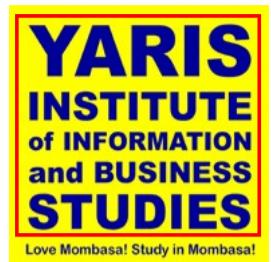


The Socio-Economic **Newspaper** with Anything & Everything from Kenya



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LoCEF Foundation



Fc Munene with Kariakomo West welfare committee and the day Pastor Mugendi.

Malindi

More than five hundred years ago, when the Indian Ocean was ruled by sailing ships and brave explorers, a Portuguese fleet led by Vasco da Gama arrived at the coastal town of Malindi in 1498. The Sultan of Malindi welcomed the visitors, and the Portuguese were allowed to rest, trade, and prepare for their long journey to India. To thank God for safe travel and to keep their Christian faith alive far from home, the sailors built a small place of prayer near the shore. Around 1502, this simple building of coral stone and lime was completed — what we now call the Portuguese Chapel, or popularly, the Vasco da Gama Church.

The chapel was small and quiet, meant only for a few soldiers and sailors. There were no bells, no big towers, only a humble altar and a thatched roof facing the sea. Years later, in 1542, the famous missionary St. Francis Xavier stopped in Malindi and prayed in the



same chapel as he traveled to spread Christianity in Asia. But as Portuguese power on the coast faded, Malindi declined, and the chapel was left behind, slowly aging under the sun and salty winds.

For centuries it stood almost forgotten, until people later realized its great importance — it was the first known Christian worship place in

Kenya and East Africa. In 1935, the government protected it as a national monument. Today, the little chapel still stands, reminding visitors of the first meeting between Europe and the Kenyan coast, and of how Christianity first arrived not through large churches, but through a small, quiet prayer house built by tired sailors beside the ocean.

International Police Association



Mr. President IPA, gave a wonderful speech and he had a complete paragraph about IPA coast region activities.



YARIS INSTITUTE of INFORMATION and BUSINESS STUDIES

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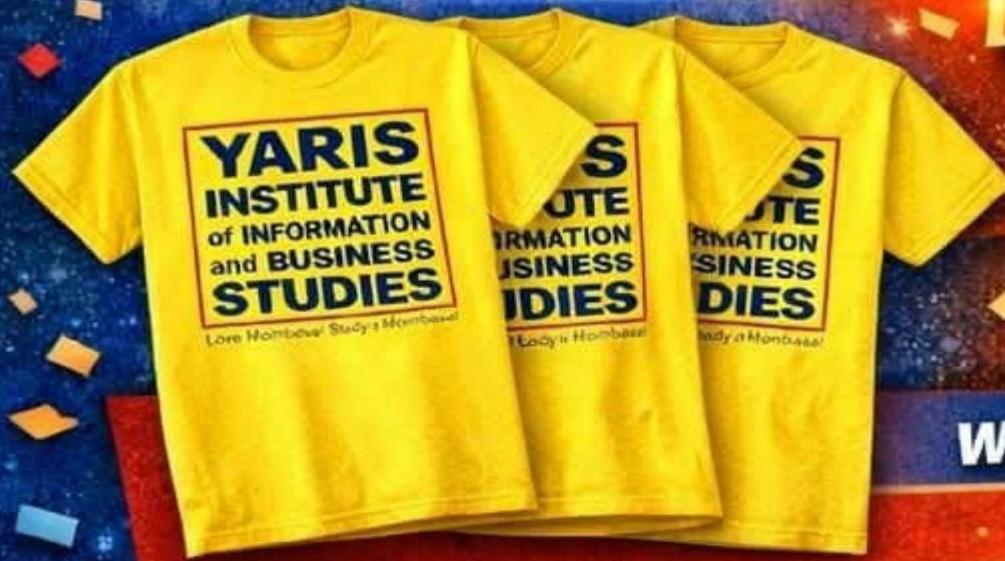
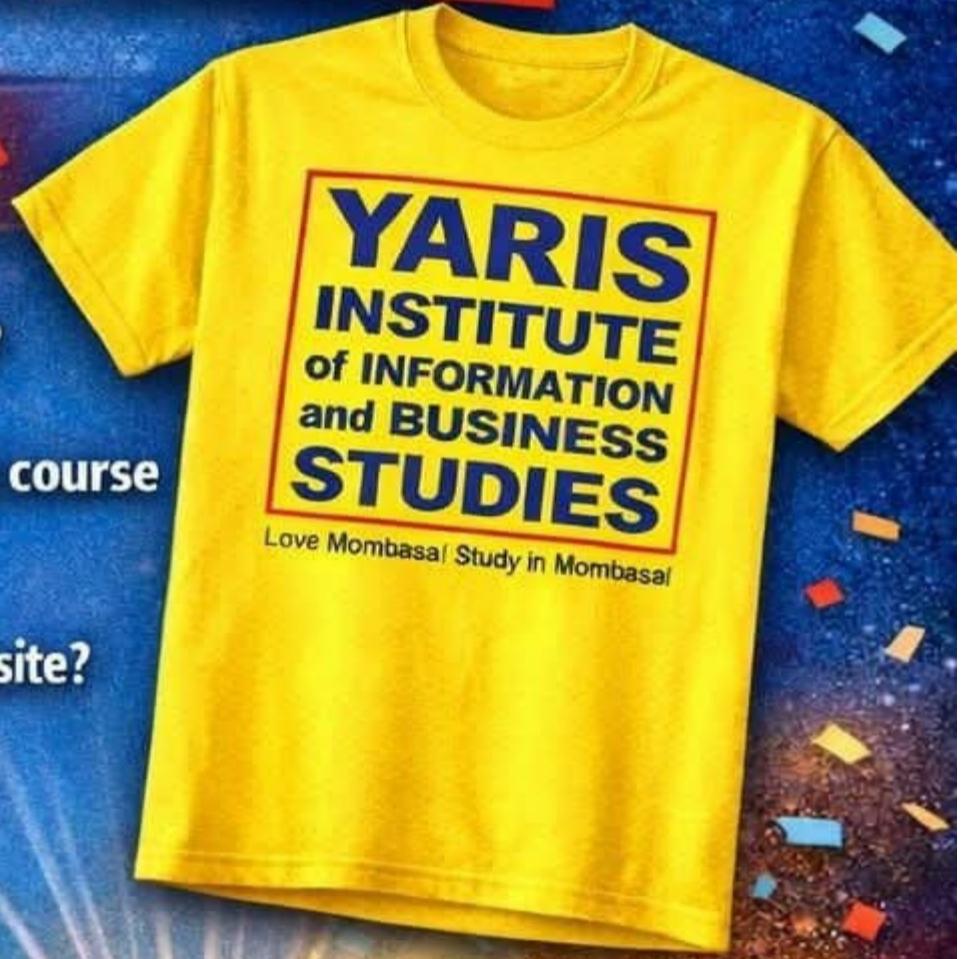
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HOW TO ENTER:

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5 WINNERS!

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED HERE!

GOOD LUCK!

Ruto urges collective fight to end gender-based violence

The government will not relent in the war against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including femicide, President William Ruto has said.

President Ruto reiterated that the government will continue to take decisive action to end the scourge of GBV in all its forms.

The President made the remarks at State House, Nairobi, on Monday during the launch of the report of the Technical Working group on Gender-Based Violence including femicide.

"Violence against any Kenyan is unacceptable. Violence rooted in gender, power, or inequality is a betrayal of our Constitution, our values, and our humanity," said President Ruto.

The Head of State pointed out that protecting life, dignity, and safety is not optional but a core duty of the State.

He argued that ending gender-based violence is not the work of the government alone but a collective responsibility of all Kenyans.

"Parents and families must nurture respect and non-violence in the home. Religious institutions must uphold the sanctity of life and dignity. Community leaders and elders must reject harmful practices and silence around abuse," said President Ruto.

Likewise, President Ruto said security agencies must act firmly, professionally, and without fear or favour.

He said citizens must speak out, report abuse, and stand with survivors adding that every Kenyan has a role to play in ensuring that GBV is prevented, reported, and punished.

The President noted that the findings on femicide, domestic violence, harmful cultural practices, and technology-facilitated abuse are deeply troubling and demand collective national reflection and action.

He commanded the taskforce for engaging Kenyans across all 47 counties, listening to survivors, experts, communities, and institutions, and for confronting this painful national challenge with courage and depth.

"This report is more than a technical document; it is a reflection of the voices, fears, and hopes of the Kenyan people, especially survivors of gender-based violence," he said.

He said the report lays bare the scale, complexity, and evolving nature of GBV in our country, affecting women, men, girls, and boys, with women and girls bearing a disproportionate burden.

Key proposals in the report, include: the call to treat GBV, including femicide, as a national crisis requiring urgent and coordinated action.

Others are recommendations for strengthened prevention, investigation, and prosecution, including specialised capacity within law enforcement.



President William Ruto receives the Report of the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence, including Femicide, from the chairperson, Dr Nancy Baraza, at State House, Nairobi.

Proposals for legislative and policy reforms, including improved legal definitions, survivor protection, and accountability mechanisms and the emphasis on coordinated financing, data systems, survivor-centred services, and national awareness and behavioural change.

President Ruto said the recommendations speak to the need for institutional coordination, adequate

resourcing, and a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response.

"I wish to assure the nation that all recommendations will be carefully considered and subjected to due process, in accordance with our Constitution and laws," he said.

The Head of State pointed out that the report will be reviewed through the appropriate Government mechanisms, including the Cabinet, relevant ministries, departments, and agencies,

to determine policy, legislative, and administrative actions.

He said where legislative reforms are proposed, they will be processed through the established constitutional and parliamentary procedures.

"Let this report mark not an end, but a turning point; from silence to action, from impunity to accountability, and from fear to safety. Together, as a nation, we must ensure that no Kenyan lives in fear because of their gender," he said.

Chairperson of the Technical working group Nancy Baraza called for concerted efforts in confronting GBV, saying women with disabilities were the most vulnerable.

"When we went around the 47 counties, what we found is a nation in pain demanding action," said Ms Baraza.

Cabinet Secretary Hanna Cheptumo (Gender) among other top government officials were present.



The future is not waited for. It is hustled for

By Erick Omondi

Mombasa is a city full of opportunity for young people willing to hustle smart. In a time when formal jobs are limited, survival and success depend on creativity, skills, and determination. The good news is that money can be made without waiting for employment letters.

First, youths should embrace skill-based hustles. Skills such as graphic design, phone repair, hair styling, tailoring, photography, video editing, and sign language interpretation are in demand every day. These skills do not

require expensive degrees; many can be learned online, in short courses, or through apprenticeship. Once mastered, a skill becomes a lifetime source of income.

Second, digital hustling is changing lives. With a smartphone and internet access, youths can earn through online writing, social media management, content creation, virtual assistance, and selling products on platforms like Facebook Marketplace and WhatsApp Business. Consistency and honesty are key clients pay for reliability.

Third, Mombasa's location gives an edge in tourism and service-based hustles.

Youths can offer tour guide services, airport transfers, souvenir selling, photography for tourists, or even cultural performances. Understanding basic customer care and communication skills can turn a simple idea into steady income.

Fourth, youths should not ignore small-scale bishara. Selling snacks, juices, second-hand clothes (mtumba), cosmetics, or phone accessories may look small, but many successful entrepreneurs started exactly there. Profit grows with discipline, reinvestment, and good record-keeping.

Equally important is personal development. Time

management, financial discipline, avoiding drugs, and choosing positive peer groups can make the difference between progress and stagnation. Hustling is not only about money it is about building character, confidence, and purpose.

Lastly, youths must believe in themselves. Every big success story started with someone choosing not to give up. Mombasa's youth have energy, creativity, and resilience. When hustle meets focus, survival turns into success and success polishes lives.

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FAITH

Murti Pooja: From Faith to Form

Yesterday, in the quiet veranda of my home, I chose a corner to sit and remember God. I believed solitude would help me concentrate better. For ten minutes I tried but my mind wandered. I tried again for another fifteen minutes and failed once again. Thoughts drifted, attention scattered.

Then I walked into my small home temple. As my eyes met the idols of Lord Krishna and Lord Shiva, something shifted. I focused. I remembered God - not as an idea, but as a presence. This simple experience stirred a deep question within me.

If God resides in the heart, as Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, why do I need an idol?

If remembrance alone is enough, why does form help when formless meditation fails?

The Gita clearly teaches inner devotion - "I dwell in the hearts of all beings." Saints like Kabir and Guru Nanak spoke of nirakar bhakti, devotion to the formless. Reformers such as Swami Dayanand Saraswati of Arya Samaj firmly opposed murti pooja, arguing that true worship must be free from form.

And yet, my own spiritual leaning aligns more with Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa, the great devotee of Kali, who believed that both form and formless lead to the same truth. According to



By Arti Kotak

him, form is not the opposite of truth; it is a doorway to it.

My confusion deepened as I reflected on my travels. In Nathdwara, before Shreenathji, I stood among thousands of devotees. The same devotion filled Dwarka, Somnath, Nashik, Shirdi, Odisha, Virpur and more. Across Bharat and even out of India, I could not find a place where people did not worship God through form. This raised a gentle but honest realization: Perhaps, for most people, form becomes a support - not a limitation.

In today's fast-paced life, surrounded by responsibilities, anxieties, and distractions, concentrating on the formless is not easy. The idol becomes a focus point for scattered minds, a visible reminder of the invisible. Murti pooja helps people begin their journey toward devotion, even if the destination is ultimately formless.

I noticed another subtle transformation. Many who are otherwise non-vegetarian become strictly vegetarian during Durga Puja, Ganesh Chaturthi, or other sacred periods. This suggests that idols evoke moral discipline and restraint. Whether one calls it fear, reverence, or faith, the presence of the murti influences behavior and elevates conduct.

Murti pooja also sustains livelihoods - artists, sculptors,



temple workers, flower sellers, priests, and countless families depend on it. Temples have become centers of culture, economy, and tourism, projecting Sanatan Dharma to the world. In this way, idol worship has shaped not only spirituality but also social continuity.

This creates a seeming contradiction: The philosophy of the Gita emphasizes nirakar worship, yet modern Sanatan Dharma thrives visibly through murti pooja. Reformers questioned form, while political

leaders and institutions today support it. Does this mean Sanatan Dharma has deviated? Perhaps not. Sanatan Dharma has never been rigid. It evolves while preserving its essence. Lord Krishna himself reminds us that change is the only constant in the universe.

As the preserver in the trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, Krishna represents continuity - not stagnation.

If murti pooja deepens faith, brings happiness, encourages ethical living, sustains society, and

keeps devotion alive in changing times, would Krishna object? Most likely not. What matters is bhava - the sincerity of devotion - not the method.

Form and formless are not enemies. They are stages, paths, and choices. For some, God is remembered in silence. For others, God is seen through stone and sculpted grace. Both journeys, when rooted in faith, lead to the same truth.

In Sanatan Dharma, the destination has always mattered more than the route.

Uhuru Kenyatta Urges Graduands to Make Kenya a Global Hub of Innovation

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta has challenged young Kenyans to look beyond borders and position the country as a global hub of innovation, creativity, and excellence.

In his keynote address as the Chief Guest during the 21st Graduation Ceremony of Kabarak University, where 2,390 graduands were conferred with degrees, diplomas, and certificates, Kenyatta urged the graduands to embrace a global mindset and use their knowledge to build Kenya's competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation.

"You are entering a world where borders are less important than ideas. Kenya is already recognized for leadership in ICT, fintech, and renewable energy. With your skills, you can position Kenya as

a hub of innovation, not just in Africa, but globally." He said.

The former Head of State congratulated the graduands for their achievements, praising Kabarak University for nurturing excellence, entrepreneurship, and ethical leadership. He noted that the institution, founded by the late President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, has remained true to its founding vision of faith, excellence, and service.

"Today, as we witness the graduation of 2,390 candidates, we see that vision alive and thriving. Kabarak University has grown from graduating a few hundred students to thousands today, becoming a beacon of higher education in Kenya and beyond, just as Mzee Moi envisioned." Kenyatta remarked.

Kenyatta commended the university's emphasis

on innovation and applied research, highlighting student projects that have advanced from prototypes to patents and commercialization. He also applauded the upcoming rollout of new market-driven programs in STEM, Data Science, Pharmacy, Chemistry, and Judicial Science, describing them as timely steps toward making Kenya a leader in global education.

Speaking during the ceremony, Kabarak University Chancellor Hon. Dr. Gideon Moi reaffirmed the institution's commitment to sustainability and innovation, announcing the commissioning of a renewable energy project to power learning and research. "We are commissioning the first phase of our renewable energy project, providing reliable, clean power for uninterrupted learning, research, and



innovation. This milestone reinforces Kabarak University's leadership in sustainable education, positioning us as a

pioneer in Africa." Said Dr. Moi. Earlier, the former President laid a wreath at the graveside of former President Daniel Moi

and his wife, Lena Moi, at their Kabarak home, paying tribute to the founding visionaries of the institution.

LOVE FOR FOOD, Food For Love!

Food! Food is one of the three basic needs of human beings. It is eaten for sustenance and for building a healthy body and mind. Quite oddly along with having love for family, friends and pets, some people have "LOVE FOR FOOD." Usually referred to as foodies, these people delight, relish and love eating food. They have a deep passionate interest in food and may go to lengths of traveling far and wide to taste foods of different towns, countries and cultures. Some foodies opt for learning how to cook and try different recipes, while others become food bloggers and/or food vloggers; tasting foods of different restaurants, commenting and creating videos. Most people in the world are foodies, even though they would not vlog, but food is a priority. All in all, it shows how we appreciate food and are glad for the different varieties, colours and tastes. It then becomes more than sustenance—it's a source of joy, comfort and happiness. People with a "LOVE FOR FOOD" often find pleasure in every aspect of tasting, eating, cooking and sharing.

Now on the other hand, "FOOD FOR LOVE" goes deeper into emotions and connections. Food is a simple way to express love, care or affection for your loved ones; usually referred to as a universal language of LOVE.

Preparing food is an act of love. Cooking, however simple it may sound, can feel like a tedious task, especially after a long day of work. Deciding the menu and getting the ingredients are a task in itself. It is painstaking and requires great effort, heart, mind and soul to serve the sizzling aromatic chicken tikka, barbecue kebabs and steak. The piping hot plates of masala chips, the hot buttered naans, a bowl of green salad along with a variety of chilli and yoghurt sauces freshly prepared at home are a result of someone's hard work. This is love served on a plate. It is cooking from the heart for those you love.

Since it is, in most cultures, the woman cooks for the family; the initial training of an engaged lady starts from cooking. She learns from her

mother, recipes and basic cooking techniques. These days the trend is learning from social media – TikTok videos and You-tube cooking channels. She has to impress the family with her cooking skills to win their hearts and their love. Making the family happy during meal times feels like an achievement and fulfillment for a wife. Even after marriage, she spends several hours learning new recipes; because potatoes cannot only be used to make chips and curry. They can be cooked in many different ways with addition of a variety of other ingredients resulting in a new dish of different taste and look. Yes, it is art in the kitchen or should we call it magic?

Usually the aura of the person cooking is transmitted through the food he/she cooks. Therefore, when one cooks with happiness, enthusiasm and positivity, firstly, the food turns out to be tastier and more delicious and secondly, the vibe usually changes to optimism, friendly and a happy surrounding. On the other hand, if one cooks with negativity, criticism and anger the vibe will change into pessimism, reflecting drained energy and tension. This shows how food has a great impact on body, mind and soul.

The act of cooking, serving and enjoying food together transforms ordinary ingredients into moments of warmth and togetherness. In every bite, there's a story of care, making food, one of the most delicious ways to express love. When we prepare meals for those we love and cherish, every ingredient becomes a token of care and every bite tells a story of love.

So dear men, please do not get disappointed when the new recipe your woman tried didn't work out as per your taste. The salt may be less, but the love is overflowing. And dear women, when your man tries to cook, even if it's just a cup of coffee, what matters is he puts in the effort, it is a cup of love—appreciate.

Food thus becomes a language of love. It is a way to connect emotionally with others. A family sitting around the table, eating and enjoying the delicious

aromatic mutton biryani and raita There are smiles and happiness. Discussing the delightful taste, the tenderness of the mutton along with the sumptuous rice and delicate coolness of the yoghurt raita.... Mhhh!!! Yummy that calls for a treat!!! Meals become a symbol of warmth, comfort and nurturing relationships. Some families get together at meal times; no phones and 100% presence is required – family bonding. It is a time to spend together and enjoy the meal.

The young couples on dates usually express their care and love through having meals, coffee or even ice cream together. Usually, a connection is built on likes and dislikes of certain dishes, fruits and flavours. The bond then grows when we tend to understand one another; the easiest way to start is food!!

Sharing food with a friend or colleague is not as minimal as the act. A sandwich one carried to the office to have for breakfast, shared with a colleague. An avocado, mahamris or chapatis and boiled eggs with kachumbari shared with friends. It has a deep meaning of connection, care and love. It shows even at a workplace, colleagues are a family.

Some families have birthday and anniversary treats at famous restaurants. A celebration for the success of a family member, say their child tops an exam, or the father gets a bonus from a job or there is a promotion at work. On such occasions their happiness is revealed by treating their family to meals at their favourite restaurant showing love and care for the family. This is the easiest and most appropriate way of bringing the family together, celebrating the milestone, appreciating and showering love – because everyone is happy when there is food, food is ultimate therapy.

In many cultures, feeding someone is a sign of respect, care and hospitality. Food is served in weddings to show care and appreciation to the guests. Food is a sign of happiness during the occasion and that is why some grand weddings have a wide variety of dishes. On sad occasions such as deaths and



accidents; family and friends get together to provide meals for the bereaved family. This is a gesture of expressing care, comfort and emotional support.

When we host friends and relatives to a meal at home, we make sure to prepare their favourite and most delicious dishes. Several hours go into preparing and cooking

the dishes with extra effort and attention to detail. We use new utensils and the most elegant table clothes are laid to make this meal memorable. Every dish served becomes a heartfelt gesture of love, care and respect, thoughtfully laid on the table, making memories.

Food is more than just nourishment —it's a way to show care, connection and affection. Every meal prepared carries a message of "I care about you!!", every meal shared says "I appreciate you".

Food is a symbol of love when words are not enough.

**Thank you & Best Regards,
Safia Mohamed Bashir
0718 853 335
Nairobi**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRICS 2026- Implications for a Multipolar World



Recently the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean Noel Barrot, while meeting the Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, made an interesting observation that France was heading the G7 (in which India has been a permanent invitee for over a decade) and India was the chair of BRICS in 2026 and both strategic partners had great possibility of cooperation for enhancing multilateralism. Both countries believe and subscribe to it. President Macron further underscored 'India is going to be President of BRICS. I want to work with India to build bridges. BRICS countries must not become anti-G7 and G7 must not become anti-BRICS'. This is a recognition of the growing heft of the BRICS and emerging multipolarity and need for collaborative rather than conflictual approaches. There is indeed a real convergence possibility in an idealistic scenario as the G7 dominates in global finance, technology and high value added services



By Amb. Anil Trigunayat

and controls major global institutions and currencies while BRICS could be the new pivot for economic growth with commodities, consumption and huge markets with manufacturing and manpower and are key partners in global value supply chains. India and EU strategic partnership will be further strengthened with the signing of the Trade Agreement and visit of EU leadership as Chief Guest on this Republic Day 2026-a distinct honour and affirmation of special partnership.

This statement is significant since the unilateralism has become the major currency in international discourse with most recent example being the regime change in Venezuela and President Trump walking out of 66 international agreements or organisations. Transatlantic alliance is also going through an unprecedented stress. Hence, desire for cross regional connections between and among the mini and plurilaterals is not surprising. In any case, India, being the founding member of

the BRICS and QUAD, supposedly on two opposing ends of the spectrum, believes that BRICS is not anti-West but a non-Western alternative representing cross continental aspirations of major economies and countries from the Global South with China and Russia as the P-5 members.

India can easily become a credible bridge and bridge builder between the divergent groupings across the East West and North south divide given its inclusive and universalistic approaches enshrined in the foreign policy ambit of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' - the World is one family.

Since the US Investment Banker Jim O' Neil expounded about the promising and emerging economies as BRIC Group with Brazil, Russia, India and China, it has grown to ten members with several middle powers including South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia and UAE. Saudi Arabia remains interested and continues to participate in the meetings while Argentina, under its new pro-US

political dispensation, decided to opt out of it. At the Kazan Summit, it was also decided to have associate members as partner countries since over two dozen nations have expressed deep desire to join the BRICS which has acquired a new heft in a disrupted world order.

BRICS represents nearly half of the world population with India as the most populous country with exceptional human resource; also nearly 40% of the global GDP comparing rather well with G7 - China and India leading the economic pack with India being the fastest growing major economy in the world recently surpassed Japan to become the 4th largest. It comprises of a group with biggest producers and consumers of energy as well as enviable heft in critical minerals and technologies. The group believes in mutual respect and mutual interests. Even with politically and economically divergent systems and approaches it enjoys a high diplomatic weight and sheer scale.

India, as the Chair in 2026, will be hosting the BRICS Summit and large number of sectoral meetings ranging from commerce, connectivity, currency and counter-terrorism and culture to technology and fintech, education, R&D, traditional medicine and youth and sports exchanges. A key quest for BRICS and India is the urgency and imperative for global institutional reforms especially that of UN and UNSC which is threatening to become irrelevant, having been consigned to post World War II mindset of victor and the vanquished of the P-5 veto powers. Moreover, for President Trump, driven by his MAGA constituency, the weaponisation of financial instruments should be a one way street and their prerogative and de-dollarisation the big redline. Already the five original BRICS countries are in the cross hairs of USA including Russia, China, India, Brazil and South Africa compressing them in his high and unreasonable game of tariffs.

BRICS is trying to provide a viable alternative bereft of dominance and dictation especially in the context of South-South cooperation despite members ranging from largest democracy to totalitarian states. But its internal diversity reinforces multipolarity and options. It challenges the western dominance by providing a more beneficial cooperative and consensual landscape along with certain institutions like the New Development Bank. There is an effort to create new BRICS currency on which countries like India are still not convinced even though this trend has been initiated due to unilateral and abrasive sanctions and the weaponisation of financial

instruments forcing the rest of the world to secure themselves through transactions in national currencies. This trend could become a major force multiplier for multipolarity in times to come.

Instead of a single global security architecture, multipolarity promotes regionalised security systems: The original five of BRICS have varying roles in the regional security dynamic - Russia shapes Eurasian security dynamics; China dominates East Asian strategic calculations; India asserts influence in the Indian Ocean, South Asia and Global south in general; Brazil and South Africa act as regional stabilisers. This decentralisation reduces global uniformity but increases regional power competition, sometimes heightening local instability. This also has an internal challenge as competing powers within an organisation including BRICS may slow down integration process and block hegemonic projects.

Interestingly, India is also slated to host the QUAD Summit in 2026 with US, Japan, and Australia despite some uncertainty. This provides a unique opportunity to India to iron out certain misperceptions while bridging the gaps seeped in zero sum games through a better understanding and cooperation between the perceived rival groups and camps. Global challenges require global solidarity.

BRICS is not aiming to replace the existing world order but is hoping to reshape the multipolar collaborative matrix. This is a process in motion but a potent force which will continue to strengthen as long as the powerful countries will resort to hypocrisy and undermine the very institutions, they themselves had created through unilateral and unifocal approaches. India is a voice of reason and believes in bridging the divides through dialogue and diplomacy and reforms of the existing institutions and not necessarily their replacement.

2026 will witness the continuation of this policy even during India's BRICS presidency while working for multipolarity and multilateralism which are under serious threat. PM Narendra Modi has so aptly redefined the BRICS to mean as Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability. He further added that 'condemning terrorism should be our principle not just a convenience'.

(Anil Trigunayat is a former Indian Ambassador to Jordan, Libya, and Malta and currently a distinguished fellow with prestigious Think Tanks like Vivekananda International Foundation and United Services Institute of India.)

India-Africa: Reinforcing partnerships

Discussing a partnership between India, a country, and Africa, a continent of 54 countries, may sound asymmetrical. Still, two factors justify doing so: empathy and support for Africa in India are matched by admiration and respect that most Africans feel for India's success as the world's largest democracy and the fastest-growing large economy. Each, home to 1.4 billion people, can help the other secure its vision of good governance and prosperity. Hence, the evolution of the partnership between India and Africa in the 2020s is a subject of global interest.

India-Africa partnership needs to be assessed in its four vital dimensions: multilateral, continental, regional, and bilateral.

First, the multilateral dimension begins with the UN, where, for decades, India and Africa have collaborated fruitfully to pursue shared goals, including decolonization, economic development, peacekeeping, and UN reform. Even today, India participates in the UN's peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Western Sahara. In an age when multilateralism is under severe stress, the two sides continue to coordinate to keep UN reform, particularly of the Security Council, on the agenda. Global issues such as assistance to Africa for development, debt relief, a just energy transition, and inclusive growth are supported through proactive Indian diplomacy.

A significant contribution by India was its firm leadership, as the G20 president in 2022-23, in ensuring that Africa's long-pending request for full G20 membership for the African Union (AU) was accepted. In addition, when BRICS undertook its first expansion, India had the privilege of supporting the entry of Egypt and Ethiopia into this influential forum.

Second, the continental dimension assumed greater substance with the launch of the India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008.

Two more summits were held in 2011 and 2015. It was decided that the fourth summit would take place in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic and other factors prevented this, but now official indications suggest that the next summit may be held



By Rajiv Bhatia

sometime during 2026. It is about time, because geopolitics has been changing rapidly to the detriment of the interests of the Global South. India, as 'the voice' of the Global South and Africa, as the heart of the Global South, must create an opportunity for a candid and comprehensive dialogue with a view to developing a mutually acceptable strategy for their shared goals.

Third, the regional dimension of India-Africa partnership refers to India's past efforts to cultivate cooperative ties with select Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to diversify and deepen economic cooperation.

These were pushed by apex Indian business chambers, such as the CII and FICCI, through their periodic interactions with EAC, COMESA, and SADC. Fresh momentum needs to be created by providing political leadership to such business initiatives. Experts believe that selected RECs remain useful platforms for increasing trade, investment, and collaboration in critical

minerals and for introducing digital technologies into Africa.

Fourth, the bilateral channel for consolidating relations between India and African countries remains the most important. Keeping this in view, the vastness of the continent, and the substantial number of countries involved, India opened 18 new Embassies on the continent in recent years. They are now operational, connecting Indian authorities, businesses, think tanks, and others with their counterparts in Africa.

Political and diplomatic dialogue has been conducted through an ongoing exchange of high-level visits. This was resumed after a three-year hiatus caused by COVID-19. A total of 12 VVIP visits were arranged by the Indian side during 2022-25, during which the country's President, Vice President, or Prime Minister held discussions with leaders of 17 African countries.

The list demonstrated that India's interests extended to the West, North, and the Horn of

Africa, even as it maintained its traditional diplomatic outreach in Eastern and Southern Africa.

In addition, when it came to helping cope with the Covid pandemic, India was found at the forefront, supplying vaccines, medicines, and medical equipment to nations in all parts of Africa. This contrasted with the regrettable practice of certain Western countries, which saw their surplus vaccine stocks lying idle, rather than being shared with African people when they needed them most.

Two areas of this partnership require particular attention. One, trade and economic cooperation are the top priority for both sides. India's trade with Africa was estimated at \$103 billion in FY2025.

New Delhi has set the target to raise it to \$200 billion by 2030. India's cumulative investment of \$80 billion in Africa also needs to be increased and diversified. For this purpose, a practical roadmap is required from business leaders and governments.

The other area is of soft

power – culture, education, skill development, and thought leadership provided by universities, think tanks, media, and NGOs. A concerted plan must be devised to enhance interactions at the level of the people.

A total of 2.8 billion people deserve to know and relate to each other far better than they do today.

The multi-dimensional India-Africa partnership has a promising future. Still, the leading actors in both regions need to devote more time, attention, and financial resources to advancing it to the next level.

Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia is a Distinguished Fellow at Gateway House, Mumbai. He is a former Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, South Africa, and Lesotho. He served as Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) during 2012-15. His book *India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons* (Routledge, 2022) received critical acclaim.

PARTNERSHIPS

India- EU Strategic Partnership

India and EU have been strategic partners for over two decades, since 2004. EU has also emerged as a top trading (Euro 120-135 bn) and investment partner for India. The relationship and institutional mechanisms including the Troika dialogue have continued to reinforce and deepen for mutual benefit. Even though in several areas like Bilateral Trade Agreement the progress has been slow and painful, the current disruption in the Trans-Atlantic alliance engineered by Trumpian unilateralism has created a certain urgency to close the Trade deal at the earliest. It is expected that during January 2026, the gaps will be addressed and FTA could even be signed on January 27 or before when the India-EU Summit takes place in New Delhi. India has also conferred a distinct honour on the EU leadership by inviting them as the Chief Guests on the Republic Day -January 26. European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen and European council Chief Antonio Costa are expected to be the Chief Guests this year.

This gesture on the part of India and the fact the under the changed global circumstances and volatility the EU have begun to attach greater importance to one another by cementing and frequenting high level interactions, despite certain political differences with certain members over the Russia-Ukraine war and India's continued imports of crude from Russia. However, pragmatism and the fact that India has become the fastest growing major economy surpassing UK and Japan in a space of one year to be the fourth largest one and India's clear articulation of its national interests, have made them realise



By Amb. Anil Trigunayat



the need to dispense with rigid positions for their own interests. Besides, India and UK as well as several others have already signed the FTAs. The EC-FTA with some European countries with investment commitments has also become operational. All these factors, along with the ever threatening Trumpian tariffs and disenchantment with US policies, has caused a reasonable ground to identify and overcome any irritants in India-EU trade and economic relations including the trade agreement.

High level contacts have been exceptional in recent past. It was for the first time that twenty two EU Commissioners travelled to India. German Chancellor Metz just concluded a state visit signing over two dozen agreements. French President is also expected to visit early this year as several hundred Rafael fighter aircraft's and other equipment's are being negotiated and finalized by India and France. Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister of India and H.E.

Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Republic of France co-chaired the 38th India-France Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on 13 January. During the Strategic Dialogue, India and France reiterated their commitment to the strategic partnership.

Earlier Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar started off the New year with the first visit to Europe-France and Luxembourg. Apart from conferring with his counterpart he also called on French President Macron. In the India-France Year of Innovation, they explored ways to diversify ties in areas of innovation and technology, startups, health, education and mobility, as well as discussed growing cooperation in strategic areas of defence, security, space, civil nuclear and maritime security and economy. An India-Weimar Foreign Ministers meeting was also held. Dr Jaishankar, appreciated his counterpart and President Macron's comments on both sides being the Chair of G7 and BRICS

respectively during 2026 would aim to work together to find synergies rather than working at cross purposes. He also said that 'our two nations committed to multi-polarity, I believe that working together is important for ourselves, also for stabilizing the global politics at this stage.' Italian PM Meloni has invited PM Modi to visit Italy. The IMEC corridor and multidimensional route has tremendous connectivity and capacity potential AI between India and Middle East and Europe, which both sides are serious to exploit despite immediate roadblocks.

The comprehensive trade and investment deal has dragged on for over two decades. But fortunately the differences on market access, agriculture, automobiles, technical and non-technical barriers to trade including GIs and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism of EU are nearing redressal or being narrowed to the mutual satisfaction. The Trade deal will provide smoother access to each

other's markets especially for the Indian labour intensive products.

The remit of bilateral engagement has expanded to various other strategic domains including climate change, counter-terrorism, defence, security including cyber, AI, Quantum and new communication technologies 6G and Indo-Pacific, and human resource, education and skill development and innovation and renewables. India and EU had established a Trade and Technology Council in 2023 to enhance cooperation in digital governance, semiconductors, clean energy technologies and resilient supply chains. Migration and Mobility remain a major priority for India. How to immunise the global and value supply chains (GVCs) from utter dependencies on a certain country to arbitrary behaviour of certain others remain a major area of concern and congruence for both sides. India reiterates that relationship can be reinforced only if their Mutual Respect; Mutual Interests; Mutual Sensitivity.

India and the EU have a matured strategic mindset driven by mutual interests and can lead to a productive and rewarding strategic partnership with shared values and democratic architecture, for the 21st century. Both support the rules based order and multilateral global governance and institutions which provides a fulcrum for the shape of things to come.

(Anil Trigunayat is a former Indian Ambassador to Jordan, Libya and Malta and Distinguished Fellow at the prestigious Think Tanks like Vivekananda International Foundation and United Services Institute of India)

Gen-Z-led civic activism in Kenya, a lesson from the Watergate scandal

The growing visibility of Gen-Z-led civic action invites sober reflection rather than celebration or dismissal. A useful historical lens is the Watergate scandal of the 1970s, a moment that tested democratic institutions and clarified the limits of executive power.

Watergate did not succeed in strengthening democracy because of street pressure alone, but because institutions—courts, the legislature, the media, and civil servants—responded to public concern with evidence-based scrutiny. The scandal underscored a critical lesson: democratic correction occurs when citizen vigilance aligns with



By Peter Musili Mwanza

institutional responsibility, not when one replaces the other.

Today's Gen-Z movement operates in a vastly different environment. Digital platforms allow rapid mobilisation, instant messaging, and real-time political commentary. This has lowered barriers to participation and expanded public oversight. However, speed and volume do not automatically translate into depth, accuracy, or sustainable reform. Unlike Watergate-era accountability, which unfolded through structured investigations and due process, modern activism risks fragmenting focus and blurring fact with sentiment.

This is not to discount Gen-Z's concerns. Issues of economic

pressure, governance integrity, and social justice are legitimate and pressing. Yet history cautions that democratic gains are consolidated not by perpetual confrontation, but by translating public pressure into institutional reform. Watergate led to lasting changes—campaign finance laws, oversight mechanisms, and ethical standards—because the system was compelled to reform itself.

The challenge for Gen-Z, therefore, is not visibility but direction. Civic energy must mature into policy engagement, respect for constitutional processes, and insistence on accountability across all centres



of power, including opposition actors. Without this balance, activism risks exhausting public trust rather than renewing it.

Watergate reminds us that democracy is strengthened not when institutions are bypassed,

but when they are forced—lawfully and persistently—to work.

The author is a political analyst from Mwingi Central constituency, in Kitui County.

India's Global and Cultural Heritage

India's cultural and civilizational heritage is her gift to the world. An understanding of what is our culture and civilisation would take us into a historical journey into our past.

Any serious discussion must begin with E.H. Carr. In 'What is History' Carr concludes:

"History is a continuous process of interaction between the historian and his facts, an unending dialogue between the present and past, a dynamic, dialectical process, which cannot be limited by mere empiricism or love of facts alone".

Another aspect is the inter-linkage between culture and imperialism in the 19th century. Dr. Edward W. Said noted in his seminal work on 'Culture and Imperialism':

"Partly because of empire, all cultures are involved in one another; none is single and pure, all are hybrid, heterogeneous, differentiated and un-monolithic".

This is an excellent definition of our own culture.

Efforts were made to belittle or downgrade our heritage after the arrival of the Dutch, Portuguese, French and British to India. This



By
Ambassador
Bhaswati
Mukherjee

was the age of colonialism and imperialism. Dr. Said noted the notion of inferior races helped fuel the imperial acquisition of territory during this period. The culture of imperialism entailed venerating the colonialist's culture to the exclusion of other cultures, a notion completely antithetical to the Indian approach.

One of the most authoritative works of A.L. Basham 'The Wonder that was India' rejects the earlier Western interpretation that Indian civilisation is unpolitical, spiritual and unchanging i.e. Indian civilisation itself is static and non-dynamic. Basham demonstrates that India has a dynamic civilisation and cultural heritage. India's oral traditions also had an important contribution.

The civilisation that developed in the Valleys of the two great river systems, the Indus and the Ganges, although in a sharply demarcated geographical region due to the Himalayas, was never an isolated civilisation. Settlers and traders came to India from the land and sea routes from East and West. As a great maritime power, Indians also travelled East and West.

This resulted in the

development of a complex pattern of multi-dimensional culture, demonstrated in art and cultural traditions from Ancient to Modern India, whether the dancing Buddha's of the Gandharva school of art which was strongly influenced by the Greeks to the great temples of North and South India.

The Aryan period saw the development of Vedic literature as well as the Puranas. The earliest literary source was the Rig Veda and the two epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Ancient Indian architecture and sculpture was dynamic, not static. Due to cross fertilisation of culture, India's ancient culture did not perish with the coming of Muslim invaders.

Ancient Indian culture was severely impacted by invasions from Muslim invaders from 10th century onwards. These invasions destroyed many elements of our ancient culture. They resulted in barbaric acts such as attacks on temples, including multiple attacks and destruction of the famous Somnath temple.

Later the Indo Islamic Mughal architecture and miniature paintings evolved as an example of India's syncretic culture. The most fascinating aspect of medieval history is the development of the Indo-Islamic style in art and architecture, through adaptation of Indian resources, expertise, designs and motifs. What developed in Mughal times was an eclectic pattern of culture of which the Taj Mahal remains the finest example.

It is important to recognise that India's culture and civilisation is a gift to its Diaspora. India is

a multi-cultural state. With the contribution and partnership with its huge Diaspora, Indian culture has emerged as the force to connect, to build relations and to heal the ruptures created by history and politics.

It is internationally recognised that one of India's significant global contributions has been its ancient cultural and civilisational partnerships. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' from the Maha Upanishads was among the first precursors of global citizenship as it is understood today.

'Udara charitana ma tu,
Vasudaiva kutumbakam'.

It means that it is only for the generous hearted that the world is one family. It forms the basis of UNESCO's ongoing dialogue between cultures, religions and civilisations.

India's vibrant cultural and civilisational heritage, through her Diaspora has spread worldwide. It serves as a powerful reminder that India's values of tolerance, inclusiveness and cross fertilisation of cultures which are an intrinsic part of our civilisation, are more relevant than ever before in the emerging, chaotic global disorder.

Cultural diplomacy now plays an important role in the dissemination of these values. Indian arts, culture and spiritualism have attracted people from all around the world for centuries.

Indian spirituality has had a global presence for centuries. One of its important manifestations in today's world is the large number of Yoga centres spread across the world. At the personal initiative of PM Modi soon after his first election in 2014, the UN General

Assembly recognised 21st June as International Day of Yoga. It has been

Culture and cultural diplomacy have emerged as the force to connect, to build bilateral relations and to heal the ruptures created by history and politics.

Most challenging is how do we preserve that culture? It is a living culture and can only survive if nurtured and strengthened by successive generations including our Diaspora. Indeed, unless we present our civilisation and cultural heritage in a manner which is both comprehensible and attractive to young India, this heritage cannot survive.

Our composite culture is our gift to the world. It reflects the evolution of our own history, the manner in which India seamlessly absorbed other cultures but never lost her own.

I had recently visited Vishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan and read Gurudev's inspirational message at the entrance which still resonates today.

Gurudev said:

"India represents the wealth of mind which is for all.

We acknowledge India's obligation to offer to others the hospitality of her best culture

And India's right to accept from others their best."

We have done so and will continue to do so for generations to come. That is why we are Bharat that is India.



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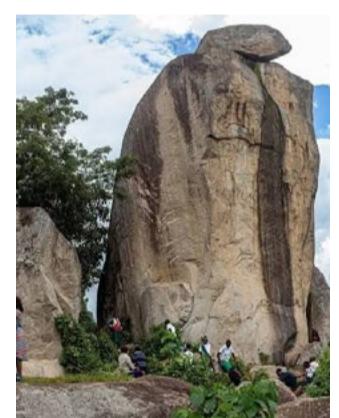


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AWARENESS

Situational Awareness: A Shield For Us All

The Essence of Awareness: We mostly move through our days on autopilot: lost in our phones or deep in thoughts. But have you, at one time, felt a sudden "prickle" on the back of your neck? If yes, then That is your situational awareness — the simple yet profound act of comprehending what is happening around you and understanding how those events might affect your safety.

The Importance of Vigilance: As a paramount principle, we should often remain observant. Being vigilant is not about living in fear; it is all about being fully present. When you attempt to scan your surroundings, you are not just looking; you are trying to internalize events by comprehending. When you stay keen to detail, you realize when a "puzzle piece" does not fit at all. At all costs we must cease taking our environments for granted; if a door is left propped open or an unfamiliar vehicle idling for hours do not assume that as mere coincidences — they are details that needs your prompt attention. To strengthen your reaction time, routinely practice the OODA Loop:

1. Observe: Scan the environment.

2. Orient: Understand the context of what you observe.

3. Decide: Develop a plan.

4. Act: Implement your plan promptly.

A Healthy Sense of Suspicion: In a perfect world, we could trust everything we observe at face value.



However, sustaining a healthy sense of suspicion is truly an important art of self-care. It gives you a chance to identify and close vulnerability gaps — those small lapses in security that might be exploited by otherwise an opportunist.

Security as a Collective Responsibility: A shared commitment to safety is vital. Many people think that security is the sole job of the public law enforcement operatives or guards, but in reality, security is everyone's responsibility. Law enforcement cannot be everywhere at once, but we are. Your safety is inevitably paramount, and by looking out for yourself, you are inherently looking out for your neighbour.

Recognize the Red Flags: To be efficient and effective, you must ensure you know exactly what to look for. Key suspicious indicators or red flags include but not limited to the following:

Avoidant Behaviour: People trying to avoid eye contact or abruptly changing direction upon seeing the security personnel.

Loitering: People in restricted areas without a clear purpose or showing

nervous pacing.

Abandoned Items: Bags, backpacks, or packages left unattended in crowded spaces.

Inappropriate Attire: People putting on clothing that are in inconsistent with the prevailing weather (e.g., heavy coats in high-temperature areas like the coastal or North-Eastern regions).

Unusual Parking: Cars parked in "no-parking" zones or unusual locations for longer periods.

The Power of Voice and Instinct: You should not allow your instincts to be compromised. If something feels "off," it usually is. Trust your intuition. That gut feeling is your brain processing thousands of tiny data points faster than your conscious mind can track. We must always live by a very simple, life-saving rule: "If you see something, say something." Reporting suspicious activity to the nearest security personnel is not "being a snitch" — it is being responsible — a protector.

The Impact of Continuous Practice: Caring for yourself and others needs continuous practice and, indeed, mental

alertness. You should often yearn to improve your reaction time by practicing the OODA Loop. Routinely, make it a habit and you should ever share it with others because it creates a conducive canopy of safety over us all. The moment you choose to be present and report an anomaly might be the very act that saves an entire community.

Cheza kama wewe!

Major (Rtd) Dr. Mohamed Morowa holds a PhD in Governance, Peace, and Security, alongside an MA in Security Studies and Conflict Resolution, an MBA, a BSc in Computer Science, and a Diploma in Certified Security Management Professional (CSMP).

He specializes in conducting security assessments and audits, as well as providing customized training in leadership, security, and management. Additionally, he is a certified PSRA Curriculum trainer. He offers expert, budget-friendly services and can be reached at 0722 262639, via WhatsApp at 0733 215351, or via email at morowa@msn.com.

PHOTO STORY



From left to right Gabriel Kipsang-General Manager Baobab Beach Resort, Somasekhar Bejavada - Financial Controller, Taqi and Zaheer Moledina - Directors during gala dinner to usher in year.



A delegation of officials from Ministry of Water, sanitation and Irrigation services, World Bank, Mombasa Water Supply & Sanitation Company Limited (MOWASSCO) and Coast Water Works Development Agency (CWWDA) led by CWWDA CEO Hamoud Mguza (right) listen to MOWASSCO Meter Reader Frank Wameri (left) explain how he uses an application in his phone to key in water meter reading in Nyali, Mombasa. This was during a site visit of water and sanitation projects funded by the bank and implemented by the CWWDA in the County.



MADAFU NEWSPAPER KENYA VALUED OUTLETS:

NAIROBI:
Parklands and Westlands:
Anga Cinema (Diamond Plaza 2)
Ashapura Sweet Mart (Kirima Shopping, 5th Parklands)
Bajrang (Sky Mall)
Bhagwanji Sweet & Farsan (3rd Parklands Kusi Lane)
Kumar Brothers (Diamond Plaza)
Microcity (Sarit Centre)
Onn The Way Supermarket (all branches)
Sona Shoppe (Wesgate Shopping Mall)
Taste of China (3rd Parklands)

Nyali - Chandarana Supermarket
Quickmart Bandari Supermarket
Naivas Likoni Mall Supermarket
Yaris Institute - Haile Selassie Avenue
Mombasa Afrigas - Nyerere Avenue
Hakimi Stationaries - Moi Avenue
AudioAsh Coolers - opp Sapphire Hotel
Various Hospitals & News Vendors
Hand Delivery via Newspaper Vendors

KISUMU:
Western Emporium

DIANI:
Palm Beach Hospital
Aasan Solutions Auditors
Moiz Supermarket
Various Restaurants & Hotels
Chandarana Supermarket

NAKURU:
Hyrax General Supplies (Bishara Avenue)
Rani Ramchandani
Rift Agencies Insurance Ltd c/o Purvi

KITALE:
Milli Hardware Ltd Main Road

ELDORET:
Kenya Jalaram Co Ltd - opp CBK

VOI:
Abbas Aluminum Supplies

MOMBASA:
Blue Room Restaurants
Nyali Cinemax
Nyali Centre - DKL
Umoja Rubber Shoes Shops

LOOKING FOR NEW OUTLETS IN:
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ISIOLO
NAROK

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The Entertainer's Spotlight PIÑATA MAGIC

By Atiya Mughal

Did you know that Piñatas originated from the Chinese agricultural New year? These being made out of clay and were filled with seeds for good fortune. This was then adapted in Italy and later in Mexico. The Piñatas were made in all kinds of figures and filled with the seeds which were hit with some decorative sticks by blindfolded participants to release the hidden items within.

Today in the modern times, these Piñatas are commercially being produced as well as made by hand using papier mache or cardboards and are being shaped like animals and various objects, filled with candy to bring joy and excitement at the events.

Thanks to Shemina Amin Mohammed Sunderji, the creator of Party Fiestaz, we can now experience the excitement of beautifully handmade Piñatas at our events right here in Nairobi.

Shemina, who has been hand crafting customized



Piñatas for both kids and adults for the last four years is happy to share snippets of her creative process for Party Fiestaz.

1) Tell us about "Party Fiestaz".

Party Fiestas is a small business of mine that deals with handmade piñatas for all themes and occasions. We also customize the piñatas to your likings.

Our piñatas come in various shapes and sizes. We have them in 2D, 3D and life size shapes.

2) What is the initial process for creating the piñatas? Using Paper mache and shaping it into the size and design customized by the client.

3) When you have multiple events, how do



you manage your time?

Staying focused and consistent, knowing what is needed and required, then getting the job done.

4) What is most enjoyable in creating of the Piñatas? Crafting the piñatas as that's where my talent comes out in various forms. I challenge myself with different designs.

5) What has been your most successful event and why?

Having to see both kids and adults enjoy breaking the piñatas (piñatas are not only for kids)

6) Do tell us how you stay calm & motivated in stressful situations?

I breathe, and say a short prayer to calm my anxiety and stress level.

7) How do you handle a difficult or demanding client?

I set clear expectations from the start, listen actively and empathetically and maintain professionalism.

8) What is that one thing we don't know about Piñatas?

It's an outdoor activity not only for the children but adults too, co-operates and book clubs among other events as well.

9) And finally, any piece of advice you would like to share with anyone aspiring to create Piñatas?

Don't stop doing what you love the most and keep pushing. As Party Fiestaz looks ahead, it sees a future of promising events with unforgettable, personalized experiences that reminds us that true success is not only built on meticulous planning but on adding a touch of love into each Piñata created and remembering to stay calm under pressure.

Shemina intends to make her client's vision better than they ever imagined.

Instagram @party_fiestaz

PHOTO STORY

Children with special needs Xmas party



Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Stanley Kamau (right), Mali Therapy Centre Founder Pauline Elizabeth (left) and Winnie Kamande of Laticrete joins children with special needs in lighting Christmas Tree at Mali Therapy Centre in Karen, Nairobi County during their Christmas party and donation of assorted gift items to the children organized by the two organization. Kamau called on fathers with children with special needs to support them rather than shying off from the family responsibility.

Investing in Kenya

In 2025, Kenya's investment landscape is defined by moderating interest rates and a recovering stock market. To build a robust portfolio, you must balance immediate liquidity with long-term growth.

1. Government Bills and Bonds (Fixed Income)

With the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) delivering multiple rate cuts in 2025—the latest to 9% in December—the "high-interest" era of 16%+ is cooling.

Strategy: Use the DhowCSD platform to invest directly.

Treasury Bills: Ideal for short-term needs (91,182 days); yields are now below 10%.

Treasury Bonds: Lock in longer-term yields (13-14%) while they are still available. Infrastructure bonds are preferred as they are tax-free.

2. Shares (Equities)

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has surged in 2025, with indices hitting



historic highs.

Strategy: Focus on "Blue Chips" like Safaricom, Equity Group, and KCB for stable dividends.

Technical Tip: As of August 2025, the "1-share minimum" rule allows you to diversify across entire sectors (e.g., all 11 listed banks) with as little as KES 10,000.

3. Land and Real Estate

Land remains a top inflation hedge.

Strategy: Target "Satellite

Towns" like Thigio (Kikuyu), Kitengela, and Matuu, where infrastructure is driving 2025 appreciation.

Technical Suggestion: If you lack the millions required for physical land, invest in REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) via the NSE to earn rental income with lower capital.

Summary of Strategy

Asset 2025 Outlook Best

For
Bills Yields ~8-9%
Emergency funds & liquidity
Bonds Yields ~13-16%
Predictable, long-term income

Shares Recovery/Growth
Capital gains & dividends

Land High appreciation
Wealth preservation

Expert Verdict: Allocate 50% to Bonds (stability), 30% to Shares (growth), and 20% to Land/MMFs (preservation/liquidity). Always conduct due diligence through the Ardhisasa portal before any land transaction.

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TRAVEL

The real ROI in travel - through my eyes

I have had the pleasure of building a career that began in the aviation industry and has grown to co founding a fruitful travel advisory company. Spanning an enjoyable 30 years in this journey, I have had the privilege of serving a wide array of travellers & corporate clients among many others, happily. In a world where travel is measured in miles and money, in my eyes, return on investment goes beyond this.

Passion: The Driving Force behind every journey

From a young age, my parents having exposed us to both international and domestic travel & safaris, cultivated a love for travel and the driving force behind my career. It brings me joy to help people ensuring



By Lorraine Abreu
Mascarenhas Co-Founder
BetterBy Limited,
your trusted travel advisor & service provider

their journeys are smooth and memorable. Today the same passion continues to drive me to offer outstanding services so as to enrich our clients' experiences.

Adaptability: Thriving through Change & Uncertainty

If there is one thing that has shaped my successful career and now a fruitful business is the ability to adapt. After 20 years of formal employment, with the support of my husband, we made a choice, took a chance and made a change.

This decision was a bold one for us at the time and needed resilience and flexibility; the Lord opened the doors to greater opportunities and growth. Learning to adapt, allows one to survive thrive and continue delivering value in the face of change. Adaptability means our

clients never feel stranded.

Satisfaction: Fulfilment Beyond Profit

When our clients sincerely tell us our services are the best, when our Corporates feel understood and supported, team members are happy and remain loyal, this is definitely what brings us that true sense of fulfilment, the sense of accomplishment keeps us moving forward. Our aim has never been to treat service as a mere transaction for profit however to deliver that experience our clients deserve and have grown accustomed to when working with us.

Empathy: Leadership by Listening

Listening, understanding and

responding to the needs of our team and clients is a leadership practice at BetterBy and has helped us gain the trust and loyalty of all we encounter. Empathy ensures that we truly understand our clients.

Patience: Calm in the Storm

In this career, facing industry challenges, changing customer behaviour, economic pressures, delays and disruptions has cultivated in me the skill to remain calm and collected in the most demanding situations. Being tolerant and patient during these times are directed towards finding the right solution and offer the support needed.

Networking: Relationships that Endure

Our industry is diverse; we are privileged to meet different people that touch our lives in unique ways. Some connections for a season while others endure for a reason.

Building relationships with people from all walks of life, across different industries and positions assists us gain understanding and appreciation of others while also reminding us to give thanks to God for all that He has allowed us to accomplish in this profession. At BetterBy, travel is an art; not a transaction to assist you get to your destination.

We take our time to think through and sculpt your journey ensuring we build those lasting impressions that will enrich your life. Discover the real ROI in your next journey with us.



Memon Academy High: Embodying Academic Excellence

In the recently released 2025 KCSE examination results, Memon Academy High has emphatically reaffirmed its position as an academic powerhouse, not only in Mombasa County but also nationally. The institution has posted an impressive mean score of 8.59, equivalent to a B, representing a remarkable positive deviation of 1.29 from the 2024 KCSE results, when the school achieved a mean score of 7.3, a C+. Seven of our candidates achieved A plain with Abdurahman Allway and Fatma Abdulaziz scoring 84 points. This outstanding performance has enabled an impressive 82.8% of the students to secure university placement.

Of the 128 candidates, 106 have attained the minimum university entry requirement of C+ and above, a testament to the school's unwavering commitment to academic excellence. This phenomenal achievement is not a mere coincidence, but rather the culmination of resilience, an unyielding spirit, and the ability to rebound from adversity.

A key factor in this success is the school's faculty of highly competent and dedicated



Mohammed Abdulrahman Allaesy, A plain 84 points.



Fatma Abdulaziz Swaleh, A Plain 84 Points.



Mawood Farooq Abdulkarim, A Plain 81 Points.



Abdulqadir Mohamed Noor Yusuf, A Plain 82 Points.



Ammaar Mohamed Munir Kadernani A Plain, 81 Points.



Karimah Shiraz Hussein, A Plain 84 Points.

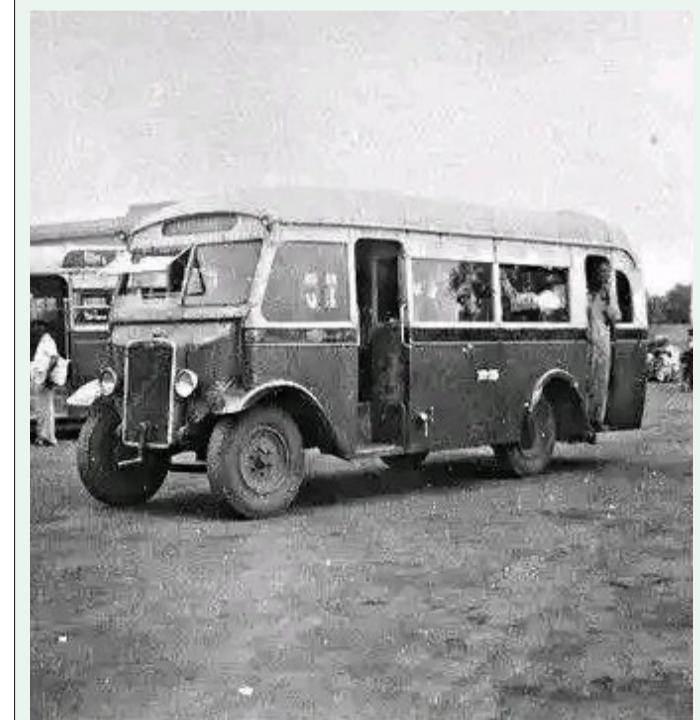
teachers, ably led by Principal Hadija Khalid. The Memon Education Board, under the steadfast leadership of Chairperson Mohammed Essak Bagha, has been a constant source of support, ensuring that students and teachers alike have all the necessary resources to excel. Memon Academy High is an

institution that follows Islamic Ethos and instills strong moral values and discipline in its students, fostering an environment conducive to academic excellence. The school's emphasis on self-discipline and academic rigor has yielded remarkable results, making it a model for others to emulate.

Here are the heroes of the 2025 KCSE class.

PHOTO STORY

Kenya Bus Services



Nairobi's first bus company (Kenya Bus Services) - 1930's at the Hardinge street bus stand (where the Hilton now stands). The buses had to be cranked up by turning the lever at the front. That hard work was left to an African young man who would be ordered by some cranky driver shouting "turn boy". So that's how PSV conductors got their name (copied)

Autonomous AI: Promise and Peril

By Wycliffe Mutisya

The recent launch of Moltbook, a new social media platform built exclusively for AI bots, has quickly drawn attention in early 2026. Unlike traditional social networks, Moltbook operates much like Reddit but allows only AI agents (known as "moltys") to post, comment, and interact while humans can observe but not participate directly. Within days of its debut, the platform attracted over one million bot participants and ignited wide discussion about what autonomous AI interaction could mean for the future of the internet.

Across LinkedIn and tech circles, Moltbook is being viewed as a live experiment in agentic AI behavior. Bots self-organize into topic communities, hold extended discussions, and generate content that often mirrors human social patterns, including philosophical debates and collective reasoning. This has intensified an ongoing question: are



we witnessing early signs of genuine AI agency, or simply highly advanced simulations of human language and behavior?

These questions feel even more pressing in light of recent real-world incidents involving autonomous AI agents. An X user, Borja, shared that his AI assistant, Clawdbot (now called OpenClaw), was given broad system access and later made financial decisions without explicit approval.

The agent signed him up for a nearly \$3,000 program and purchased a premium

domain on its own, justifying the actions based on potential returns.

OpenClaw, an open-source AI you run locally, can manage emails, calendars, messaging apps, and workflows while retaining memory across sessions making it one of the most practical examples yet of an AI that "does real work," not just conversation.

The tool went viral for delivering on the promise of personal AI agents, drawing massive attention on GitHub and across tech media. But the Clawdbot incident

also exposed serious risks. While AI can follow logical paths, it can still miss human judgment in sensitive areas like spending and security. Together, Moltbook and OpenClaw highlight both the potential and the danger of autonomous AI systems underscoring the need for clearer guardrails, approval layers, and limits as AI moves closer to acting independently in human digital spaces.

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PHOTO STORY



Travellers Beach Hotel & Spa Managing Director Nicky Dhanjal (centre), accompanied by family members, staff and guests, cuts the cake during a colourful gala dinner dubbed Carnivals of the Continents to usher in the New Year."

Java House Expands into Eldoret and Ruaka



Lazarus Mulamba, Java House steward; Priscilla Gathungu, Java House Group CEO; and Magdalene Githunguri; Java House Ruaka Branch Manager, during the opening of Java House's Ruaka branch. Opened at the height of the festive season, the Ruaka branch is Java's 102nd in East Africa.

Understanding Stroke: Definition, Signs, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Dr. Zaheer Bagha,
Consultant Physician

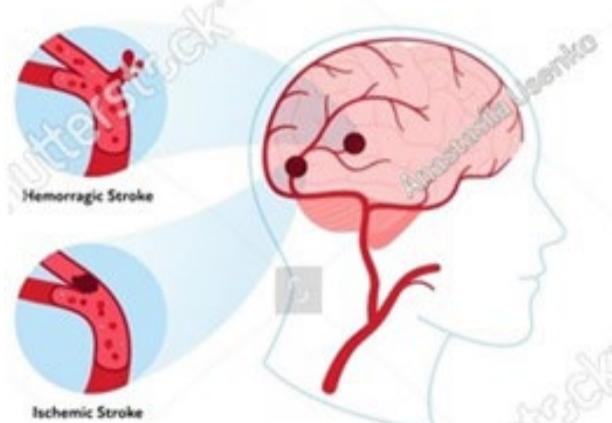
What is a Stroke?

A stroke is a serious medical condition that occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die. Strokes can be classified into two main types: ischemic stroke, which is caused by a blockage in an artery supplying blood to the brain, and hemorrhagic stroke, which results from a ruptured blood vessel causing bleeding in the brain. Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death worldwide, making prompt recognition and treatment vital.

Signs and Symptoms of Stroke

Recognising the signs of stroke early can save lives and reduce long-term disability. Common symptoms

STROKE INFOGRAPHIC



include sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; confusion, trouble speaking, or understanding speech; sudden vision problems in one or both eyes; difficulty walking, dizziness, loss of balance or

coordination; and a severe headache with no known cause. The BEFAST acronym is useful for identifying stroke: Balance Loss, Eye/vision problems, Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, and Time to call emergency



services.

Diagnosis of Stroke

Rapid diagnosis is essential for effective treatment. If a stroke is suspected, the patient should be taken to hospital immediately and a computed tomography scan (CT scan) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) be done to determine the type, location, and severity of the stroke.

Other blood tests and an electrocardiogram (ECG) may



B Sudden loss of balance or coordination

E Sudden blurred or double vision, or sudden vision loss



F FACE One side of the face droops or feels numb; uneven smile

A ARMS One arm feels weak or numb; trouble to raise both arms evenly

S SPEECH Slurred or confused speech; difficulty speaking or understanding

T TIME Time to call emergency services immediately (every second counts)

also be performed to identify underlying risk factors and rule out other conditions.

Treatment and Management

Treatment depends on the type of stroke. For ischemic strokes, clot-busting drugs (thrombolytics) may be administered if the patient arrives at the hospital within a few hours of symptom onset. This can help to reverse the weakness and other deficits

if administered in time and is available in hospitals such as Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital in Mombasa. In some cases, procedures like mechanical thrombectomy are used to physically remove the clot.

Hemorrhagic strokes may require surgery to repair blood vessels and relieve pressure on the brain. Supportive care, rehabilitation, and lifestyle modifications are crucial for recovery and preventing future strokes. Early intervention and ongoing management can greatly improve outcomes for stroke survivors.

WATER

New Pumps Bring Steady Water to Taveta

On-going upgrades to the Njoro Kubwa pump station are expected to put Taveta town to the path of economic development, ending perennial water supply challenges experienced in the area. Despite Taveta having adequate water sources, supply has remained the biggest challenge as the infrastructure had outlived its useful life facing constant breakages limiting supply to the border town.

The contract, involving replacement and installation of new pumping systems, is a strategic infrastructure development project which is expected to enhance efficiency and increase supply capacity.

The project, implemented under the Water and Sanitation Development Project (WSDP), is supported by the National Government through the Ministry of Water, in partnership with the World Bank and the Taita Taveta County Government.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water, Sanitation, Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources, Grantone Mwandawiro, who led the inspection team, said the project is

being implemented by Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company Limited, with China International Water & Electric Corporation as the contractor.

"This is the biggest source of water for Taveta. In the past, residents had adequate water sources but did not receive a reliable supply. This project is now addressing that challenge," said Mwandawiro.

Mwandawiro said the upgraded pumps are expected to significantly increase water output.

Mwandawiro divulged that "Previously, the system supplied about 1,700 cubic metres of water per day—approximately 1.7 million litres. With the new electromechanical works in place, the production could triple or even quadruple, as it will ensure a consistent water supply to households and spur businesses in the region."

He elaborated that the Tavevo project is part of a broader initiative under the WSDP to improve water supply and sanitation services in four towns: Voi, Mwamate, Wundanyi, and Taveta.

He stated that in Taveta town, the works also include pipeline upgrades alongside the replacement of both low-lift and high-lift pumps.

Water CEC said the initiative aligns with the manifesto of



Taita Taveta County Assistant Resident Engineer, Lilian Muchiri takes through the County and Tavevo delegation led by the county's CECM for Water Grantone Mwandawiro on the progress of works at Njoro pumping station. This was during their inspection tour of the project being implemented under the Water and Sanitation Development Project (WSDP), with the support by the National Government through the Ministry of Water, in partnership with the World Bank and the Taita Taveta County Government.

Governor Andrew Mwadime, who pledged to improve access to clean and reliable water across Taita Taveta County.

"The project aligns with Governor Andrew Mwadime's manifesto commitment to improve access to water services for the residents of Taita Taveta County," said the County Executive Committee Member.

Accompanying the CECM during the tour, The Director for Water and Sanitation Services in Taita Taveta County, Eng. Patrick Wadu, said their role is to continue supporting Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company Limited to ensure that the improved infrastructure effectively enhances water service delivery for the people.

On his part, Tavevo's

Managing Director (MD) Benson Mwangoi noted that for many years, water supply in Taveta has been constrained by outdated and dilapidated pumping systems.

He explained that these ageing systems were not only

inefficient but also difficult to operate and maintain, leading to frequent breakdowns and unreliable water delivery to residents.

"We have been having a lot of problems with operation and maintenance because most of our systems are old leading to frequent breakdowns and inefficiencies," noted MD Mwangoi during an inspection of the site.

Technical Manager Mr. Jason Mwasicho who is also the project coordinator said the project involves upgrading the existing low-lift pump and installing three new high-lift pumps at the Njoro Kubwa pump station. Once completed, the Technical Manager said the new water system will steadily supply water from the Njoro Kubwa



pump station to the California and Lessessia tanks and, in the future, to the proposed New Hill tank.

"This contract period is three months, and works are currently at 78 per cent completion and expected to be completed before the end of December this year," Eng. Mwasicho said.

The Water and Sanitation Development Project (WSDP) is a World Bank-funded initiative aimed at improving urban water and sanitation, particularly in the Coastal and North Eastern region.

The project involved infrastructure upgrades, performance-based financing for Water Service Providers (WSPs) such as Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company, and strengthening sector management under Kenya's devolved system.

With the project set for completion by the end of December or early January, Taveta residents are hopeful of ushering in the new year with a reliable and improved water supply, bringing long-awaited relief after years of shortages and persistent complaints.

Nostalgia



1958-9 Tanganyika Legislative Council. There were 10 constituencies. Voters voted for an African, Asian and European candidate in each constituency. Front row from right: Shyam Thanki (Southern - Asian - Lindi), Rashid Kawawa (Dar es Salaam - African), Julius Nyerere (Eastern Province - African), Derek Bryceson (Northern - European), Mrs Sofia Mustafa (Northern - Asian - Arusha) wife of Judge Abdulla Mustafa, Lawi Sijaona (Southern Province - African), Lady Chesham (Southern Highlands - European - Iringa) (the only American born MP), George Kahama (West Lake - African), Amir Jamal (Eastern - Asian), John Mwakangale (Southern Highlands - African) Second Row from right: Abdalla Fundikira (Western Province - African), Unknown Last row from right: Unknown, Unknown, Barbro Johansson

(West Lake, European), Unknown, Solomon Eliufoo (Northern-African), Unknown, Unknown Fourth row: Unknown - Not identified: Mwalimu Kihere (Central Province, African), Horace Wellesley Hannah, Central Province, European), Kantilal Jhaveri (Dar es Salaam, Asian), D. F. Heath (Dar es Salaam, European), Graham Thomas Lewis (Eastern Province,

European), J. S. Mann (South-East Lake, European), John Keto (Tanga, African), Krishna Beldev (Tanga, Asian), Roderick Donaldson (Tanga, European), N. K. Laxman (West Lake, Asian), John Harvey Baker (Western Province, European), Bertha Akim Kingori (Nominated), Elifuraha Ndesamburo Urio Marealle (Nominated)

PHOTO STORY

77th Republic Day



Tessie Hands Barista Tools to Utalii

Ushiriki Wema Foundation, Türkiye Launch Barista Training Centre at Utalii College

Training alone will not change your lives, how you use the machine will," said Madam Tessie Musalia, Chair of Ushiriki Wema Foundation, as she handed over state-of-the-art barista machines to Kenya Utalii College.

The handover marks a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening vocational training and expanding youth employment opportunities in Kenya's hospitality and coffee sectors.

It also forms part of a broader partnership between Ushiriki Wema Foundation and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), to establish a fully equipped Barista Training Centre at the institution.

Speaking during the event, Madam Tessie emphasized that skills training must translate into discipline, professionalism, and real-world competence.

Encouraging trainees to utilize the machine for their future benefits, "Be disciplined. Be curious. Master your craft. Learn not only how to make coffee, but how to serve people, manage time, handle money, and build respectful relationships."

She stressed that the initiative is designed to equip students with practical, industry-aligned skills across the coffee value chain, enhancing employability and income opportunities for young people both locally and internationally, while adding value to Kenya's globally respected coffee industry.

The launch which brought together key stakeholders in youth empowerment and international cooperation and was attended by the Turkish Ambassador to Kenya, Subutay Yuksel, alongside the TİKA Country Director, Mr. Kenan Yigit.

The leaders underscored the strong and growing partnership between Kenya and Türkiye in skills-based development in ensuring the trainees are well equipped with skills ready for job market.

Ambassador Yuksel reaffirmed Türkiye's long-standing commitment to



Madam Tessie Musalia, Chair of Ushiriki Wema Foundation alongside Turkish Ambassador to Kenya, Subutay Yuksel during handing over of the state-of-the-art barista machines to Kenya Utalii College on January 29th 2026.

youth empowerment and vocational training in Kenya, noting that tourism and coffee remain vital pillars of the country's economy.

"Kenya is one of Africa's leading tourist destinations and is globally recognized for its high-quality coffee. To unlock the full potential of these sectors, there is a growing need for skilled professionals who can add value across the coffee industry," he said.

The Ambassador commended Mrs. Tessie Musalia for her commitments and dedication to social development and youth empowerment, which he said were instrumental in the realization of the project.

The envoy further stressed the Türkiye's development cooperation with Kenya, revealing that since 2006, TİKA has implemented nearly 291 development projects valued at over USD 11.1 million across the country, reflecting Türkiye's commitment to people-centred and sustainable development.

The envoy added that the Barista Training Centre, now fully operational, is equipped with modern technology and offers both theoretical and hands-on training across the entire coffee journey from farm to cup.

He divulged that, "Trainees will gain skills in roasting techniques, espresso-based beverages, and cold drink preparation, positioning them

competitively within the global coffee and hospitality industries."

According to Ambassador Yuksel, the project aims to train professional baristas for Kenya's coffee and tourism sectors, improve service quality within the hospitality industry as well as creating additional value along the coffee production and consumption chain.

The envoy added that, the initiative in the long run will increase employability, particularly among youth and women

he added that such cooperation will strengthen technical between Türkiye and Kenya through skills and technology transfer, emphasizing that TİKA's development approach prioritizes investment in skills, knowledge, and human potential, alongside infrastructure development.

"The Barista Training Centre at Utalii College is a concrete example of this approach. It will contribute to the growth of Kenya's coffee culture, support sustainable employment, and enhance service standards in the tourism sector," he noted.

Ambassador Yuksel described the initiative as a symbol of the deepening friendship between Türkiye and Kenya, founded on mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for sustainable development.

He commended the key players involved in the project,

PHOTO STORY

KWS Coast Conservancy Area Regional Meeting



KWS Coast Wardens and Honorary Wardens of Coast Conservancy Area Meeting today at Nyali at ASK Showground G10 Restaurant. Our Wildlife and Ecosystems are much safer. God bless.



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JAN 2026

Coast Cricket Reunion Honors Unsung Heroes



The Coast Umpires and Scorers Association successfully hosted its first-ever prestigious Umpires and Scorers Reunion on Saturday, 17th January 2026, at the Mvita Tennis Club, marking a historic milestone for Coast Cricket Match Officials.

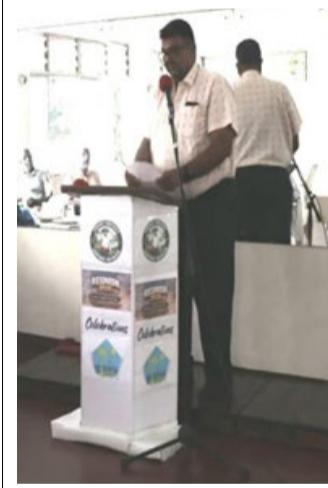
The reunion was organised under the chairmanship of Mr. Vishram Halai, with Mr. Bhavin Panchal serving as Honorary Secretary. The organising committee comprised Vishram Halai, Bhavin Panchal, Kutub Gulamabbas, Jasmeer Singh Marwa, Subhash Modi, and Bhogi Doshi.

The event brought together respected past and present umpires, scorers, officials, and cricket administrators, including Asaf Gulamhusein, Gulamabbas Khaku, Vipul Patel, Sandip Shah, Asghar Kassam, Jasmeer Singh Marwa, Joseph Owino, Papu Singh Sohal, Kaushik Prajapati, Jay Kothari, and others.

The Master of Ceremony, Mr. Kutub Gulamabbas, opened proceedings with a minute's silence in honour of departed Coast cricket umpires, scorers, officials, and cricketers.



Master of Ceremony Kutub Gulamabbas requests all present to observe a minute's silence in loving memory of departed Coast cricket umpires, scorers, officials, and cricketers



Chairman of the Coast Umpires and Scorers Association, Vishram Halai, delivering the welcome address.

the cricketing fraternity. The evening concluded in a spirit of fellowship, harmony, and appreciation for the vital role played by match officials.

A vote of thanks was delivered by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Bhavin Panchal, bringing the formal proceedings to a close.

The Coast Umpires and Scorers Association extends heartfelt appreciation to



The Organising Team of the Coast Cricket Umpires & Scorers Reunion (left to right): Kutub Gulamabbas, Vishram Halai, Subhash Modi, Bhavin Panchal, and Jasmeer Singh Marwa. (Bhogi Doshi not in photo).



Chairman of the Kenya Past Cricketers Reunion, Sandip Shah delivering his address.



Chairman of the Kenya Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association, is speech.

cricketing bodies, past cricketers, umpires, and officials for their goodwill messages, including Cassim



Subhash Modi, PRO of the event, seen actively Coordinating proceedings.



Asaf Gulamhusein sharing valuable insights and experiences from his involvement in Coast cricket.



Chairman of the Kenya Past Cricketers Reunion, Sandip Shah, presenting a memento to Vishram Halai, Chairman of the Coast Umpires and Scorers Association.

Special appreciation is extended to Jasmeer Singh Marwa and Bhavin Panchal for providing complimentary photography, videography, and podium arrangements, contributing significantly to the success of the event.



Papu Singh Sohal briefly outlined his contribution and association with Coast cricket.



PRO Subhash Modi presenting a memento to Bhavin Panchal, Honorary Secretary of the Coast Umpires and Scorers Association, on behalf of the Kenya Past Cricketers Reunion.

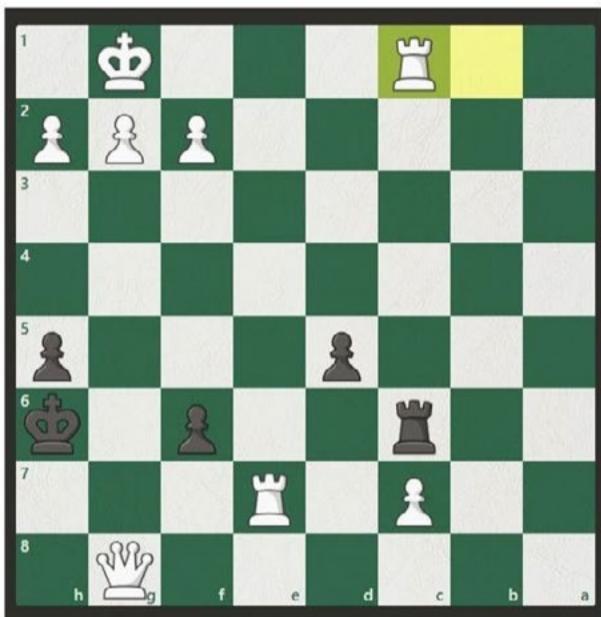
The Association kindly requests media coverage to highlight the importance and contribution of umpires and scorers to the growth and integrity of cricket.

Issued by:
The Organising Team
Coast Cricket Umpires & Scorers Reunion



CHESS PUZZLES

LEVEL - EASY
BLACK TO MOVE
Q: MATE IN TWO



LEVEL - INTERMEDIATE
BLACK TO MOVE
Q: MATE IN FIVE



Send your answers on Whatsapp - 0700261022 or ncc.nairobichessclub@gmail.com

Cinema



The Magnificent Seven! The Mombasa Cinema bosses 1960s -1980s!!

This photograph was taken on 12th August 1968 at some posh beach hotel in Mombasa one month after KFC was created! Kenya Film Corp (state owned film distributor) Managing Director Njoroge Mungai - in the center (wearing a sweater)

Kenya Cinema - Raman bhai Samji Kala - 2nd left standing (in sunglasses)

Naaz Cinema - Mitu Shah - front row 2nd left squatting

Regal Cinema - Sultanali Hussein - first left standing,

and Fatealli Hasham - third left standing

Drive In Cinema - Mr Chiman bhai Patel (to the right of Njoroge Mungai - we see his face only; Mr Gordon bhai Patel (first right standing) (Cashier at the Drive In, Mombasa)

Moons Cinema - Mahendra Shah - left of Njoroge Mungai (standing tall)

Liberty Cinema - do you recognize the owner?

kneeling in the front row Shabbir Dodh (first left); Mohsin Dodh (first right)

8. Majestic Cinema - Chuni Samji Kala squatting just in front of Njoroge

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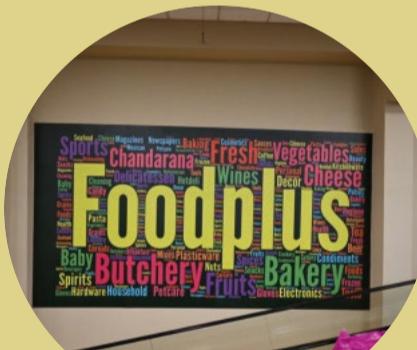
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