector more broadly, the action introduces fresh uncertainty into a hiring ecosystem that has depended on international talent for a generation. Whether the White House’s intervention survives legal challenge, or whether it signals the beginning of a broader restructuring of how America recruits skilled labour from abroad, remains to be seen — but for the thousands of workers whose futures hang on a visa approval, the answer cannot come quickly enough.

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@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

SPORTS AWARD

KENYAN HOCKEY LEGENDS HONoured IN LONDON



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

Heroes of Kenya's best years in international hockey were honoured in a glittering ceremony in London recently.

The event, at the Spencer Hockey Club in Tooting, London, was hosted by the Sikh Union, Nairobi. Several Olympic stars from Kenya's golden hockey era attended, when the team was at the top of global hockey, collecting honours worldwide.

Twenty-seven outstanding Sikh Union veteran Olympians and World Cup players, living and those who had passed on, were honoured with a Certificate of Recognition.

The Certificate of Recognition represents more than playing for Sikh Union and participating in the Olympic Games—it is a certificate of honour, signifying an athlete's lifelong commitment to Sikh Union Club Nairobi, the Olympic values, and their role as ambassadors of sport worldwide.

Each recipient has left an indelible mark on their sport and communities, serving as role models for aspiring athletes and advocates for sport's power to unite the world.

Honoured guests at the event were accompanied by their family and friends. Relatives of the heroes who had passed away over the years or were physically challenged were also attended.

The event was a testament to the enduring spirit of the Sikh Union Club Nairobi and the Olympic Games, and to the profound impact of its athletes on the world of sport and beyond.

In attendance to award the Certificates were veterans Manjinder Singh Bansal, affectionately known as Munai Bansal, Chairman of the Centenary Celebration Committee, and Surjit Singh Rihal, also an Olympian and World Cup player, who hosted the function on behalf of Sikh Union Club Nairobi.

Guests observed a minute's silence and offered a prayer in memory of all of Sikh Union Nairobi's fallen Olympians. It was a poignant moment for the families of these heroes present at the event.

Mr Rihal invited everyone present to remember one of Kenya's oldest Olympians, Reynold DeSouza, in their prayers, who had passed away in July. He had played in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics.

Mr Rihal also invited the guests to pray for Sarjit Singh of Malaysia,



Sikh Union Club Nairobi Olympians and World Cup players with their Certificates of Recognition. Standing L-R: Ravinder Singh Laly, Manjeet Singh Panesar, Ranjeev Singh Deol, Harvinder Singh Marwa, Harvinderpal Singh Sibia. Sitting L-R: Ranjit Singh Sehmi, Munai Bansal (Chairman, Centenary Celebration Committee), Davinder Singh Deegan, Surjit Singh Rihal, Kulbir Singh Bhaura (Seoul 1988 Olympic Games Gold Medallist, Great Britain).

who passed away in August. Sarjit, who had attended the Sikh Union's Centenary celebrations in May, had played in the 1984 and 1992 Olympics.

Everyone also remembered in their prayers the hundreds of people who had lost their lives in the tragic floods on 26 August in Nepal.

Surjit also reminded everyone to remember in their prayers the 11 Israeli Olympians who lost their lives 54 years ago on 6 September in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games massacre, an attack by the Palestinian militant organisation, Black September. A few Olympians present there that day were at the Olympic village at the time.

"The legacy and the indelible mark left by the Fallen Olympians upon our community will always be honoured," Mr Rihal noted.

The London event celebrated unforgettable milestones.

Among the honourees, several lu-

minaries stood out for their extraordinary contributions to Sikh Union and the Olympic legacy:

- The oldest Olympian Honoured: The ceremony paid tribute to the oldest Olympian of Sikh Union among the recipients, Surjeet Singh Deol, who participated in Melbourne 1956 as the first captain of the Kenyan Olympic team and played in the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. He played for Sikh Union from the early 1940s till 1962. He will always be remembered as a true pioneer who broke barriers and continues to inspire generations with his enduring passion for sport. His son Ranjeev Singh Deol represented Canada in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games

- The oldest living Olympian Honoured: The ceremony paid tribute to the only living, oldest Olympian among the recipients, Joginder Singh Dhillon, who participated in Melbourne 1956. He joined the Sikh

Union Club in the early 1950s. Unfortunately, because of his age and ill health, he could not attend.

- Celebrating the Greatest of All Time: Avtar Singh Sohal was inducted into the Kenyan Hall of Fame, being hailed as the "greatest of all time", captivating the audience with his unmatched record of achievements and unwavering dedication to the discipline. Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968, and Munich 1972, he is one of three Kenyan Olympians to have played in four Olympics, captaining the team in the last three Olympics before becoming an International Umpire and FIH Coach in field hockey. He played for Sikh Union from around

1957 till 1975, captaining the team for many years. He received his Certificate of Recognition from Sikh Union recently in Nairobi.

- Another Four-Time Olympic Participant: Surjeet Singh Panesar, Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968 and Munich 1972 - One of the three Olympians to have played in four Olympics; At the Munich 1972 Olympic Games, he became the first player to have played 31 matches, a record he held until 1988 when he was joined by Australia's Richard Charlesworth. They both held this record until the London Olympic Games.

Another highlight was the recognition of an Olympian who competed in four Olympic Games, exemplifying resilience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence over decades. He played for Sikh Union from around 1957 to 1989 and captained the team in 1974/75.

- The most decorated Sikh hockey Olympian outside India, Kulbir Singh Bhaura, attended the function. He won a Bronze Medal in Los Angeles 1984 and a Gold Medal in Seoul 1988 Olympic Games while playing for Great Britain. He won a Silver Medal for England in the 1986 World Cup.

- Selected for the World XI team; Surjit Singh Rihal played in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and was selected for the 'World XI Team'. Captain of the Kenya team from 1973-1981. The Kenya Hockey Union named him the first 'Hockey Player of the Year' in 1976. He played for Sikh Union from 1969 till 1989 and captained the team in 1982/83.

- There are many more noteworthy Kenyan Olympians living as well as fallen from the list of recipients on this occasion. All of them have a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.



The 1971 Sikh Union Club Nairobi Hockey tour of India, in which seven in this photo toured with the team.

Standing L-R: Perminder Singh Kalsi, Kulbir Singh Bhaura (Seoul 1988 Olympic Games Hockey Gold Medallist), Harvinderpal Singh Sibia, Amarjeet Singh Dhak.

Sitting L-R: Ranjit Singh Laly, Munai Bansal, Chairman, Centenary Celebration Committee of Sikh Union Nairobi, Davinder Singh Deegan, Surjit Singh Rihal, Harvinder Singh Marwa.



Munai Bansal, Chairman, Centenary Celebration Committee of Sikh Union Club Nairobi, presenting the Certificate of Recognition to Surjit Singh Rihal. Standing on the left is Kulbir Singh Bhaura (1988 Olympic Games Gold Medallist for Great Britain).

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



[www. gotyou.co.ke](http://www.gotyou.co.ke)

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

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

Poetry

Linguopoetic features of the Semantic subgroups of adjectives in Uzbek Poetry



By: Abdulboqiyeva Muhlisa Botirjon

xxxxxxxxxxxx

(Based on the Poems of Muhammad Yusuf)

Abstract

This thesis examines the semantic subgroups of adjectives and their linguopoetic features in Uzbek poetry, using the works of Muhammad Yusuf as the primary material for analysis. It explores the semantic, stylistic, and emotional potential of adjectives in literary texts, their role in creating imagery, expressing the author's attitude, and enhancing the aesthetic impact of poetry. Particular attention is paid to the use of adjectives as epithets, their ability to acquire new shades of meaning in context, and their significance as essential elements in the system of poetic imagery.

Keywords: adjective, semantic subgroups, linguopoetics, Muhammad Yusuf, poetic text, epithet, literary image, contextual meaning, emotional impact, poetic function.

Introduction

The linguistic study of literary texts and the identification of the aesthetic functions of linguistic units within them constitute important areas of contemporary Uzbek linguistics. Every word used in a poetic text not only conveys a particular lexical meaning but also performs functions such as creating imagery, expressing the author's attitude, and influencing the reader's emotions. In this respect, adjectives occupy a special position. In addition to expressing the characteristics of objects and phenomena, adjectives contribute to their artistic representation and enhance the precision and expressiveness of poetic imagery.

Muhammad Yusuf, one of the prominent representatives of Uzbek poetry, is distinguished by his colloquial and accessible style, sincere emotions, national values, and artistic interpretation of human experiences. Studying the use of adjectives in his poetry from a linguopoetic perspective helps to develop a deeper understanding of his individual style, system of poetic imagery, and means of emotional expression.

The relevance of this study lies in the need to identify not only the grammatical features of adjectives as units expressing qualities and characteristics but also their semantic, stylistic, and aesthetic potential as manifested in literary texts.



Research Aim and Methods

The primary aim of this study is to examine the semantic subgroups of adjectives in Uzbek poetry and their linguopoetic features from both theoretical and practical perspectives, highlighting the poetic functions, role in imagery creation, and stylistic potential of adjectives through an analysis of Muhammad Yusuf's poetry.

To achieve this aim, the study addresses the following objectives: examining the semantic and grammatical characteristics of adjectives; classifying them into semantic subgroups; identifying their contextual meanings in poetic texts; describing their functions as epithets; and evaluating their artistic and aesthetic effects.

The research employs theoretical analysis, contextual analysis, linguopoetic analysis, semantic classification, and stylistic analysis. These methods make it possible to identify not only the lexical meanings of adjectives but also the additional semantic and emotional layers they acquire within poetic contexts.

Main Body

Adjectives occupy an important position in the semantic and grammatical system of language. They express such characteristics of objects as color, shape, size, state, and other qualities, thereby ensuring precision in description. However, their function in literary discourse extends beyond the direct expression of attributes. Depending on the context, adjectives may also convey symbolic, figurative, evaluative, or emotional meanings. As a result, an ordinary descriptive unit can become an essential means of shaping literary meaning.

The classification of adjectives into

semantic subgroups provides a theoretical foundation for the systematic analysis of poetic texts. In the dissertation, adjectives are examined according to their semantic characteristics and functions in literary discourse, with their different semantic groups interpreted in relation to the poetic context. This approach helps determine not only which characteristics adjectives express but also what images, moods, and authorial attitudes are conveyed through those characteristics.

Studying the linguopoetic potential of adjectives in Muhammad Yusuf's poetry is particularly important for understanding the poet's sincere and accessible style. His works frequently address themes such as the homeland, mother, love, human relationships, longing, and emotional experiences. In expressing these themes, adjectives can establish the emotional tone of a description, convey a positive or negative evaluation of an image, and reinforce the overall meaning of a poem.

One of the major linguopoetic features of adjectives is their use as epithets. An epithet emphasizes a significant characteristic of an object or phenomenon, making a description more figurative and expressive. In this case, an adjective does not merely enter into a grammatical relationship with the noun it modifies; it may also convey the author's aesthetic perspective and emotional attitude. For example, expressions such as "dear homeland," "kind-hearted mother," and "open-hearted people" intensify the positive associations of the concepts they describe. Nevertheless, their specific artistic functions in an individual poem must be evaluated in the context of the complete text.

The poetic potential of adjectives is also clearly manifested in the formation of contextual meanings. Certain adjectives, in addition to direct-

ly describing characteristics, help express a person's emotional state, life experiences, or attitude toward a particular situation. For instance, expressions such as "sweet memory," "bitter truth," and "sorrowful heart" illustrate the transfer of qualities associated with taste or physical and emotional states to abstract concepts. Such usages demonstrate how the semantic range of adjectives expands under the influence of context, producing figurative meaning and imagery. These expressions serve as illustrative examples of the linguopoetic potential of adjectives and should not be regarded as direct quotations from a particular poem. Another important function of adjectives is the expression of the author's evaluative attitude. Evaluative adjectives enable a poet to communicate a personal perspective on the people, objects, or phenomena being portrayed. Such linguistic units influence the reader's emotional response to the text and reinforce the ideological orientation of the poem. Their evaluative meaning emerges through the interaction of the adjective's lexical meaning, the word it modifies, and the overall poetic situation.

The role of adjectives in creating imagery also deserves particular attention. They help highlight specific details of an artistic description, reveal the characteristics of a poetic character or lyrical subject, convey emotional states, and establish the overall emotional atmosphere of a poem. The harmonious use of several adjectives can contribute to the semantic coherence of a description. Therefore, adjectives should be analyzed not as isolated words but in relation to other linguistic devices used in the poetic text.

The scientific and practical significance of this research lies in the study of the semantic groups of adjectives through literary texts, the

systematization of their linguopoetic functions, and the identification of approaches applicable to the analysis of poetry. The findings may be used in teaching courses such as Modern Uzbek Literary Language, Stylistics, and Linguistics of Literary Texts, as well as in studying the linguistic features of poetic works.

Conclusion

The study of the linguopoetic features of the semantic subgroups of adjectives in Uzbek poetry contributes to identifying the artistic and aesthetic potential of linguistic units. Muhammad Yusuf's poetry provides valuable material for investigating this subject, particularly through a contextual analysis of the ways adjectives create imagery, intensify emotional impact, express evaluative attitudes, and enrich poetic descriptions.

The linguopoetic value of adjectives is determined not only by their lexical meanings but also by their position within a poem, their relationships with other words, and their contribution to the overall artistic meaning. In particular, the use of adjectives as epithets and their ability to express figurative meanings under the influence of context enhance the imagery and expressiveness of poetic texts.

Thus, analyzing the semantic subgroups and linguopoetic functions of adjectives in Muhammad Yusuf's poetry is of considerable scientific and practical importance. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the semantic and stylistic characteristics of Uzbek poetic discourse, the description of the poet's individual expressive style, and the improvement of methods for the linguistic analysis of literary texts.

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

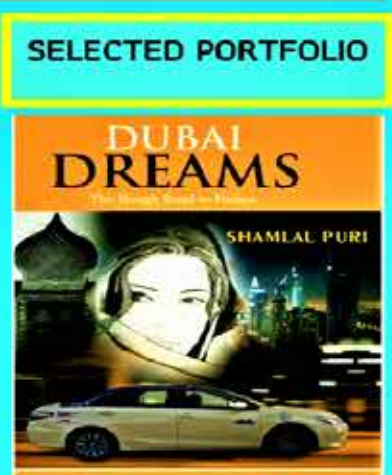
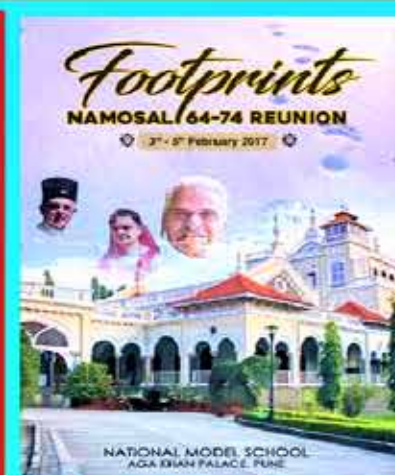
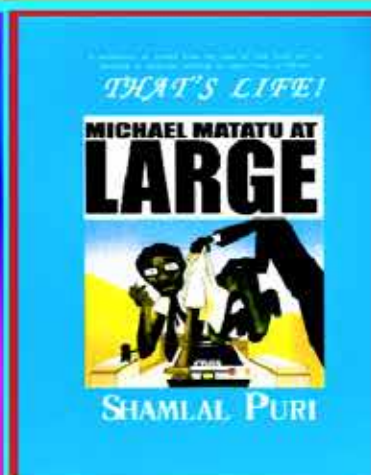
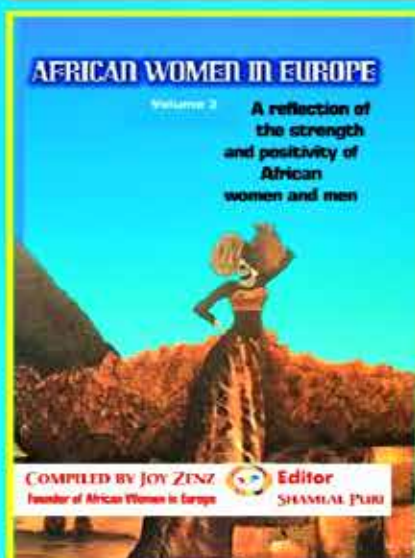
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

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

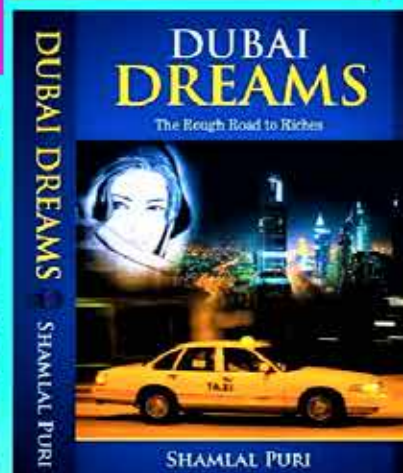
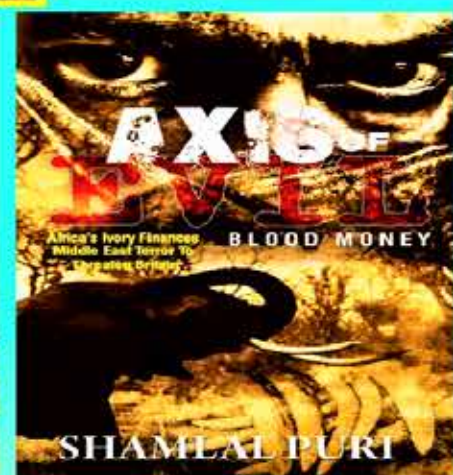
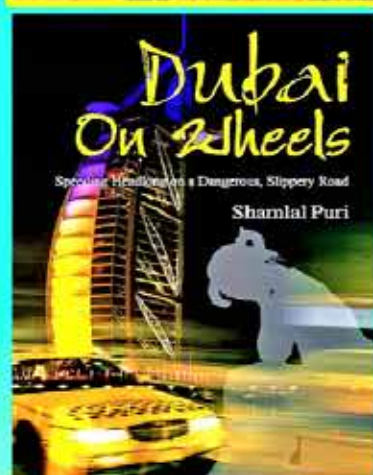
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

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.

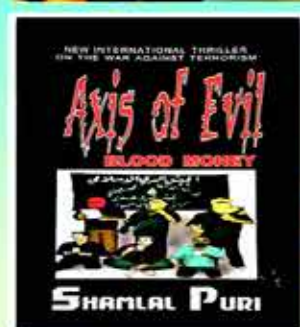
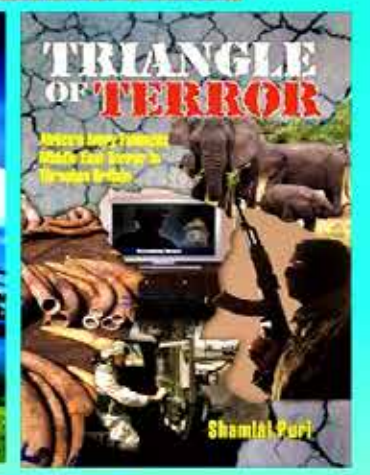
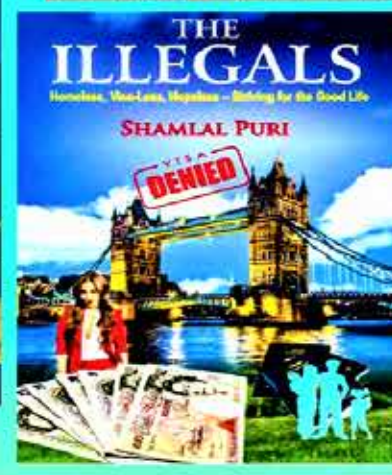
We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



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@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

UK NEWS

Tourism bonanza for the Middle East: FOUR DAYS WHEN THE WORLD CAME UNDER ONE ROOF IN DUBAI



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

Contd from Page 1

travel event opened its doors. During his visit, he highlighted Dubai's tourism performance, noting that the emirate welcomed around 7 million tourists in the first eight months of 2026 and recorded 21 million hotel room bookings during the same period. This year's ATM drew regional and international markets to Dubai, with more than 55 destination stands and a strong cross-section of the travel and tourism industry, including tourism authorities, airlines and transport providers, hospitality brands, and technology companies throughout the four-day event. 1,420 exhibitors came from companies operating worldwide, including Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, and the Americas. The Middle East had 621 companies of all sizes, some sharing their stands with other firms.

Representation from C-suite executives and procurement professionals ensured the far-reaching makeup of this year's show reflected the high levels of industry confidence but also the event's role as a convening force for the global travel and tourism community.

As the crowds mingled to view the amazing array of eye-catching stands in the Sheikh Saeed Halls, Trade Centre Arena and various exhibition halls displaying the best from each country, they were showered with cultural entertainment, song and music.

Issam Kazim, CEO of Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DCTCM), emphasised the importance of communicating this reality of successes. As the industry moves through this period, maintaining dialogue and connection will be critical to what comes next, with clear communication and aligned messaging helping to sustain confidence:

"Dubai is safe and stable. Daily life continues, with public services, infrastructure and tourism facilities fully operational," he said. "Hotels, restaurants, retail and transportation are open. While there have been some flight disruptions, operations have been scaling back up, spearheaded by Emirates and flydubai. We're confident in a sound and full recovery. Our historic model of openness has shaped our re-



The Saudi Arabia stand at the Arab Travel Market attracted many visitors. Photo: SHAMLAL PURI



Our Senior Editor Shamlal Puri takes a short break at the Arab Travel Market's TV media area after walking through the exhibition hall. Photo Abdalla



Jordan, the Land of the Dead Sea, had an amazing display. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

silience and will continue to attract first-time and repeat visitors from around the world."

The Middle East has consistently demonstrated its ability to respond to disruption and maintain mo-

mentum. Arabian Travel Market, the region's leading international travel event for more than three decades, remains part of that journey, supporting the industry as it moves forward and providing a place to re-



Excited visitors at the Arab Travel Market 2026 milling around the scores of stands. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Visit Kuwait had memorable attractions for many visitors who visited this stand. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Ras Al Khaimah, an emirate of the UAE, had its attractions on offer, particularly for foreign visitors to the show. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

connect when the time is right.

The path to recovery is underpinned by travel's proven track record of resilience, demonstrated most recently in the sector's astonishing post-pandemic rebound.

According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, travel and tourism delivered its strongest year on record in 2025, contributing US\$11.6 trillion to global GDP, equivalent to 9.8% of the global economy. Growth of 4.1% outpaced overall global economic growth of 2.8% by almost 50%, underlining the sector's con-

tinued strength.

The Middle East plays a vital role within this global ecosystem. The region accounts for around 5% of international arrivals and 14% of global transit traffic, making it a critical connector of global travel flows. Pre-crisis, Tourism Economics forecasts had projected \$207 billion in international visitor spending across the region in 2026, highlighting both

Contd Page 11

UK NEWS

Tourism bonanza for the Middle East: FOUR DAYS WHEN THE WORLD CAME UNDER ONE ROOF IN DUBAI

Contd from Page 10

xxxxxxxxxx

.....

its scale and strategic importance. This level of activity means that any disruption is felt quickly across the global travel network. However, it also reinforces the sector's defining characteristic: its ability to recover at pace.

WTTC President and CEO Gloria Guevara emphasised that recovery in the Middle East and globally can be swift when the right conditions are in place.

She said: "Travel & Tourism is the most resilient of sectors. The impact of international visitor spending across the Middle East is significant and averages around \$600 million per day, but history shows that the sector can recover quickly, especially when governments support travellers through hotel support or repatriation. Our analysis of previous crises demonstrates that security-related incidents often see the fastest tourism recovery times, in some cases as quickly as two months, when governments and industry work together to restore traveller confidence."

As clear examples of this approach in action, Dubai and the UAE enter this period from a position of strength. Dubai, the home of Arabian Travel Market, has built a reputation for decisive action and coordinated recovery. It was among the first destinations globally to reopen safely during the pandemic, implementing robust health and safety protocols, clear international communication, and strong public-private collaboration across the tourism ecosystem.

This approach continues to deliver results. In 2025, Dubai recorded its third consecutive record-breaking year, welcoming 19.59 million international overnight visitors, an increase of 5% year on year (DET). The city's ability to combine operational readiness, global connectivity, and a diversified tourism offering has been central to sustaining growth and rebuilding confidence. The ATM serves as a key global platform connecting destinations, travel suppliers, hospitality brands, airlines, technology providers and industry professionals from across the travel ecosystem.

Held under the theme 'Travel 2040: Driving New Frontiers Through Innovation and Technology', ATM 2026 examined how artificial intelligence, digital transformation, smart mobility and evolving traveller expectations are influencing the future of global travel.

More than 90 sessions took place during the event, in addition to 28 live showcases at the Tech & Innovation Hub – Demo Zone.

The event spotlighted ATM Travel



Moroccan musicians regaled visitors with their traditional music. Photo SHAM-LAL PURI



The Europe section featured many countries keen to attract tourists from the UAE.

Tech, the dedicated co-located show focused on the rapidly evolving travel technology sector, alongside the Tech and Innovation Zone, an immersive hub showcasing the latest developments in AI, immersive experiences, smart mobility, fintech, robotics and sustainable travel solutions.

The extensive ATM conference programme, which included the Global Stage, Future Stage, located within the Tech and Innovation Zone, and Experience Hub, brought together key tourism leaders and experts to examine the evolving challenges and opportunities shaping international tourism, with dedicated sessions exploring destination resilience, traveller experience, aviation innovation, digital transformation and sustainable long-term growth

strategies.

The programme included leading global research organisations, strategists and technology specialists who delivered data-driven insight into the future of travel.

Among the contributors on the Global Stage were Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics company, delivering the session "ATM Annual Trends Report: Middle East Momentum & Market Shifts".

Mr Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DCTCM), part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), said: "Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2026 once again provided an invaluable platform for the global travel and tourism industry to come together in Dubai, with strong participation



If music be the food of love, play on. String music lovers stopped to listen to this beautiful lady playing the Harp. Photo SHAM-LAL PURI



The Dubai stand was crowded with many visitors, particularly from other countries. Photo SHAM-LAL PURI



Qatar is gaining a reputation in the West as a holiday hub. Many visitors stopped by to see Qatar's best on display. Photo SHAM-LAL PURI

from both local and international stakeholders reinforcing our city's position as a safe, connected and accessible global destination.

.....

Contd Page 12

UK NEWS

Tourism bonanza for the Middle East: FOUR DAYS WHEN THE WORLD CAME UNDER ONE ROOF IN DUBAI

Contd from Page 11

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

“The event delivered opportunities to strengthen partnerships, share insights and identify new areas for collaboration across the sector, and the level of engagement reflected continued confidence in Dubai’s tourism proposition. We are proud to have been part of another successful edition of ATM and look forward to building on these relationships to support the sector’s long-term growth.”

The event was held at a critical time due to the ongoing conflict between the US and Israel on the one side and Iran on the other side. Special attention has to be paid to the security of potential tourists visiting the Middle East.

The Middle East’s travel and tourism community must prioritise aviation infrastructure and data-informed decision-making in preparation for a swift post-conflict rebound, according to ministers and industry experts speaking at the ATM.

Abdul Wahab Tefhaha, Secretary General, Arab Air Carriers’ Organisation (AACO), Schubert Lou, CEO, Trip.com, Laura El Khazen Lahoud, Minister of Tourism, Lebanon, and Nicola Amanda Bernstein, Minister for Tourism and Culture, Republic of Seychelles, met on ATM 2026’s Global Stage to discuss post-conflict connectivity and explore ways to future-proof operations. The session was moderated by Thomas Shambler, Head of Business, ITP Media Group.

Danielle Curtis, Regional Portfolio Director – UAE, RX Global, said: “The Middle East’s travel and tourism community has had to contend with significant challenges over the past six months, and the resilience and determination demonstrated have been truly impressive. It is enlightening to hear ministers and industry experts reflect on lessons learnt, and discuss how the region can further strengthen and future-proof both its physical and digital connectivity over the longer term.”

ATM 2026 provided the backdrop for an array of major announcements, spanning aviation, rail, hospitality, technology and more. The event saw the launch of Visit UAE, the host country’s first unified national tourism brand, which has been designed to position the nation as a single, integrated destination. The UAE Grand Tour – an online platform offering visitors the opportunity to embark on one continuous route through the seven emirates – was also unveiled at this year’s show. The national carrier, Emirates, signed 11 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) during ATM 2026, strengthening connections with sev-



The Etihad airline stand attracted many visitors keen to see what the carrier offers. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Sri Lanka is an inviting Indian Ocean destination for many wealthy people in the Middle East. Photo Courtesy



Poland, Sarajevo and many other European countries were out in full force to attract tourists from the Middle East. Photo: SHAMLAL PURI

en regional and global destinations, and bolstering partnerships across the fields of technology, marketing, products and packages, passenger experiences and more.

Rotana unveiled the next phase of its regional growth strategy at ATM 2026, with a pipeline of 40 hotels and more than 8,300 keys under development. Ten of these projects are located in Saudi Arabia, highlighting the strategic importance of the KSA market to the hospitality giant. Etihad Airways and Etihad Rail signed an MoU at ATM 2026 to explore the creation of a seamless air-

rail travel experience for the UAE, connecting visitors and residents to destinations across the country. As part of the agreement, the organisations will collaborate to simplify travel and cement Abu Dhabi’s position as a gateway to the wider UAE. Mastercard and Trip.com used ATM 2026 to showcase booking experiences powered by AI agent TripGenie. Developed in conjunction with Network International, the agentic platform has been designed to transform how consumers search, plan and pay for travel.

A consortium comprising Air Ara-



Bahrain’s best natural products on display at the Arab Travel Market. These ladies, dressed in their cultural outfits, added splendour. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



The African section at the Arab Travel Market had many countries displaying their best. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

bia Group, Nesma Group and KUN Holding Company announced that a new airline would begin operating in Saudi Arabia on 20 September 2026, connecting the eastern city of Dammam with Riyadh, Madinah and Jeddah.

Curtis, Regional Portfolio Director – UAE, RX Global, said: “ATM 2026 saw a typically robust showing from the Middle East’s travel and tourism community, and we were delighted to see such strong representation from international markets.”

“The event played host to a string of important announcements from leaders in both the public and private sectors, and floorspace dedicated to technology doubled with the debut of the co-located ATM Travel Tech show.”

Curtis added: “There was a tangible sense of confidence and optimism throughout this year’s edition, as exhibitors capitalised on opportunities to fill their Q4 sales pipelines.

Preparations for ATM 2027 are already underway, and we cannot wait to explore fresh opportunities, partnerships and innovations with delegates when we welcome them back to Dubai in May.”

This year also marked the intro-

duction of ATM’s refreshed brand identity, which was visible across the event. The evolution reflects the show’s continued growth beyond the traditional exhibition floor into a year-round platform connecting communities, ideas and commercial opportunities across the global travel and tourism ecosystem.

Now in its 33rd edition, Arabian Travel Market remains the leading international travel and tourism event in the Middle East, bringing together the global travel community to develop partnerships, share knowledge and explore new business opportunities across the sector. Next year’s edition of Arabian Travel Market will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre from 3–6 May 2027. Diaspora Global Times hopes to report from there.

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://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

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/>

Intagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

WORLD

Development is more than economic growth: Africa's challenge and Kenya's path to shared prosperity



By: . Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

Development is a continuous process through which a society expands its economic productive capacity, strengthens institutions, improves human capabilities and creates conditions for people to live healthy, secure and dignified lives. The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index captures three central dimensions: health, education and a decent standard of living. However, genuine development also requires attention to inequality, employment, human rights, environmental sustainability and public accountability. Economic growth is important, but it is a means to development, not its ultimate purpose. A growing economy that leaves millions struggling to afford food, healthcare, housing and education has not fully translated its economic potential into human progress.

Measuring development therefore requires clear, measurable key performance indicators. These include real GDP growth and income per capita; poverty and inequality levels; the number and quality of jobs created; school enrolment, completion and learning outcomes; life expectancy and access to affordable healthcare; electricity, clean water and sanitation coverage



much wealth a nation generates, but how effectively that wealth improves human lives. This distinction is essential to understanding Africa's development journey and determining what Kenya must do to align itself with internationally recognised standards of sustainable, inclusive and accountable development.

Development is a continuous process through which a society expands its economic productive capacity, strengthens institutions, improves human capabilities and creates conditions for people to live healthy, secure and dignified lives. The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index captures three central dimensions: health, education and a decent standard of living. However, genuine development also requires attention to inequality, employment, human rights, environmental sustainability and public accountability. Economic growth is important, but it is a means to development, not its ultimate purpose. A growing economy that leaves millions struggling to afford food, healthcare, housing and education has

not fully translated its economic potential into human progress.

Measuring development therefore requires clear, measurable key performance indicators. These include real GDP growth and income per capita; poverty and inequality levels; the number and quality of jobs created; school enrolment, completion and learning outcomes; life expectancy and access to affordable healthcare; electricity, clean water and sanitation coverage; food security and agricultural productivity; manufacturing and export competitiveness; and access to technology. Governance indicators must examine corruption control, the rule of law, public participation, procurement transparency and the quality of public services. Environmental indicators should measure climate resilience, renewable energy adoption and sustainable resource management. Equally important is whether women, young people, rural communities and persons with disabilities can participate meaningfully in economic and public life. These indicators should be disaggregated by county, gender, age and disability

so that national averages do not conceal communities being left behind.

Africa's development experience presents both encouraging opportunities and persistent structural challenges. The continent possesses abundant natural resources, a growing workforce, substantial agricultural potential and expanding digital innovation. Mobile financial services, renewable energy investments and the African Continental Free Trade Area provide opportunities to strengthen enterprise, regional commerce and industrialisation. Nevertheless, progress remains uneven. The 2025 Africa Sustainable Development Report found advances across several Sustainable Development Goals, but concluded that the pace remains insufficient to achieve the 2030 targets. Poverty, unemployment, infrastructure deficits, climate vulnerability, commodity dependence and debt pressures continue to constrain progress in many countries. Africa's central challenge is to transform its resources into productive industries, decent jobs, effective public institutions and broadly shared prosperity. <https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/2025-africa-sustainable-development-report>

The appropriate African development approach must consequently combine national ownership with international best practices.

Governments should invest in human capital, strengthen regional markets, process more raw materials locally, promote agricultural value addition and support technological innovation. Regional integration should facilitate trade, investment, skills transfer and cross-border infrastructure. Development partnerships must prioritise sustainable outcomes rather than dependence on external assistance. Above all, African countries must strengthen public institutions, manage debt responsibly and ensure that natural-resource revenues benefit their populations. The continent does not need to copy another region mechanically; it must adapt proven principles of industrial transformation, accountable governance and inclusive growth to its own circumstances.

Kenya demonstrates the opportunities and contradictions of this development journey. According to the Kenya National Bureau of

Statistics' Economic Survey 2026, real GDP grew by 4.6 per cent in 2025, compared with 4.7 per cent in 2024. Agriculture, construction, financial services, information and communication, and other sectors contributed to economic activity. Yet the employment figures reveal a critical challenge: of the 822,100 jobs recorded as created in 2025, approximately 87.2 per cent were in the informal sector. Informal work is an important source of livelihoods and entrepreneurship, but many workers face irregular earnings, limited social protection and uncertain prospects for growth. Kenya must therefore look beyond the number of jobs created to examine their quality, security and productivity.

The country's development potential is substantial. Its entrepreneurial culture, agricultural base, digital capabilities, skilled workforce and devolved system of government provide important foundations for progress. However, persistent household financial pressures, unequal access to services, youth underemployment, expensive production inputs and regional disparities illustrate the distance between economic potential and everyday prosperity. A farmer who produces abundant maize or milk but cannot access reliable markets may remain poor. A graduate unable to secure productive employment may not experience economic growth as opportunity. A person with a disability excluded by inaccessible infrastructure or discriminatory recruitment cannot participate fully in national development. These are not peripheral concerns; they are tests of whether development is reaching the people it is intended to serve.

PROFILES

The woman behind Kenya's nuclear conversation

Patricia Ndede is quietly doing one of the most demanding communication jobs in Kenya — explaining the unexplainable to communities whose land may never be the same.

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Patricia Ndede, director of information, advocacy and communication at the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency, yesterday emerged as a central figure in Kenya's effort to bring credible public engagement to the country's proposed nuclear power plant in Lenya Village, Bondo Constituency, Siaya County — a project that, if it proceeds, would represent one of the most consequential infrastructure decisions in the nation's history.

Major national projects are typically announced through figures: megawatts of electricity, billions of shillings in investment, thousands of projected jobs. Behind those figures, however, are communities whose land, livelihoods and futures may be reshaped in ways no press release adequately captures. In Bondo Constituency, where Lenya Village has been identified as the preferred site for Kenya's proposed nuclear facility, the quality of the public conversation is as consequential as the technical vision. Residents need clear information, honest answers and a genuine opportunity to participate in decisions that could redefine their community for generations. That is precisely where Ndede's work begins.

Her role at the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency — known as NuPEA — connects the agency with communities, elected leaders, technical specialists and broader stakeholders navigating one of the most unfamiliar subjects ever placed before a Kenyan public forum. Communication in this context is not publicity. It is the bridge between complex national planning and the people who will live with its consequences. And it is a bridge that must be constructed carefully, maintained consistently and opened unconditionally to those who have the most to lose if the conversation fails.

Ndede brings more than 22 years of experience in media and communications to that bridge. Her professional journey spans journalism, public relations, government communication, public education campaigns and crisis management. She has worked with Nation Media Group and Capital Group, held communication responsibilities at Huduma Kenya and the Retirement Benefits Authority, and served in leadership roles within the public relations profession in Kenya. It is a combination that matters enormously in a subject where institutional credibility and public trust must be built simultaneously and largely from scratch.

Experience in journalism is particularly relevant when communicating issues that attract sustained public scrutiny. Journalists understand



Ms Patricia Ndede director of communication NuPEA team during engagement with stakeholders.

the importance of asking uncomfortable questions, verifying information independently, examining claims against evidence and presenting complex matters in ways that ordinary audiences can follow without feeling patronised. Public relations and institutional communication, meanwhile, demand the ability to explain an organisation's mandate, maintain constructive stakeholder relationships and respond to legitimate concerns without retreating into defensive or bureaucratic language. Bringing those disciplines together helps NuPEA approach public engagement with a clearer sense of the questions communities are likely to raise — and the standard of answer those communities deserve and have every right to expect. NuPEA has conducted a series of engagements with communities and stakeholders in the Bondo area on the proposed nuclear facility. Those sessions matter because a project of this magnitude cannot be understood through technical presentations alone. It requires direct, sustained interaction with the people who live in and around the proposed host site — people who did not ask to find themselves at the centre of a national energy debate but who now find their futures partly dependent on its outcome. Residents have raised substantive questions about safety, environmental protection, spent fuel management, land acquisition, employment opportunities, infrastructure development and the possible establishment of a Com-

munity Liaison Committee. These are not procedural concerns to be managed or deflected. They are the legitimate expectations of citizens with a direct and irreversible stake in what happens next. Questions about safety require detailed, evidence-based explanations of applicable standards, regulatory responsibilities and proposed oversight arrangements. Questions about environmental protection require clear information about the assessments that must be completed — independently and transparently — before any final decision is made. Questions about spent fuel require technically accurate explanations of the management arrangements being considered and the international standards that would govern them. Questions about land require transparent, accessible information about the legal procedures that apply, the compensation frameworks available and the channels through which grievances can be raised and pursued. None of these can be adequately addressed through general assurances or institutional goodwill. They require specific, honest answers from the relevant institutions and specialists — and they require a communication function capable of ensuring those answers reach the people who need them in a language and format those people can actually use. Nuclear energy is genuinely unfamiliar to most Kenyan communities, and the technical vocabulary that surrounds it — reactor tech-

nology, radiation protection, emergency preparedness, regulatory oversight, environmental impact assessments — can easily overwhelm a public forum and leave residents feeling excluded from a conversation that is directly about their lives. Yet the underlying issues connect precisely to what communities care about most deeply: the safety of their families, the protection of their land, water and natural resources, the future of their children and the long-term sustainability of their way of life. Effective communication of nuclear energy therefore demands the ability to explain technical matters accurately without burying the audience in specialist language, and the courage to acknowledge openly that some questions depend on assessments not yet completed and that some decisions have not yet been made and cannot honestly be pre-empted. This distinction — between what is established, what is under assessment and what remains genuinely undecided — is one of the most important things Ndede's communication function must convey with consistency and clarity. Public engagement loses its integrity and its value when residents cannot reliably distinguish confirmed facts from institutional proposals, or technical plans from regulatory approvals not yet secured. Where those lines are allowed to blur, trust deteriorates and the space for constructive dialogue contracts, sometimes irreversibly. Where they are maintained

with discipline and transparency, public confidence can grow even around an unfamiliar and inherently contentious subject — and communities can engage with the process as informed participants rather than bewildered observers. Trust is not something an institution can demand or declare. It is built through conduct — through communicating what is known honestly, explaining what remains uncertain without evasion and avoiding statements that outpace the evidence or suggest conclusions the regulatory process has not yet reached. For NuPEA, building trust means keeping relevant information accessible after meetings conclude, providing substantive answers to questions left unresolved during public forums and explaining in accessible terms how concerns raised by stakeholders are being incorporated into the agency's thinking and planning. It means giving communities adequate time and genuine access to participate before important decisions are reached. And it means returning to communities with updated, accurate information as the project moves through its various stages — treating public engagement as an ongoing relationship rather than a one-time administrative obligation to be discharged and forgotten. Ndede's background in crisis communication is directly relevant to

PROFILES

The woman behind Kenya's nuclear conversation

Patricia Ndede is quietly doing one of the most demanding communication jobs in Kenya — explaining the unexplainable to communities whose land may never be the same.

Contd from Page 15

xxxxxxxxxxxx

that challenge. Projects involving nuclear energy can generate intense public emotion because they engage simultaneously with safety, environmental responsibility, economic aspiration and the long-term character of local communities. When concerns arise and are not met with credible responses, silence creates an information vacuum that rumour and fear quickly fill. Overly technical responses can alienate audiences and deepen the perception that institutions are speaking past the community rather than to it. Vague reassurances, delivered without specificity, can intensify rather than reduce suspicion. Effective communication in this environment demands a careful and constantly recalibrated balance: accuracy without inaccessibility, institutional authority without condescension, empathy without the appearance of manipulation, and the organisational discipline to follow a difficult question through to a credible, verifiable answer rather than closing it with a deflection that satisfies no one.

That standard of sustained engagement cannot be delivered through a single public meeting or a carefully managed communication campaign with a fixed end date. It requires communities to be able to seek clarification long after forums close, to access updated information as the project develops and receives new regulatory attention, and to receive honest explanations when significant new developments occur. Local media, community meetings, printed materials, radio broadcasts and digital platforms all have a legitimate and useful role in that effort. But they must work in concert rather than as substitutes for one another. Digital communication provides reach and the ability to share detailed technical documents at low cost, but face-to-face engagement remains essential for residents with limited internet access, limited literacy in formal technical language or a well-founded preference for questioning officials and specialists directly, in a room where accountability is immediate and visible.

Inclusivity must remain a central discipline throughout the engagement process and not merely a rhetorical commitment made in mission statements. Women, young people, older residents, fishing communities along the shores of Lake Victoria, local traders, smallholder farmers, faith leaders, people with disabilities and households living closest to the proposed site may hold questions and priorities that differ significantly from those which surface in formal stakeholder meetings attended primarily by officials and community representatives. Their



Ms Patricia Ndede director of communication NuPEA team during engagement with stakeholders.

participation must not be treated as a procedural formality or a numerical target to be reported in agency documentation. Engagement arrangements must make it genuinely practical for different groups to contribute — and must do so with the recognition that access to information, transportation, technology and the time required to attend meetings is not evenly distributed across any community, particularly one in a rural constituency where many residents depend on daily economic activities they cannot easily suspend. A Community Liaison Committee, if established through a transparent and participatory process with a clearly defined and publicly communicated mandate, could provide an additional and enduring channel between residents and the institutions involved in the proposed project. Its value would depend entirely on whether it functions as a genuinely trusted mechanism — one with credible and broadly representative membership, regular and publicly announced meetings, a reliable and independently verifiable process for recording community concerns and a practical means of communicating its findings and the responses it receives back to the wider community it is supposed to represent. A committee that exists on paper but operates primarily as a channel for institutional messaging, rather than as a vehicle for authentic community voice, would not strengthen the engagement process. It would undermine it, and the damage to public trust that would follow would be difficult to repair.

Communication cannot substitute for independent safety oversight, rigorous environmental assessment, transparent legal process or the technical work required to establish definitively whether a project of this nature can safely proceed in the proposed location. These processes must be conducted on their own terms, by the institutions and specialists constitutionally and legally responsible for them, and their findings must be made publicly available in accessible form. But effective public communication helps communities understand those processes, follow their progress, know which institutions are responsible for which decisions and hold those institutions accountable when explanations are inadequate or timelines are not met. It keeps the space for public participation genuinely open and functional — rather than allowing it to be reduced to a regulatory requirement visited briefly at the start of a project and then quietly set aside as decisions accumulate behind closed doors.

Ndede's work at NuPEA, connecting the agency's information and advocacy function to the practical needs of communities across Bondo and Siaya County, reflects a broader truth about complex public projects: that the people and processes responsible for communication are not peripheral to the enterprise. They are central to whether the enterprise retains democratic legitimacy as it moves forward. The engineering plans and investment projections that define a nuclear project on paper are visible and measurable.

The communication work that determines whether communities understand, trust and meaningfully participate in the process that shapes those plans is less visible — but no less consequential.

The proposed nuclear facility in Kenya will ultimately be considered through technical, environmental, legal, economic and public participation processes that extend well beyond any communication programme and will take years to complete. Its future will be determined by evidence, independent regulatory findings and the decisions of accountable institutions operating within Kenya's legal framework and within the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. But the quality of public understanding throughout that process — and the degree to which communities in Bondo and across Siaya County are able to participate meaningfully in it — will depend substantially on whether residents have access to clear, honest and consistently updated information, and on whether the professionals responsible for that information bring to it the experience, discipline and genuine respect for the public that the task unambiguously demands.

Ndede represents that standard of professionalism in a field where the temptation to manage public perception rather than serve public understanding is ever present and structurally reinforced. Her contribution is a reminder that national development is most credible, most durable and most just when the people closest to a proposed project are

treated as participants in the process rather than as recipients of decisions already made elsewhere. The conversations she is helping to facilitate may be less visible in the public record than engineering specifications or financing agreements. But they are no less essential to whether what follows in Kenya and across Bondo Constituency is experienced by residents as development — or simply as disruption imposed from above.

The strongest and most meaningful measure of her contribution will not be found in any single public forum, any agency report or any media coverage of a stakeholder meeting. It will be found in whether the people of Bondo and the wider Siaya community, when this process reaches its most consequential and irreversible stages, can honestly say that they were genuinely informed throughout, that their questions received real answers, that their concerns were taken seriously by the people with the power to act on them — and that they had a meaningful voice in shaping the decisions that will determine the future of their land, their water and their community. That outcome, if it is achieved, will owe a great deal to the work being done now — consistently, professionally and without fanfare, by people like Patricia Ndede.

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

LEADERSHIP AS A CALL TO PURPOSE

Transforming Communities
Through Visionary Leadership



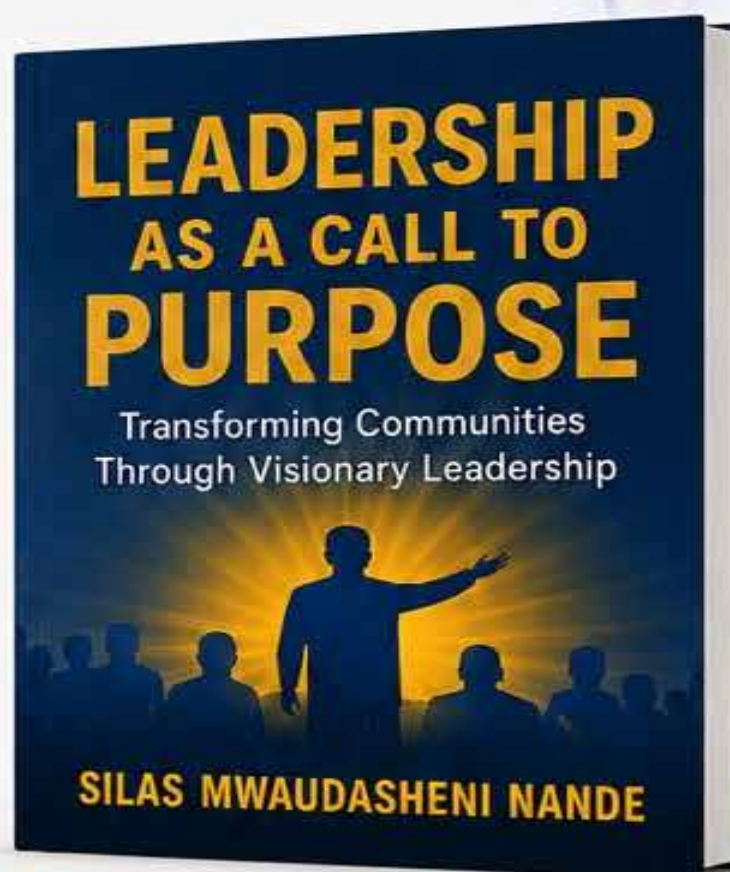
NOW AVAILABLE FOR
PRE-ORDERS!



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

One salary, many mouths: The weight of black tax

For many Kenyan households, one income supports several people. From parents' medical bills to siblings' school fees, helping relatives can ease their financial strain while making it harder to build a secure future.

By: Oduor Rosequillet Nabwire
xxxxxxxxxxxx

For Kevin Otieno, payday is less a celebration than a reminder of the many obligations tied to his income. The 31-year-old corporate communications officer in Nairobi earns a gross monthly salary of KSh120,000 but takes home about KSh84,500 after statutory deductions.

"Payday in Nairobi isn't a windfall; it's an execution of a transfer strategy," he says. "I don't hold money; I route it."

His income must sustain him in Nairobi while supporting his parents in Siaya and his younger sister at Kenyatta University.

Kevin spends KSh22,000 on rent, KSh14,000 on groceries, KSh8,500 on transport and KSh6,000 on utilities, bringing his basic living expenses to KSh50,500.

He also sends KSh20,000 home monthly, allocating KSh12,000 to his parents and KSh8,000 to his sister.

"In Kenya, if you are employed in the city, your salary isn't just yours. It belongs to your village ecosystem," he says.

His father takes regular medication for hypertension, while his younger sister depends on the allowance for meals and other expenses.

"Without that support, my parents would struggle with their upkeep and medical expenses, while my sister might turn to mobile debt apps like Fuliza. It's called 'Black Tax', but I see it as duty."

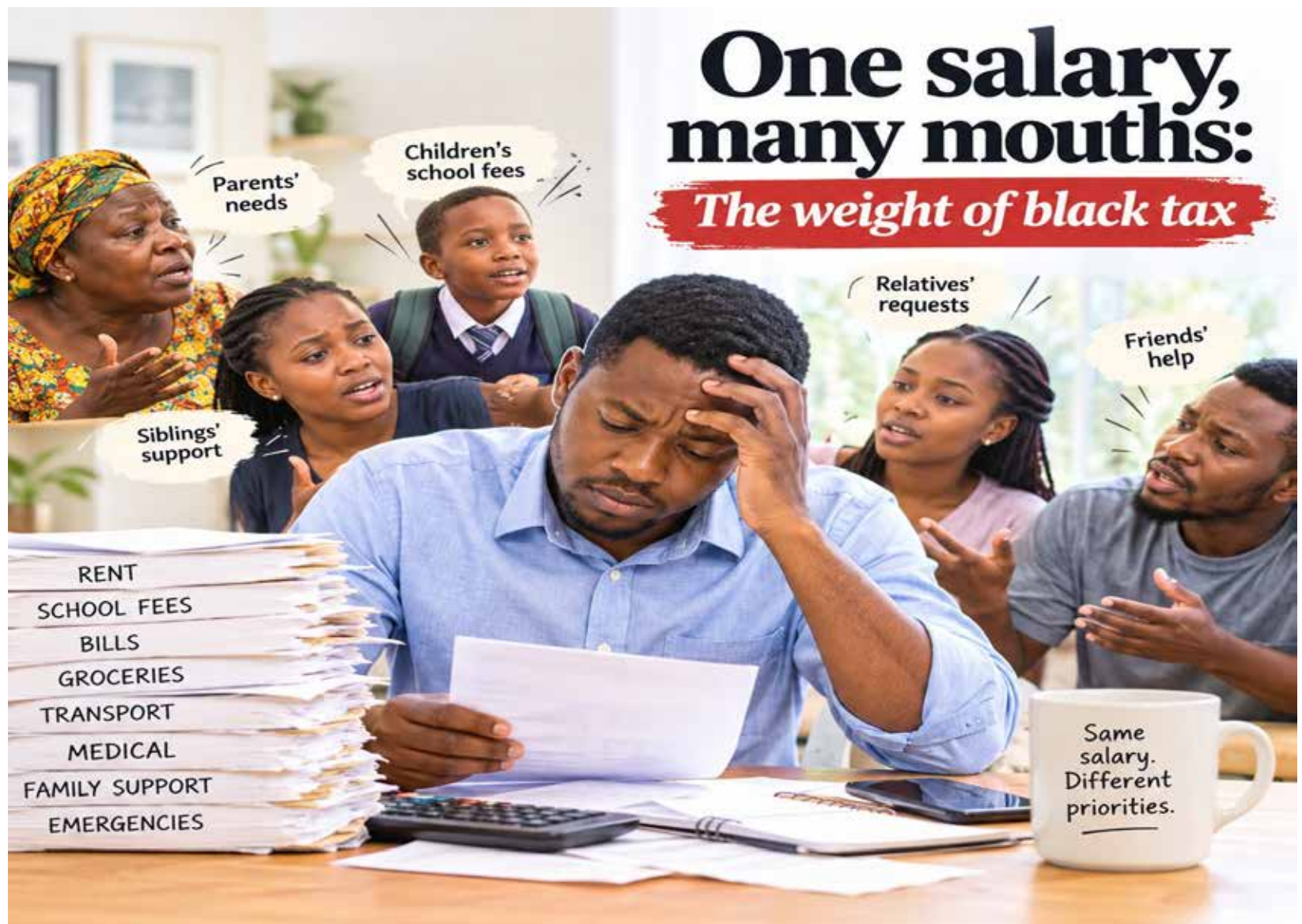
That sense of duty comes at a cost to Kevin's own financial security. He saves KSh10,000 through a savings and credit cooperative organisation, leaving him about KSh4,000 for personal spending. An unexpected family emergency or funeral contribution could quickly upset that balance, leaving little room to pursue his long-term goals.

For Wanjiku Njoroge, known to her customers as Shiku, the challenge is managing family commitments on an unpredictable income. The 29-year-old mitumba trader at Gikomba Market also sells clothes online, but her earnings fluctuate with sales rather than arriving as a predictable monthly salary.

Her average monthly net profit, after deducting the KSh38,000 cost of a bale, is KSh52,000. It falls to KSh25,000 during slow periods and rises to KSh85,000 in peak seasons. Yet her family commitments remain unchanged.

"Payday happens fifty times a month, or sometimes not at all for three days straight," she says. "Some weeks I am holding cash, but that cash isn't profit. It's inventory money."

She spends KSh27,500 on her household and sends KSh16,500



monthly to her mother in Murang'a and younger brother in boarding school. Of that amount, KSh4,500 covers her mother's diabetic medication, KSh5,000 contributes to household costs, and KSh7,000 goes towards her brother's school fees.

"My mother needs her diabetic drugs every single month on the 5th," she says. "School fees don't have a 'bad season' discount." She also contributes KSh6,000 monthly to a chama and sets aside KSh2,000 for emergencies and personal needs. The chama offers savings and access to loans for emergencies or restocking, providing an alternative to digital lending apps. Unlike Kevin, whose salary arrives predictably, Shiku must protect the capital she needs to keep her business running while meeting her family's needs. When sales fall, balancing those demands becomes harder.

For Everline Taabu, a 34-year-old senior customer service representative at a logistics firm in Nairobi, the consequences of competing financial demands were more severe. She takes home about KSh68,000 a month, but at the height of her financial difficulties, her monthly obligations reached KSh89,000. Household expenses accounted for KSh38,000, family contributions KSh31,000 and debt repayments KSh20,000, leaving her with a monthly shortfall of KSh21,000.

"People see you working in an office with a decent monthly salary and

assume you are thriving," she says. "But for three years, I was living on a knife edge. Every month, I was running a deficit."

Her commitments grew as she helped cover her mother's upkeep, her cousins' school fee arrears and her uncle's medical expenses, alongside her own rent and living costs. Rather than turn down requests for help, she borrowed through mobile loan applications and SACCO emergency loans to bridge the gap. Her KSh120,000 in emergency savings was depleted within six months. As borrowing continued, she began using new loans to manage existing obligations. After sending money home for an urgent medical need, she fell two months behind on rent and received a distress notice from her landlord.

"I was working 50 hours a week, yet I was completely broke and drowning," she says.

The emotional cost was as difficult as the financial one. She felt that turning down her relatives' requests for help meant failing them, even when meeting those requests threatened her own financial stability.

"The hardest part wasn't the money; it was the guilt," she says. "In African culture, saying 'I don't have it' to your family feels like saying 'I don't love you.'"

Her turning point came when she sat down with her family and showed them her pay slip and bank statements. She explained that continuing at the same rate could cost

her both her job and her home. She restructured her SACCO loans to consolidate more expensive digital debt and capped her monthly family contribution at KSh12,000, transferring the money into a separate mobile wallet on payday.

"Learning to say 'No, I cannot afford this right now' was the hardest emotional hurdle of my adult life, but it was the only thing that saved me from total financial collapse," she says.

Everline's experience highlights the challenge of balancing family responsibility with personal financial security. Eric Muchoki, a personal finance expert and director at Customized Solutions Insurance Agency, advises people to set limits on family support based on what they can afford.

"Your support to your parents and siblings should be commensurate with what you can afford. Don't overcommit what you cannot afford to offer," he says.

Putting that advice into practice can be difficult when requests involve essential needs such as medication, school fees and unexpected medical bills. The pressure is particularly acute for those regarded as their families' most dependable source of support. As Everline's experience shows, repeatedly meeting these demands without clear limits can leave earners struggling to cover their own expenses, even when they have a regular income.

Building financial security also

means having savings to fall back on when emergencies arise. Fred Waswa, founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of Octagon Africa Financial Services, stresses the importance of preparing for unexpected expenses.

"True financial security is having the savings to navigate life's emergencies without falling behind or resorting to debt," he says.

For Kevin, supporting family means balancing immediate obligations with his own future. For Shiku, it means meeting those obligations without putting her business at risk. For Everline, it meant learning that helping relatives could not come at the expense of her own financial security.

Their experiences show that Black Tax is about more than money sent home. It also involves the expectations placed on the family member who earns and the guilt that can accompany saying no. When those expectations exceed what one person can afford, the consequences can include depleted savings, mounting debt and delayed personal goals. Supporting family can be an act of love and shared progress. But when one income becomes the safety net for several households, support must remain sustainable. The challenge is not to abandon family, but to help without leaving the person providing that help financially exposed.

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

The Day Washington Sanctioned a Court

The United States has placed the International Criminal Court itself on its sanctions list. The decision tests whether 125 states will defend the institution they created. It also forces a harder question: does the court deserve defending?



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

• The timing carried its own irony. Only hours earlier, the Norwegian Nobel Committee had awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Navanethem Pillay. She is a South African jurist and a former judge of the same court. One part of the world honoured a judge of the ICC. The most powerful state in the world moved to starve the institution she once served.

• The court replied the same day. It described the sanctions as an attempt to obstruct the course of justice. It called them an assault on the rule of law and on the principle that no one stands above the law. Its President, Judge Tomoko Akane of Japan, said the court would continue to discharge its mandate with independence and impartiality.



International Criminal Court (ICC)

A court on a blacklist

On 9 October 2026, the United States did something without precedent in the history of international justice. It designated the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a sanctioned entity. The Office of Foreign Assets Control, an arm of the United States Treasury, added the court to its list of Specially Designated Nationals. The entry lists the address of the court in The Hague and records 1 July 2002 as its date of establishment. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the measure in a video statement. He called the institution a "rogue court". He said Washington would ban transactions with it, cut off its resources and cripple its ability to operate. He then issued an ultimatum: "Either the ICC will end its threats, or we will end the ICC."

The timing carried its own irony. Only hours earlier, the Norwegian Nobel Committee had awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Navanethem Pillay. She is a South African jurist and a former judge of the same court. One part of

the world honoured a judge of the ICC. The most powerful state in the world moved to starve the institution she once served. The court replied the same day. It described the sanctions as an attempt to obstruct the course of justice. It called them an assault on the rule of law and on the principle that no one stands above the law. Its President, Judge Tomoko Akane of Japan, said the court would continue to discharge its mandate with independence and impartiality. This article examines what the designation means in practice and whether it can end the court. It traces the origins of the court and the pattern of signatures, ratifications and withdrawals. It considers the place of Africa, the sources of funding and the consequences of disobedience by member states. It closes with a critique. The central question is plain. Is the ICC a global public good, or a selective instrument used against weaker states?

The road to 9 October

The designation did not ar-

rive without warning. On 6 February 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14203, titled "Imposing Sanctions on the International Criminal Court". The order allowed Washington to sanction persons connected with ICC efforts against nationals of the United States or of allies such as Israel. Individual designations followed in waves through 2025 and 2026. On 13 July 2026, Rubio announced a campaign to "dismantle" the court. Senior American diplomats telephoned governments and urged them to withdraw from the Rome Statute and to stop funding the court. On 18 August 2026, Washington sanctioned Judge Akane herself, together with Abdoulaye Seye, a Senegalese senior trial lawyer in the Office of the Prosecutor.

By that point, according to the court, nine of its eighteen judges were under American sanctions. So were both deputy prosecutors, a former prosecutor and one staff member. In September 2026, President Trump used his address to the United Nations General Assembly

to urge every member of the court to resign at once. The October designation completed a steady progression from individuals to the institution itself. The formal grievance concerns jurisdiction. The United States signed the Rome Statute in 2000 but never ratified it. Washington argues that a treaty court cannot try the nationals of a state that never consented to its authority. The immediate triggers, however, are two investigations. The first concerns Afghanistan, where the conduct of American personnel once fell within the scope of inquiry. The second concerns Palestine. In November 2024, judges of the court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister, Yoav Gallant.

What the designation does in practice

The legal effect is severe but not instant. The designation blocks any property of the court held in the United States or controlled by American persons. It generally bars Amer-

ican citizens, residents and companies from doing business with the court. It also exposes foreign persons who provide material support to designated targets to possible sanctions of their own.

The Treasury issued four general licences on the same day. General Licence 13 authorises transactions needed to maintain or wind down operations involving the court until 7 April 2027. Its explanatory note expressly permits payments by States Parties to the court. It also covers salaries, health insurance, rent, utilities and routine commercial services. General Licences 14, 15 and 16 deal with telecommunications and enterprise software, pension payments and certain matters relating to detainees.

This structure reveals the strategy. The six month window is not mercy. It is leverage. Rubio said the measure should encourage American allies within the court to find solutions that end the perceived threat to Amer-

Contd Page 21

Diaspora

The Day Washington Sanctioned a Court

The United States has placed the International Criminal Court itself on its sanctions list. The decision tests whether 125 states will defend the institution they created. It also forces a harder question: does the court deserve defending?

Contd from Page 20

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The legal effect is severe but not instant. The designation blocks any property of the court held in the United States or controlled by American persons. It generally bars American citizens, residents and companies from doing business with the court. It also exposes foreign persons who provide material support to designated targets to possible sanctions of their own.
- The Treasury issued four general licences on the same day. General Licence 13 authorises transactions needed to maintain or wind down operations involving the court until 7 April 2027. Its explanatory note expressly permits payments by States Parties to the court. It also covers salaries, health insurance, rent, utilities and routine commercial services. General Licences 14, 15 and 16 deal with telecommunications and enterprise software, pension payments and certain matters relating to detainees.



Secretary of State Marco Rubio

ican sovereignty. In plain terms, Washington has given European, Asian, African and Latin American States Parties half a year to reshape the court. If they fail, the court loses lawful access to the American financial and technological system. The practical exposure is considerable. Modern institutions depend on American banks, payment systems, cloud services, email platforms and software licences. Sanctioned judges have already described the personal cost. Judge Kimberly Prost of Canada told a Dutch newspaper in 2026 that she lost access to all her American services, including credit cards, without warning. What has happened to individual judges can now happen to an institution with an approved staffing level of about one thousand posts.

Is this the end of the ICC?

The short answer is no, at least not in law. The longer answer is more troubling. The court does not exist by permission from Washington. It exists by treaty among 125 States Parties. No sanctions programme can repeal that treaty. The United States contributes nothing to the budget of the court, so it cannot withdraw money it never gave. The largest financial contribu-

tor is Japan, which supplies roughly fifteen per cent of assessed contributions. Germany and France follow. The host state has also signalled resistance. An hour before the American announcement, Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten said the Netherlands and Europe would defend the court "stone by stone". In September 2026, the foreign ministers of the Netherlands and Germany pledged to work together against attacks on the court. Belgium, Slovenia, members of the European Parliament and civil society groups have urged the European Union to extend its Blocking Statute to the ICC sanctions. That instrument would make it unlawful for companies and banks in the European Union to comply with the American measures. Yet survival in law is not survival in practice. Three pressures now converge on the court at once.

The first pressure is financial isolation. European banks with large American exposure may decline to serve a sanctioned client, whatever European law says. Analysts have noted that even the Blocking Statute has limited reach against such commercial caution.

The second pressure is a wave of withdrawals. Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger deposited notifications of

withdrawal in June 2026. Venezuela followed on 24 July 2026 and Chad on 27 July 2026. Naoero, formerly Nauru, notified its withdrawal on 23 September 2026, shortly after President Trump urged members to leave. Each withdrawal takes effect one year after notification. Chad stated publicly that its decision followed a telephone call from a senior American diplomat. The third pressure is internal. On 24 July 2026, the Assembly of States Parties removed Prosecutor Karim Khan from office for serious misconduct and serious breach of duty. Eighty-two States Parties voted for removal. It was the first removal of an ICC prosecutor in the history of the court. Khan denies the allegations and has said he will challenge the decision. The two deputy prosecutors now lead the Office of the Prosecutor while states search for a successor. The ICC is therefore unlikely to disappear. It may, however, be hollowed out. Whether it survives as a functioning court depends less on Washington than on its own members.

From Nuremberg to Rome: the origins of the court

The idea of a permanent international criminal court is older than the United Na-

tions. The Treaty of Sèvres in 1920 contemplated a tribunal to try Ottoman leaders for crimes against Armenians. After the Second World War, the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals tried leaders of the defeated Axis powers. The International Law Commission prepared a draft statute for a permanent court in 1951 and a revised version in 1953. The Cold War then froze the project for decades. The revival came from an unexpected quarter. In 1989, Trinidad and Tobago, under the leadership of A. N. R. Robinson, asked the General Assembly to reopen the question. Its initial concern was the inadequacy of national courts in dealing with transnational drug trafficking. The General Assembly asked the International Law Commission to resume its work. The Commission produced a draft statute in 1994. Events then gave the project urgency. The Security Council created ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia in 1993 and for Rwanda in 1994. Those tribunals showed that international prosecution was possible. They also showed that ad hoc justice was slow, costly and dependent on the political will of the Security Council. The decisive coalition was the Like Minded Group of

states. Canada chaired it, and it grew to roughly sixty members. It included most European states, much of Latin America and many African states. Its members wanted an independent prosecutor and a court free from Security Council control. Human Rights Watch recorded at the time the high level of African participation in the final preparatory sessions. Hundreds of non-governmental organisations, gathered in the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, supported the effort. The diplomatic conference met in Rome from 15 June to 17 July 1998. It adopted the Rome Statute by a non-recorded vote of 120 in favour, 7 against and 21 abstentions. The United States, China and Israel publicly confirmed that they voted against. Senegal became the first state in the world to ratify, on 2 February 1999. The sixtieth ratification, needed for entry into force, was reached on 11 April 2002 through joint deposits. The court opened its doors on 1 July 2002.

The history matters for the present debate. The ICC was not imposed by a single power. It was assembled by middle powers, small

Contd Page 22

The Day Washington Sanctioned a Court

The United States has placed the International Criminal Court itself on its sanctions list. The decision tests whether 125 states will defend the institution they created. It also forces a harder question: does the court deserve defending?

Contd from Page 22

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

states and African and Latin American governments. They often acted against the wishes of the great powers.

Signatures, ratifications and retreats

The distinction between signing and ratifying a treaty is central to the controversy. A signature expresses political support and an intention to consider ratification. It does not bind a state to the treaty. Ratification, or accession, makes a state a full party with binding legal obligations.

As of October 2026, 125 states are parties to the Rome Statute. According to a notification lodged by Chad in July 2026, citing official court data from May 2026, 33 of them are African. Several large states remain outside. China and India are not members.

A second group signed but never ratified. The official treaty record lists, among others, Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Morocco, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and Zimbabwe in Africa. Beyond Africa, it lists states such as Iran, Thailand, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Jamaica and Haiti. These states expressed early sympathy but stopped short of accepting obligations.

A third group signed and then formally disowned the signature. The United States signed on 31 December 2000. On 6 May 2002, it informed the United Nations that it did not intend to become a party. It declared that its signature created no legal obligations. Israel signed on the same day in 2000 and sent a similar notice in August 2002. Sudan, which signed in September 2000, did the same in August 2008. The Russian Federation, which signed in September 2000, announced in November 2016 that it would not become a party.

A fourth group joined and then left. Burundi withdrew with effect from October 2017. The Philippines withdrew with effect from March 2019. Hungary began to withdraw in 2025 under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Its new parliament reversed that decision in May 2026, days before it would have taken effect. South Africa and the Gambia lodged withdrawals in 2016 and revoked them in 2017.

What does this pattern mean? It means that three of the five permanent members of the Security Council stand outside the court. South Africa made exactly this point in its 2016 withdrawal notice. It argued that questions about credibility would persist while three permanent members remained outside the Statute. The asymmetry is



International Criminal Court (ICC)

structural. The Security Council can refer situations in states that are not parties, as it did for Darfur in 2005 and Libya in 2011. Yet the permanent members can veto any referral affecting themselves or their allies. It also means that withdrawal is not escape. Under Article 127 of the Statute, withdrawal takes effect one year after notification. It does not erase obligations arising while a state was a party. The Philippines illustrates the point. Former President Rodrigo Duterte was surrendered to the court in March 2025, six years after his country left. His trial for alleged crimes against humanity is scheduled to open on 30 November 2026.

Africa and the court: coerced or committed?

Africa occupies a paradoxical place in the story of the ICC. It supplied some of the earliest and most enthusiastic members. It also supplied most of the defendants.

The evidence does not support the claim that African states were forced to ratify. Senegal ratified before any other state. Ghana ratified in December 1999, Botswana and Mali in 2000, South Africa in November 2000, Nigeria in 2001 and Namibia in June 2002. These ratifications came in the shadow of the genocide in Rwanda. Many African governments saw a permanent court as a guarantee against a repetition.

The documented coercion in fact ran the other way. In August 2002, the United States enacted the American Service Members Protection Act. The law required Washington

to cut military assistance to States Parties that refused to sign bilateral agreements shielding Americans from surrender to the court. South Africa was among more than thirty states that lost American military aid in 2003. A 2007 study in the African Human Rights Law Journal examined seven African states that accepted the loss of American aid rather than sign. Pressure, where it existed, was applied against the court, not in its favour.

African governments also brought most African cases to the court themselves. Uganda referred its own situation in January 2004. The Democratic Republic of the Congo followed in March 2004. The Central African Republic referred situations in December 2004 and May 2014. Mali followed in July 2012. Côte d'Ivoire accepted the jurisdiction of the court. The Security Council referred Darfur and Libya. African members of the Council voted for or abstained on those referrals. None voted against.

Yet the grievance is real, and it is measurable. In its July 2026 withdrawal notice, Chad cited official court figures. It noted that nine of the thirteen investigations opened by the court concerned African states. It noted that six of the seven detainees then held by the court faced charges arising from African situations. It also observed that the only preliminary examination then under way concerned Nigeria. Chad concluded that African national and regional courts had matured enough to try international crimes themselves. It pointed to the Extraordinary African Chambers, which tried

former Chadian President Hissène Habré.

The honest conclusion is therefore nuanced. African states were not forced into the court. Many joined in good faith and later grew disillusioned. The disillusionment came from the concentration of cases on the continent and from the escape of powerful actors elsewhere. The new irony is that African critics of selectivity now share a platform with a superpower whose aim is the reverse. Washington does not seek a fairer court. It seeks a court that cannot reach its own nationals or those of its allies.

Who pays for international justice?

Article 115 of the Rome Statute provides two sources of funding. The first is assessed contributions from States Parties. The second is funds from the United Nations, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, particularly for situations referred by the Security Council. The Statute also allows voluntary contributions.

Assessed contributions follow a scale based on the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations. Wealthy members therefore pay most. Because the United States and China are not members, the burden falls heavily on Japan and the larger European states.

For 2026, the Assembly of States Parties approved a programme budget of €196,852,900 and a staffing level of 1,008. That sum is modest for an institution expected to investigate atrocities across several continents.

Payment discipline is uneven. On 29 October 2025, outstanding contributions stood at €29.7 million. Thirty States Parties had arrears of more than one year. Thirteen had lost their vote under Article 112(8), which suspends voting rights when arrears equal or exceed two full years of contributions. One state had been in arrears for close to two decades. The sanctions threat has had one perverse effect. In early 2025, the court appealed to members to pay early to cushion possible liquidity shocks. By August 2025 it had received more than ninety per cent of contributions. General Licence 13 now expressly allows States Parties to keep paying until April 2027. The question is what happens after that date if American correspondent banking is closed to the court.

When States Parties do not comply

The ICC has no police force. It depends entirely on states to arrest suspects, freeze assets, protect witnesses and enforce sentences. Article 86 of the Statute obliges States Parties to cooperate fully. Article 87(7) allows the court to make a formal finding of failure to cooperate. It may then refer the matter to the Assembly of States Parties, or to the Security Council where the Council made the original referral.

Recent cases show the limits of this machinery. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Mongolia in September 2024 despite an ICC arrest

Contd Page 23

The Day Washington Sanctioned a Court

The United States has placed the International Criminal Court itself on its sanctions list. The decision tests whether 125 states will defend the institution they created. It also forces a harder question: does the court deserve defending?

Contd from Page 22
xxxxxxxxxxxx

warrant. Mongolia did not arrest him. On 24 October 2024, a chamber of the court found that Mongolia had failed to comply and referred the matter to the Assembly. The Assembly took note of the finding. No material penalty followed. Netanyahu visited Hungary in April 2025. Hungary did not arrest him and announced its withdrawal from the court during the visit. On 24 July 2025, a chamber found that Hungary had failed to comply and referred the matter to the Assembly. Earlier, in 2015, South Africa did not arrest Sudanese President Omar al Bashir while hosting an African Union summit. South Africa later cited the episode as a reason for its attempted withdrawal. The consequences of disobedience are therefore political and reputational. The Statute provides no fines, no expulsion and no trade measures. The only automatic penalty in the Statute concerns money: the loss of voting rights for serious arrears. A state that shelters a fugitive faces criticism from its peers. It does not face sanctions comparable to those Washington has now imposed on the court itself.

This imbalance is the core weakness of the system. A court that cannot compel cooperation from its own members cannot easily resist a superpower that can compel the global banking system.

The case against the court

A serious analysis must take the criticisms seriously. Six stand out. The first is geographical concentration. The figures cited by Chad are drawn from the court itself. For most of its existence, the ICC has investigated and detained Africans far more than anyone else. The second is the asymmetry of power. The permanent members of the Security Council can refer others while shielding themselves. Under Article 16, the Council can also defer an investigation for renewable periods of twelve months. Justice that depends on the votes of the powerful is not equal justice. The third is limited output for considerable cost. In May 2026, the court held only seven detainees. Trials take years. Victims wait longer still. An annual budget close to €200 million invites hard questions about value for money. The fourth is prosecutorial discretion. In September 2021, the then prosecutor announced that the Afghanistan investigation would focus on the Taliban and the Islamic State in Khorasan. He said other aspects would be deprioritised, which critics read as sparing American conduct. Amnesty International warned that the decision jeopardised the legiti-



ICC judge Miatta Maria Samba in court in the Netherlands

macy of his office. Discretion exercised in favour of the powerful feeds the charge of selectivity. The fifth is governance. The removal of a sitting prosecutor for serious misconduct damaged the moral authority of the court. Khan disputes the findings, and his lawyers argue that due process was not respected. Either way, the episode exposed weaknesses in internal oversight. The sixth is the tension between peace and justice. South Africa argued in 2016 that arrest warrants for sitting leaders could undermine peace negotiations. That argument is contested, but it is not frivolous.

The case for the court

The defence of the court is equally weighty. It rests on five points. First, the ICC is the only permanent court with general jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression. It is a court of last resort. Under the principle of complementarity, it may act only when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so. For victims in fragile states, it is often the only forum available. Second, the docket is no longer only African. The court has investigations concerning Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, Palestine, the Philippines, Ukraine and Venezuela. In 2022, forty three States Parties referred the situation in Ukraine. In 2023, the court issued a warrant for Putin. In 2024, it issued warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant. A former Asian head of state will stand trial in November 2026.

Third, the American campaign is itself evidence of change. Washington did not sanction the court when its defendants were warlords from Central Africa. The sanctions began when the court reached nationals of powerful states and their allies. The charge that the court targets only the weak sits awkwardly beside the fact that it is now under attack precisely for not doing so. Fourth, the court sets standards. National courts in Africa, Europe and Latin America now try international crimes using definitions drawn from the Rome Statute. Chad cited such domestic trials in its own withdrawal notice. That domestic capacity owes much to the norms the court helped to entrench. Fifth, abolition would not produce a fairer system. It would produce no system at all. The weak would lose their only forum. The strong would lose their only constraint.

Selective tool or global good?

The evidence supports a qualified verdict. The ICC is an imperfect global good that has, at times, operated selectively. The selectivity, however, flows mainly from the political architecture around the court, not from its founding design. The Rome Statute applies equally to all States Parties and to all territories of States Parties. Selectivity enters through three doors. The great powers refused to join. The Security Council referral system lets permanent members shield their friends. Weak states with collapsed institutions are easier places to make ar-

rests than strong states with armies. The remedy for selectivity is therefore greater universality and more even enforcement. Dismantling the court would cure nothing. It would simply return the world to the condition that existed before 1998. In that world, the punishment of atrocity depended on victory in war or the whim of the Security Council. The court must nevertheless earn back its legitimacy. Five reforms deserve priority. First, States Parties should build resilience against sanctions now, not in April 2027. The European Union should decide promptly on the Blocking Statute. Members should consider dedicated payment channels and a resilience fund under Article 116 for sanctioned staff. Second, the Assembly should elect the next prosecutor through a transparent, merit based process. The candidate must command confidence across regions, including in Africa. Third, the Office of the Prosecutor should publish clear criteria for choosing situations and cases. Where it deprioritises allegations against powerful actors, it should explain why in detail. Fourth, the court should invest more in complementarity. Support for national and regional courts in Africa and elsewhere would answer the charge of paternalism. It would also reduce dependence on The Hague. Fifth, African States Parties that have announced withdrawal should use the remaining months to negotiate rather than depart. Their criticisms carry more weight inside the

Assembly than outside it.

Conclusion: the choice before the States Parties

The designation of 9 October 2026 is not merely a dispute between Washington and The Hague. It is a test of whether international law can bind the powerful. For two decades, critics in Africa have asked whether the ICC is a court for the weak alone. The United States has now supplied an unexpected answer. When the court reached towards the powerful, the powerful moved to destroy it. That answer does not erase the legitimate grievances of Africa. It does, however, reframe them. The problem has never been that the ICC is too strong. The problem is that it has been too weak to reach everyone equally. The court will not end because Washington has blacklisted it. It will end only if its 125 members decide that it is not worth the cost of defending. The coming six months will reveal their answer. History will record whether the states that built the court in Rome had the courage to keep it standing.

Silas Mwaudasheni Nande is a Namibian educator, doctoral candidate in Education at the International University of Management in Windhoek, and an analytical writer on African governance, justice and international affairs.

Term two: The term that makes or breaks candidates

As schools reopen for the second term, the academic calendar reaches its most consequential chapter.

By: Ashford Kimani
xxxxxxxxxxxx

As schools reopen for the second term, the academic calendar reaches its most consequential chapter. By Ashford Kimani

Of the school's three terms, term two is the most significant. As schools reopen for the second term, a quiet but profound shift takes place in the academic calendar. Unlike the first term, which lays the foundation, or the third term, which culminates in national examinations, term two occupies a uniquely decisive position. It is the term where preparation matures into performance, where uncertainty is confronted head-on, and where candidates either consolidate their readiness or expose their vulnerabilities. In many ways, it is not just another academic phase — it is the make-or-break term. By the time learners return for term two, the syllabus in most examinable subjects is either fully covered or approaching completion. This structural reality changes the nature of teaching and learning in a fundamental way. The classroom ceases to be primarily a space for content delivery and becomes a laboratory for mastery. Teachers transition from instructors to diagnosticians, identifying areas of weakness with precision and deploying targeted interventions. Learners, on the other hand, must shift from passive recipients of knowledge to active agents of refinement, engaging deeply with concepts they have already encountered. This transition matters enormously, because completing the syllabus does not equate to understanding it. Coverage is often mistaken for competence, yet the two are fundamentally different. A student may have attended every lesson, taken notes diligently, and even performed reasonably well in continuous assessments, yet still harbour significant conceptual gaps. Term two exposes those gaps with unforgiving clarity. Through revision exercises, topical tests, and cumulative examinations, learners come face to face with the true depth — or lack thereof — of their understanding. It is within this context that addressing learning gaps becomes so urgent. Left unattended, those gaps compound over time and steadily erode confidence. A weakness in foundational topics — whether algebra in mathematics, comprehension in English, or key themes in literature — can ripple across an entire subject. Term two provides the final structured opportunity to repair these fractures before the high-stakes environment of national examinations arrives. Effective remediation during this period is not optional; it is essential. Equally significant is the role of feedback. In term two, feedback must evolve from generic commentary to precise, actionable insight. Telling a learner to "work harder" is not enough. Teachers must instead pinpoint specific errors, misconceptions, and skill deficits. Is the learner struggling with question interpretation? Are they losing marks due to poor time management? Do they lack the ability to synthesise information across topics? That kind of granular feedback enables focused improvement and prevents the wastage of effort on ineffective study strategies. Beyond academics, term two plays a stabilising role in the psychological preparedness of candidates. The pressure of impending examinations begins to intensify, and with it comes anxiety, self-doubt, and, in some cases, burnout. This is where the term's significance extends beyond books and classrooms. Schools must create an environment that balances rigour with support, and discipline with empathy. Guidance



and counselling services, mentorship programmes, and open channels of communication become indispensable. A candidate who is mentally composed is far more likely to perform optimally than one who is overwhelmed — regardless of academic potential. Discipline, both institutional and personal, also takes on heightened importance during this term. Time becomes a critical resource. Every lesson, every revision session, every assignment carries real weight. Schools must enforce structures that maximise learning time — minimising disruptions, ensuring punctuality, and maintaining high standards of engagement. Learners, for their part, must cultivate self-discipline: adhering to study schedules, avoiding procrastination, and maintaining consistency in effort. In this term, small lapses can have disproportionately large consequences. Parental involvement, often underestimated, is another key determinant of success. Parents and guardians must move beyond a peripheral role and become active partners in the learning process. This does not necessarily mean teaching content, but rather providing the conditions for effective study — quiet spaces, necessary resources, and emotional support. Regular communication with teachers also helps parents understand their child's progress and

areas of need, enabling a coordinated and responsive approach to improvement. Term two is also the period where examination technique is honed. Knowledge alone does not guarantee high performance; the ability to apply that knowledge within the constraints of time and examination formats is equally crucial. Candidates must practise past papers extensively, familiarise themselves with marking schemes, and develop strategies for tackling different question types. Skills such as time allocation, question selection, and structured responses can significantly influence outcomes. In many cases, the difference between average and excellent performance lies not in what a learner knows, but in how effectively they demonstrate that knowledge under exam conditions. The concept of stabilising the candidate is particularly relevant here. By the end of term two, a well-prepared learner should exhibit consistency. Their performance should no longer fluctuate sharply from one assessment to another. Instead, it should reflect a steady, reliable level of competence — built through repeated practice, continuous feedback, and incremental improvement. That stability is the hallmark of genuine readiness. It is worth acknowledging, however, that term two can also widen

disparities. Learners who take full advantage of this period often surge ahead, while those who remain passive or disengaged fall further behind. This divergence underscores the urgency of intentional action. There is little room for complacency. Every stakeholder — teachers, learners, parents, and school leaders — must recognise what is at stake and respond with purpose. Ultimately, term two is a crucible. It tests not just knowledge, but resilience, discipline, and adaptability. It demands honesty — learners must confront their weaknesses without denial, and teachers must address them without delay. It rewards effort, but more importantly, it rewards strategic effort: focused, informed, and sustained. As the term unfolds, the message is clear: this is the moment that shapes outcomes. The groundwork has been laid, the finish line is in sight, and the margin for error is narrowing. For candidates, the question is no longer whether they have been taught, but whether they have truly learned. The answer to that question will be written, unmistakably, in their final results. Ashford Kimani teaches English and Literature in Gatundu North Sub-county and serves as Dean of Studies.