

Chivayo's business career, particularly the long-running Gwanda solar project, attracted scrutiny and legal disputes

Chivayo

Africa should be careful not to intellectualise away the gratitude of people who genuinely benefited from another person's generosity:



Wicknell Chivayo: The man Africa loved, hated and never fully understood

By: Mr. Fredrick
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"In Zimbabwe, they do not bury a person by remembering only the arguments they left behind; they bury them by remembering the human being they were."

Wicknell Munondaani Chivayo popularly known as "Sir Wicknell" and his lovely wife met his untimely death with others on board a Helicopter on 30th September, 2026 at Kidenga farm in the Marondora area approximately 70 kms southeast of Harare. This marked the start of a mixed reaction on him as father, a national, a businessman and a



Wicknell Chivayo and his wife Lucy Muteke

philanthropist among others. Africa started grieving and more so the Zimbabweans and ultimately his family. Zimbabwe has a distinctive way of mourning. When death arrives, political arguments temporarily fall silent, families gather, elders speak, churches pray and the nation searches for something human in the life that has ended. It is within that deeply African tradition that Zimbabwe now confronts the extraordinary and complicated story of Wicknell Chivayo. His death, alongside his wife Lucy Muteke and others in a helicopter crash near Marondora, has shocked Zimbabwe and reverberated across Af-

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Her pen is your lifeline



LONDON PACKAGING WEEK WITH TOP GLOBAL BRANDS ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF VISITORS

By SHAMLAL PURI, Senior Editor
& Associate Publisher

The multi-million-pound British packaging industry got a massive boost when thousands of visitors turned up for this year's two-day edition of London Packaging Week at the Excel Centre in the British cap-

ital.

The event featured top international brand names including Prada, Jack Daniel's x McLaren, Heinz, Hotel Chocolat, Fortnum & Mason, and Refy.

There were many other companies from as far away as China, Turkey,

and other parts of the world who featured their best at the event.

Its official theme was Discovery, acting as a beacon of Inspiration. The opening day demonstrated the power of person-to-person connection in a world of online meetings and AI chats.

The event struck a chord with thousands of people who passed through the doors of the ExCel Centre, reinforcing its status as one of the most

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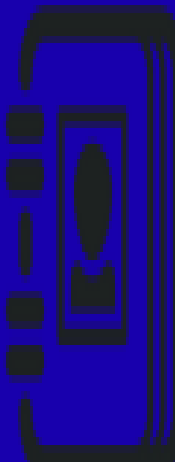


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Nigeria Starts Making Its Own Next-Generation Malaria Nets

By: Jacob Kitee
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Nigeria has taken a significant step toward health manufacturing self-sufficiency with the commercial launch of locally produced next-generation insecticide-treated mosquito nets, in a development that carries implications far beyond a single factory opening. Harvestfield Healthcare FZE commenced production of Synera DuoForte at its facility in the Harvestfield Free Trade Zone in Ogun State on September 13, 2026, making it the first wholly Nigerian-owned manufacturer of dual active ingredient long-lasting insecticidal nets of the pyrethroid-chlorfenapyr class in the country. Within weeks of opening, the facility was already supplying a World Bank-funded programme covering 31 states.

The significance of what is being manufactured matters as much as the fact of local production itself. Conventional insecticide-treated nets have long formed the backbone of Nigeria's fight against malaria, the disease that kills more people in Nigeria than anywhere else on earth. But decades of exposure to pyrethroid insecticides — the chemical class most commonly used in standard treated nets — has allowed Nigerian mosquito populations to develop resistance, blunting the effectiveness of those nets in precisely the communities most dependent on them. Synera DuoForte addresses that problem directly by combining a pyrethroid with a second insecticide that operates through an entirely different biological mechanism, making it effective even where pyrethroid resistance has taken hold. The World Health Organisation recommends this class of net for areas with established pyrethroid resistance, and Synera DuoForte carries WHO prequalification, a standard that certifies both the product and the Ogun State facility as an approved manufacturing location. The facility is additionally certified by Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control and holds ISO certification.

Harvestfield manufactures the nets under a manufacturing agreement with GDM Health Products, the



Nigeria Starts Making Its Own Next-Generation Malaria Nets

British company that developed and holds prequalification for Synera DuoForte. Jon Bastow of GDM Health Products described the partnership as a strategic one. "GDM is pleased to strategically partner with Harvestfield to bring Synera DuoForte to Nigeria, the country with the biggest global malaria burden, and support the prequalification of Harvestfield's Ogun State manufacturing facility," he said.

For Harvestfield, the move into production is the logical culmination of more than two and a half decades embedded in Nigeria's vector control landscape. The group has operated in the sector for 26 years, distributing more than 42 million insecticide-treated nets across all 36 states and serving since 2018 as an exclusive national distribution partner for WHO-prequalified nets. The company's decision to transition from distribution to manufacturing carries structural significance for Nigeria's healthcare supply chain. Locally produced nets eliminate the 45 to 60-day ocean shipping journey associated with imports, reduce dependence on overseas production

schedules and create the kind of domestic flexibility that allows programmes to respond as resistance patterns and malaria control needs evolve.

The political architecture supporting this development is substantial. The Federal Government's Renewed Hope agenda explicitly prioritises domestic health manufacturing, and the factory fits squarely within that framework. Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare Professor Muhammad Ali Pate welcomed the development in direct terms. "Building the capacity to manufacture our own health products is central to Nigeria's health security," he said. "A Nigeria-based facility producing next-generation insecticide-treated nets to international standard, and already supplying programmes across thirty-one states, is the kind of capability the Renewed Hope agenda was created to build."

The Presidential Initiative for Unlocking the Healthcare Value Chain, known as PVAC, also weighed in. Its representative, Dr Abdul Mukhtar, framed the factory not as an industrial milestone in isolation but as

proof of a policy thesis. "PVAC exists to move Nigeria from importing its health products to making them," he said. "What matters is not only that a factory exists, but that it meets the standards international buyers accept and can supply at national scale. A facility based in Nigeria doing both is precisely the outcome this initiative was created to unlock."

That last point — meeting international standards while supplying at national scale — is where many previous African manufacturing ambitions have stalled. The combination of WHO prequalification, NAFDAC certification and ISO accreditation at the Ogun State site signals that Harvestfield has not built a factory for appearances. The facility is designed to compete on the same technical terms as the overseas manufacturers it is now positioned to displace, at least partially, from Nigeria's procurement pipelines.

Harvestfield has indicated that the net manufacturing facility is not the ceiling of its ambitions but the foundation. The company describes it as the first platform in a broader effort to build healthcare manufacturing

capability in Nigeria, suggesting that the Ogun State site is intended to develop technical, quality and regulatory infrastructure that can eventually extend to other health products. For a country that imports the overwhelming majority of its pharmaceutical and health commodity needs, the implications of that trajectory, if sustained, extend well beyond malaria.

Nigeria still carries the heaviest malaria burden of any nation on earth. The nets leaving the Ogun State facility will not resolve that burden alone. But a country that can manufacture its own next-generation malaria prevention tools to WHO standard, supply 31 states within weeks of opening, and build the institutional knowledge to do so independently has changed something fundamental about its relationship with the disease — and with the global health supply chains that have, for too long, determined the terms of that fight on Nigeria's behalf.

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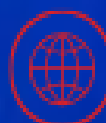
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Uzbek Female Legal Scholar

Xadicha Sulaymonova was the First Uzbek Female Legal Scholar



By: Rislig'oy Satiboldiyeva
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Xadicha Sulaymonova

In the history of Uzbekistan, it was a time that required great courage and fortitude for women to emerge as leaders in the fields of science and state administration. Xadicha Sulaymonova was one of the figures who walked such a challenging path and achieved great success in the field of law, becoming the first among Uzbek women. Xadicha Sulaymonova left her mark not only as a scholar but also as a stateswoman. Xadicha Sulaymonovna Sulaymonova was born on July 3, 1913, in the city of Andijan, which was part of the Turkestan General-Governorate. The scholar was distinguished from childhood by her determination, thirst for knowledge, and drive to achieve her goals.

Regarding the scholar's student years, she graduated from a nine-year Russian school in 1931 and set out on the path to her dreams. She decided to master the field of law and began studying in the preparatory course at the Institute of Scientific Research in Soviet Construction and Law. A year later, she enrolled in the second year of the Faculty of Law at the Xadicha Jahon Obidova Institute of Soviet Construction and Law. This was a complex period in Uzbekistan, as the new Soviet legal system was taking shape, and at the same time the struggle for women's freedom was intensifying as part of the "Hujum" movement, during which many women were persecuted by their own relatives.

Xadicha, who graduated from the institute in 1935, became the first Uzbek woman to serve as a people's judge. This responsible work did not intimidate her at all. She would even come to work on her days off, thoroughly study criminal cases, and in difficult situations seek advice from the Chairman of the Supreme Court, E.M.Udris. From 1935 to 1938, she served as a people's judge and then as a member of the Supreme Court of the Uzbek SSR, making her one of the first female judges in the world to hold such a position.

Regarding Xadicha Sulaymonova's academic career, in September 1938, she enrolled in the graduate program of the Soviet Criminal Law Department at the

Moscow Institute of Law. Despite the hardships of the war years, on July 20, 1945, she successfully defended her master's thesis on the topic "The Criminal Legislation of the USSR in Uzbekistan during the Period of Military Intervention and Civil War". With this work, she became the first Uzbek woman to receive a scientific degree in law. After defending her dissertation, she worked at the Tashkent Law Institute from September 1945, first as an associate professor of the criminal law department and later as its head. Also, from 1948 to 1950, Xadicha Sulaymonova completed her doctoral studies at the Institute of Law of the Academy of Sciences of the SSSR. In December 1950, she defended her doctoral dissertation on "The Emergence and Development of Soviet Criminal Law in Uzbekistan" and in 1951 was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Juridical Sciences. In 1952, she was awarded the title of professor, and in 1954, she received the honorary title of Honored Scientist of the Uzbek SSR. In 1956, she was elected a full member (academician) of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR.

In 1954, Xadicha Sulaymonova was appointed rector of the Tashkent Law Institute. After the institute was merged with the university, she continued her work as dean of the law faculty and as a department head. In 1956, she was appointed Minister of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She also served as the Chairman

of the Supreme Court of the Uzbek SSR.

In 1958, Xadicha Sulaymonova founded the Institute of Forensic Medicine — a name the institution would later be given. Under her scientific guidance, she supervised the defense of 16 candidates' theses, and as a member of the Soviet Committee of Women, she was actively involved in public life.

Years after Xadicha Sulaymonova's death (November 26, 1965, Tashkent), her scientific and legal legacy is still valued today. In honor of the academic's 110th birthday, Tashkent State University of Law established a special scholarship in her name. This scholarship was established to encourage university students and students from the attached academic lyceum who are actively contributing to science and the building of a rule of law state, and who are actively participating in ensuring the primacy of the law in society. Xadicha Sulaymonova is a unique figure who laid the foundation for the legal sciences in Uzbekistan and was the first among women to achieve the titles of judge, candidate of sciences, doctor of sciences, and academician. Her life story is not just a history of personal achievements, but a vivid example of Uzbek women of that era breaking into science and public administration.

Rislig'oy Satiboldiyeva, second-year student at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Tashkent State University of Law.

Worth Noting:

- Xadicha, who graduated from the institute in 1935, became the first Uzbek woman to serve as a people's judge. This responsible work did not intimidate her at all. She would even come to work on her days off, thoroughly study criminal cases, and in difficult situations seek advice from the Chairman of the Supreme Court, E.M.Udris.
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UGANDA

Kampala's last cathedral

Twenty clans, seven months of dust and devotion — and one final Sunday before the pilgrimage to Kakyeka

By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
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Worth Noting:

- This is not a fixture list. This is an obituary and an overture. A dirge and a drum. This Sunday, KISOBA League Season 5 takes its very last dance in Kampala.
- Seven months. Seven months we turned this unforgiving dust bowl into a cathedral. Every Sunday dawn, we abandoned our marital beds, our boardrooms, our hangovers, our crying babies, and came searching for one thing only — our brothers. And now the sacristy is being locked. For one final, consecrated time, our boots will bless the grass of the capital before we embark on that holy, gut-wrenching pilgrimage to the promised land — Kakyeka, Mbarara — for the Grand Finale.
- Do you think Kampala will whisper goodbye? Never. Kampala will detonate. Behold this table. Do not call it a table. It is scripture. It is war poetry etched in points and purgatory.



My brothers — my KISOBA brothers, my Kingsmen of the Ridge.

If you have ever bled into that white jersey, if you have ever roared “We come from Bwera” until your throat was stripped raw, if you have ever whispered “Nos Urget Caritas Christi” — The Love of Christ compels us — you will forgive the tremor in my hands as I write this.

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hold this table. Do not call it a table. It is scripture. It is war poetry etched in points and purgatory.

At the summit, where the air is too thin for ordinary men, stand the Patriarchs. GIANTS FC (1999–2004) — 31 points. Thirty-one testaments to staying power. These are not boys. These are our fathers. Their knees may creak like old chapel doors, their temples may be grey, but their hearts have never learned to genuflect to anyone. They have been giants since we were toddlers in Primary One shorts, and they still stand astride this league like colossi. But for how long? Listen. Can you hear the war drums rising just beneath them?

KASANANGA (2001–2006) — 29 points. Two points from paradise. Two points from regicide. Kasananga does not play football — Kasananga asphyxiates you with brotherhood. A phalanx forged in the fires of the early 2000s, they breathe as one organism and bleed as one man. All season they have waited in the tall grass for one slip from the Giants. Sunday is not a match for them. It is a coronation wait-

ing to happen. And then — oh, dear Lord — the beautiful, murderous middle.

GHETTO FC (2005–2010) — 28 points. The unfiltered, unapologetic soul of Kitabi. The swagger, the noise, the genius born not on manicured lawns but on cracked concrete. They wear “Ghetto” on their chest not as a label but as a crown of thorns and gold. Locked with them, in a divine deadlock only God could author, are ELITES FC (2015–2020) — also on 28. The infants. The youngest blood in our veins. We dismissed them as children in November. Today they look their grandfathers in the eye and growl: the future will not wait. No deference to age. Only reverence for the ball. Below that? It is not a table. It is carnage. Glorious, eloquent carnage. PLATINUM FC (2007–2012) — 27 points, goal difference plus 21. Twenty-one! They do not beat teams — they execute them. Platinum is not a name, it is a valuation. And clinging to their collar is TEAM HAVEN (2002–2007) — also on 27. Haven. What irony. A name that promises peace, yet there will be no peace in Haven on Sunday. Only war.

Men who have found sanctuary in each other for two decades.

One ragged breath behind sit VALIANTS FC (2010–2015) on 26 — every syllable earned in blood — and MEN OF MEN (2003–2008) on 25. Utter that name and you instinctively straighten your spine. True men. Men who would charge through a concrete wall for a throw-in. Do you feel your heart hammering against your ribs yet? Because here come the Bees.

JAMAICAN BEES (2006–2011) — 23 points. Lethal, humming, swarming. You can outrun many things, but never the buzz. Beside them, the aristocracy — HOUSE OF LORDS (2008–2013) — also on 23. They do not bellow; they do not beg. They decree. A single decree from the Lords this Sunday could send a giant into the abyss.

And then — my soul fractures here — GALAXY FC (2014–2019). Oh, Galaxy. Where does one begin? Last season you were not a team, you were a testament. Forty-six points. Unbeaten. Untouchable. Invincible. Gods in boots who lifted that trophy in Mbarara while the rest of us stood and wept. Today? Eleventh. Twenty points. Wounded. Humiliated. Mortal. But hear me now, hear me as a KISOBA who knows — never deliver a eulogy for a Galaxy while it still breathes. A wounded Galaxy is the most terrifying entity in this cosmos. On Sunday they will not play for points. They will play for vengeance. They will play to remind Kampala who they are.

Beside them, the ghosts — MILLENNIUM FC (2000–2005) on 20, the Y2K virus that infected us and never left. BELLO GALLICO FC (2011–2016) on 18 — Bello Gallico, The Beautiful War. Elegant as Latin, lethal as a bayonet. And then the soul-keepers, the reason this league transcends league.

CHEETAHS (2016–2021) on 14 — your paws are faster than your points confess. DESCENDANTS OF KLEP (2009–2014) on 14 — you do not just wear a jersey, you carry the ghost of Klep himself in your studs. NAVIES FC (2013–2018) on 13 — sailors, keep sailing. The tempest will pass. ERUDITES (2018–2024) on 10 — proving that intelligence can score. GONG FC

(2004–2009) on 8 — when the Gong strikes, even the ridge holds its breath. LYKANS FC (2012–2017) on 5 — my wolves, howl! Howl one last time in Kampala so loud they hear you in Mbarara. And EMINENTS (2017–2022) on 2 — two solitary points on paper, but a thousand in pride. You have never stopped running. You have never stopped believing.

This is why we do this, brothers. Not for a trophy that will rust. Not for points that will be forgotten. We do this because once, we were one. One white shirt. One bowl of posho. One cane from the same master. One kneel in the same chapel, singing “For God and My Country” with voices that had not yet broken.

Today we are men — beards and bellies, chief executives and fathers, battered and blessed — but for ninety sacred minutes every Sunday, the world peels away and we are boys again on the hill of Bwera.

So come. Come with your faded jersey, with your son perched on your shoulders, with your flag, with your vuvuzela, with your hoarse, broken voice. Come and make Kampala quake one final time. Because after the final whistle on Sunday, we pack our boots, we pack our brotherhood, and we go home. To Kakyeka. To Mbarara. Where one team will be crowned immortal. But before a king is anointed in Mbarara, he must first take his last bow in Kampala.

Kampala, this is your last call. Your last roar. Your last dance. Will you be there to witness the cathedral close?

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Motivation

Why schools lose parents — and how words can win them back

The five communication principles that determine whether a family stays or walks

By: Ashford Kimani
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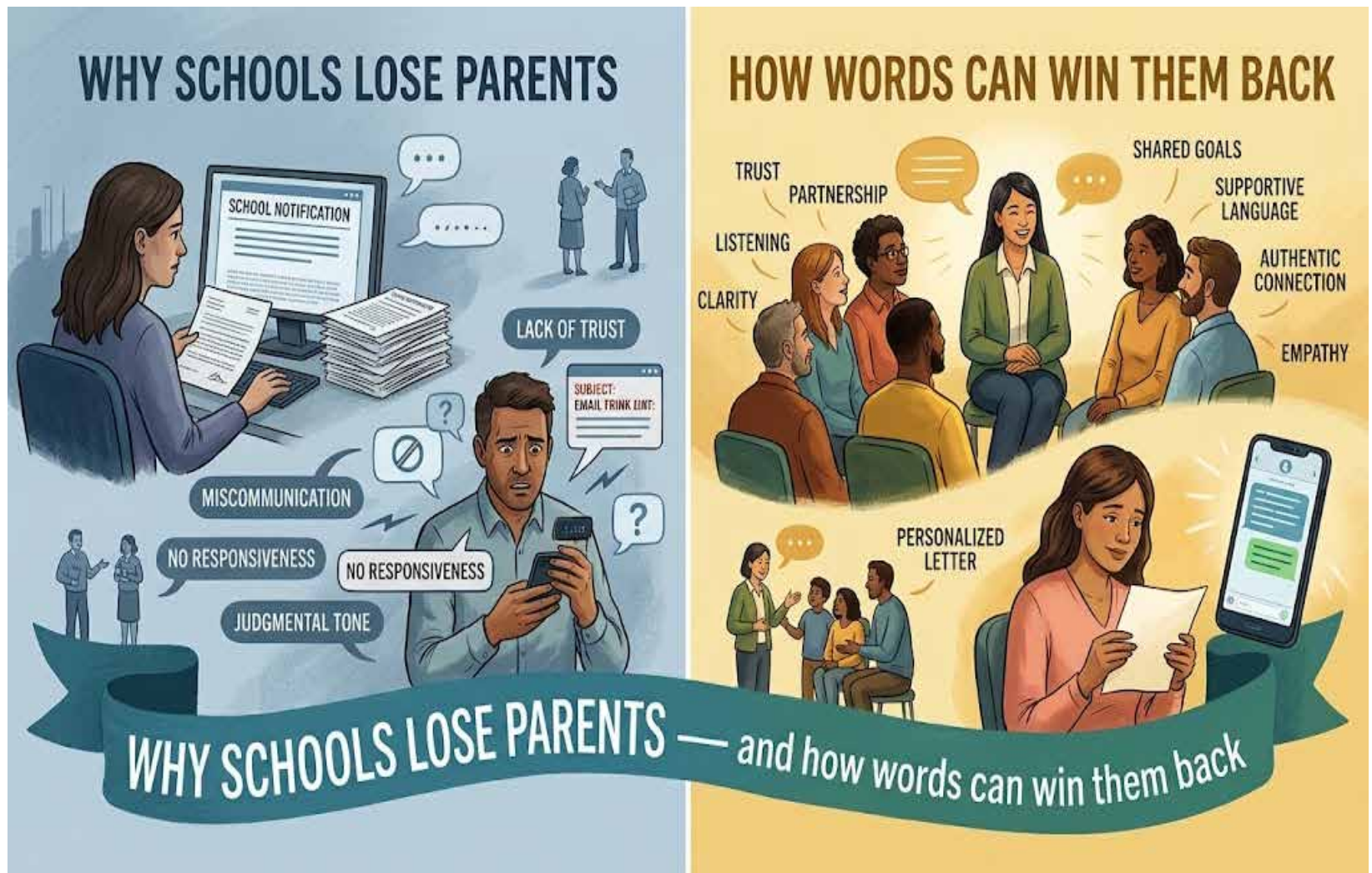
One of the greatest mistakes schools make is assuming that parents only care about examination results. While academic performance remains important, modern parents are equally concerned about communication, transparency, relationships and meaningful involvement in their child's educational journey. Many families leave schools not because the grades are poor but because they feel ignored, uninformed or disconnected from what is happening around their children. Parental loyalty is built through everyday interactions. It grows when schools consistently make parents feel respected, informed and included. Among the many strategies a school can use to retain families, the first five principles are perhaps the most foundational, because they all revolve around communication and trust. Without these, even academically strong institutions eventually struggle to hold on to the families they serve.

The first principle is keeping parents informed before they feel the need to ask. In many schools, communication is reactive rather than proactive. Parents only hear from the administration when fees are overdue, when a child has committed an offence or when a problem has already escalated beyond easy resolution. This creates anxiety and quiet frustration. Parents begin to feel that information is being kept from them deliberately.

Strong schools understand that silence breeds suspicion. Parents want regular updates about school activities, policy changes, academic schedules, events and student welfare. They appreciate institutions that communicate early and clearly. A simple message informing parents about changes in transport arrangements, examination timetables, weather disruptions or co-curricular events goes a long way towards building genuine confidence in the institution.

In today's connected world, the tools for communication are readily available. Schools can use WhatsApp groups, email, SMS platforms, newsletters, parent portals and social media to keep families in the loop. That said, communication should not merely be frequent — it must also be meaningful and well organised. Flooding parents with random messages lacking clarity creates confusion rather than confidence. When schools communicate proactively, parents feel involved and stop depending on rumour. The school becomes the trusted source of information, and that trust becomes the foundation of loyalty.

The second principle is honesty when things go wrong, with a clear



explanation of how the situation is being addressed. No school is perfect. Disputes between learners happen. Teachers make mistakes. Children get injured. Systems fail. What separates excellent schools from poor ones is not the absence of problems but how those problems are handled when they arise.

Many institutions damage their own reputations by attempting to conceal mistakes or dismiss parental concerns. Parents, as a rule, are quick to sense dishonesty. Once that trust is broken, rebuilding it is an uphill and often unsuccessful task. Parents appreciate honesty even when the news is difficult. If bullying takes place, if a staff member behaves inappropriately or if an accident occurs, families expect transparency. They want to know what happened, how the school responded and what steps are being taken to prevent it happening again.

A school leader who communicates openly during a crisis comes across as professional and trustworthy. Parents understand that schools are run by human beings and that mistakes will inevitably happen. What they expect, however, is accountability and corrective action. In many cases, parents become more loyal to a school after watching it handle a difficult situation honestly. A genuine apology, prompt communication and practical solutions often strengthen confidence rather than undermine it. Silence, defensiveness and blame-shifting consistently have the opposite effect.

The third principle is making it easy for parents to reach their child's teacher directly. Education works

best when home and school operate as genuine partners rather than as separate, disconnected worlds. Parents do not want a system where teachers appear unreachable or where every communication must pass through layers of unnecessary procedure.

Many parental frustrations arise precisely because timely feedback from teachers is hard to come by. A parent who notices behavioural changes at home, declining motivation, emotional difficulty or academic struggles wants to raise those concerns promptly. When the channels for doing so are blocked or unclear, small worries grow quietly into larger problems. Schools should therefore establish communication systems that are both structured and accessible. Parents should know how and when they can contact teachers. Teachers, for their part, should respond professionally and with genuine warmth.

Accessibility does not mean teachers must be available at all hours. Boundaries matter and are reasonable. But schools should create clear mechanisms for interaction — scheduled meetings, communication diaries, virtual platforms, email or designated consultation hours. When parents sense that teachers genuinely care about their children and are willing to engage constructively, trust deepens considerably. The relationship shifts from something transactional and guarded to something genuinely collaborative. The fourth principle is sharing children's progress regularly rather than waiting for report card day. Traditionally, many schools only commu-

nicate academic performance at the end of each term. By that point, it is often too late to address learning gaps in any meaningful way. Modern parents expect continuous feedback. They want to know whether their children are improving, struggling or holding steady. More importantly, they want specific, honest observations rather than vague, general comments that tell them very little. Schools that provide regular progress updates demonstrate both care and professionalism. These updates do not need to be formal reports. Short messages noting improvement in reading, participation in class, leadership, creativity, discipline or personal effort can reassure a parent enormously. Continuous feedback also allows for early intervention. If a learner begins to struggle academically or emotionally, parents and teachers can respond together before the situation becomes entrenched. Parents also appreciate schools that focus not only on grades but on growth. A child moving from weak performance to steady improvement deserves recognition. Showing parents evidence of that growth helps them clearly see the value of the education they are investing in.

The fifth principle is making parent-teacher meetings genuinely meaningful rather than a routine to endure. In too many schools, these meetings are poorly organised, rushed, repetitive or almost entirely focused on complaints. Parents sometimes walk away feeling they gave up a full day and gained nothing useful about their child. Effective meetings should strengthen part-

nership rather than breed tension. Teachers should arrive prepared, with clear observations, updated records, behavioural notes and practical recommendations ready to share. Discussions should centre on solutions and progress rather than on assigning blame. Parents want teachers who see their child as an individual, not simply a set of marks and disciplinary incidents. Meetings should send parents home with a clearer sense of how they can actively support learning. Schools should also respect the time parents give. Long queues, poor scheduling and disorganised processes generate frustration that lingers and colours how a family perceives the institution.

Taken together, these five principles point to one clear and powerful truth: parental loyalty is inseparable from communication. Families stay where they feel informed, respected, listened to and genuinely involved. Schools that get communication right build the kind of trust that keeps families committed through difficult seasons as well as good ones. In the modern education landscape, communication is no longer optional. It is among the strongest competitive advantages any school can hold.

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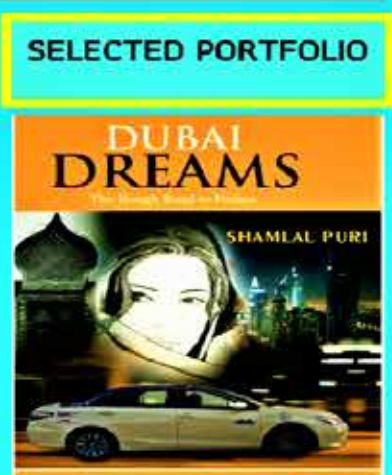
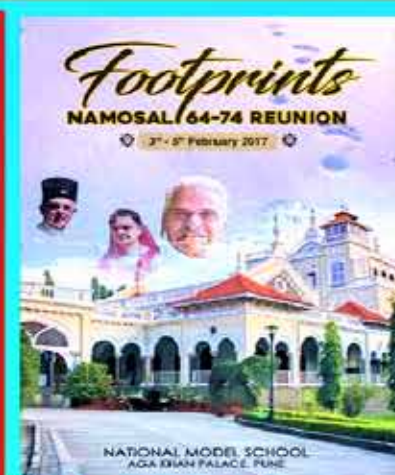
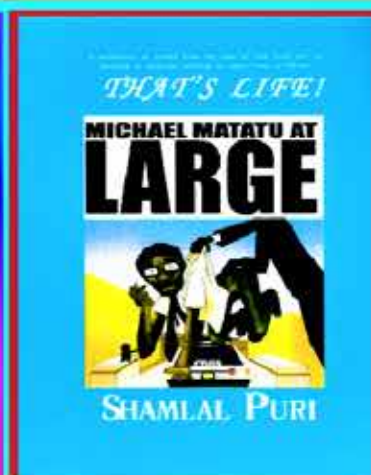
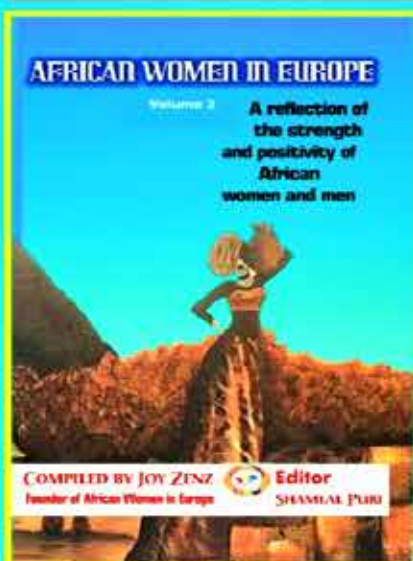
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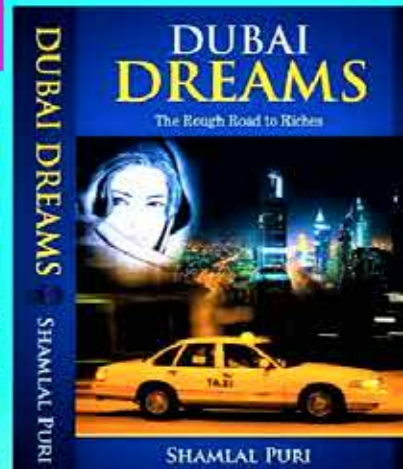
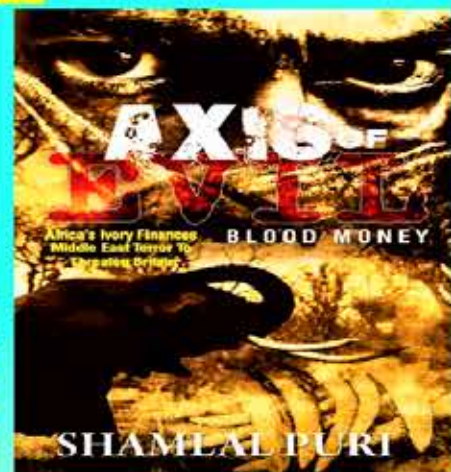
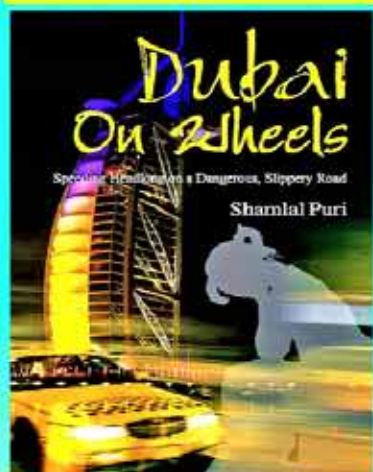
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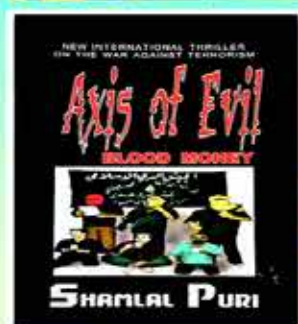
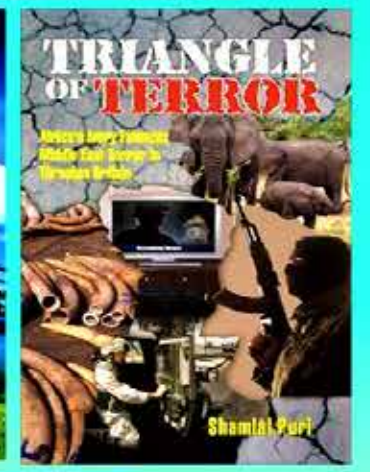
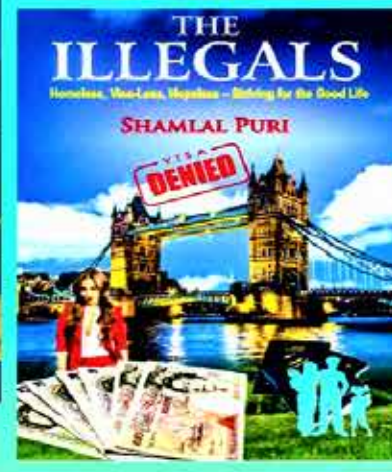
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African News

Wicknell Chivayo: The man Africa loved, hated and never fully understood



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

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Worth Noting:

• Yet Chivayo's story cannot be contained in a government announcement, a funeral programme or a social-media tribute. He was, above everything else, a man of contradictions. He was flamboyant yet charitable, controversial yet deeply loved by many, politically connected yet extraordinarily popular among ordinary beneficiaries. He displayed wealth with a confidence that sometimes shocked a continent accustomed to seeing African success hidden behind guarded gates. Luxury cars, private aircraft, churches, celebrities, football and spectacular gifts became part of his public theatre.

• But behind the spectacle was something more complicated: a man who appeared to believe that wealth was not merely something to possess, but something to demonstrate. That generosity became his signature. For the person whose medical bill was paid, the footballer whose salary was rescued, the church that received support or the individual who suddenly received a life-changing gift, Chivayo was not a political controversy. He was the man who appeared when help was desperately needed. And that matters.

rica. Investigations into the circumstances of the crash continue. President Emmerson Mnangagwa has since accorded Chivayo Provincial Hero status, recognising what the Government described as his contribution to society.

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But behind the spectacle was something more complicated: a man who appeared to believe that wealth was not merely something to possess, but something to demonstrate. That generosity became his signature. For the person whose medical bill was paid, the footballer whose salary was rescued, the church that received support or the individual who suddenly received a life-changing gift, Chivayo was not a political controversy. He was the man who appeared when help was desperately needed. And that matters.

Africa should be careful not to intellectualise away the gratitude of people who genuinely benefited from another person's generosity. But generosity does not make questions disappear. Chivayo's business career, particularly the long-running Gwanda solar project, attracted scrutiny and legal disputes. Yet the record also contains important distinctions. Chivayo and Intratrek were acquitted in 2023 in the criminal case relating to the project after the court found that prosecution had been unreasonably delayed. Separately, Zimbabwe's courts dealt with contractual disputes concerning the project, including a High Court ruling that the contract remained valid.

Those facts matter because Africa must learn to distinguish allegation from proof,



Wicknell Chivayo

suspicion from evidence and political criticism from judicial determination. But the questions surrounding public contracts, political access and the relationship between wealth and power remain legitimate questions for any society. That was perhaps Chivayo's greatest paradox.

He became a symbol onto which different Africans projected their own hopes and frustrations. To the struggling young African, his Rolls-Royces represented possibility, to the entrepreneur, his rise represented ambition, to the beneficiary, he represented generosity, to the churchgoer, he could represent faith expressed through giving, to the political establishment, he was a powerful networker and friend to critics of political patronage, his proximity to presidents represented uncomfortable questions about access and influence. And to Zimbabwe itself, he became something even more complicated: a mirror.

His relationships extended beyond Zimbabwe. His association with Kenyan President H.E William Ruto made him a recognis-

able figure in Kenya, while his closeness to President Mnangagwa placed him firmly within Zimbabwe's political and social elite. His photographs with powerful people were public facts; what those relationships meant beyond the visible association requires evidence, not speculation.

Perhaps this is why Africa found Chivayo difficult to categorise. He was too generous to be reduced to his controversies and too controversial to be remembered simply as a philanthropist. His death has now changed the meaning of the argument. The man who once occupied social media timelines with displays of wealth is suddenly being remembered through photographs, family, children, friends, beneficiaries and mourning crowds. The extravagant businessman has become a husband who left a grieving family. The celebrity has become a father whose absence will be felt privately long after the public has moved on.

This is where the Zimbabwean way of honouring the dead becomes important. To honour Chivayo as a

hero does not require Zimbabweans to surrender their questions. To question aspects of his public life does not require them to deny his humanity. A mature society can do both.

Zimbabwe can mourn the man, celebrate the good he did, remember the people he helped and still demand that institutions remain transparent. Africa can admire ambition without romanticising proximity to political power. It can celebrate philanthropy without abandoning accountability. Perhaps that is the real legacy Chivayo leaves behind. Not an answer, but a question. Can Africa learn to celebrate extraordinary African success while building institutions strong enough to ensure that success, political influence and public resources remain governed by rules rather than relationships?

Wicknell Chivayo lived loudly. He gave loudly. He succeeded loudly. He was criticised loudly. And now, he is being mourned loudly. But beneath the cars, contracts, presidents, churches, photographs, controversies and enormous gifts was a

human being whose story can never be reduced to one colour. Zimbabwe has chosen to honour him.

History will continue to examine him. And perhaps the most African way to remember Wicknell Chivayo is to allow both truths to breathe. Honour the good. Remember the human being. Ask the difficult questions. And never allow either grief or admiration to become a substitute for truth.

"A man may leave behind wealth, controversy and influence; but in the end, what remains is the human difference his life made—and the questions his life leaves for those who remain."

African News

Wicknell Chivayo: The Story That Wasn't Told

What the elegies for Wicknell Chivayo left out — and why the omission matters more than the grief

By: James Mwangi
xxxxxxxxxxxx

When a controversial man dies suddenly, the temptation is to resolve him. To take the jagged, unfinished thing that a complicated life represents and sand it into a shape that fits a eulogy, a headline or a government decree. The tributes and reflections that have emerged in the days following Wicknell Chivayo's death in a helicopter crash on September 30, 2026, are thoughtful in places, generous in tone and consciously balanced in their attempt to hold criticism and admiration in the same breath. But balance, when applied selectively, becomes its own distortion. What follows is not an attack on a dead man. It is an argument that the most important parts of Chivayo's story remain unexamined, and that Africa's tendency to let death settle arguments it never finished is one of the continent's most persistent and costly habits.

The first gap is structural. Every account of Chivayo's life eventually arrives at the Gwanda solar project, notes the criminal acquittal of 2023, references contractual disputes and then moves on. What none of them do is explain, in plain terms, what actually happened with the \$5 million paid to Intratrek Zimbabwe in 2015 for a solar project that was not delivered on schedule, why it took years of litigation and public pressure to reach any form of resolution, and what ordinary Zimbabwean citizens lost in waiting for electricity infrastructure that was delayed. The acquittal is real and must be respected, as any honest account must state. But an acquittal in a criminal proceeding on grounds of unreasonable prosecutorial delay is not the same thing as a finding that a project was well-managed or that public money was used optimally. These are different statements. The conflation of the two, whether deliberate or lazy, leaves the public with an incomplete picture and allows a complex institutional failure to be tidied away inside a personal tribute.

The second gap concerns the nature of Chivayo's philanthropy itself. Generosity is not always structurally neutral. When a single individual becomes the mechanism through which footballers receive salaries, churches receive support, medical bills are settled and ordinary people receive life-changing gifts, the effect on public life is worth examining independently of the giver's intentions. Chivayo's giving was spectacular and, for its recipients, genuinely transformative. But personalised philanthropy of this scale, particularly when the giver operates in close proximity to political power, raises



Wicknell Chivayo

questions that go beyond gratitude. Who decides who receives? What are the terms of the relationship between giver and receiver? Does large-scale personal generosity, in contexts where state institutions are weak, function as a substitute for the public services those institutions should be delivering? And does it, even inadvertently, create networks of loyalty and obligation that ultimately serve the consolidation of private and political influence rather than the diffusion of it? None of this diminishes the genuine good done for specific individuals. All of it matters enormously for understanding what Chivayo's philanthropic model represented at a systemic level.

The third gap is the one nobody wants to write about, because it requires saying something specific about the relationship between wealth, political proximity and public contracts in Zimbabwe. The Chivayo tributes acknowledge that he was close to President Mnangagwa, that he moved in elite circles and that his business success occurred in an environment where political connections matter. They note this, mark it as a legitimate question and then decline to answer it. The result is that the reader is given the shape of a serious inquiry without any of its content. What were the specif-

ic mechanisms by which Chivayo gained access to public contracts? Were those mechanisms available to other Zimbabwean entrepreneurs, or did they depend on relationships that most people could not replicate? What does the answer to that question tell Zimbabwe about its procurement systems, its governance culture and the conditions under which its entrepreneurs operate? These are not questions about whether Chivayo was a good or bad person. They are questions about the architecture of an economy and a state. Chivayo's life happened to sit at the intersection of several of those architectural lines, which is precisely why his story is worth examining beyond the personal.

The fourth gap is continental and the most underexplored. Chivayo was described in the immediate aftermath of his death as someone whose story reverberated across Africa, a statement that is accurate but that demands more than a passing reference. Africa has produced many Chivayos, men and women of spectacular visible success, deep political entanglement, genuine personal generosity and profound public controversy. The pattern is consistent enough to be structural rather than individual. What Africa has not yet produced, in sufficient number and

with sufficient institutional backing, are the transparent procurement systems, the independent courts, the functioning anti-corruption bodies and the free press environments that would allow figures like Chivayo to be fully understood while they are alive, rather than partially mourned after they are dead. The lesson of Chivayo's story is not about one man. It is about the conditions that produce men like him, sustain them, depend on them and then, at death, cannot agree on what they were.

The fifth and final gap is perhaps the most intimate. The tributes mention that Chivayo had children. They mention his wife. They describe a man being mourned by family. But nowhere in the public record is there a serious account of what Chivayo himself believed he was doing. Not the public performance of belief, the churches, the posted gifts, the social media theatre, but the interior logic. Did he see his philanthropy as correcting a systemic injustice he had identified? Did he view his proximity to power as a tool for accomplishing something specific beyond personal enrichment? Did he believe the visibility of his wealth was itself a statement of African possibility? Did he experience the controversy that followed him as persecution, as the inevitable price of visibility, or

as something he had brought upon himself and understood? These questions matter because they are the questions that would allow us to learn something from his life rather than simply reacting to it. A tribute that tells us a man gave generously but does not ask why, that notes his controversies but does not examine their origins, and that invokes his humanity without probing what he thought his life meant is not a portrait. It is a silhouette.

Zimbabwe has chosen to honour Chivayo as a Provincial Hero. That is Zimbabwe's sovereign right, and the decision reflects something real about the affection large numbers of people felt for him. But honouring someone and understanding them are not the same act, and the African tradition of letting the grave settle what the living could not resolve is one that a continent in the midst of an institutional development project can no longer afford. The most respectful thing that can now be done for Wicknell Chivayo's memory is not to smooth him further. It is to finish the examination his life began and his death interrupted.

Energy

Kwale’s electricity push moves from grid to growth

Energy Cabinet Secretary Wandayi meets county MPs in Mombasa to review projects meant to turn new connections into lasting economic change

By: James Kilonzo
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Worth Noting:

• For Kwale, that means sustained attention to rural villages that have long lived without reliable electricity, to schools and health facilities whose ability to serve communities is constrained by lack of power, and to local entrepreneurs who need stable energy to expand their operations. The county presents the kinds of last-mile challenges that define the harder work of universal electrification — geographically dispersed communities, uneven infrastructure and households that have waited years for connections that remained just out of reach.

• Progress has nonetheless been made. Connectivity in Kwale has advanced through a combination of grid extension and off-grid solutions deployed where the national grid is not yet viable. Targeted projects have connected hundreds of households in areas including Fuzo, Mkokoni, Majikuko and Madongoni, enabling families to extend working hours into the evening, preserve food more effectively and give children light to study after dark. These gains, modest in isolation but significant in their cumulative effect on daily life, represent exactly the kind of change the government’s energy agenda is designed to deliver at scale.



Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Opiyo Wandayi during a meeting with Members of Parliament from Kwale County to deliberate on electricity connectivity and ongoing energy projects .

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi held detailed talks with Members of Parliament from Kwale County in Mombasa this week to assess the state of electricity connectivity and other energy investments being rolled out by the national government across the county. The meeting was less a formality than a working review — bringing together legislators, implementers and those responsible for accounting for progress — with a specific aim: to ensure that electricity access in Kwale moves beyond headline connection numbers and delivers real change in households, public institutions and local businesses.

Central to the discussions was the question of how to accelerate projects already under way, prioritise areas still without reliable power and make certain that the communities most in need benefit from a national energy drive that has been gathering pace under President William Ruto’s administration. The conversation reflects a shift in how Kenya is approaching energy development — one in which ex-

tending the grid is no longer the end point but the starting point, and where every new connection is expected to support education, health services, small business and community resilience rather than simply register as a statistic.

For Kwale, that means sustained attention to rural villages that have long lived without reliable electricity, to schools and health facilities whose ability to serve communities is constrained by lack of power, and to local entrepreneurs who need stable energy to expand their operations. The county presents the kinds of last-mile challenges that define the harder work of universal electrification — geographically dispersed communities, uneven infrastructure and households that have waited years for connections that remained just out of reach.

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Alongside household connections, the Mombasa discussions covered infrastructure investments intended to underpin the county’s longer-term energy capacity. Plans for substations and distribution lines — including a 33/11kV station and associated infrastructure scheduled for completion between 2024 and 2026 — are designed to strengthen Kwale’s ability to receive and distribute power reliably across a wider area. Without such backbone infrastructure, new household connections risk becoming isolated and fragile achievements rather than nodes in a system capable of sustaining growing demand from homes, schools, clinics and

businesses simultaneously.

The national government’s target of universal electricity access by 2030 frames these county-level efforts, with Kwale among the counties where visible, sustained progress is required if the broader goal is to be met. The participation of Kwale’s MPs in reviewing project implementation signals that accountability for this progress extends beyond government ministries to elected representatives whose constituencies are directly affected. Their role is not ceremonial. It includes tracking where projects are delayed, identifying where resources are not reaching communities as intended and applying pressure where bottlenecks persist.

Energy’s intersection with health and education featured prominently in the talks. Health facilities in Kwale require electricity to run diagnostic equipment, maintain cold chains for vaccines and provide round-the-clock care. Schools need power for lighting, digital learning tools and administrative functions that are increasingly standard in better-resourced parts of the country. Small and medium enterprises rely on reliable energy to operate machinery, extend trading hours and compete on more equal terms with businesses in more connected areas.

When energy investments are planned with these interconnected needs in mind, the result is not simply a household with a working light bulb but a more capable and economically active community.

Coordination was identified as a critical factor in whether energy investments in Kwale achieve their intended effect. The alignment of planning between national agencies, county authorities and local representatives matters for avoiding duplication, addressing the specific obstacles that arise in last-mile delivery and responding quickly when communities experience delays or gaps. Accountability requires that progress be reviewed honestly — not in terms of announcements and ribbon-cutting ceremonies, but in terms of whether connections are working, whether institutions are benefiting and whether the people meant to gain from these investments are actually doing so.

The meeting in Mombasa also served as a platform to reaffirm the ministry’s focus on translating infrastructure investment into outcomes with a practical effect on livelihoods. That means continuing to prioritise projects in underserved areas, maintaining the infrastructure that makes those connections durable rather than temporary, and ensuring that institutions and businesses are positioned to use the energy that reaches them. It also means keeping channels of communication open between planners and communities, so that policy remains grounded in the realities people experience on the ground rather than in targets that look clean on paper.

The energy projects under way in Kwale are part of a national push to ensure that no county is left behind as Kenya advances toward its electrification targets. What that means in practical terms for Kwale is a sequence of investments — household connections, distribution infrastructure, substation capacity, off-grid alternatives — that together build the foundation for a more functional local economy. Schools that can offer digital learning. Clinics that can operate through the night. Small businesses that can sustain their operations and create employment. These are the outcomes against which the current round of projects will ultimately be judged.

The conversations between the Cabinet Secretary and Kwale’s MPs carry that expectation forward. They signal that energy development in the county is a priority that requires not only investment but disciplined follow-through — sustained attention to implementation, honest assessment of where gaps remain and a clear commitment to delivering on what has been announced. Whether Kwale’s energy moment becomes a genuine foundation for growth or a series of partially completed interventions will depend on precisely that follow-through. The infrastructure being laid now creates the conditions. What happens next is a matter of execution and accountability.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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WORLD

London Packaging Week With Top Global Brands Attracts Thousands Of Visitors



By: **Shamlal Puri**
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& Senior Editor - UK
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experienced shows in the global packaging sector. The event combined four sections focusing on luxury, drinks, beauty and FMCG, packaged into a single blockbuster exhibition.

Josh Brooks, Divisional Director – Packaging Portfolio at event organiser EasyFairs, kicked off the two-day show, saying, “We take our role as a forum for everyone in the supply chain very seriously. We want it to be a place where business can happen, of course, but in doing that we try to create spaces that are inspiring, fun, warm, and welcoming. “I’m particularly proud of the way the show has platformed and promoted young talent from across the sector. For those looking to discover fresh ideas and forward-thinking perspectives, London Packaging Week has always been the place to do that. But our approach to young talent proves we don’t just talk about the future; we try to make it happen. It’s so gratifying to see the Excel full of people who share that goal with us.”

The event featured 230 exhibitors and more than 110 speakers. More than 10,000 visitors toured the exhibition area, and deals were struck between business visitors and the exhibitors.

From Formula 1-inspired luxury engineering and interactive launch packs to everyday usability and recyclable flexible packaging, the 2026 London Packaging Week Innovation

Awards revealed how brands are turning packaging into a source of practical, commercial and consumer value.

The second day of London Packaging Week built on the event’s theme of ‘Discovery’, finishing with a flourish and marking another remarkable year of growth for the show.

Combining four co-located events focused on luxury, drinks, beauty, and FMCG packaging, the second day highlighted examples of excellence across all four market sectors as the prestigious Innovation Awards.

Prada, Jack Daniel’s x McLaren, Heinz, Hotel Chocolat, Fortnum & Mason, Refy, and HairGym were among the brands taking home trophies from the ceremony, while Marks & Spencer was named Packaging Team of the Year.

Paul Hamilton, Head of Sales & Marketing at full-service packaging supplier Hunter Luxury, which won the Luxury Drinks award for the second consecutive year for its work on the Jack Daniel’s x McLaren HALO MK1 project, said, “Winning this award again is incredibly special, particularly because Halo MK1 represents exactly the kind of challenge we want to take on at Hunter Luxury.

“The standard has only risen since last year, so our consecutive wins demonstrate what becomes possible when a brilliant creative idea is supported by the engineering and manufacturing expertise needed to make it happen.”

Casey McHugh, Senior Content Manager at event organiser EasyFairs, said: “What makes this year’s results so exciting is the sheer breadth of what innovation now means in packaging. Extraordinary pieces of luxury engineering sit alongside intelligent changes to everyday products, interactive experiences, new material approaches, and

Contd Page 15



Bird's-eye view of London Packaging Week, which attracted thousands of visitors.



Talks by packaging industry professionals attract large audiences. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



This stand with amazing Innovations in the packaging industry attracted many visitors. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Mr Ng of Grenovation shows his packaging offers, Photo SHAMLAL PURI

WORLD

London Packaging Week With Top Global Brands Attracts Thousands Of Visitors

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solutions designed to reduce environmental impact.

“The common thread is purpose. The strongest projects combine creativity with a clear understanding of the consumer, the challenge being solved and the value the packaging needs to create.”

Other innovations on show included the headline-grabbing Cool>-Can™ from

Delta Innovations, which took home first prize in the competitive Innovation Gallery.

This ground breaking can features button-activated self-cooling technology, which has been successfully commercialised by Wales-based Brains Brewery. The ceremony drew attention from mainstream national media, highlighting the incredible reach impactful packaging innovation can have.

Earlier, the second day got off to an impactful start in an invite-only Power Hour session that provided exclusive insights from women in the packaging industry.

One of the speakers was Sophie Christie, Supplier Enablement Lead at Tesco, who candidly discussed her role in implementing GS1-compliant QR codes for the retail giant. “The start of our project was just building our understanding,” she explained.

“No one really knew how it would actually work in-store. We launched a trial in-store across a number of suppliers and substrates, and the QR codes weren’t at the standard we would expect now, but it took us actually launching into stores, seeing how it works from the factory to the store, and seeing how our colleagues and customers interact with it, to understand what needed to change. “Sometimes you just have to try something, especially with new innovations. Having the opportunities to get things wrong provided the opportunities to learn from it. That was the bedrock for how we proceeded with the programme.”

The value of female insights was proven later on in the day, when Jane Martin, Head of Communications and Engagement at PackUK, and Karen Graley, Chief Operating Officer at UK Packaging PRO, hosted a fireside chat-style talk on EPR. Karen said she wanted to create a sense of certainty around the future of EPR, commenting, “Everyone has a role to play, not just producers, but waste management companies, local authorities, and material recovery facilities. There’s no one stakeholder that can deliver the whole system.

“One of the things producer responsibilities can do is bring all of that together, share those industry insights, expertise, and knowledge that’s been

gained over decades. Policy is one thing, but with the producer voice and expertise, we need to translate that into something tangible, meaningful and capable of creating the change that we all need.

“Designers will say, ‘We shouldn’t be designing for poor infrastructure’, while infrastructure will say, ‘You need to be designing and giving us the right things and using the right materials because we can’t accept that.’

“That’s why getting out there, understanding, and seeing these things for real matters. You really get to know what works and what doesn’t. These two things need to come together.

“So, we’re looking at what’s worked elsewhere, maybe also what’s failed and why, and how we can bring those things into the UK. We want a best-in-class, world-leading producer responsibility organisation, and why not? It’s about having our ears open, listening and learning.”

Other speakers provided further perspectives on this theme of transformation. Creative designer Vincent Villager delivered a presentation on packaging as a four-dimensional discipline, drawing on decades of experience working in the sector.

“Packaging has probably always been about adding value from a brand perspective, but it feels like there’s now a real quest for theatre,” he said following the talk.

“It’s about the experience from that first touchpoint right the way through. Consumers want to be taken on a journey. But there are so many headwinds in packaging at the moment, whether it’s legislation, cost, or dozens of other things” He emphasised human connection between designer and client as key to overcoming these headwinds, adding, “You can put a pack into an awards ceremony and have it torn to pieces by traditionalists, then put it into the market and see it received rapturously by consumers.

So, my problem that I’m trying to solve when I come to a piece of design isn’t to win an award. In the first stages, the most important work I do is to establish: ‘Do I understand what it is you need, am I the right person to help you with it on a go? On a human level, can I work with you, are you going to understand what I want to do?’ There’s no doubt that the best creative work, in my experience, is when it’s very friction-free.”

Many other speakers delivered their own novel presentations on new innovations, drawing on their own unique creative approaches.

Yoshi Nagamine, Founder and CEO of ZEROBOX, was one of them, delivering a playful yet insightful glimpse into the thinking behind his reusable modular logistics solution. Calling it ‘the black sock principle,’ he said,

“You buy striped socks in pairs. One day, the left one gets a hole. So, what

do you do with its partner? It goes in the bin even though there is nothing wrong with it, because it can’t pair with anything else. Now look at black socks. One gets a hole, but it’s easy to pair with another black sock. It’s half the waste, but the only thing that changed was the design of the sock.

“That’s the black sock principle. Waste also creates collateral waste. That’s not a fact of nature, it’s a design flaw. ZEROBOX applies that principle to packaging. It’s a modular system of three components: Plates, pipes, and clips. Every plate is interchangeable with another. If one-part breaks, you can exchange the broken part and use it again.”

Early attendance data indicated that the show was the best-attended yet, with the new features and packed schedule marking London Packaging Week out as one of the most innovative, forward-thinking, and valuable events in any B2B professional’s calendar.



Mertiz Offset Packaging had an excellent display of their latest offerings. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Dan Lathall, Roland’s Product Specialist, introduced their latest label-printing technology. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Winners of the various awards share their delight on the Luxury Stage. Photo SHAMLAL PURI.

Diaspora

Kenyans abroad are sending billions home — but are they getting a bigger seat at the table?

As diaspora remittances surpass US\$5 billion, the conversation must move beyond money

By: Collins Kibet
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Kenyans living abroad have become an increasingly important part of the country's economic story. From the United States and Canada to Europe, the Middle East, Australia and many other corners of the world, Kenyans in the diaspora maintain strong financial and social ties with their families and communities back home. Every month, money sent by Kenyans abroad helps families cover school fees, meet medical bills, build homes, support small businesses and manage a rising cost of living. But as the financial contribution of the diaspora continues to grow, an important question deserves far greater attention: are Kenyans abroad receiving a voice and the opportunities that reflect the full size of their contribution to Kenya?

Central Bank of Kenya data confirms that diaspora remittances rose to a record US\$5.04 billion in 2025, cementing their position as the country's largest single source of foreign exchange. The figure demonstrates just how deeply connected the Kenyan diaspora remains to the economy at home. Yet the larger question is whether Kenya's relationship with its citizens abroad should be measured primarily by the volume of money they send. Should Kenyans living thousands of kilometres away be viewed mainly as sources of foreign exchange, or should their skills, professional experience, international networks and investment capacity also receive far greater recognition?

For years, remittances have remained the most visible way in which the diaspora contributes to Kenya. A parent working abroad pays school fees for children at home. A relative sends money to help construct the family house. Another Kenyan covers the cost of medical treatment for an ailing parent. Collectively, these individual transfers have a substantial effect on millions of households and communities across the country. But what if the relationship between Kenya and its diaspora could move beyond supporting family needs and toward building sustainable businesses and creating lasting employment opportunities?

The question becomes even more pressing when one considers the professional expertise accumulated by Kenyans living abroad. A Kenyan doctor working in the United States may hold specialist knowledge that could directly benefit the country's struggling healthcare sector. An engineer in Germany may have hands-on experience with technologies ready to be applied at home. A technology professional in Canada or the United Kingdom may



hold international connections that could open global markets to Kenyan businesses. If these skills were linked systematically with institutions and entrepreneurs at home, could the diaspora become an even more powerful engine for economic transformation?

Kenya has taken steps toward strengthening exactly that connection. On 20 September 2026, President William Ruto witnessed the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent in New York between the Kenyan government, the United Nations in Kenya and Equity Group Holdings, marking the launch of the Kenya Diaspora Impact Platform. The government-led digital initiative is designed to connect diaspora capital, skills and professional networks with investment and enterprise opportunities in Kenya. The announcement raises a compelling question: could a more organised approach to diaspora engagement convert remittances and professional expertise into sustained investment, innovation and new jobs?

The potential is significant, particularly at a time when Kenya continues to grapple with youth unemployment and constrained economic opportunities. Could diaspora investors partner with young Kenyan entrepreneurs to establish businesses? Could professionals abroad mentor recent graduates and open doors to international opportunities? Could diaspora capital help expand manufacturing, technology, agriculture, healthcare and other productive sectors in ways that create jobs rather than simply financing household consumption?

That said, attracting meaningful diaspora investment will require more than launching platforms. Kenyans abroad will also need genuine confidence that their investments will be

protected and handled transparently. A person living thousands of kilometres away faces real difficulties monitoring a business, identifying reliable partners or resolving disputes when things go wrong. Could Kenya therefore strengthen the mechanisms that make investment easier, more transparent and more secure for citizens living outside its borders?

The Central Bank of Kenya's 2025 Remittances Household Survey reported that Kenyan households received KSh931.8B in remittance inflows during the reference period of June 2024 to May 2025, with the United States accounting for 43.5 per cent of the total. These numbers speak to the extraordinary scale of the financial relationship between Kenyans abroad and their families at home. But they also raise another question: if such enormous resources are already flowing into Kenya, how much more could be achieved if a larger proportion were directed toward productive investment and job creation rather than household consumption alone?

There is also the matter of participation. Financial contribution and civic participation are not the same thing. A Kenyan may spend decades building a career abroad while simultaneously supporting relatives, investing in property or maintaining businesses at home. Yet physical distance makes active participation in national affairs genuinely difficult. Should Kenya create stronger and more accessible channels through which its diaspora can contribute ideas and expertise to national development, beyond simply sending money?

The debate is not about giving Kenyans abroad privileges over those living in the country. Rather, it is about recognising that the diaspora

represents part of Kenya's broader human and economic capital. Their experience of different economies, institutions, technologies and professional environments could provide genuinely useful insights when properly connected to domestic development. Could Kenya benefit more by treating its diaspora as development partners rather than primarily as remittance senders?

There is also a generational dimension worth considering. Many young Kenyans left the country in search of education, employment or better economic conditions. Some have built successful careers and businesses abroad. Others continue to navigate the high cost of living and difficult working conditions in foreign countries. Yet many remain emotionally and financially bound to Kenya. The challenge is maintaining that connection while creating meaningful opportunities for those who want to invest their skills and resources back home.

Part of the answer may lie in building stronger bridges between the diaspora and Kenya's private sector, universities, county governments, entrepreneurs and national institutions. Rather than leaving individual Kenyans abroad to identify opportunities on their own, could Kenya develop more transparent systems that clearly show where investment and professional expertise are most needed? Could digital platforms make it easier for diaspora professionals to mentor young people, invest in businesses and participate in development projects without necessarily returning permanently?

The growing volume of remittances also presents an opportunity to rethink what development itself means. Sending money to a family member immediately improves that household's circumstances, but

investment in a business can potentially create income for many more people. Supporting one person's education can transform their future; establishing a training institution could benefit an entire community. Building a family home provides security; investing in productive enterprises can generate employment for others. The challenge lies in finding a workable balance between addressing immediate household needs and encouraging investment with longer-term economic impact. Ultimately, Kenya's diaspora story is no longer simply about citizens leaving the country and sending money back home. It is increasingly about how a global Kenyan community remains connected to the country's economic, social and professional future. With billions of dollars flowing in through remittances each year and thousands of professionals gaining world-class experience in international markets, Kenya holds a significant pool of financial and human capital well beyond its own borders.

The central question, therefore, is no longer simply how much money Kenyans abroad are sending home. It is whether Kenya can build the systems that allow those billions, alongside the knowledge and networks of the diaspora, to contribute more effectively to investment, innovation and employment. If Kenyans abroad continue to support families, invest in communities and contribute billions to the economy each year, should the next chapter of the diaspora story not be about building a far stronger and more deliberate partnership between those abroad and the country they continue to call home?

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

LEADERSHIP AS A CALL TO PURPOSE

Transforming Communities
Through Visionary Leadership



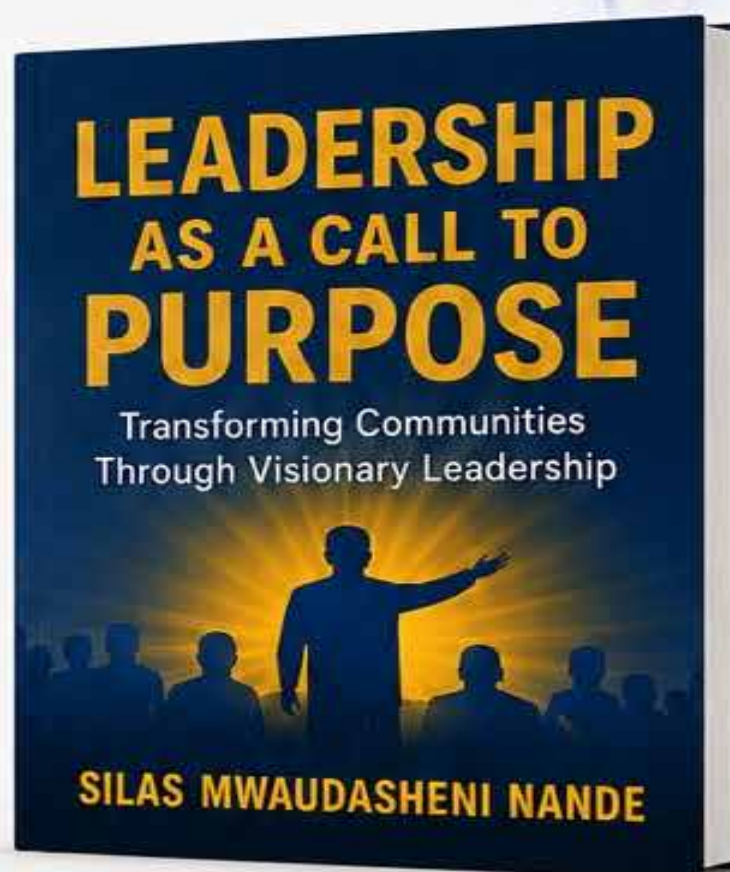
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Diaspora

The role of youth in modern diplomacy: From passive observers to active global participants



By: Shavkatova Jasmina
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx



Diplomacy is undergoing significant transformation in response to globalization, technological advancement, and the growing interconnectedness of societies. While diplomacy has historically been associated with state representatives, ambassadors, and formal negotiations, contemporary international relations increasingly recognize the importance of non-state actors, including young people. With access to digital platforms, international educational programs, youth organizations, volunteer initiatives, and cross-border networks, young people are developing new channels of communication and cooperation across national boundaries.

This article examines the evolving role of youth in modern diplomacy, with particular attention to digital diplomacy, intercultural dialogue, international cooperation, and youth-led initiatives. It argues that young people should not be viewed solely as future participants in diplomatic processes but also as current contributors to international dialogue and people-to-people relations. At the same time, meaningful youth participation requires access to information, diplomatic education, digital literacy, and inclusive international opportunities. Strengthening these areas can enable young people to contribute more effectively to mutual understanding and sustainable international cooperation.

Keywords: youth diplomacy, modern diplomacy, digital diplomacy, international relations, youth participation, intercultural dialogue, international cooperation, global citizenship.

Introduction

Diplomacy has traditionally served as one of the principal mechanisms through which states communicate, negotiate, and manage their relations. For much of modern history, diplomatic activity was largely conducted by governments, ambassadors, and other official representatives. However, globalization and technological development have significantly expanded the environment in which international communication takes place.

Today, international relations are influenced not only by governments but also by civil society organizations, educational institutions, media organizations, businesses, and

individual citizens. Among these actors, young people occupy an increasingly visible position. Through international youth forums, academic exchanges, volunteering, social initiatives, journalism, and digital platforms, young people are creating connections that extend beyond geographical and political borders.

This development raises an important question: what role can young people play in modern diplomacy?

Youth participation should not be understood merely as preparation for future diplomatic careers. Young people already participate in international dialogue and contribute to cultural understanding, public communication, and transnational cooperation. Their experiences, perspectives, and ability to communicate through digital technologies make them relevant participants in contemporary international relations.

From Traditional Diplomacy to People-to-People Engagement

The changing nature of diplomacy has created greater space for people-to-people engagement. Traditional diplomacy remains essential for relations between states, but international understanding is also shaped by interactions between ordinary citizens and communities. Young people can contribute to this process through cultural exchange programs, international conferences, educational initiatives, and volunteer activities. When young participants from different countries collaborate on common projects, they have opportunities to learn about different cultures, values, and perspectives. Such interaction can reduce cultural stereotypes and encourage mutual understanding. A young person who has participated in an international program may later share that experience with their local community, creating a wider circle of intercultural dialogue. In this sense, youth engagement can complement formal diplomacy by strengthening connections at the societal level.

Digital Diplomacy: A New Space for Youth Participation

Digitalization has introduced another important dimension to diplomacy. Social media, online conferences, digital publications, podcasts, and other communication technologies allow individuals to communicate with international audiences almost instantly.

For young people, digital platforms can provide opportunities that were previously difficult to access. A student, young journalist, researcher, or content creator can share ideas and cultural perspectives with people from different countries without having to be physically present abroad.

Digital diplomacy can also facilitate international collaboration. Young people can participate in virtual conferences, contribute to international campaigns, join global educational communities, and work with peers from other countries on common projects.

However, digital diplomacy also creates responsibilities. The rapid circulation of information can contribute to the spread of misinformation, stereotypes, and misleading narratives. Therefore, digital participation must be accompanied by media literacy, critical thinking, source verification, and responsible communication. For young people, becoming an effective digital diplomatic actor therefore means not only learning how to communicate but also understanding the consequences of what they communicate.

Youth-Led Initiatives and International Cooperation

Youth-led initiatives represent another important dimension of contemporary diplomacy. Young people increasingly organize educational projects, environmental campaigns, cultural programs, community activities, and international discussions. These initiatives can contribute to international cooperation by bringing individuals together around shared objectives rather than differences in nationality or background. For example, an international youth project may connect participants from several countries to discuss education or environmental challenges. Although the immediate objective may be project-based, the relationships developed during such

cooperation can have a longer-term impact.

Participants may continue communicating after a project ends, collaborate on new initiatives, exchange knowledge, or introduce one another to new networks. These relationships can become informal channels of international understanding.

Education as a Foundation for Youth Diplomacy

Effective youth participation in international affairs requires more than enthusiasm. Young people need knowledge and skills that enable them to communicate across cultural and political differences. Education can play a central role in this process. Schools, universities, youth organizations, and international institutions can provide opportunities for young people to study international relations, global issues, negotiation, intercultural communication, and media literacy. Language skills are also important. The ability to communicate in an international language can expand access to educational programs, conferences, publications, and international networks.

At the same time, diplomatic education should not be limited to theoretical knowledge. Practical experiences such as debates, simulations, international projects, volunteering, and youth forums can help young people develop communication, teamwork, negotiation, and critical-thinking skills.

Challenges to Meaningful Youth Participation

Despite the growing number of opportunities, youth participation in international affairs remains unequal. One challenge is access. International programs may involve financial costs, travel requirements, language barriers, or limited availability of information. As a result, some young people may have fewer opportunities to participate despite having the necessary motivation and potential. Another challenge is the quality of online information. Young people who engage in international discussions can encounter inaccurate or misleading content. Without strong media literacy, it can be difficult to distinguish reliable information from unsupported claims. Cultural differences can also create misunderstandings. International communication requires the ability to listen, respect different perspectives, and avoid making assumptions about other societies. Addressing these challenges requires cooperation among educational institutions, governments, civil society organizations, international institutions, and youth communities.

Strengthening the Role of Youth in Modern Diplomacy

Several measures can contribute to

more meaningful youth participation in diplomacy.

First, educational institutions can expand access to international relations education and practical communication opportunities. Youth organizations can create more inclusive international programs and provide information about available opportunities.

Second, digital platforms can be used to develop international youth networks. Virtual conferences, collaborative research, online discussions, and international educational projects can reduce some geographical and financial barriers.

Third, young people should be encouraged to develop media literacy and responsible digital communication. In an environment where information travels rapidly, the ability to verify sources and communicate respectfully is increasingly important.

Finally, youth participation should be viewed as a partnership rather than simply a preparation process. Young people can bring perspectives and experiences that are valuable to contemporary international dialogue.

Conclusion

The transformation of diplomacy in the twenty-first century has created new opportunities for young people to participate in international affairs. Through education, cultural exchange, volunteering, journalism, digital communication, and youth-led initiatives, they can contribute to dialogue between societies and promote greater intercultural understanding.

Young people should therefore not be regarded only as future diplomats or leaders. They are already participants in a global environment where communication increasingly takes place across borders and outside traditional diplomatic institutions. At the same time, meaningful participation requires appropriate education, equal access to opportunities, digital literacy, and an environment that encourages responsible international engagement.

The future of diplomacy will continue to involve formal state-to-state relations, but it will also be shaped by the connections created between people. Empowering young people to participate responsibly in these connections can strengthen international cooperation and contribute to a more informed, connected, and mutually understanding global society.

Shavkatova Jasmina is a 16-year-old student at School No. 2. She is interested in diplomacy, international relations, and youth initiatives. She will turn 17 on December 24.

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Diaspora

A passport or a laptop: How young Kenyans are finding work beyond home

On a farm in England, Irene Wairimu learned that a working day could be measured in trays of raspberries.

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
xxxxxxxxxxxx

On a farm in England, Irene Wairimu learned that a working day could be measured in trays of raspberries.

The Agriculture and Biotechnology graduate from Bukura Agricultural College was among the first cohort of Kenyan students to take up work in the United Kingdom through the labour mobility programme. After graduating in 2024, she spent six months at Woodfield Farm, harvesting blueberries, planting raspberries and picking the fruit.

A typical day came with a target. Workers were expected to pick about seven trays of raspberries, but Wairimu says she sometimes picked as many as 15. The additional trays could attract a higher rate of pay and a bonus.

For her, the work offered more than a wage. She learned different ways of planting, managing and harvesting crops, while also having to coordinate with supervisors, meet targets and keep up with the pace of the farm.

But working abroad also came with challenges she had not experienced at home.

The farm brought together workers from different countries, and communication could sometimes be difficult. Her Bulgarian supervisors added another language barrier. Then there was the winter cold.

Wairimu recalls developing swelling around her nails and missing three days of work after falling ill. The days were unpaid, while her housing costs continued.

When the contract ended, she returned to Kenya. She later started Coin Agrovet in Isu, Mbeere North, Embu County, where she now serves farmers through the business.

Unlike Irene, Festus's challenge came before he could even board the plane to England.

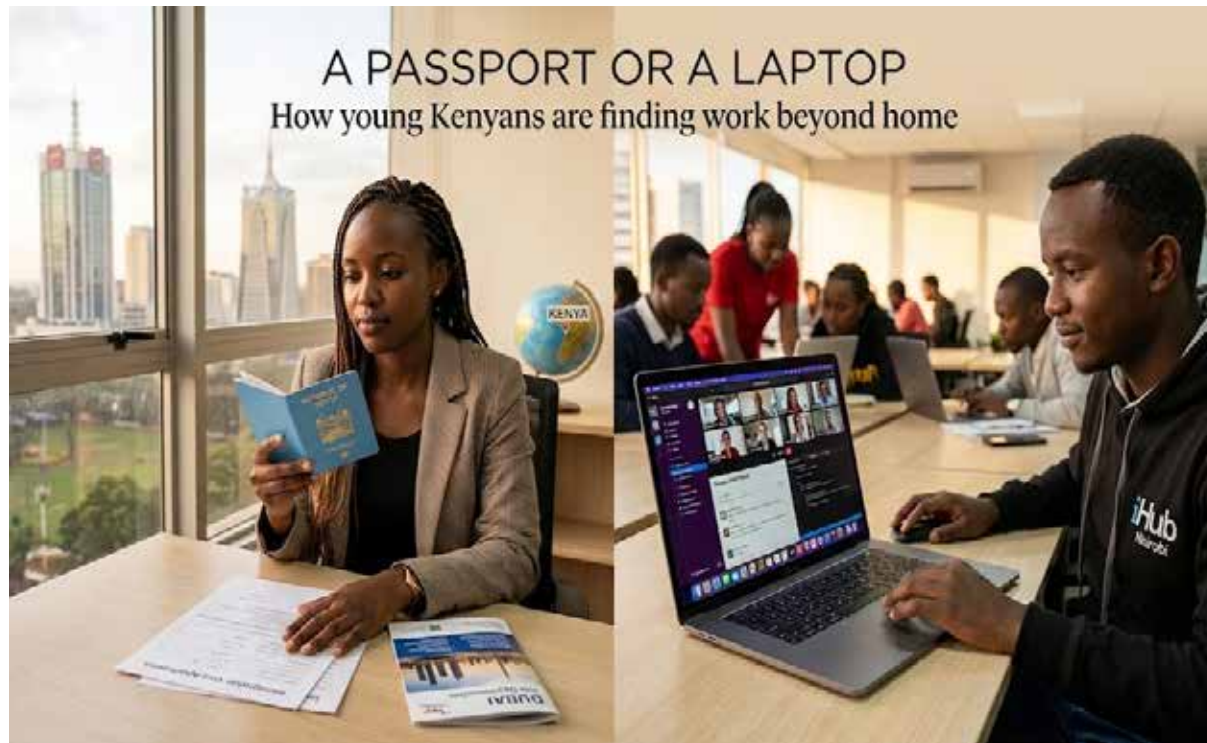
In November 2025, he secured a job on a commercial strawberry farm in England, but his family struggled to raise enough money to cover his travelling costs.

"The problem is funding," he says.

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund has a migration loan designed to help young Kenyans who have secured employment abroad. The facility can support pre-departure costs, including passports, visas, air tickets, medical examinations, professional certification and pre-departure training, with individual loans ranging from KSh10,000 to KSh300,000.

Festus says he received KSh185,000 through the fund to finance his journey.

Once in England, he worked in



A passport or a laptop

strawberry production and packing. But international work does not always require a plane ticket.

For Douglas, the search for work beyond Kenya began with a link sent by a friend. It led him to a recruitment agency that was relatively new in Kenya, accepted beginners and trained them before connecting them with clients.

He has worked with foreign clients from Kenya for the past four years and has also built a client relationship of his own.

His work takes place from a desk in his room, but the schedule is determined by different time zones. Some shifts begin at about 6 p.m. and continue into the early morning. On the day of the interview, he finished his shift at about 4 a.m.

A laptop and an internet connection were enough to open the door to the work, but keeping it going was another matter.

Electricity interruptions, weak internet connectivity and an inadequate laptop affected his work. At one point, his sister's house became a backup workplace when power cuts made it difficult to work from his own home.

He saved for a better laptop and eventually bought a second one.

The demands extended beyond equipment. Douglas had to learn to manage his time, communicate proactively, conduct research and deliver work without the physical supervision that comes with a conventional workplace.

During a three-week visit to Uganda, he continued working remotely. But working across time zones has also affected his routine. Late shifts can disrupt sleep, while working from home can be isolating. He has tried to create a life outside work through errands, hiking, swimming and occasional work from coworking spaces.

For those who do travel, recruitment agencies remain an important link between Kenyan workers and employers abroad.

Benjamin, who has worked with a recruitment agency in Nairobi and its office in Qatar for about three years, says he has helped about 1,500 Kenyans travel to Qatar for employment.

His work has since expanded to connecting Kenyan workers with employers in Germany. He says the employer came to Kenya looking for workers in professions including medicine, nursing and hospitality. Depending on the position, applicants may need relevant professional qualifications and German-language proficiency, including B1-level competence.

But overseas employment is not limited to graduates and professionals. Recruitment agencies also connect Kenyan workers without specialised professional qualifications to jobs abroad.

Daniel Maria of TDM International Limited recruits both skilled and unskilled workers for overseas employment. He says about 700 Kenyan security guards were recruited for work at Hamad International Airport in the previous year. Some received additional training to work as screeners and fire wardens.

For jobseekers, however, finding an overseas employer also means establishing whether the offer is genuine and understanding the obligations that come with it.

The State Department for Diaspora Affairs advises jobseekers to verify recruitment agencies through the National Employment Authority and ensure their employment contracts are authenticated by a Labour Officer before departure. The process helps workers understand the terms of employment and guard against fraud, coercion and undue

influence. The State Department's Kazi Majuu platform also provides information on overseas job opportunities and labour mobility.

For a prospective worker, the questions begin before the journey: Who is recruiting? Who is the actual employer? Where is the job located? What is the salary, and what deductions will be made? What costs must be paid before departure?

The scale of overseas employment is significant. On 10 September 2026, Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs Roseline Kathure Njogu said Kenya had placed more than 580,000 citizens in overseas jobs through the Kazi Majuu Programme and other initiatives. She cited language training, skills certification, recognition of qualifications and pre-departure preparation as part of efforts to strengthen labour mobility and protect Kenyan workers abroad. Healthcare is also becoming part of this international recruitment drive. On 2 February 2026, Njogu and Athari Global Chief Executive Officer Dr Deepak Soni signed a Letter of Intent to advance the Muuguzi Majuu programme, which seeks to connect qualified Kenyan healthcare professionals with employment opportunities in Canada.

Once abroad, Kenyan diplomatic missions provide another point of support on consular and welfare matters. The State Department advises Kenyans facing distress abroad to contact the nearest Kenyan embassy, high commission or consulate for assistance.

For Irene, however, the experience in Britain became useful after she came home.

At Woodfield Farm, she had been exposed to different approaches to crop production and to the discipline of working towards production targets.

Back in Embu, she applied that ex-

perience when she established Coin Agrovet.

"It helped me, as a young person, to come up with my own business," she says.

Irene's story is one example of how experience gained abroad can be put to use back home. For Kenyans who remain abroad, that connection can take a different form, through investment, skills and expertise.

The Kenya Diaspora Investment Strategy 2025–2030 provides a framework for attracting diaspora investment and facilitating the use of diaspora savings, skills, expertise and technology in Kenya's economic development. The strategy identifies direct diaspora investment, skills and technology transfer, and stronger support for diaspora investors among the department's priorities.

The department has established the Diaspora Investment Support Office (DISO) to provide information, investment facilitation, investor protection and aftercare to diaspora investors.

It has also been developing digital mechanisms through which Kenyans abroad can identify and participate in investment opportunities in Kenya without having to return physically.

On 20 September 2026, the Government of Kenya, the United Nations in Kenya and Equity Group Holdings signed a Joint Declaration of Intent to collaborate on the Kenya Diaspora Impact Platform in New York. The proposed digital platform is intended to connect Kenyans and other diaspora-based investors with credible and verifiable investment and development opportunities in Kenya, including community-impact projects, financing for micro, small and medium enterprises, philanthropy, and skills and knowledge transfer.

Irene travelled to England and came back with skills she could use in her own business. Festus had to find the means to get to a job he had already secured. Douglas found that an international career did not require him to leave Kenya at all.

For each of them, work beyond home has taken a different form.

The work may begin on a farm in England, in an office in another country or behind a laptop in a Kenyan home. What follows is shaped by what workers are able to earn, learn and build from the opportunity.

Diaspora

A Poem, a Universe: A poetry book gaze at Jumaniyoz Jabborov's "Ko'zgudagi sanam"



By: Saidqulova Nozima To'lqin
xxxxxxxxxxxx

ЖУМАНИЁЗ
ЖАББОРОВ

назм гулшани

КЎЗГУДАГИ САНАМ



Poetry sometimes doesn't speak loudly. It slowly enters a person, awakening memory with a single line, bringing forgotten feelings to the heart with a single simile to awaken forgotten feelings in the heart, and with a single question, it compels one to reflect on one's own life.

Reading Jumaniyoz Jabborov's poetry collection, "Ko'zgudagi sanam", ("Idol in the Mirror"), evokes similar feelings. Published in 1994 by the "Yozuvchi" publishing house in Tashkent, this book is a unique mirror that leads into the poet's lyrical world. However, this mirror does not reflect a simple external appearance. It reflects love, longing, human suffering, the homeland, the mother, life, goodness, beauty, and the poet's own heart.

As you leaf through the collection, one thing becomes clear: for Jumaniyoz Jabborov, poetry is not just rhymed words. Poetry is a means for the soul to express itself.

"O, Pen": the poet lays his soul bare on paper. The collection's poem "O, Pen" vividly captures this creative spirit. The poet addresses the pen not as a simple writing instrument, but as a companion that expresses his pain and innermost feelings:

"Oh, pen, if you want to write, first write my pain..."

This address embodies the poet's view on creativity. He asks the pen not to simply recount external events, but to write about pain.

Why specifically pain? Because true poetry is often born from a person's innermost feelings. The poet's tear, the longing in their heart, and their unspoken words take on an artistic form through the pen.

It is no coincidence that throughout the poem the pen is addressed with concepts such as "heart", "sigh", "tears", "pain", "reunion" and "love". These words define the main emotional layer of the poet's lyricism. Thus, "O, Pen" is not just a poem about creativity, but also a report the creator gives to his own heart.

"You say you're happy..." is the poet's voice addressed to society. The poem "You say you're happy..." from the collection, however, reveals another facet of Jumaniyoz Jabborov's lyricism. Here, the poet steps outside the circle of personal love or experience to look at the fate of people in society.

The poem begins with an appeal: "Somewhere a child is suffering, so don't beat the drum saying you're

happy..."

The impact of these lines is that the poet compares one person's happiness with the suffering of others. While someone is living a prosperous life, in another place a child is suffering, in another household the light is out, and someone else's heart is under oppression. For this reason, the concept of "happiness" in the poem is not linked to simple personal joy, but to human responsibility. In the poet's address, "don't beat the drum saying you're happy," there is not a denial of envy or joy, but rather a call not to forget the suffering of others.

In this respect, the lyrical protagonist of Jumaniyoz Jabborov is not merely a lover lost in his own heart. He is a person who cannot remain indifferent to the fates of those around him.

"One day..." — the poet and his assessments. In the poem "One day..." the creator's attitude toward his own creative path becomes even more clearly revealed. The poet says he has sung of the sky, of dawn, of love, of labor, of fame and glory. But his work receives various evaluations:

"Detached from life", "Pure feeling is corrupted", "Excessive, drawn-out"...

Here, the poem has a meaning that goes beyond a simple autobiographical experience.

An artist's work is not always met with the same reception. One reader praises, another criticizes. What is valued in one era may be interpreted differently in another.

But by the end of the poem, the poet returns to his true self:

"But one day I was filled with imagination, I poured my true self into a song",

that very point is the key to the poem.

For Jumaniyoz Jabborov, true creativity is, first and foremost, about finding oneself. It is about turning the truth of the heart into words, regardless of others' judgments. For this reason, "One day..." can also be read as one of the poet's manifestos in the collection.

"Burning": the warmth of the heart amidst a natural landscape.

Nature imagery also holds a special place in the collection. In the poem "burning" the autumn landscape is depicted in incredibly vivid colors: gardens, trees, snow on the mountains, the sky, fruits, fields — all possess their own unique color and warmth in the poet's gaze.

But this is no ordinary poem. As the poet depicts the external nature, he gradually moves into the human heart. The "burning" of autumn connects to the "burning" of the heart. The colors in nature harmonize with the inner emotions of the human soul.

Towards the end of the poem, the question arises:

"Why, in autumn, does our heart burn in a state of disarray?" this question gives the entire poem a different meaning:

Why do the final colors of nature disturb the human heart?

Why does autumn, along with its beauty, also evoke feelings of parting and transience?

Jumaniyoz Jabborov doesn't just see nature — he feels it with his heart.

"The Value of Life": What is the true wealth of life?

The poem "The Value of Life" in the collection reflects on the value of human life. In the poem, the mea-

sure of life is linked to wisdom and goodness. One of the most striking aspects is the poet's reflection on the greatest wealth in the world. He does not measure wealth solely by material possessions. He mentions an infant's laughter as one of the most precious things for a person.

This is a very simple, yet profound thought, because the wealth a person seeks their entire life can sometimes be found in the innocent laughter of a child.

In this way, the poet leaves the reader with a question:

What do we measure the value of our lives by?

In material wealth?

In status?

In fame?

Or in love, affection, a child's laughter, creativity, and goodness?

For Jumaniyoz Jabborov's lyrical protagonist, the answer lies in the second.

"Good Intention" is the light in the heart.

The poem "Good Intention" further strengthens the collection's spiritual and philosophical spirit. The poet portrays a good intention as a force capable of lifting a person out of difficult situations:

"A good intention will help you achieve even a great dream..."

Here, "intention" is not just a wish. It is interpreted as an inner force that drives action. If a person has a good intention in their heart, they will not lose hope even in the most difficult situations. In this respect, the poem can easily speak to the modern reader as well. Because even as times change, a person's need for hope remains constant. "The mirror of the heart": the meaning of the book's title is revealed here.

The poem "Mirror of the heart" from the collection "My reflection in the mirror" is particularly important for understanding the book's title. The poet compares the human heart to a mirror: "Reflecting the world, the heart — a miracle mirror — with every breath..."

This line is in harmony with the entire poetic spirit of the collection. What does a mirror show? Ourselves.

But the mirror of the soul is even more complex. It reflects not the external appearance of a person, but their inner world. For the poet, the human heart is a miraculous mirror capable of reflecting the entire universe. If it is illuminated by the light of perception, reason, and goodness, it also shows the world differently.

At another important point in the poem, the heart connects with the "Homeland".

Thus, the concepts of love, heart, humanity, and Homeland converge. "Seeing the light of your beauty": from beauty to the Homeland.

In Jumaniyoz Jabborov's lyrics, beauty is not limited to just the beloved's beauty. In the poem "Seeing the radiance of your beauty" the image of the beloved is depicted side-by-side with scenes of nature and the homeland. At the end of the

poem, the poet's focus shifts to the motherland.

This is a very important poetic feature: first, the image of a beautiful person is created, then nature is depicted in harmony with them, and finally, the poet's gaze turns to the homeland, meaning that the personal feeling of beauty connects to the realization of the beauty of the Fatherland.

This demonstrates the breadth of the concept of love in Jumaniyoz Jabborov's lyricism.

Who is the idol in the mirror — who is it really?

It would be wrong to limit the "idol", in the book's title solely to the image of a beloved. When we read the collection as a whole, "idol" appears in various guises: beloved, beauty, homeland, memory, dream, life itself. Sometimes the poet addresses his beloved, sometimes he writes about his mother, sometimes he reflects on his homeland, and sometimes he turns to his own heart.

Therefore, the "mirror" does not reflect a single image. It reveals the poet's entire inner world.

This is also what connects the poems in the collection: the human heart and the various aspects of life reflect one another.

"Idol in the Mirror" was published in 1994. However, the themes in many of its poems are timeless. This is because questions about love, mother, homeland, life, goodness, creativity, and the human heart are still important to people today.

Conclusion

Jumaniyoz Jabborov's collection "Idol in the mirror" is not just a book of love or poetry. In it, the poet's personal experiences are presented alongside his relationship with society, the feeling of love and patriotism, nature and the human heart, and the search for self-identity through creativity.

As the poems in the collection are read, the concept of the "mirror" in its title deepens. Because it is before this mirror that the poet himself, his lyrical characters, and the reader themselves all stand.

Everyone sees their own reflection in it.

Someone sees their love.
Someone sees their longing.
Someone sees their mother.
Someone sees their homeland.
And someone sees their own heart, which they have not yet understood. That is why "Idol in the mirror" is not just about an idol reflected in a mirror. It is about a person looking into their own heart.

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Linguistic Features of Chromatonyms in English and Uzbek

Language does much more than communicate information. It reflects the way people see the world, remember their history and express their cultural values.

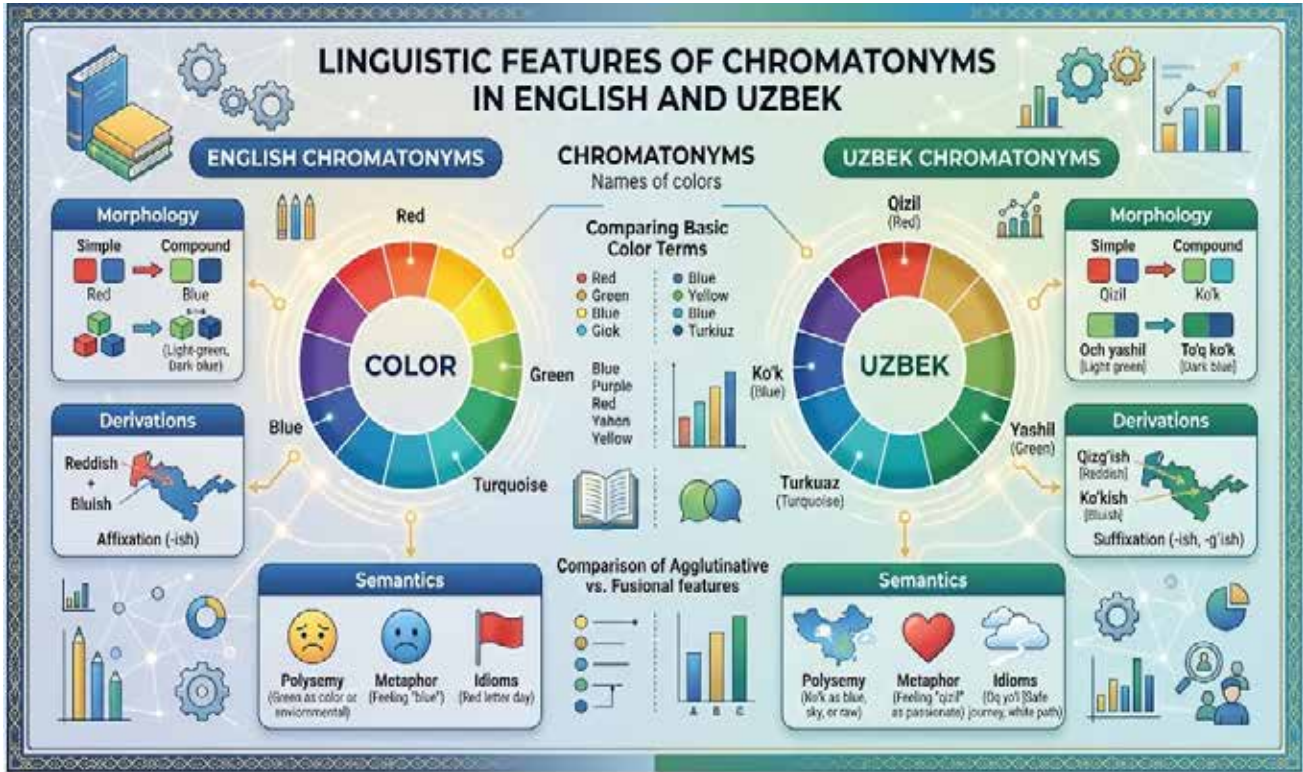


By: Muqaddas Isoqulova
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Worth Noting:

The study of chromatonyms in English and Uzbek is especially interesting because both languages use colour names productively, but the cultural meanings attached to those colours are not always identical. In English, colour-based names are widespread in literature, music, cinema, advertising, commerce and popular culture. Expressions such as Black Swan, Blue Moon, Green Day and Red Bull demonstrate how an ordinary colour adjective can become an essential part of an internationally recognisable name. In Uzbek, colour-based naming is closely connected with traditional culture, folklore, literature, phraseology and national perception. Words such as oq (white), qora (black), qizil (red), yashil (green), ko'k (blue) and sariq (yellow) are not limited to describing visual characteristics. Depending on context, they may express moral evaluation, emotional states, social relationships, natural phenomena or symbolic concepts.

For this reason, chromatonyms deserve attention not simply as unusual names but as linguistic units that demonstrate the relationship between vocabulary, culture and human cognition.



Language does much more than communicate information. It reflects the way people see the world, remember their history and express their cultural values. Some words appear simple at first sight, yet they may contain meanings shaped by centuries of social experience. Colour terms are a particularly interesting example. People see colours with their eyes, but they interpret them through language, culture and personal experience. When a colour becomes part of a proper name, its role becomes even more significant. It can identify a person, object, organisation, artistic work, product or cultural phenomenon while simultaneously creating additional emotional and symbolic associations. Such names can be examined within the field of onomastics and are commonly described as chromatonyms. The study of chromatonyms in English and Uzbek is especially interesting because both languages use colour names productively, but the cultural meanings attached to those colours are not always identical. In English, colour-based names are widespread in literature, music, cinema, advertising, commerce and popular culture. Expressions such as Black Swan, Blue Moon, Green Day and Red Bull demonstrate how an ordinary colour adjective can become an essential part of an internationally recognisable name. In Uzbek, colour-based naming is closely connected with traditional culture, folklore, literature,

phraseology and national perception. Words such as oq (white), qora (black), qizil (red), yashil (green), ko'k (blue) and sariq (yellow) are not limited to describing visual characteristics. Depending on context, they may express moral evaluation, emotional states, social relationships, natural phenomena or symbolic concepts. For this reason, chromatonyms deserve attention not simply as unusual names but as linguistic units that demonstrate the relationship between vocabulary, culture and human cognition. A colour in a name may work as a descriptive element at one level and as a metaphor or cultural symbol at another. Understanding this dual function is particularly important when English and Uzbek are compared. A colour-based name that appears transparent to an English-speaking reader may have a different semantic effect when translated into Uzbek, while an Uzbek chromatonym may lose part of its cultural meaning when translated literally into English. The linguistic importance of chromatonyms becomes clearer when we consider how colour terms operate in everyday communication. In their basic function, colour words identify visual characteristics: a white object is distinguished from a black one, a green landscape from a yellow one. However, natural language rarely limits words to their literal meanings. Through metaphor, association and

cultural convention, colour vocabulary develops additional semantic layers. These layers become particularly visible in proper names because naming is rarely accidental. A name is normally selected because it is expected to distinguish an object and, in many cases, create a particular image in the mind of the audience. English provides numerous examples of this phenomenon. The name Black Swan, for instance, is more than a reference to the colour of a bird. Through literary and cultural usage, the expression has acquired associations with unusual, unexpected or extraordinary events. Similarly, Blue Moon has moved beyond its literal astronomical reference and has become an expression associated with rarity. Red Bull uses a colour and an animal to construct an energetic and powerful commercial identity, while Green Day demonstrates how a colour can become an integral component of a cultural and artistic name. Such examples show that English chromatonyms are structurally flexible. A colour adjective can precede a common noun, form part of a brand name, enter the title of a literary or artistic work, or become a component of a larger symbolic construction. The grammatical simplicity of these combinations does not mean that their meanings are simple. In many cases, the colour term contributes emotional or cultural information that is not explicitly stated. The same principle can be

observed in Uzbek, although the cultural background of individual colour terms differs. The word oq has traditionally been associated with positive meanings such as purity, goodness, peace and favourable intentions. These associations can be observed in Uzbek phraseology and literary language. At the same time, qora may be associated with darkness, difficulty, sorrow or negative evaluation in certain contexts. Yet it would be misleading to regard qora as exclusively negative. Uzbek linguistic tradition contains many contexts in which colour meanings are determined by the particular expression, social situation or historical background. This demonstrates an important principle of chromatonym research: the symbolic meaning of a colour cannot always be separated from the cultural environment in which the name is used. The colour qizil also illustrates semantic diversity. In different contexts it may evoke associations with blood, love, courage, beauty, danger, celebration or political symbolism. Yashil can suggest nature, freshness and life, while ko'k may refer to the sky and nature and can also participate in culturally established expressions. Therefore, when colour terms are used in names, their interpretation depends not only on the lexical meaning of the colour but also on the cultural knowledge of the language community. This is one of the major similarities between English and

Uzbek chromatonyms. In both languages, colour can become a semantic instrument for creating identity. A name containing a colour is often easier to visualise and remember. This explains why colour-based naming is particularly productive in advertising and commercial communication. Companies compete not only through the quality of their products but also through the images associated with their names. A colour can immediately suggest energy, reliability, freshness, luxury, simplicity or naturalness without requiring a long verbal explanation. The development of digital media has strengthened this tendency. Modern audiences encounter names simultaneously through words, logos, photographs, video and graphic design. Consequently, colour becomes both a linguistic and visual component of communication. A brand name containing a colour can be reinforced by the colour of its logo, packaging or advertising campaign. In this environment, chromatonyms are not isolated linguistic phenomena; they form part of a wider semiotic system in which language and visual culture interact. The cultural dimension becomes particularly important when chromatonyms are translated from one language into another. Literal translation may reproduce the lexical components of a name but fail to reproduce its associations. Consider an imaginary English name such as White Rose. Translating it as Oq atirgul preserves the basic lexical meaning, but the cultural associations of roses and whiteness may not be completely identical in English- and Uzbek-speaking communities. The same issue arises with names containing black, red, blue or green. The translator must therefore consider whether the colour functions literally, metaphorically, symbolically or commercially. This problem demonstrates that chromatonyms are relevant to translation studies as well as onomastics. Translating a proper name is not always a mechanical process of replacing words. In cul-

Linguistic Features of Chromatonyms in English and Uzbek

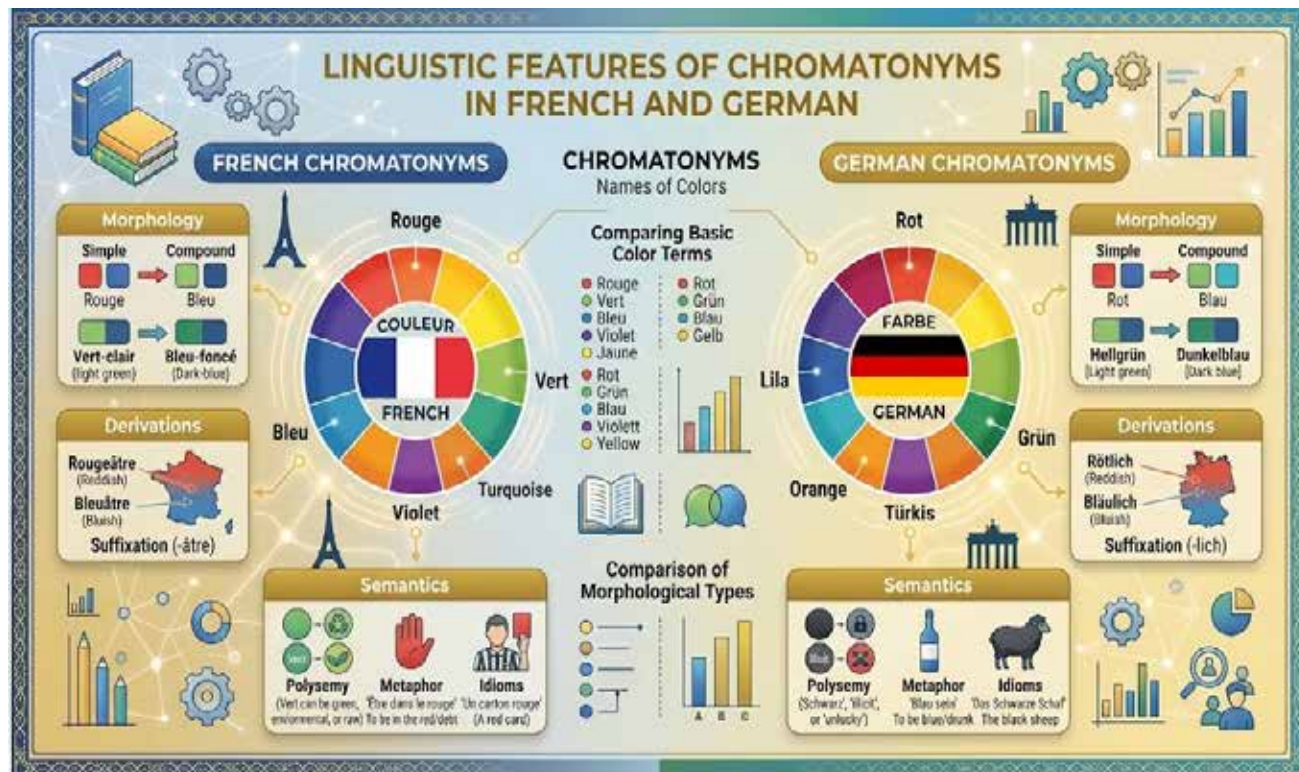
Language does much more than communicate information. It reflects the way people see the world, remember their history and express their cultural values.

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Worth Noting:

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- Such examples show that English chromatonyms are structurally flexible. A colour adjective can precede a common noun, form part of a brand name, enter the title of a literary or artistic work, or become a component of a larger symbolic construction. The grammatical simplicity of these combinations does not mean that their meanings are simple. In many cases, the colour term contributes emotional or cultural information that is not explicitly stated.



turally marked names, the translator has to determine what information is essential for recognition and what information carries symbolic meaning. In some cases, preserving the original name is more appropriate; in others, an adapted translation may be required to make the cultural reference understandable to the target audience.

The comparison of English and Uzbek also reveals differences in the productivity and social distribution of colour-based naming. English-language popular culture has produced a large number of chromatonyms in music, cinema, literature, advertising and international brands. Uzbek naming practices are strongly influenced by national literary traditions, folklore, traditional symbolism and phraseological usage. This does not mean that one language uses colour more extensively than the other in an absolute sense. Rather, the contexts in which colour becomes culturally significant are partly different.

Another important characteristic of chromatonyms is their connection with human cognition. People do not perceive names as collections of isolated lexical units. When a person hears a colour-based name, previous knowledge and associations can become activated. The colour white may trigger concepts such as purity or peace; black may activate darkness or elegance; red may suggest passion or danger. These associations are not universal in exactly

the same form. They are influenced by culture, history, religion, social experience and context. Consequently, chromatonyms provide useful material for cognitive linguistics because they demonstrate how linguistic signs connect sensory perception with conceptual knowledge.

The relationship between colour and culture is particularly visible in literature. Writers frequently use colour to construct imagery and emotional atmosphere. When a colour becomes part of a title or proper name, it may function as a condensed symbolic message. English literary culture contains many examples of colour terms being used to represent emotional or conceptual states, while Uzbek literature similarly employs colour vocabulary to create symbolic and aesthetic meanings. In both traditions, the reader's cultural knowledge contributes to the interpretation of the name.

This phenomenon has practical significance beyond literary analysis. International communication increasingly requires speakers to understand names originating in different linguistic and cultural environments. Journalists, translators, advertisers, tourism professionals and media specialists regularly encounter culturally marked names. A failure to recognise the symbolic role of colour can lead to inaccurate translation or unintended associations. For international media, therefore, knowledge of chrom-

atonyms can contribute to more accurate and culturally sensitive communication.

The study of English and Uzbek chromatonyms also raises a broader question: why do people give symbolic importance to colour in the first place? One explanation is that colour is directly connected with human perception. Unlike many abstract linguistic concepts, colour is experienced physically and visually. This makes it particularly suitable for metaphorical development. Human societies then build cultural interpretations around these perceptual experiences.

However, cultural meanings are not fixed forever. They change as societies change. Globalisation, social media, international business and popular culture increasingly bring different colour associations into contact. A colour that traditionally carried one association in a particular community may acquire additional meanings through international communication. This makes the study of chromatonyms a dynamic area of linguistic research.

For Uzbekistan, the analysis of colour-based names can contribute to a broader understanding of national linguistic identity. Uzbek is rich in figurative expressions and culturally marked vocabulary, and colour terms form an important part of this lexical system. Investigating how oq, qora, qizil, yashil, ko'k and other colour terms function in proper names can reveal connections between language, cultural

memory and contemporary naming practices.

At the same time, English provides an important comparative framework because of its global role in international communication. Many English chromatonyms have entered global media and commercial discourse and are now encountered by speakers who do not speak English as their first language. Comparing English and Uzbek therefore makes it possible to identify both universal tendencies and culturally specific patterns.

Such research can also be useful for language teaching. Students learning English often understand colour vocabulary at a basic lexical level but may not recognise its metaphorical or cultural meanings. Introducing chromatonyms into language education can help learners understand authentic texts, advertisements, films and media content more effectively. It can also encourage them to compare English expressions with equivalent Uzbek concepts and recognise where direct translation is insufficient.

The same applies to artificial intelligence and digital language technologies. Modern translation systems increasingly process proper names, cultural references and multilingual media. Colour-based names can be challenging because their meanings may depend on cultural associations rather than dictionary definitions alone. Research into chromatonyms can therefore contribute to the develop-

ment of more context-sensitive translation and language-processing systems. Chromatonyms represent a small but meaningful part of the lexical and cultural structure of a language. The comparison of English and Uzbek demonstrates that colour terms can perform several functions simultaneously: they can describe, identify, symbolise, evoke emotions and communicate cultural knowledge. Their significance therefore extends beyond ordinary colour vocabulary.

English chromatonyms are particularly visible in literature, popular culture, music, commercial branding and contemporary media, while Uzbek colour-based naming demonstrates close connections with traditional phraseology, literary language and cultural symbolism. Despite these differences, both languages reveal a common human tendency to transform visual experience into linguistic meaning.

The comparison also shows why colour-based names should not always be translated literally. Their semantic structure may contain cultural associations that are invisible at the lexical level. Understanding these associations is important for translators, language teachers, journalists and researchers working across cultures.

Ultimately, chromatonyms demonstrate that language does not simply describe reality; it interprets reality. A colour may begin as a visual quality, become a word, enter a name and eventually acquire a cultural meaning shared by an entire community. Studying this process in English and Uzbek provides a valuable perspective on the interaction between language, cognition and culture. In an increasingly interconnected world, such comparative linguistic research can help people understand not only different words, but also the different ways in which cultures attach meaning to the world around them.

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Her pen is your lifeline

When the man goes silent, the woman's words must speak — and they had better be the right ones



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
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Worth Noting:

- For years, we have admired how our women look in a dress, how they move, how they cook. But we never invested in how they sound on paper. And in this world, paper speaks louder than beauty. We live at a time when a job is lost not because someone is lazy but because they sent a confused email.
- When a deal collapses not for lack of money but because the explanation was poor. When a child is turned away from school not because the fees were unpaid but because the mother could not write a convincing letter to the headteacher. Communication is the new currency, and many of us have left the women we love completely broke in that currency.
- Many women were never taught how to communicate in writing. They were taught to cook, to clean, to smile, to keep the home. Nobody sat them down and showed them how to draft a formal email, how to make a point with dignity, how to draw a reader in with words alone. So when an emergency arrives, they freeze — and in that moment of freezing, so much can be lost.

Let me ask you a question that will unsettle many men. If you were rushed to hospital tonight, if your phone died, if something happened and you simply could not speak — could your woman write a correct email on your behalf? Not a WhatsApp message. Not a voice note with a breathless “hi hi.” A real email. With a subject line. With clarity and composure. An email that makes the reader think: this family is together, this home runs well. Could she write to your boss? To your client? To your landlord? To your own mother and calm her down without creating panic? If she cannot, my brother, you are not yet safe.

For years, we have admired how our women look in a dress, how they move, how they cook. But we never invested in how they sound on paper. And in this world, paper speaks louder than beauty. We live at a time when a job is lost not because someone is lazy but because they sent a confused email. When a deal collapses not for lack of money but because the explanation was poor. When a child is turned away from school not because the fees were unpaid but because the mother could not write a convincing letter to the headteacher. Communication is the new currency, and many of us have left the women we love completely broke in that currency. Many women were never taught how to communicate in writing. They were taught to cook, to clean, to smile, to keep the home. Nobody sat them down and showed them how to draft a formal email, how to make a point with dignity, how to draw a reader in with words alone. So when an emergency arrives, they freeze — and in that moment of freezing, so much can be lost.

Picture this. You are on a long bus ride and your phone dies. Your boss has sent an urgent email. Your client is waiting. You manage to borrow someone's phone and you call your woman: love, please open my laptop, write to them, tell them I am travelling and that I will send the report by six. She opens the laptop. She stares at the screen. She types: HEY BOSS, HE IS NOT AROUND. Sends. No subject. No greeting. No

closing. You have lost serious standing in under a minute. Now picture the other version. She writes: Subject: Apology — Report by 6pm Today. Dear Mr Kato, I hope you are well. My name is Grace, writing on behalf of Gerald, who is currently travelling and whose phone is off. He has asked me to let you know that the report will reach you by 6pm today and sends his sincere apologies for the delay. Kind regards, Grace. When a client reads that, what does he see? He sees a man with a real partner beside him. He sees a household that is organised. He sees a woman who is sharp. That, my brother, is the real thing.

A woman who can write is compelling in a way no short skirt can match. Because physical attraction fades quickly, but the kind of attraction that comes from feeling safe — truly safe — keeps a man close for years. There is nothing more quietly powerful than a woman who makes you feel that if you fall, she can speak for you. That if you go silent, her words will not embarrass you. That if your children need defending, she can write a letter the headteacher will sit up and read. That if your business must survive while you are away, she can write a proposal and hold things together. That safety is deeply romantic. It makes a man come home early. It makes a man trust a woman with his whole life. Think about what it means for her to be your second voice. Life does not warn you before it strikes. Sickness comes without notice. Travel separates you from situations that need handling. Misunderstandings arise at the worst times. In those moments, the world does not ask how beautiful your woman is. It asks how clearly she can explain you, defend you, represent you. And she carries your honour too. A home is judged by how its people communicate. If your woman writes with respect, with correct grammar, with composure, people will respect your household. If she writes with errors, with begging, with confusion, they will assume the confusion goes all the way through. Writing also gives her power that goes far beyond any



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emergency involving you. A woman who cannot write must always depend on someone else — for applications, for formal complaints, for anything that requires words on paper. That dependence shrinks her and quietly breeds resentment. But a woman who can write can apply for a position at midnight without waking you. She can approach an NGO for funding. She can put together her own business proposal and begin building something. And when a woman earns through her own effort and speaks for herself with confidence, she chooses you — not because she has no other option, but because she genuinely wants to be there. That love is a completely different thing. And a woman who communicates well also fights better. Every couple disagrees. But there is a disagreement that tears things apart and one that leads somewhere better. A woman without communication skills throws words like stones — she shouts, she digs up history, she wounds. A woman who can communicate says: I felt hurt when that happened, and I would like us to find a better way. That is maturity. That is the kind of conversation that saves a marriage rather than ending one.

So what do we do? Men, stop laughing at your woman's imperfect English. Stop saying leave that to me, you will not manage. Sit down with her. That is your job. Show her your emails. Walk her through how you open with Dear and close with Regards. Buy her a notebook. Pay for a weekend class in business communication. Let her practise, and when she makes mistakes, correct her with love, not mockery. Women, my sisters, stop sheltering behind the idea that because you did not finish school, writing is not for you. You have a phone. That phone can teach you more than most classrooms ever did. Read good articles. Study how professional people write. Copy strong emails into a notebook. Write one email every day, even if it is only to yourself. Learn what a subject line does. Learn how to open, how to build the body of a message, how to close well. Learn that an email without a subject line goes to spam — and a woman without words goes unheard. Learn too to write without drowning in apology. Many women believe that respect means kneeling in language, stacking sorry upon sorry, please upon please. It does not. You can be respectful

and still carry yourself with complete dignity. I hope you are well. I am writing to kindly request your assistance. I would be grateful for your consideration. Thank you for your time. That is more than enough. Beauty will make him look at you. Communication will make him stay. Tonight, go home and try a small, quiet test. Hand her your phone and say: love, my boss needs an email — can you draft something for me? If she writes with confidence, you have found yourself a queen. Keep her close and keep investing in her. If she struggles, do not shame her — that struggle is your assignment as much as it is hers. Put your money into her mind, not only her appearance. Invest in her pen, not only her hair. Invest in her voice, not only her waist. Because one day, your phone will die. Your own voice will be gone. And the only thing standing between you and a very difficult situation will be her words. Make sure those words are beautiful. Make sure they can save your name, your work, your family. Make sure her pen can protect you when you can no longer protect yourself.