

# CITY BITE

## MAGAZINE

### AFROSTAR

*Afrostar Digital currency could be the way to Africa's unity*

### AFTWOB

*Protecting young boys is our responsibility...Let us protect them from pornography, demonization and balkanizing digital content.*

1.

**NYONG'O, ABALA TO TOP SPEAKERS' LIST DURING FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL**

### FESTAC

*A conversation with TV BRICS International's Yulia Nazarkina*

**FESTAC**  
**YULIA NAZARKINA FROM TV BRICS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



## GOVERNOR NYONG'O, D.G MATTHEWS OWILI & ABALA WANGA TO LEAD THE HOST OF OTHER SPEAKERS DURING FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL.

The city of Kisumu is poised to host the entire African continent for a whole week, thanks to a certain Festac Africa Festival.

As a pan-African gathering, dignitaries from all over the world are expected to grace the occasion, a number expected to address attendees during the different roundtable conversations on topical issues affecting the continent.

From high ranking politicians to business men, Kisumu County Governor's H.E Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o is poised to welcome these guests, and later on, deep into the festival to give a key note speech.

Throughout its planning, inside sources have indicated that Prof. Nyong'o has given his full support and blessings to Eng. Yinka Abioye; the Festac Africa Chairman and his team, who in a past conversation with City Bite has emphasised the important role that political goodwill has and continues to play for them.

Festac, according to its directors is an elevated platform for mentoring and nurturing young people into responsible contributors to Africa's growth trajectory.

This year's Festac theme is Sustainable Growth Trajectory For Africa Through Culture, Trade, Travel and Tourism, which accentuates its pivotal role in the future of Africa's political economy.

Among the plinth thematic areas of conversation will include Gender based violence, climate change, African Development Goals, Unity of Africa, Trade, Food Security, Fashion, Culture, Sports and Integration in Africa. A glimpse into all of them, these are ubiquitous issues bedeviling the continent in the most remote ways.



For instance, approximately 42% of women experience physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime, in both Eastern and Southern Africa alone, according to statistics from World Bank website, where it is stated that this imperil is a major demerit to global development.

This is because the impacts of Gender based violence are far-reaching and extends beyond individual survivors, given its negated implications on both wellbeing and productivity of families and communities at large, and across generations.

In similar magnitude, climate change is an emerging issue in the continent. Most recently, we have seen rampant flooding in different parts of Africa, something that was earlier not so common. Lake Victoria has been, significantly affected by this, in many different ways. Sometimes, for instance, because of floods, plastic waste, through surface runoff are deposited into the lake, in return affecting life in the lake, which could jeopardize the welfare of those who depend on the lake in a myriad of ways. By a way of illustration, a prediction published on the Inter Governmental Authority on Development website indicate that East African Countries will experience an exaggerated level of rainfall this year, which, in every sense exacerbates the far-reaching impacts of climate change, not only

in Africa but also beyond borders of the continent.

Another key areas are the African Development Goals Initiative, Afrocacy and Youth Empowerment. Spearheaded by both the Festac patron Prof. PLO Lumumba and Festac Ambassador for The Caribbean Brig. Gen. Amb. Dr. Wallace Williams, African Development Goals Initiative and Afrocacy are meant to take the continent and her people back to her roots. These entities act as the media through which Africa revitalises the values she once held dear, with the main aim of securing a complete decolonisation of the continent.

"A time has come for Africa to depend on her own policies. We must embrace our way of doing things. We cannot let other continents dictate the trajectory of our continent," Dr. Wallace once told City Bite Magazine.

Additionally, the youth are the vectors of the future. An active youth fraternity means a brilliant future for the continent while a disempowered youth base impedes growth and development. This underscores Prof. Patrice

Lumumba's commitment to empower Young people and Prof. Nyong'o's position as a key note speaker. He will be there, among the host of leaders from county Government as an example to emerging leaders, through the story of his own rise to the top.

Kisumu City Manager Mr. Abala Michael Wanga will also be there, share his sagacity with emerging 'city managers', who might want to follow his trail. Such will also apply to Dr. Matthews Owili, who is the Deputy Governor of Kisumu City County.

Other luminaries will include Dr. Maya Pradeep, Eng. Patrick Obath, Eng. Yinka Abioye, Hon. Kojo Yankah, Ms. Zuhura Ogada, FCPA Rosemary Gituma, Dr. Olaseni Soroye, Ms. Grace Mumo, Mr. Kiprono Kittony, Carol Bouwer, Dr. Shem Ochuodho, Dr. Louis-Georges Tin, Dr. Paul Abolo, Prof. Emaretus Ratemo, Mrs. Wanja Ruth Kirima Barry, H.E Dr. Jonathan Ojadah, Edwina Taylor Flathen, H.E Euzhan Palcy, Cheick Modibo Diarra, Robert Rosenthal, Prof. Joseph Borg, Aderemu Olasupo Abioye, H.E Keturah Amoako Kandake, H.E Hugh Johnson, Mr. Pekun Tomori, H.E Sharon Parris Chambers, Miss. Sally Kimangu, Chief. Dr. Donald Yonaguska Holloway, H.E Marie-Ange Billot Queen Aidji, H.E Olasubomi Iginla Aina, MBE, Amb. Abraham Paul Vatakencherry, J. Parthasarthy, Sen. Dr. Sylvia M. Kasanga FCI Arb, Victor Mark-Onyegbu, Farzam Kamalabadi among others.

## KQ GIVES A LAND MARK 15% DISCOUNT TO FESTAC ATTENDEES!

Attending the fast approaching Festac Africa Festival has been made cheaper for global dignitaries and ambassadors from all over the world, thanks to a 15% air ticket discount by Kenya Airways, commonly known as KQ.

FESTAC, is a pseudonym for the Festival Of Arts and Culture, where World's Black and African luminaries gather in an elevated platform to appreciate the beauty of African cultural diversity.

This year's theme for the festival is Sustainable Growth Trajectory For Africa Through Culture, Trade, Travel and Tourism, which accentuates KQ's efforts to make movement easier from different parts of the world to the City of Kisumu, which will act as the headquarter of Africa from 20th to the 25th of May 2024.

For context, the discount means that if, under normal circumstances a flight costs \$2,000 from one Country to Kenya, a Festac attendee will only pay \$1,700 for the same flight, which reflects a whopping \$300 less than the normal rates and unlike normal discounts which do not beat the 10% mark, this special discount is given away for the love of Africa and the spirit of pan-Africanism.



Kenya Airways has long played a pivotal role in the travel and tourism industries of Kenya, while also acting as a reliable medium for multilateral trade in Africa, through importation and exportation of foreign and local products respectively and as such created a sterling reputation for itself as one of Africa's most authoritative aviation companies.

While this offer lasts, all stalwart pan-Africanists who will be attending the Festac Festival, which is a historic occasion have the chance to grab it and take part in history making in the city of Kisumu. What are you waiting for? Visit [www.festacafrika.org](http://www.festacafrika.org) and apply for your discounted ticket.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Here's how you can contribute:

- 1. Decorations**  
Help infuse the venue with elements that celebrate the richness and diversity of African heritage.
- 2. Protocol**  
Assist in ensuring smooth coordination and organization, reflecting the essence of African hospitality and community.
- 3. Ushering**  
Welcome our esteemed guests and attendees with warmth and enthusiasm, embracing the spirit of unity.
- 4. Media**  
Capture the vibrant energy and essence of the event through photography, videography, or social media, highlighting our cultural pride.
- 5. Refreshments**  
Assist in providing authentic African treats and beverages that resonate with our heritage, tantalizing the senses.
- 6. Publicity**  
Help spread the word about our event through various channels, including social media, press releases, and community outreach. Assist in creating engaging content and promotional materials to attract attendees and sponsors.



## FESTAC AFRICA CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Festival Of Arts and Culture, otherwise known as Festac Festival, which is poised to take place in the City of Kisumu between May 20th and the 26th 2024 is calling for volunteers to take part in the running of its activities.

Spanning for a week, the festival will host luminaries from all over the world and will provide a platform for conversations on the growth trajectory of Africa, in all spectrums of life.

Taking part in this festival therefore, in any capacity whatsoever gives one an elevated platform to not only network but also exhibit their skills, talents and expertise.

For instance, African culinary arts will be showcased with sports competitions among others a key part of the fifth world's black and African Festival. This opens the gates of opportunities for volunteers to benefit from in varied ways, with slots available in six main categories including decorations, protocol, ushering, media, refreshments and publicity.

Decorators will assist to embellish the venue while those in charge of protocol will assist in ensuring smooth coordination and organisation. On the other hand, Ushers will hospitably welcome esteemed guests and attendees while media volunteers will aid in communication. Those in charge of refreshments will otherwise help with providing African treats while publicity volunteers will help in spreading the word across different platforms.

**+254715211781**

# AN EYE FOR AN EYE



DAISY BARTLETT

Two young women from Australia and New Zealand, now residing in Nairobi, have committed themselves to ensuring affordable access to prosthetic eyes for the people of Kenya.

Nelly and Francesca started Eyes for All in 2018, after being deeply touched by the story of a family who had lost their first seven children to Retinoblastoma, an aggressive form of eye cancer. Today, the majority of the eyes they hand-make are for children who have had theirs surgically removed due to said cancer. There is already a higher prevalence of retinoblastoma in Sub-Saharan Africa, it's an aggressive cancer and the optic nerve goes straight to the brain so removing the eye, sometimes both, when diagnosed too late is often the only treatment option. 'The eye and vision can be saved when the cancer is diagnosed early enough, which is sadly not always the case in Kenya, where due to delays in seeing healthcare professionals or due to financial constraints, the diagnosis usually occurs on average at only 2 years old, as opposed to as early as two months for children in Europe or the US,' says Francesca. The provision of prosthetic eyes offers solace to parents facing the difficult decision of eye removal for their children.

The ladies also sculpt eyes for patients who have lost one due to untreated infections and other health issues. 'In the Mara, for example, we see patients who originally may have just had a stick in their eye, which might not be catastrophic, but due to a delay in treatment, infection occurs and the eye is lost.' The life-like eyes, which are hand-painted and hand-shaped, do not restore vision but restore appearance and confidence. 'The demand is big and the industry is slowly being recognized, which is great for us and for patients as we are starting to see some insurance coverage.' It's a very niche industry and the training requirements and certification for becoming an ocularist vary across the world. 'Traditionally, it's more a family craft that is passed down through generations.'


In the US, it costs up to \$5,000 for a prosthetic eye; Eyes for All charges \$300 for the same quality. Although this is the lowest price in the world, it remains high for many Kenyans. To support the sustainability of their clinic and meet patients needs, Nelly and Francesca now also make exquisite 'eye' jewellery under the brand name 'KIN by Eyes for All,' inspired by 'Kintsugi', the Japanese art of repairing broken objects which 'interprets imperfections as a source of strength and beauty'. 'Each two rings sold goes to pay for a prosthetic eye for someone on our waitlist without sufficient means to pay for it themselves.' Despite the huge need for their services, the duo continue to face challenges, mainly around financial sustainability; the most recent hurdle being the increase in the price of work permits in Kenya. Yet, they continue to take pride in their work, driven by their desire to help restore the confidence and improve the quality of life of their patients.

Eyes For All

Eyes For All make restorative prosthetic eyes to help rehabilitate those who have lost an eye due to disease or trauma. Nelly and Francesca from Eyes For All have over 14 years of combined experience. Every prosthesis is custom made to ensure the best fit, comfort and health for their patients.

**WHAT IS A CUSTOMISED ARTIFICIAL EYE**

An ocular prosthesis is a handmade artificial eye to replace a surgically removed eye or to cover a malformed eye. Because every socket is unique and different, the prostheses are custom made to fit each patient. This is important not only for the patient's comfort but to encourage symmetrical growth, eyelid support and bone development.



After the perfect shape has been determined the prosthesis is then hand painted to match the patients fellow eye as closely as possible. Customised artificial eyes are made from medical grade, biocompatible PMMA acrylic. This material is robust and smooth and allows adjustments to be made over time if need be. With correct maintenance a customised artificial eye can last 10+ years.

*Receiving a prosthesis is the first step in the rehabilitation process and restores the patients' identity and hope.*

Book an appointment: +254 770 813 111 / +254 794 764 451



1. Wear sunglasses all year-round
2. Don't smoke
3. Be mindful of what you eat
4. Don't strain your eyesight and take breaks
5. Take care at work
6. Lubricate your eyes
7. Don't rub your eyes
8. Keep your glasses and lenses in good condition
9. Get a good night's sleep
10. Go to regular check-ups

## WHAT IS THERE TO KNOW ABOUT EYE CANCER?

Many People Trusted Source with eye cancer may have no symptoms until the tumor is more advanced. Signs and symptoms that a person should report to a healthcare professional include:

- blurry vision or sudden loss of vision
- floaters, which are specks that move around in the field of vision, or flashes of light
- visual field loss
- a growing dark spot on the iris
- change in size or shape of the pupil
- change in position of the eyeball
- bulging of the eye
- change in the way the eye moves

There is rarely pain with eye cancer unless the tumor is large. These symptoms may be associated with other conditions and may not necessarily indicate cancer.

A healthcare professional may use the following tests to diagnose eye cancer:

- ophthalmoscopy
- ultrasound
- fluorescein angiography

## TV BRICS INTERNATIONAL; A PROFILE

TV BRICS International Media Network was established in 2017 on the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who received the support of the heads of states at the IX BRICS summit in China.

TV BRICS is the latest system of regular information exchange between the media of the BRICS+ countries. The interaction of media partners is carried out through the TV BRICS multilingual portal and 24-hour TV channel.

The TV BRICS headquarters is located in Moscow (Russia).

More than 70 media outlets from many countries of the world have already joined the TV BRICS media network: Russia, Brazil, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, as well as Argentina, Armenia, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Cuba, Mozambique, Tunisia, Chile.

The total technical reach of the media outlets in TV BRICS partner network exceeds 1.5 billion users.

The TV BRICS mission is to strengthen cooperation between the BRICS countries and disseminate objective information about the humanitarian and economic activities of the member states and partners of the association.

**TV BRICS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
MEDIA  
NETWORK



TV BRICS is an official partner of the United Nations, a member of the Steering Committee for Preparing and Ensuring Russia's BRICS Presidency in 2024.

As an international partner, TV BRICS provides communication and information support for major international events in the BRICS+ countries, provides media coverage for the activities of government authorities, cultural and higher education institutions, public and non-profit organizations.

## YULIA NAZARKINA; A PROFILE

Graduated from Moscow State University of Education with Master's degree in linguistics and intercultural communication.

Over the years worked on forging strategic ties with foreign media, facilitating news and experience exchange and carrying out various special international projects.

Joined TV BRICS team in 2018 as Project Manager to curate cooperation with key international media partners from South Africa and other African countries.

Fluent in English.



## YOUR CITIZENSHIP OF THE STATE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

### National Digital ID Registration for African People of the Diaspora

To be a citizen of the State of the African Diaspora (a Popular Sovereignty), a National Digital Identity Card will be issued. The E-ID Card will serve as a Multi-Card, affording our Citizens many benefits, such as financial benefits and rewards, discounts at the USOAD University etc. In addition, many members of the Diaspora aspire to return to Africa. But some, especially those whose ancestors were deported and enslaved, have no connection with any particular country: their homeland is Africa. In the words of Marcus Garvey, "repatriation is repair." To foreigners who want to go to Africa, you can apply for a visa, but the

sons and daughters of the continent who were deported are not strangers. This is why we are creating the identity card.

Only Citizens of SOAD will be able to vote, participate and receive the benefits of being a citizen of a State without Borders of the 6th Region of Africa.

### Parliament and Voting Rights

The Parliamentary members serve and will be the interface between civil society citizens and the Government. The Parliamentary members will comprise of people from the civil society from all walks of life and sectors – so that civil society is properly and fairly represented in all its many facets from the youth to the elderly and from the individual to a corporate

business to grass roots organisations etc. In time, there will be elections to vote in new parliamentary members. Only citizens who have their SOAD National ID will be able to vote at elections for Parliamentary members.

### The SOAD Passport

In the future, SOAD will issue its National Passport to support the Africa Free Trade Area and the free movement of the African Diaspora in and out of Africa. The African Union plans on issuing its African Union (AU) Passport for the Continent in 2020.



# A PIQUANT FISH FIESTA AS KISUMU PREPARES FOR THE FIFTH WORLD'S BLACK AND AFRICAN FESTIVAL



From the 25th of April 2024, people from all parts of Kisumu gathered at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports complex to appreciate the Luo culture and the beauty of the city by the lake. In pomp, the Fish Fiesta 2024 began on Thursday, providing a platform for Kisumu's emerging and established artists to showcase their flair, through poetry, spoken word, traditional dances, music, culinary arts, martial arts among others. With Aquarech as the key partner, conversations revolving around the life of and in Lake Victoria dominated plenary sessions, with researchers from KMFRI making the panel as key contributors.

As fish health was discussed, the legendary Omieri also graced the occasion as attendees were accorded the rare opportunity to connect with Nyakach's most ubiquitous folklore. "She was there," Okech, a Nyakach resident told City Bite. "I saw her, Omieri was there to represent the history of Wasare, where she first mysteriously slithered, and where the fire that caused her death razed."

It is recorded that Omieri was considered the goddess of rain and plenty, until a group of youth feared for their lives at the sight of how she pounced on her prey, and set her home; a sisal plantation on fire. To date, her body having been preserved, she plays a key role in the history and culture of the people of Kisumu; which is being celebrated by the Fish Fiesta.

As a platform for the furtherance of traditional

Arts and belief systems, other events took place including wrestling, runway activities, boat racing at dunga beach, weight lifting competitions et cetera. All these activities were geared to celebrate, in a vaunted way the beauty of Luo community's way of living, it's landscape, the cultural diversity across it's sub-communities



Fish Fiesta is an annual event, but this year's edition came at a prime time when the city of Kisumu prepares to host dignitaries from all over the world for the fifth world's black and African Festival, which is a historic occasion that was founded back in 1966, by President Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal.

Festac, like the Fish Fiesta is a ceremony of celebrating African traditional cultures but unlike the Fish Fiesta, Festac brings the entire African continent in one platform, to discuss the growth trajectory of the continent.



Present at the festival on the 26th was Ms. Mercy Wamoto, the Chief Executive Officer for Elgon Group limited, which is an event planning company, tasked with running the Women Empowerment segment who stole the show by confidently addressing attendees and asking them to take part in the forthcoming Festac Festival.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL**

*20th  
May  
2024*

**FESTAC AFRICA BEGINS**

*25th  
May  
2024*

**FESTAC AFRICA DAY GALA DINNER**

**15%**

**AVAILABLE AIR TICKET DISCOUNT FOR FESTAC AFRICA ATTENDEES PROVIDED BY KENYA AIRWAYS ALSO KNOWN AS KQ,**

**\$150**

**FESTAC GALA DINNER PRICE**

**1966**

**WHEN FIRST FESTAC FESTIVAL WAS HELD.**

## A CONVERSATION WITH YULIA NAZARKINA.



### Q: Introduce yourself

My name is Julia Nazarkina, I am an International Project Executive at TV BRICS International Media Network. I joined the TV BRICS team in 2018 to facilitate cooperation with key international media partners from South Africa and other African countries. Over the years, I have worked on forging strategic ties with foreign media, facilitating news and experience exchange, and carrying out various special international projects, including humanitarian initiatives. In addition to media cooperation, TV BRICS interacts with educational institutions in the BRICS countries, integrating academic, scientific, and educational agendas into information exchange with media partners to shape and promote a positive image of educational institutions in the BRICS countries as industry leaders in a global context. Currently, there are more than 25 universities in Russia, India, China, South Africa, and Brazil. This is another aspect of my responsibilities as a Project Executive.

### Q: IS TV BRICS related to BRICS (The Intergovernmental Organisation), if yes, how?

TV BRICS International Media Network was established in 2017 inspired by the statements made during the summit that took place in Xiamen, China. The leaders of the 5 countries in attendance agreed to put forward an initiative to create a common TV Channel. The idea of a common TV channel has now grown into something more. Today TV BRICS is the only one in the world international media network that connects all types of media resources together, such as TV, social media, radio and online platforms. This has facilitated the development of the common information space for the BRICS countries. Headquarter is based in Moscow, Russia.

We call ourselves BRICS, but we are not limited to cooperation with the BRICS countries.

Currently, more than 70 media outlets from various countries around the world have joined the TV BRICS media network, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Tunisia, Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Venezuela, as well as Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Armenia, and Kazakhstan.

The main part of our approach lies in multilateral high-quality information exchanges between different editorial boards. Using this method, we do not need to create a new media source in a foreign language to spread the agenda we have in another media landscape; instead, we can integrate our national news content in other news agendas of local media that already has its own viewers or users.

The mission of TV BRICS is to strengthen cooperation among the BRICS+ countries and disseminate objective information about the humanitarian and economic activities of the member states and partners of the association. We focus on covering culture, tourism, economics, technology, and society – issues and challenges that people worldwide encounter. We firmly believe that in doing so, we contribute to fostering mutual understanding among different nations and lay the groundwork for cooperation in various fields.

In fact, we are acting as a communication hub in different sectors: media, education, humanitarian and cultural track, cooperation with government and intergovernmental organizations.

### Q. What is the Role TV BRICS will play in Festac Festival 2024?

TV BRICS is primarily a media company, and in this capacity, it extends media support to the FESTAC Africa Festival. This support entails not only featuring materials about the event on our own platforms but also sharing information about it across our extensive network of media partners. Through this effort, we aim to create and promote a positive image of the African continent among BRICS and BRICS+ countries.

However, our decision to support the event is not solely motivated by this objective. What drew us to the FESTAC Africa Festival is its significant contribution to the development of the continent, with cultural diplomacy as its central pillar. The Festival serves as a distinguished platform for cultural exchange.

It's worth noting that our involvement aligns with our broader initiatives. TV BRICS maintains an extensive network of cultural and educational partners in the BRICS+ countries

For example, we support professional training for young drama theatre and cinema artists from BRICS+ countries. Additionally, we regularly showcase TV BRICS screenings at major national film competitions within the BRICS countries. In South Africa, we collaborate with events such as the Ekurhuleni International Film Festival (EIFF) and Thokoza Film Festival, presenting the achievements of the BRICS countries' national cinematography on international professional platforms and promoting the countries' agendas through the film genre.

## 4. If TV BRICS is related to BRICS (The Intergovernmental Organisation), what role are they playing in both FESTAC AFRICA and Africa's political economy/ regional integration.

As mentioned earlier, TV BRICS operates within the BRICS+ framework, collaborating not only with member states of the alliance on the African continent – currently South Africa, Egypt, and Ethiopia – but also with other nations, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Kenya. Facilitating information exchange and strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties among various African countries are key aspects of our mission.

Overall, the BRICS grouping plays a significant role in the economic development of African states. In 2023, trade between Africa and the BRICS countries nearly reached \$500 billion, establishing BRICS as the continent's largest trading partner.

Africa's economic growth has been steadily increasing over the past decade, but there is still much untapped potential. This development can be done through various means, including trade, investment, knowledge sharing and, of course professional media coverage of the events of the international agenda. Africa's media resources should have an access or let me say a way to freely perform its own vision to the global audience, to tell more about Africa's economic agenda, struggles the countries face and those solutions Africa has actually to offer

to the world. This can be done through international information exchange that performs national agenda of each country to the audience of another country making them closer and building a base for further connections and mutual interests in various fields. We believe it helps to stimulate a common growth of the country when we put a light on any field using media tools.

Given the ongoing trend towards BRICS expansion and the current intentions of some nations to join the association and even launch their own currency, there is ample reason to believe that economic and humanitarian cooperation will continue to gain momentum.

## CLARION CALL

As a part of FESTAC AFRICA Festival media support TV BRICS aims to build relationships between countries and foster dialogue between states, promote the African diverse culture in the BRICS and BRICS+ media landscape. We immensely appreciate cooperation with FESTAC AFRICA and truly believe that our partnership allows us to showcase the beautiful side of this vibrant continent.



# SCHOOL LIFE AND REAL LIFE

## BY OSCAR ALANDO

Over the past years, there has always been a conflict as to whether school experience is great for all children or not. Currently, it's very clear that to some children, school is a great experience for them. For others, this experience for them seems to be the worst in their lives. It's also clear that every child has potential and personal ability. Unfortunately just as we've seen it in the previous statement, clarity unveils itself that the potential and the abilities of children, may not be recognized by the educational system, which could be in turn crush them. Consider Albert Einstein, who is said to have failed to impress his teachers. From lower levels to higher levels of education, his teachers occasionally accused him for laziness as well as sloppy and insubordinate with respect to character.

Furthermore, his teachers even went to an extent of imposing an imaginary impression in his mind, that he would never make it in life. Interestingly, the teachers' point of view lost its value later on, when Einstein ended up with a higher reputation as one of the most influential scientists in history. Up to this moment, I'm sure that every parent must have realized that they are obliged to meet the genius in their children. Just as you all know, a better percentage of parents know that a child's true genius is found in their dreams. This is something that can easily be observed from their early ages, based on the ideas and things that tend to make them joyous, fascinate them and challenge them. In simple terms, protecting and nurturing the genius in a child is the most important obligation that every responsible parent should be bound to.

## AFROSTAR DIGITAL CURRENCY COULD BE THE GLUE FOR AFRICAN UNITY

The quest to Unite the African continent remains work in progress, regardless of readily existing organizations and arrangements like the African Union and other regional intergovernmental organizations like the East African Community, appending economic blocs such as COMESA, ECOWAS et cetera.

While the work done thus far is commendable, there remains huge gaps with regards to tools of continental unity in Africa.

The A.U, The A.U Chairship and the A.U Commission Chairship are just but a few symbols of unity in Africa. However, it's obvious that leaders of our nation-states should get back to basics, just like union of the 54 American states began by the basic details.

One central currency could not only ease intracontinental trade, but catalyse unity and the growth of Africa's political economy. According to the founder of Afrostar digital currency, such should be digital, to allow a cashless economy in Africa, which could ease international trade. According to the founder of afrostar, time is not on our side, and



waiting for the promises from other entities could only amount to time wasting. "The digitization of Nigeria led to a quantum leap in it's economic trajectory," he said to his beguiled audience. "If we wait for the decades it will take to beat the bureaucracies of Inter Governmental Organisations, then we might not cross the bridge into the digital economy era," he said. "Afrostar is bridging that gap," he stated. "As we speak, we are putting it together to catalyse Africa's transition into the digital age," Dr. Wallace said. "We don't want to miss out on the opportunity to place ourselves at the fore-front of the digital economy as a continent," he stated.

"As a continent whose population is primarily youth, we will place young people at the fore-front of the conversation on Afrostar's progress," he stated. "Our continent's future is fragile and plinched on their wellbeing," he said. "As such, we must mentor them."

It is evident, that the unity of the American states and their use of One central currency escalated the rise of the USA into the top of the world order. This is further emphasised by the use of the USD as a currency anchor.





# A DIALOGUE WITH FESTAC MEDIA AMBASSADOR FOR THE UNITED STATES CHERIAN CHACKO

## INTRODUCTION

I am Cherian Chacko a Media and Entertainment consultant for several Indian and Foreign Movie producers, Television Stations, Video on Demand, Mobile Operators in distributing their content worldwide.

I have been appointed as the Ambassador for Media and Entertainment for FESTAC. My role is to promote the FESTAC by bringing entertainment specially movies from different countries and languages to showcase at FESTAC so that African community understand the culture values of each countries from the film they watch.

## Q. HOW DO YOU THINK CULTURE BLEND WILL BE AT PLAY DURING FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL

Watching foreign movies has several benefits for cross-cultural understanding. Firstly, movies can shape people's perceptions about other cultures and develop intercultural competences. Secondly, movies provide authentic examples of cultural conflict, shock, and miscommunication, allowing students to learn and understand communicative skills between different cultures. Thirdly, films can increase students' cultural awareness by providing interesting material, facilitating easier understanding of the material, and allowing students to compare their own culture with others. Additionally, movies can contribute to the understanding of cultural diversity and promote intercultural understanding, eradicating stereotypes and fostering peaceful coexistence. Lastly, foreign films can be used as a modality to develop a deeper understanding of other cultures in cross-cultural management courses.

## Q; WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT AFRICAN FILM INDUSTRY AND HOW FESTAC WILL PROMOTE IT?



Nollywood is known for its unique storytelling, rich cultural connotations, and high production rate. The phenomenon of diasporan migration, characterized by the dispersal of African communities worldwide due to historical, economic, and social factors, can now enrich themselves with their African heritage. Nollywood is also having an economic impact. The industry is creating jobs by employing over 200,000 people.

Its films are shown in over 50 countries, bringing in foreign investment and providing a much-needed boost to the Nigerian economy. The most successful industry is in Nigeria. 'Nollywood' produces the third most films annually (behind Hollywood, and India's 'Bollywood') – around 2500 films per year.

Nollywood films are often stereotyped as unsophisticated and crude. One recent example is The Black Book, a 2023 Nigerian film by director Editi Effiong, which achieved both critical and commercial success, reaching number three in the Netflix charts.



These filmmakers, producers and writers have achieved success through their own dedication to storytelling. But now Netflix is recognizing their talent and putting substantial investment into filmmaking on the continent. Afreximbank has launched a new \$1bn film fund for African filmmakers, in a sign that players from outside the entertainment industry are recognizing the commercial potential in African filmmaking.

## Q. ELABORATE THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF NOLLYWOOD, HOLLYWOOD AND BOLLYWOOD AND HOW THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF FESTAC

Bollywood provides a source of entertainment and escapism for millions of Indians. It offers a break from the routine and allows people to immerse themselves in stories, music, and dance. Bollywood has helped promote Indian culture globally. Actors like Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai have gained international fame, contributing to India's soft power. Bollywood is a significant contributor to the Indian economy, generating employment, driving tourism, and influencing various industries, including fashion and music. The impact of Bollywood on Indian culture is undeniable. From shaping fashion trends to influencing wedding customs, Bollywood has left an indelible mark on various aspects of Indian Society. The film industry's portrayal of relationships, family dynamics, and societal issues has contributed to shaping and reflecting Indian cultural norms and values. Its influence extends beyond the borders of India, resonating with the global Indian diaspora and introducing the world to the rich tapestry of Indian culture. Bollywood's storytelling and visual representation have significantly contributed to the evolution of Indian cultural norms and traditions.

The influence of Bollywood on Indian weddings is undeniable. The grandiose portrayal of weddings in Bollywood movies has significantly impacted the way Indian weddings are celebrated. From extravagant ceremonies to elaborate rituals, Bollywood has set trends and expectations for weddings, influencing everything from attire and jewelry choices to music and choreography. Bollywood's romantic narratives and depiction of familial celebrations have shaped the aspirations and dreams associated with weddings, making it an integral part of the cultural ethos surrounding matrimonial ceremonies in India. Indian Jewellery industry is thriving in India and abroad.





Bollywood has played a crucial role in influencing tourism in India. The picturesque landscapes and vibrant cultural depictions in Bollywood films have captivated audiences worldwide, piquing their interest in exploring the diverse and enchanting destinations portrayed on screen. From the snow-capped mountains of the Himalayas to the bustling streets of Mumbai, Bollywood has showcased the beauty and allure of various Indian locales, serving as a visual invitation for travelers.

The industry's impact on Indian tourism is evident in the growing number of visitors seeking to experience the scenes and settings immortalized in their favorite films. Consequently, Bollywood has not only contributed to the global recognition of African tourist attractions but has also played a significant part in shaping the narrative of Africa as a culturally rich and visually stunning travel destination. Through FESTAC there will be a boost to the African Tourism.



# Chad Elections

By Peter Wandera

After the push and pull as far as the elections in Chad are concerned, the announcement by the electoral agencies that the polls will take place on 6th May 2024 has provided N'djamena with a watershed moment. The announcement has sent jitters to various camps, and some of the competitors intending to occupy the hot seat have developed cold feet, citing that the process won't be free and fair. The concerns of those at the crossroads on whether to join the fray or chicken out are genuine since Chad has no history of conducting free and fair polls. Chad is a country where the Deby's have reigned supreme; Chad has always been the Deby's footstool, their birthright since the father of the current president, Idriss Deby, ruled for more than thirty years. It took a rebel's bullet to bell the cat and to put a stop to his iron-fisted era.

The rise of the Deby dynasty has been akin to a fairytale, a surge from grass to grace. Idriss Deby, born in Berdoba to a herdsman family, fought his way to the top; he played a central role in the Toyota war that led to the victory of Chad in the Libyan-Chadian conflict. After serving in different capacities under the Habre regime, he was thrown under the bus by Habre on suspicion that he was plotting a coup. Deby was forced to flee and stay in Libya. Muammar Gaddafi welcomed him with open arms, and they began a camaraderie that would span years. After his stay in Libya, he formed an army that would later propel him to the top seat, of course, through a coup since the Africa of the 1980s coups became the order of the day. It was in Sudan that he formed the Patriotic Salvation Movement with the blessings of Gaddafi and Sudan. The Patriotic Salvation Movement has been a key cornerstone in the consolidation of power by the Deby's.

When death knocked on his door, he had just won another election, and so he went to support his soldiers on the frontline. The group that was responsible for his death was the Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT). After his death, the government and the parliament were suspended, a transitional military council was put in place, and his son Mahamat Deby was made the chairman. These sweeping changes in the constitution were intended to hand over power to Mahamat Deby. The support that he has received from the big brothers has cemented his rule and tightened his grip on Chad. He has suspended the constitution and extended his illegal stay in office with the blessings of Paris. Now that it's cast in stone that he is the blue boy of the west, chances of him losing these coming polls is a matter of wait and see.

This election is also the first of its kind in the sense that the president and his prime minister will be going for each other's jugular. Despite the electoral body approving ten candidates, it's going to be a two-horse race pitting Mahamat Deby and Success Masra.

CHAD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
WILL TAKE PLACE ON;

**6th MAY**  
**2024**

The Author holds a Bachelors degree in  
History and International Relations

# TORRENTS AND TURMOIL: NAIROBI'S APRIL AGONY

As the skies above Nairobi darkened ominously, residents braced themselves for the deluge that was to come. April 2024 will be etched in the memory of Nairobians as the month when nature unleashed its fury upon their city. The relentless rains began in March, but it was in April that the heavens truly opened, transforming streets into rivers and homes into islands. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports a grim tally: at least 32 lives lost, over 40,000 displaced, and a city grappling with the aftermath of nature's wrath.



BY VIOLA ADHIAMBO

The Kenya Meteorological Department had issued warnings of "heavy to very heavy" rainfall, but the ferocity of the flash floods caught many by surprise. Nairobi County, the heart of Kenya's capital, was particularly hard hit. The floods were indiscriminate, sparing neither the affluent neighborhoods nor the informal settlements that dot the city's landscape. In Kibra, one of Africa's largest slums, the raging torrents swept away what little the residents had, leaving a trail of destruction and despair.

The stories of loss are heart-wrenching. A young mother in Kayole recounts how the floodwaters burst into her home at night, washing away her belongings and leaving her family with nothing but the clothes on their backs. In Mukuru Kwa Njenga, a father tells of his futile attempt to save his small business, only to watch it crumble before his eyes. These are not isolated incidents; they are the collective agony of a city under siege by nature.

The economic toll is staggering. The floods have decimated crops, killed livestock, and destroyed businesses. Schools, water sources, and major roads have not been spared either. The damage to infrastructure has severed vital lifelines, making the delivery of aid and the restoration of normalcy an uphill battle. The OCHA's update paints a bleak picture: over 960 livestock perished, and 24,010 acres of cropland were lost to the floods.

Yet, amidst the chaos, there are glimmers of hope and resilience. Communities have come together, offering shelter and support to those most affected. Friends and strangers alike have opened their doors to the displaced, embodying the spirit of 'Harambee'—all pull together. Humanitarian efforts, led by the government and supported by partners, are underway, providing relief to those in need. An estimated 20,590 people have received assistance, a testament to the unwavering human spirit in the face of adversity.

The aftermath of the floods has also sparked a conversation about urban planning and climate change. Nairobi's rapid growth, coupled with inadequate infrastructure, has exacerbated the impact of such natural disasters. Blocked drainage systems, uncontrolled construction, and deforestation have all contributed to the city's vulnerability. As the clean-up begins, there is a growing call for action to build a more resilient Nairobi, one that can withstand the challenges posed by a changing climate.

In the wake of the floods, the Kenyan government has advised communities in flood-prone areas to move to higher ground. The Meteorological Department's forecast suggests that the rainfall will persist, with heavy downpours expected to continue. The people of Nairobi are facing this crisis with courage and determination, but they also look to the future with a sense of urgency, knowing that the time to prepare for the next storm is now.

As the waters recede, the stories of loss and survival will remain a reminder of the April floods that brought Nairobi to its knees. But in these stories, there is also a narrative of hope, of a city that is down but not out, a community that stands together, and a resolve to rebuild stronger and wiser than before. The floods of April 2024 will be remembered not just for the havoc they wreaked, but for the lessons they taught and the unity they forged in the heart of Kenya.



## IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT YOUNG BOYS



A surge of incels is blatant. The consumption of misogynistic content is ubiquitous. Our young men are being misled by some of it. This has to stop. However, it takes collective responsibility to achieve that. It requires the unity of 'enough is enough' to end the polarisation. Let's face it, we cannot blame men for it. Neither can we blame women for anything. We simply have to effect an inclusive approach. We cannot talk

about gender parity without women when men are not empowered and vice versa. For a long time, the conversation has demonized specific genders for specific instances of gender based violence, whereas the imperils of said menace cut across both genders.

Pornography and access to it is another grey area that demurs the development of young boys and men. Let's intensify social protection in all aspects of life, for both men and women, in order to ensure that there is a balance regarding gender affairs.

Attention to detail is necessary to the success of social protection in all spectrums of life. If we want to involve men, let's do it in a manner unlikely to make women feel alienated and vice versa.

Victimisation is another gap. If we victimize one gender, we risk creating a fertile ground for gender animosity. It is also a gap in social protection. This is because it increases our susceptibility to gender biases. Women must not be victims of gender gaps all the time, while men can also not be perpetrators of gender based violence all the time. There are instances of femal villains



# 2024



**FESTAC  
AFRICA  
FESTIVAL**



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