



Black Queen is coming to Kenya.

Regardless of the unprecedented postponement of FESTAC Africa Festival, stalwart pan Africans are still committed to seeing it's success. In this volume, City Bite Magazine spoke with Black Queen Africa, an Activist and a teacher who is poised to attend the Festival from South Africa... **PG.5**



Since 1794, the meaning of the term terrorism has undergone a number of changes, the most important being an almost complete shift from state actors to non-state actors as perpetrators of terrorism... **PG. 18-19**



Kenyans who are at a danger of contracting waterborne diseases in camps where they are filled to the brim, the same Kenyans whose crops and animals have been swept away and are at a risk of food... **PG. 9**

25TH -1ST
AUG-SEPT
2024
FESTAC WEEK

CITY BITE MAGAZINE



Maish was upset. She'd never heard of this guy Savoy and even being contacted by the CIA could "raise questions with friends and colleagues." She was "very active in black organizations" and her doctoral dissertation was on Black Power and Pan-Africanism... **PG. 13**

Danai Gurira Addresses UN Security Council on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Disarmament.

"I am here today to amplify the voices of those who are never seen and heard, to acknowledge their suffering, and to make sure they are not forgotten...**PG.6**



FESTAC AFRICA team applauded for postponing the 2024 Festival in the backdrop of humanitarian crisis caused by abnormal rainfall that led to the displacement of more than 10,000 people across Kisumu County **PG.1**

I'm one of those who pray that Raila Odinga does not get the AU job. Kenya still needs him.



William Kabogo



FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL 2024 POSTPONED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS

Was postponing Festac Africa Festival the right thing to do? Was it inevitable? Well, regardless of the perspective you view it from, there are extremely solid grounds for the postponement of the Festival.

In Kenya, the ravaging impact of abnormal rainfall has affected well over 380,573 people in different ways. This, exposed the country to a humanitarian crisis, which needed concerted intervention, as those affected were left in sorry conditions, where some lost their kin in the landslides caused by floods.

This situation also exposed young children to many imperils, including cold related diseases like pneumonia and those carried by mosquito and other vectors that breed in stagnant waters. Additionally, congestion in camping sites and learning centres which provided shelters to the displaced persons bears many cons than pros, given the existence of air borne diseases, including the previously deadly SARS Covid-19, which's impact is yet to be completely forgotten by many in the world.

It's 2024? Yes it is! And humanity is the reason we complement one another. Without it, neither a community nor a civilization has a soul. FESTAC, as an organised entity with the objective of revitalising our African origins and belief systems is under the obligation to lead by example, and take the front line in any form of humanitarian assistance whenever a need arises, a theory which justifies the postponement of the Festival.

Since, FESTAC Chairman Eng. Yinka Abioye has, infact led his team in intervention efforts in partnership with The County Government of Kisumu which has, according to Mr. Yinka given it's blessings and support to the planners whenever, however and wherever need has arisen thus far.

"Kisumu was poised to host the 5th World Blacks and Africa Festival of Arts and Culture -



FESTAC AFRICA from 20th -26th May, 2024," a statement from the FESTAC Steering Committee reads in part. "Preparations have been in top gear with many delegates from across Africa and the world confirming participation in this epic celebration of African heritage, Culture, Sports-including the East African Community games and sustainable growth which serves as a convergence point for diverse cultures," the statement declares.

"We however regret to announce that this festival has now been postponed due to aggravated and unpredictable weather conditions in Kisumu County and the rest of Kenya, following heavy rainfall and massive flooding that has killed more than 200 people," it continues.

"Safety on highways connecting the Capital city Nairobi with Kisumu and other Western Kenya towns have remained a source of grave concern because the floods continue to destroy bridges and wash away roads. Deadly landslides have been reported in many parts along the highways, putting the lives of travelers at risk.

Some of the venues booked for FESTAC along the shores of Lake Victoria have been flooded, due to back flow from the lake, rendering them inaccessible," via the statement, the committee declares. "Furthermore, the County Government is battling a serious humanitarian crisis after the floods displaced more than 15,000 people and destroyed crops worth over 60

million in all the 8 SubCounties," it is stated.

"Having considered the magnitude of the festival and levels of risks linked to the bad weather conditions, as predicted by the meteorological department, the County leadership and the FESTAC Organizing Committee have resolved to POSTPONE the festival to 25th August-1st September,2024. All other arrangements, including the speakers, programs and guest lists remain the same," the statement, that's signed by both Steering Committee Chairperson Mr. Phillip Adundo and Festac Chairman Mr. Yinka Abioye declared.

"We take this opportunity to sincerely apologize to all sponsors,Corporate Organisations, individuals and exhibitors who had spent huge resources to prepare for this event. Kindly accept our APOLOGIES.

We therefore humbly plead with service providers - including Airlines and hotels that had booked in the delegates for the festival not to cancel the bookings but transfer them in-line with the new dates, as part of compassion with all those inconvenienced by the turn of events. We remain committed to delivering the best 5th Worlds Black and African

Festival of Arts and Culture- FESTAC AFRICA festival 2024."

At the end of the statement, the classic warm regards salutation is appended, reminding everyone to keep warm regardless of the cold brought about by the adversity of the floods.

However, throughout the statement, the theme of humanity and service to it is underscored, as the key basis for postponement.

While responding to the postponement, a number of residents have expressed positivity towards the move, having witnessed the team's contributions to humanitarian aid in the past two weeks or so.

"They have come to our remote communities and that's all that matter," one resident said. "FESTAC, as a big entity and a pan african organisation has, just by doing the small acts of random kindness to victims in our communities, reminded us of the beauty in our togetherness," he said. "We have to express our gratitude towards them and we also have to appreciate their partners and our own Governor H.E Anyang' Nyong'o for spearheading the intervention but also for roping FESTAC team on board," he declared.

"It is also a good thing to know that we have more time to restrategy, so that we can take part in the festival come August," he added. "This festival in Kisumu will be a historic one, not only because of it's readily glamorous stature but also for the fact that on the face of adversity, when dark clouds engulfed our community, they came through and supported our people in varied ways."

According to Eng. Yinka, the festival Chairman, there's no greater course than the quest to serve humanity when need arises.



FESTAC AFRICA Chairman Eng. Yinka Abioye

"The main purpose of Festac Africa is to revitalise the soul of Afrocentricism," Abioye said. "A part of awakening our African spirit is through Ubuntu, a principle that FESTAC Africa is plinched on. We cannot celebrate, as the Governor puts it, when some of us are suffering," he said. "This is why the Festival postponement was a necessary evil. It is, in part, the course of FESTAC Africa to serve humanity," Yinka appended. "How can we have a sustainable growth trajectory when some of our people are in turmoil?," he asked. "We cannot leave some of us behind. We must rally our efforts and support them, in the difficult moments," he said.

According to the new dates, FESTAC Africa Festival is about three months away from the Africa day, a date that was to be celebrated by the pan african enthusiasts through a networking gala- dinner. This accentuates the setbacks that the new development has brought about. However, to Festival CEO Grace Mumo, this opens opportunities for many things. "FESTAC Festival is the greatest pan-african gathering in history," Mumo says. "And this postponement, regardless of it's timing and cons is just a leeway to more opportunities it could bring to the City of Kisumu," she told us. "We know, for sure that this event will be historic, and will leave a permanent legacy in communities in Kisumu," she said.

In every sense of the word, the extraordinary rainfall has caused turmoil in the grassroots of communities in Kenya, a justification for FESTAC's decision to shift attention towards intervention.

However, preparations continue to take place with various ambassadors and directors remaining active in planning their different segments.



Houses in some parts of Kisumu where floods were rampant

In Nigeria, there was a road trip across the streets of Abuja, the capital city of the federal state, to rally all to attend the festival in Kisumu. Across the streets of the city, residents were reminded of the benefits that the Festival can bring to a host city and talented artists reminded of how the platform could expose them to more opportunities. Led by Benny Wilis, the afrojamrock crown jewell who also doubles up as FESTAC's official cinematographer for the festival. In addition, the ruling class in Kisumu has been said to offer their good will to support the team, throughout the process of making arrangements to welcome luminaries of art, culture and other professions, to leave a lasting mark across communities in Kisumu and it's environs.



Asked of their readiness and preparedness, guests from different parts of the world have expressed high expectations for the festival, some hoping to have a platform that can unite the continent once and for all. From South Africa, Nomi Mzamani, popularly known as Black Queen has highlighted a need for inter-African friendships. As an activist championing unity in Africa, she maintain s that there is a need for

many such platforms as Festac Africa Festival to cajole Africans into lasting unity and breaking the yokes of Xenophobia and Afrophobia.

To Dr. Maya Pradeep, "Africa is the world 2nd largest continent, so spectacularly gorgeous that it would be right to call Africa an emotion. It is a land of origin for mankind and is full of vibrant culture and heritage," Maya declared.

"So, I am really excited to be there as the Ambassador for FESTAC Africa. This years' FESTAC' Africa Festival is going to be different. It will not only be the celebration of art & culture, dance, fashion and entertainment but it is also focusing on bringing business, trade and investment forums for the sustainable Growth Trajectory for Africa and the focus is to Educate and Empower African people by working on various sectors of business. Africa is a potentially emerging business market and so the timing is just perfect. While the focus is on growth of Africa, we will be also getting to Explore Africa's culture and traditions, dance & drama, food and people and I am excitedly looking forward to this exchange of culture & thoughts that will break barriers and take us forward to embark on new horizon and potential business opportunities all this while relaxing and enjoying the boundless spirit of Africa," she added.

"I think of it as a unique opportunity because FESTAC Africa is creating a platform to celebrate life while talking about business and growth. This festival bring together so many countries and people as One Family and is so similar to our Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which means The world is One Family and such festivities play a greater role in unifying the whole universe and spreads love and celebration of mankind which is the of the hour considering the war and uncertainties the world is facing today. See you all at The FESTAC Africa Festival !! Cheers !!"

This depicts the excitement with which many still wait for the festival, which comes at a time when Africa is yearning for more unifying voices and initiatives than ever before.



SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS 2024



Peter Wandera

Mandela's party is facing the fight of its life in the forthcoming elections slated for 29th May 2024. The African National Congress has stood the test of time, and this can be noted by the many years the party has been in existence. ANC was founded in Bloemfontein in 1912, and its foundation was to fight for the rights of black South Africans. The ANC is such a force to reckon with in the Rainbow Republic since whoever becomes the president of the party is home and dry as far as leading the country. The party's influence is not only tethered within South Africa; the influence of this colossus reverberates far and beyond. Many parties the world over have made a pilgrimage to Luthuli House to benchmark on how to run political parties.

Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa is the de facto leader and the president of the African National Congress. His rise to the top echelons of the party is not by accident but a well-crafted process by the father of the nation, Nelson Mandela. Ramaphosa was the man after Madiba's heart; he had a soft spot for him, and this led Ramaphosa to be elected the secretary general of the ANC. Mandela also made him a chief negotiator in the talks that ended apartheid. Cyril, who had honed his skills in the trade union sector after being the secretary general of the National Union of Mineworkers, is not a pushover; his ability to know when to be a fox and a lion made him Mandela's preferred successor.

Cyril Ramaphosa is so blue-eyed that despite Madiba fronting him to take over from him after his retirement, he chose to resign from politics and wire his energies to private business. In the business sector, he was still able to amass a fortune that made him one of the richest South Africans. Many thought that Matamela was not cut out for high-octane politics; they were dead wrong. His comeback in politics was imminent because when he returned to the ANC, it did not take long before he was made the deputy president of the African National Congress. The return of Matamela to the ANC was strategic; the party needed to resuscitate its public appeal and regain its mojo, and the only person who could regain public trust was Cyril Ramaphosa.

The party is on its deathbed because those entrusted with making the lives of the populace better abandoned the struggle and instead went on a looting spree. The top honchos in the ANC are the richest people, whereas the party supporters are still living in squalor. Project Cyril Ramaphosa was supposed to be a breath of fresh air because he has the charm and charisma to sway public opinion compared to other luminaries in the ANC who have lost public appeal and trust. Despite its dwindling fortunes, Ramaphosa has managed to glue the party together; however, his greatest headache has been Jacob Zuma. Zuma has been a thorn in the flesh of the ANC since his forced retirement after being recalled by the party.

AFTWOB TO PARTNER WITH NOLAN JAMES REHABILITATION CENTRE

It is reported that The Association For The Welfare of The Boy Child, formally abbreviated as AFTWOB has entered the preliminary stages of choreographing a working truce with Nolan James Rehabilitation Facility, headquartered in Nyamasaria, in the outskirts of Kisumu.

According to inside sources, the two organisations are looking into long term collaboration that will see AFTWOB host capacity building forums in the facilities, provide donations to the organisation and support programs that match their objectives. In return, Nolan James will provide facilities for forums and adopt

some beneficiaries of the Organisation, especially those suffering from drugs and substance abuse, which are the Key focus for the facility, that also offers spiritual guidance to it's clients in their paths towards recovery.

Via a statement posted on Social media, AFTWOB's Executive Secretary Mr. Odima Osure said that collaboration is the key to achieving their remote objectives, appending a veiled detail of the conversation that took place between himself and the representatives of the centre. "...we discussed, conclusively, the details of our potential collaboration in the quest to nurture, empower, educate and protect young boys into responsible young men..." the statement read in part.

INDIA ELECTION 2024 UPDATES: 49 SEATS VOTE IN PHASE 5 OF LOK SABHA POLLS

The fifth phase of voting in India's seven-phase election has concluded in 49 seats across six states and two union territories, including Ladakh.

The first four phases of the mammoth vote were held on April 19, April 26, May 7 and May 13. The next two phases fall on May 25 and June 1, and the votes will be counted on June 4.

The election primarily pits the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by two-time Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), against the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), spearheaded by the main opposition Indian National Congress party.

Amethi and Rae Bareilly, the family bastions of the Congress's Gandhi family, voted in Phase 5, as well as the district where a grand Ram temple was built on the ruins of a Mughal-era mosque in Uttar Pradesh state. There are about 969 million registered voters to elect 543 members of Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, in the world's largest democratic exercise over six weeks.

AS OF 20TH MAY 2024.

FFROMAL-JAZEERA WEBSITE



AFRICA TODAY; THROUGH THE EYES OF MARCUS GARVEY

“Man in the full knowledge of himself is a superb and supreme creature of creation. When man becomes possessor of the knowledge of himself, he becomes master of his environment, the captain of his own ship, the director of his own destiny, the accomplisher of his own ends.”— Marcus Garvey I have listened with great astonishment and admiration to Marcus Garvey’s speeches to the Universal Negro Improvement Association. The man was the John the Baptist of the Black movement. He is undoubtedly the activist philosopher of the African Renaissance, and if one is to call themselves a Pan African, one must first pay tribute to one of the greatest black men who ever lived.

In looking at the life of Garvey, I would say he suffered no fools or ideological leanings as often do men who are schooled or want to sound politically correct. In this light, he towered above W.E.B Dubois, who, in all reverence did a great work in establishing the black scholarly excellence, even though he came off as phony and detached from the black experience. On the other hand, Garvey, my man, did not have the fatigue or limitations that come with the need to belong to the elite group. He did not have to play to the gallery.

He had the graveling spirit of a Baptist Evangelist and the spirit of a chorister. A man on the flow, channeling the truth within and the vision beyond. A perfect vessel for the God of Ethiopia and the emancipatory movement. To this end, he was the first man to cast forth the vision of Africa for Africans, a voice that would be echoed years later to bring Africa which was then under colonial authority to independence. With a vision born out of a romanticist vision for Africa, and Africa’s capabilities, the black man from Jamaica, called on the African descendants in the US to go back to the promised land. Even though born in the Caribbean, the Black Moses, wanted the African to rise to the majestic heights of his rich heritage and pride.

Now, years gone, and the years of



Meshack Nzioka

bondage and full emancipation of Africa having happened, Garvey’s message is more profound for Africans to attain economic, social, and cultural independence. With the international order creating the multipolar hegemony, with the Dragon and the Eagle fighting for dominance, the philosophy of Garvey of black supremacy and Africa’s re-emergence and recalibration must ring loud. To do this, it is essential to unshackle the minds of Africans, for the greatest fetters at the moment are those who have confined Africans to East and West colonial mindsets – making Africa the guinea pig of ideological, military, and scientific experimentation. Now, Africa must not either cede to the Dragon’s gift or the Eagle’s promises. Africa is blessed with over 1.3 billion people, projected to be 2.5 billion people in 2050; a quarter of the world population is now a major owner-inhabitant of the earth. This makes Africa the continent of the now and of the future. An educated human resource pool and the most advanced generation and informed generation. This makes us the prize. Brothers and sisters: we better move like it.

To achieve this, Africans under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, must embrace their divine destiny of being co-creators with God. Marcus Garvey believed in the black man’s equality – transcending the notions of racial superiority in all its forms. In asserting the power of the divine, he said, “If the black man is created in the image of God, then God must be black.” The God of Ethiopia wants the Black man to embrace his intelligence and the mindset of the Creator. The merits of God’s blessings is found in the believe in the superiority of our minds and of our civilization. Sheba must in all its glory rise to the majestic heights that once made its kingdoms the wonder of the world.

For everywhere I look, from the tales of Ibn Batuta to the archeological discoveries, Africa’s exploits in architecture, commerce, and innovation, is a wonder to this day, be it the pyramids in Egypt, the Walled cities of Zimbabwe or the enterprising Empire of Mali.

She is not accidental, as some would claim, as Alexandria and Timbuktu attest to her thought leadership in Mathematics, Astronomy, Medicine, Alchemy, Physics, and Philosophy.

Bequeathed with such a heritage, the Black man must embrace technology, media, innovation, and commerce and master his destiny; for they are not new, but have been part of us, from the ancient days. The black man has been ‘the invisible man’ as Ralph Ellison so wrote. The black people of the world must no longer be invisible as the continent is no longer dark. This requires a mindset of cultural pride and cultural assertion. While Garvey’s Black Starline was stopped, Africa has now a bigger and better ship, AfCFTA, the ship that should lead to economic and regional integration. A ship that leads Africa to exploring the riches that lie within their continent.

We must now move from the penury and lame culture based on beggar-thy-neighbor to the honorable table of equal partnerships and collaborations. As Garvey said, “Any leadership that teaches you to depend on another race is a leadership that will enslave you.”

To this end, I celebrate the greats of our day who have taken the clarion call of “Liberate the minds of men and you will ultimately liberate the bodies of men” – and who have since created this great event, the Festac Festival to birth new philosophies, the new epistles to the Gospel of Garvey on Africa and Africans as the masters of their ship, and the captains of their destiny.

And now may the spirit of Garveyism, stir you, to live the creed: Up Africa! Up ye Mighty Race! Accomplish what you will!



Marcus Garvey [Coutersy]

The Author is the founder of Waka Africa

TETE A TETE WITH BLACK QUEEN AFRICA

Q1. INTRODUCTION

My name is Nomi Mzamani, but I'm commonly known as Black Queen Africa. I am a full time teacher in a special need school in Cape Town. In 2018, I started my own special need care centre, specifically for autistic children. I am passionate about youth and women empowerment and I do a lot of community work on that theme. Black Queen is my stage name, because I am also an actress, a music writer, film producer and a screen writer. I own Black Queen Africa production company through which nurture emerging talents.

Additionally, I am a seasoned voiceover artist, talk show host, presenter and an advocate for the welfare of special needs groups through awareness workshops.

Q2. What do you expect from FESTAC Africa Festival?

First of all I expect to learn and to network. By this I mean that I expect to acquire new knowledge on different things and disciplines. I have read, the respective resumés of different guests that will attend the festival. Naturally, I believe in learning from new people I meet. Every person that comes your way has a new, alien information or skill we can learn. It is infact another open secret that I am a black rights activist and a part of the All Africans Rising organisation. Through this organisation, we advocate against Xenophobia and crate awareness on the beauty of our oneness, our skin tone and our unity. Xenophobia has led to the deaths of many innocent Africans, simply for being strangers / from other countries.

Culture is also something that I am enthusiastic about. I'd like to learn the culture of different Kenyan communities and make new friendships of course. I am a personal friend to Kenyan activist Mr. Boniface Mwangi, and I will be happy to make new more. To me, it's only through partnership that we can make Africa a great continent. I'm a film storyteller, and I want to work with Kenyan film makers to tell some stories and communicate the beauty in unity, and the ugly side of such decisive vices as xenophobia.

Of importance is my urge to learn Swahili. Language is an ironclad part of culture and I would love to interact with Swahili speaking people and learn how to communicate in that language. I am a curious person and love to know more about new things. This is part of the reasons why I am excited and waiting for the FESTAC Africa Festival 2024.



It also goes without mentioning that inter-personal relationships with people from foreign countries are crucial to my activism. As an All Africans Rising activist, I want to build relationships with the Kenyan people and get to know a number of them at personal levels. This will pave ways for collaboration. Regardless of similarities in our film production and story telling talents, we, as producers and story tellers have different strengths. We'd like to exchange ideas with Kenyan story tellers and blend perspectives to come up with more compelling stories about Africa. We are tired of following the same scripts on Hollywood movies every now and then. Let us start collaborating and together, tell the stories of African continent.



Q3. How does FESTAC Africa, relate to your work in Activism?

I am anti-afrophobic. I am anti-xenophobic. My activism work revolve around the pride of African skin tone, belief systems and the beauty of what we can achieve when we unite. During Africa weeks, I mobilise artists and sportsperson to take part in sports and art-related events. FESTAC Africa Festival, as a historic event revolves around the theme of Unity in Africa. It also, if not for the postponement, normally take place during the Africa Week and that is something that is quite close to my heart. For instance, the motivation behind my activism was the notion by some South Africans that they are not part of the continent and the rampant xenophobic attitudes in some parts of the country. Foreign Africans are considered poor by some South African citizens and that is a stereotype we must all work together to curtail. An elevated platform like FESTAC Africa can escalate this kind of objective. We have read about FESTAC 77' and understood just how big an impact that an event of such magnitude can leave in the society. It brings people from all walks of life together. It creates an umbrella platform for Africans to talk about Africa and how to make it a better and original place for our cultural beliefs to thrive.

By a way of illustration, in 2023, I joined forces with a Nigerian Film maker to write a movie with a theme that revolved around human rights and was launched on human rights day. This was aimed at creating awareness on the imperils of human rights violation. This movie will be screened during FESTAC Africa, something that in my view is a proof of the importance of this festival to the future of Africa, African story telling and filming. Personally, just the fact that a film that I contributed to is being screened makes me proud, which emphasizes the objective of the festival with regards to elevating brands and growing them.

Q3.Parting shot

Ti want to thank the planners of FESTAC Africa Festival because it provides a platform for uniting Africans. Love, should be the glue for the continent and through FESTAC, we can understand different cultures, interact at personal and professional levels and grow together.

Danai Gurira Addresses UN Security Council on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Disarmament.



Caroline Nyagaki

In a powerful address to the United Nations Security Council, acclaimed actress and Goodwill Ambassador Danai Gurira shed light on the urgent need to address conflict-related sexual violence, disarmament, and the pervasive cultures of impunity that allow such atrocities to persist.

Gurira, known for her roles in "Black Panther" and "The Walking Dead," brought her advocacy to the global stage as she briefed the Security Council Open Debate. Her impassioned speech resonated with delegates as she spoke on behalf of those whose voices are often silenced amidst the chaos of conflict.

"I am here today to amplify the voices of those who are never seen and heard, to acknowledge their suffering, and to make sure they are not forgotten," Gurira affirmed, her words echoing with unwavering determination.

The issue of conflict-related sexual violence remains a grave concern, with countless individuals, particularly women and girls, becoming victims of brutal acts intended to terrorize and subjugate entire communities. Gurira underscored the urgent need for collective action to address this scourge, emphasizing the importance of prevention, protection, and justice for survivors.

Moreover, Gurira highlighted the critical link between disarmament and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict zones. The proliferation of arms not only exacerbates the intensity of conflicts but also increases the vulnerability of civilians, particularly women and children, to sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

Disarmament is not only a matter of peace and security but also a fundamental component of protecting human rights and dignity," Gurira declared, calling for concerted efforts to disarm combatants and promote sustainable peacebuilding initiatives.

Central to Gurira's address was the imperative to end cultures of impunity that shield perpetrators from accountability. Too often, those responsible for perpetrating sexual violence during armed conflicts evade justice, perpetuating cycles of violence and trauma. Gurira urged the international community to strengthen legal frameworks, support transitional justice mechanisms, and ensure access to justice for survivors.

Disarmament is not only a matter of peace and security but also a fundamental component of protecting human rights and dignity

Gurira

As a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations, Gurira has been a vocal advocate for gender equality, women's empowerment, and peacebuilding efforts around the world. Her impassioned plea before the Security Council serves as a poignant reminder of the collective responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and uphold the principles of human dignity and justice.

In the wake of her address, Gurira's words reverberate as a call to action for world leaders, civil society organizations, and individuals alike to join forces in the fight against conflict-related sexual violence, disarmament, and impunity. Only through concerted, coordinated efforts can the international community hope to build a future where all individuals can live free from the fear of violence and oppression.

A.U Commission Job in Jeopardy?



Did Mr. Odinga place his A.U Commission chairship aspirations on a quicksand? Last week, in an astounding turn of events, Mr. Odinga went on a ranting spree which was pejorative of the incumbent Kenya Kwanza administration, led by President William Ruto, who has been at the forefront of consolidating support from all parts of the continent for his quest to succeed outgoing Moussa Faki Mahamat as the next A.U Commission Chairperson since the news first broke. In all sense of the world, Raila deserves to assume said position, but without high value backing,

he could simply miss out on what many had thought could be his exit strategy from Kenya's political scene. As things stand, word has it that both Djibouti and Somalia are readily mulling on autonomously tabling their own candidates, in a move that could weaken his standing position after it was earlier reported that all East African Countries would back one candidate, suspected to have been the former Prime Minister.

"All members of his army, that he chose are thieves," he declared to a beguiled crowd, suspectedly referring to President William Ruto's cabinet. "What do they do?", he asked his animated audience in swahili. "They steal," in unison, they replied. "What do they do?" Mr. Odinga asked again. "The steal," the unrelenting crowd of supporters responded en vogue. "Everywhere they go, they steal," he appended. "Days ago, they promised us fertilizer, did it come?" he asked. "Did we see fertilizer or stones?" he asked, alluding to the fake fertilizer scandal. "The hoodwink citizens with stones and call it fertilizer," he said. "They are stupid! They're trash!" Raila claimed.

"Now they see the extraordinary rainfall but still order the opening of schools. Then they wait until the eleventh hour to suspend the opening of schools. Where were they?" Odinga asked twice, as if it was a poem's refrain. "These people do not know how to run an economy," he went on. "At this moment, the rainfall continue to met it's impact on us," In the semi-arid Arabian land, it's raining and they're experiencing floods because of climate change. They knew that the amount of rain this year would be abnormal. But they did absolutely nothing in preparation for it," he said. "Now, they tell people to climb hills and mountains. Where are they?," he asked.

Raila is best known for his talents in opposing the government of the day, and there have been fears of a secret truce between him and Ruto, leading up to his decision to go for the A.U position. However, with the new developments and latest assessment of Mr. Ruto's performance as President, could it impose changes in his support system?

NAVIGATING KENYA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE: A CALL TO ACTION FOR ORDINARY CITIZENS



Joy Achungo

In the swirling whirlwind of Kenya's political landscape, where the Kenya Kwanza government has ascended to power, we, the ordinary citizens, find ourselves amidst a perplexing tableau of wonders and woes. It's as if we've stumbled upon a chapter from the ancient scriptures, where tales of plagues and prodigies dance in eerie harmony. While I may not be a believer of spiritual warfare, maybe this is a start of me believing that our ancestors who have bitterly fought to ensure this land is prosperous are angry with us and we may need to pour some libation to appease them..How can it be that in a land where the Africa Climate Summit was hailed as a beacon of hope, where leaders spoke and strategies laid, loss and damage discussed and climate mitigation strategies emphasized is grappling with floods and poor drainage systems?

That the same country that promised better working conditions for its doctors who are working day and night to keep the whole nation alive have been on the road for more than three weeks now and are unable to reach an agreement, with some government officials who are to either keep their mouth shut or speak some sense making the blood of Kenyans boil with contempt as they carelessly spill words has it doctors on strike? How can a government that raises taxes to purportedly fund our nation's progress be embroiled in scandals involving fake fertilizers with the players unable to account for any word they say? That they have performed so poorly that they have to be impeached yet they underwent a thorough committee to approve their appointment? That a big airport such as the Jomo Kenyatta International airport has leaks and the Cabinet Secretary feels that a black out for more than twenty minutes is not as bad as people put it to be?

The people who are to speak on our behalf are constantly failing us. I mean, we can barely pick out the opposition. It as if everyone has their own interest. It is disheartening to see that the very people who would die for us are now trying to find their voices in big positions, including the African union, which may force them to seek support from the very government they scrutinized. Who dares chop the hand that feeds them? A government that is not under any watch can set our country in flames that will burn us alive, and seemingly that is where our country is heading to. Funny enough, our members of parliament who are to represent their people and legislate on various issues affecting the common mwananchi are dining with presidents, protecting their political bid in the upcoming elections as they camp in tents they were not even elected from. What makes this more evident is when ten independent members of parliament decided to join UDA's camp, even before the supreme court declared the former deputy president as the incoming president.

The same people who are to safeguard the constitution and legislate upon it already broke the rules of the game even before officially assuming their roles. The judiciary is also seemingly under siege. Their decisions are no longer final. The executive chooses to heed or not. Even as it declares the house levy unconstitutional, some players in the executive still feel it is necessary that it is imposed to Kenyans. If both parliament and the judiciary are failing us, then certainly we are digging ourselves a grave that is slowly consuming us all. The clergy and religious leaders have also lost words. How many have risen to condemn the injustices that people are facing? Who rose up to remind Kenyans that we did not just lose General Ogolla in the plane crash but also nine other senior military officers who also had families that depended on them? This is to remind all Kenyans that we are on our own and we have to solely look for means to save us.

These paradoxes, while not the direst of crises, serve as a clarion call to all Kenyans who yearn for better leadership, who demand accountability, and who refuse to accept mediocrity as the status quo. My fellow compatriots,

as humble taxpayers who have contributed diligently to the coffers of our nation, we who have felt every pinch of the tax that has been constantly increasing to ensure that we are able to pay for our debts and sustain ourselves as a country, we who have faced every pinch of inflation, I stand before you with a plea for action. We cannot afford to sit idly by as our hospitals falter under the weight of strikes, as our infrastructure crumbles, and as our leaders display a brazen disregard for the welfare of the common mwananchi. Article 1 of our Constitution, "All sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and shall be exercised only in accordance with this Constitution", bestows upon us, the ordinary citizens, the sovereign power to shape the destiny of our nation. It is a power not to be trifled with, but to be wielded with the force of a thousand storms. My fellow citizens, as we stand at the crossroads of our nation's destiny, let us reflect on the potency of our collective actions in shaping the course of our future.

In the chambers of public participation, where voices converge in discourse and debate, there is a critical question to ponder: how many among us have stepped forward to raise our concerns? Despite the fundamental role of public participation in shaping governance and policy decisions, the level of citizen engagement often falls short of what is necessary for a truly inclusive and accountable democracy. Many citizens remain passive observers rather than active participants in meetings and consultations where their input could make a significant difference. Furthermore, there is a lack of awareness and accessibility regarding these forums, with limited efforts made to ensure that information about public participation processes is readily available to all members of the community.

This raises another crucial point: how many have actively engaged in meetings, submitted feedback, and held our leaders accountable for their actions? Effective public participation requires more than just attendance; it demands active involvement, constructive dialogue, and a willingness to hold decision-makers accountable for their commitments and actions. Without this level of engagement, the voices of the people risk being drowned out by vested interests and bureaucratic processes. Moreover, who amongst us has risen to demand easier access to information regarding these public participation forums?

Transparency and accessibility are essential pillars of democratic governance, yet there is often a lack of effort to ensure that information about public participation processes is easily accessible to all citizens, especially those from marginalized communities. Demanding greater transparency and accessibility in these processes is essential to ensure that every voice has the opportunity to be heard and considered. Finally, how many take the time to go to the County Assembly website to confirm whether the most important document, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, has been published and the dates that the public participation forums will take place?

The County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) is a crucial document that outlines the county government's fiscal priorities and plans for the upcoming financial year. Yet, its publication and the scheduling of public participation forums surrounding it often go unnoticed by many citizens. This lack of awareness and engagement represents a missed opportunity for citizens to provide input on budgetary decisions that directly impact their lives and communities. Therefore, it is imperative for citizens to take an active role in monitoring and participating in public participation processes, holding their leaders accountable, and demanding greater transparency and accessibility in governance. Only through robust citizen engagement can we ensure that the voices of the people are heard and that decisions are made in the best interests of all.

When we wield the weapon of petitions and memorandums, it's essential to do so with the precision and determination of a master swordsman. Article 37 of our Constitution guarantees every person the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket, and present petitions to public authorities. Yet, the question remains: how many of us seize this opportunity to demand justice, accountability, and transparency from those who hold power?

Petitions and memorandums are powerful tools for expressing grievances, advocating for change, and holding leaders accountable. However, their effectiveness depends on the level of organization, strategy, and determination exhibited by those who wield them. When our leaders falter, as they inevitably will, it's crucial to question them with the ferocity and tenacity of a lioness protecting her cubs.

Article 73 mandates our leaders to serve with integrity and transparency, yet all too often, they fall short of these principles. In such instances, it's the duty of citizens to hold them to account, demand answers, and insist on corrective action. Resigning ourselves to apathy and indifference only perpetuates a cycle of impunity and undermines the very foundations of democracy. Therefore, it's imperative for citizens to exercise their rights, wield petitions and memorandums with precision, and demand accountability from those entrusted with power and responsibility.

My fellow citizens, the power to effect change lies within each and every one of us. Let us not squander this precious gift bestowed upon us by our Constitution. Let us rise up as one, with courage and conviction, and forge a path towards a brighter future for our beloved nation. As Martin Boers once said, "The single most dangerous thing for a democracy is to have political illiterates." Let us heed these words and embark on our journey towards a better tomorrow, guided by the principles of justice, integrity, and solidarity. The post-election violence has taught us many lessons, including the realization that the power to make or break the country is in our hands. We have sacrificed a lot for our nation, and we should not let a few individuals in the political class break what we have struggled to build for years. When our leaders falter, as they inevitably will, we must question them with the ferocity of a lioness protecting her cubs. Let us demand answers, let us seek accountability, and let us ensure that those who govern do so with the utmost respect for the rights and welfare of all Kenyans. My fellow citizens, the power to effect change lies within each and every one of us. Let us harness the power bestowed upon us by our Constitution, let us rise up as one, and let us forge a path towards a brighter future for our beloved Nation.



The County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) is a crucial document that outlines the county government's fiscal priorities and plans for the upcoming financial year.

JOY ”

A NEW DAWN FOR GENDER EQUITY!



There's a new dawn for gender equity. There's a conversation on the involvement of men and young boys in the efforts of addressing gender related gaps including gender based violence, gender empowerment and education.

Regardless of the many existing efforts in bridging these gaps, there exists a buffer zone that creates conducive grounds for polarisation of the different genders.

Incels are on the rise while male chauvinist content is ubiquitous. This has led to a balkanisation of the gender equity efforts making it onerous and complicated and either further widened the gap or kept in situ.

There's a stinging need for education. This is an ironclad part of The Association For The Welfare Of The Boy Child's objectives. As a unique organisation, it is consolidating partners and stakeholders to maximise on the impacts of our concerted efforts towards a gender parious world.

To empower the girl, one needs to empower the boy and vice versa. If one gender remains uneducated for instance, more cases of GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, femicide and misandry will be experienced.

This is why the platform provides an opportunity to holistically address these gaps in a modern way. By involving both men and women, a message is being passed that Gender equity is not about one sex, neither is it bad to support the development of a specific gender.

The buffer zone needs to be bridging. Gender equity cannot be achieved in a vacuum. We must have solid grounds and solid KPIs. AFTWOB places this theory at the centre of it's operations.

WHY KENYANS DON'T NEED MORE TAX

It is very bold of the president to think that the same Kenyans who have been affected by floods, the same Kenyans who have been left homeless due to floods, the same Kenyans who depend on a meal a day, the same Kenyans whose children are unable to resume back to school as they watch their schools being submerged and their roads being rendered impassable, the same Kenyans who are at a danger of contracting waterborne diseases in camps where they are filled to the brim, the same Kenyans whose crops and animals have been swept away and are at a risk of food insecurity, the same Kenyans who are grieving the loss of their loved ones and the bread winners of their families, the same Kenyans who have lost billions due to land slides, the same Kenyans who feel overburdened by the current taxes, the same Kenyans who are being affected by inflation rate, the same Kenyans who are facing mental torture due to the uncertainty of time- are the same Kenyans who deserve to be squeezed a little bit more for them to pay more taxes in the name of tightening their belts as they await for a future that is being proclaimed to be bright.

That these tax measures are absolutely necessary for us to realize our goals as a country, that we shall thank him later due to these measures, that if we sacrifice a little bit more, we shall see the promised land..It is good to give people hope. However hope can be ill founded and I am certain that the hope that the president is giving us is neither able to deliver its beneficence nor avert unfavorable side effects and is unworthy of our embrace. While I am not an economist, I am a Kenyan who believes that it is commendable to want people to have a bright future and a country to have a vibrant economy. It is however equally important to first diagnose the country's illnesses correctly and determine the central problem before taking any action. As someone who has tried to diagnose the problem, I am assured that more taxation is definitely not a cure to that which is ailing the country.

So today I decided to provide my diagnosis of our illness as a country and give a prescription hoping that Kenyans will realize that we do not have the worst problems that need us to 'tighten our belts' for our country to remain afloat. In reality, we have tightened out belts enough and any further tightening will barely allow us to breathe. In fact, it will be the cause of our own downfall.



So today I decided to provide my diagnosis of our illness as a country and give a prescription hoping that Kenyans will realize that we do not have the worst problems that need us to 'tighten our belts' for our country to remain afloat. In reality, we have tightened out belts enough and any further tightening will barely allow us to breathe. In fact, it will be the cause of our own downfall.

Our major illness is known by all. It is a song that has been sung over and over again. It is an ailment that has resulted to clueless leaders in our public offices who barely know what their office entails. They are out here ranting instead of concentrating on what Kenyans are expecting them to do. Instead of viewing it as an opportunity to serve Kenyans, they are viewing the office as an opportunity to squander money and get rich. Clueless public servants are as a result of poor systems of governance where instead of competent leaders, the political allies appoint each other as a token of gratitude after helping them to get in office. Antony Ebeh writes in the African News Weekly of May 27th, 1994,

PRESIDENT RUTO HAS
VOWED TO INCREASE TAX
TO

22%

BY THE TIME HIS TENURE
ENDS.

"A major cause of our problems in Nigeria is that our leaders have a primitive concept of public office. Public office in civilized societies, including some non-Western nations, is seen as a way to provide selfless service to one's nation. It is a way to give back to the country. Public office is cherished and respected. Public office holders are generally accountable to the people they serve. However, in the Nigerian context, public office is seen as a huge opportunity to enrich self and kindred

This explains why Nigeria is now one of the poorest nations in the world. In Nigeria, public office is seen as a means to acquire wealth and personal aggrandizement. By all standards, this concept of public office is primitive (Pg 7)

As it is Nigeria, it is very disheartening to let you know that seemingly, we are in the same WhatsApp group as many Kenyans will put it. The people who are to ensure we get the basic services we need such as healthcare are equally unsure of what needs to be done. The ministry of education for example has not provided clear guidelines on what our children who are unable to go to schools as their schools have been submerged will do to catch up with their fellows who are already at school. The same education that was to be an equalizer is the same one that is bringing inequality, and there is nothing more dangerous for a nation than a failing Education system. The Junior Secondary School teachers are on strike. The already confused Competency Based Curriculum is becoming more and more complicated by the day. It is even more complicated as private schools continue learning while their counterparts in public schools are unsure of what to do... How do we trust such a government that has its social sectors failing with more money? If the money they have is already making them drunk, will more money not make them lose their minds? For Kenya to realize its vision 2030, then the people in the public offices should be put under check. In fact, if we had trust worthy public servants, we would be spending much less. So Kenyans do not need more tax. All they need are functional public servants who have the interest of Kenyans at heart.

24,001 /=
THE MINIMUM TAXABLE
INCOME IN KENYA PER
MONTH

Moelesti Mbeki, Chairperson of the South African Institute of International Affairs, and brother of ex President Thabo Mbeki said, The average African is poorer now than during the age of colonialism. Where colonialists have developed the continent, planted crops, built roads and cities, the era of Uhuru has been characterized by capital flight as the elite pocketed money and took it outside their countries. Among them were the late Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha. The money Abacha had plundered had been discovered in Switzerland... in the 1960's African elites or rulers instead of focusing on development, took surplus for their own enormous entourages of civil servants without plowing anything into the country.

The continents cash crops were heavily exploited by state run marketing boards with farmers getting little in return.(The Mercury September 22 2004)The same situation has been witnessed in Kenya.As leaders become richer, their citizens become poorer.More and more Kenyans are living below the poverty line and more of them are unable to provide for their basic needs.Instead of working for Kenyans, Kenyan leaders are busy looting money ensuring they have enough as they leave office.This money is enough to finance the economy and pay off our debts.This money is enough to implement the school feeding program.This money is enough to finance higher education.So Kenyans do not need more tax.They need a corruption free system of governance.

Doing a business in Kenya is already too expensive and too tiresome.From looking for the necessary documentation to getting the approval to start the business, a lot of time, energy and resources are needed.Even before you start the business, you have already been taxed enough money that you may not be able to realize as profit in the first 5 years of your business combined.This makes it very hard to attract investors who find other countries more cheaper to trade.Our entrepreneurs who are also expected to solve our societal problems are also at risk of collapsing due to the unfavorable market conditions.This will result in cheaper imports flooding the market instead of Kenyan products.If Kenyans cannot produce their products, then we can definitely not export them.Slowly by slowly, our economy will collapse and more people will be poorer than they were during the age of colonialism.Many investors have already started scrapping off Kenya as a potential place to invest.Infact, more Kenyans feels that it is better to work and invest out of the country rather that within.A country that chases investors is a country that is doomed to fail.So Kenya does not need more tax.It needs a conducive environment invest and to trade.

As I watched the leaking Jomo Kenyatta International airport, I am reminded that Kenya needs better infrastructure.Not some infrastructure like the SGR that has robbed Kenyans billions to construct yet it is experiencing losses day by day.It is the basic infrastructure such as electricity and internet.For infrastructure such as JKIA, all they need is basic maintenance.While we may be ambitious to establish new infrastructure, it is important to maintain and improve the existing ones.



“Many Kenyans have ideas. Many institutions are stepping forward to work with us on how we can raise revenue locally, and I’m very proud. A while ago, the conversation was how much of the debt is allocated to even children who are not yet born...public debt...I’m happy that this time round we’re having a conversation about, not debt, but taxes,”

H.E William Ruto

what makes us think that we will be able to manage the new ones?Before providing street lights, it is important to ensure that the existing ones function and before providing internet connection to every street, at least the existing ones should be fully reliable.What if the new projects are of personal interest?That the leaders cannot complete an existing project because of the benefits that come with new ones?So Kenya does not need more money for more infrastructure.It only needs maintainance and completion of existing projects before thinking of other projects that will cost of billions without the assurance of profit.

Therefore as a patriotic citizen who wants to see Kenya at a better place, I firmly believe that the problem with Kenya is not inadequate finances and its solution is not squeezing the pocket of Kenyans.The problem is a vampire state, a rogue system of governance whose leaders are not afraid to pocket money at the expense of Kenyans.Leaders who are ambitious to become rich and are assured that politics is the surest way to be there.A system of governance with misplaced priorities, seeking to furnish the state house and pay its advisors billions at the expense of children that depend on the school feeding program.A system of governance that makes way for intellectual hypocrisy and intellectual betrayal, where its intellectuals suddenly become stupid when they get to the system.That when they get a share of the pie, they suddenly forget that they have learnt with the money of tax payers to represent them in parliament and other spaces where hard terms such as the finance bill are mentioned.

NEW FESTAC DATES CONFIRMED!

FESTAC will take place between 25th August and 1st September 2024, it has now been confirmed. The festival was previously slated to take place between 20th-26th of May, but due to the humanitarian crisis that's ongoing in Kisumu, caused by floods, the planners had to make the necessary sacrifice of carrying forward the activities of that week to those in the final week of August, moving all through to the first day of September. This decision has been largely welcomed by residents, partners and the county Government of Kisumu, which is among the major partners of FESTAC Africa for the fifth Edition of the World's black and African Festival.

FESTACAFRICA2024



FESTAC AFRICA



KARIBU KISUMU DALA
ENJOY THE PASSION OF KISUMU



PROF. PETER ANYANG' NYONG'O

KISUMU COUNTY GOVERNOR

DESTINATION KISUMU, KENYA
AUG. 25TH-SEPT 1ST, 2024



FESTAC AFRICA
RENAISSANCE

MANCHESTER CITY, ATALANTA MAKE HISTORICAL TROPHY TRIUMPHS

On the penultimate day of the 2023-2024 Premier league season, Manchester City broke another glass ceiling by being the first ever Premier League side to win the league title four times in a row, in a development that underscores Pep Guardiola's tactical dominance over the rest of the Premier league managers. Additionally, this means that the Citizens surpassed their red neighbours' record of winning the league consecutively, after matching their threepeat in the 2022/2023 season.

Does this mean that Pep Guardiola has erased the legend of Sir Alex Ferguson? Of course not, but he has provided a motion for debate, and a fertile ground for that argument. Guardiola, 53, is globally regarded as one of the most iconic football tacticians in the history of the game, having had a trophy laden career that spans across 16 years and big clubs like Bayern Munich and Barcelona, where he achieved the treble as was the case in his 22/23 season at Manchester City.

"They will be so focused. Everybody knows what we are playing for. None of us will get the chance to win four in a row again, it is impossible," said Guardiola. "It won't happen again in our life. We have to live it, we have to enjoy it. And think, 'What you have to do during 95, 96, 97 minutes'," Guardiola said in the pre-match interviews, alluding to just how precious the opportunity to win four league titles in a row was. A master of mind games, Pep said similar words just before winning the treble in the preceding season, after which it was alleged that their next objective was to achieve the only record they set their eyes upon.

"The difference was in here. When they faced us at the Etihad, I saw them and said: 'Ah, these guys, they don't want to beat us, they just want a draw.' And that mentality, I don't think we would do it the same way," said Rodri, echoing Arsenal's gameplan when they met Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium.

Elsewhere, Bayer Leverkusen's unbeaten streak ended on their 51st game as Adenoma Lookman scored a clean hattrick to fire Atalanta to their first ever major trophy in over 61 years of existence. This was a watershed moment in the history of the club, as Head coach Gasperini nears his 8th year of managing the Italian side.

Lookman, 26, enjoyed a sparkling AFCON Campaign scoring a brace in the round of 16 knockout games for Nigeria during that campaign.



HOT ON X

Toni Kroos Retires From Football

I'm trending at least?

@ToniKroos



👍👍 fuck you 👍👍

@LucasVazquez91



It's been a real pleasure, such a high-class player ⭐

#legend ❤️ @Benzema



That was fun @ToniKroos

@lukamodric10



Congratulations @ToniKroos !! What an amazing career! Hala Madrid ❤️ @KAKA



It has been a pleasure sharing this year with you! You are an example in everything!! Real Madrid legend ❤️ @ToniKroos

@JoseluMato9



My dear Toni,

Champions teammate and friend forever. You've known when to say goodbye, so look back proudly and smile: you've earned it.

There is only one Kroos, the one we have all enjoyed (Lukita and I especially), but the one in the photo is Toni, *mi* Toni. How many anecdotes, victories and titles have been forged in that gym. It was our office and when we had to get serious, we did it; and when it was time to have fun, well, too. You are the perfect player, but I'll stick with the person.



@Casemiro

My dear Toni, it is difficult for me to accept that we will no longer be able to enjoy you. Since you arrived at Madrid, you demonstrated your quality, your love for this game and an enormous ambition to continue winning. Real Madrid fans and the world of football will remember you as one of their great legends, a player who marked an era. And I am very happy and proud to have been able to share it with you.

Thank you for everything, and Toni... You still have one last service left, bring us the fifteenth!

THANK YOU MASTER ❤️ @ToniKroos

@MarceloM12



When the CIA Tried to Recruit the Wrong Black Psychologist

In April 1978, Kemba Maish, a 33-year-old psychology professor at Howard University received a call from the CIA. Several calls actually, from an agent named Roy Savoy, who left a few messages on her machine. When Maish called back, the person who answered said, "Personnel, CIA."

"I was very curious as to why Personnel, CIA, was trying to get in touch with me," Maish told an interviewer at CovertAction Information Bulletin.

Maish was upset. She'd never heard of this guy Savoy and even being contacted by the CIA could "raise questions with friends and colleagues." She was "very active in black organizations" and her doctoral dissertation was on Black Power and Pan-Africanism.

"I decided to sit back and relax and hear what he had to say. I wanted to hear his whole program. He said that he was black, which was very clear from our conversation, and that he was the director of some section of the CIA which was recruiting black people, specifically black psychologists, to go to Africa and develop profiles on foreign nationals. I asked him what he meant by foreign nationals. Did he mean develop profiles on African people? He said no, that I would just be developing profiles on communists that were in Africa, so I wouldn't have to worry about spying on my own people. He went on to talk about paying me a fantastic salary, paying my way to Africa, all kinds of very enticing programs."

Maish asked how he had gotten her name. It had come from two of her colleagues, including someone she had worked with closely for years and who knew her "interest in issues related to the liberation struggles of all African people." Maish listened to Savoy's pitch. And then she let him have it:

"When he finally finished, I told him he was a traitor to the African people. I went through the whole thing, about the connection between the FBI and the CIA, about what the FBI had done with the Black Panthers, Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, and Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, within this country. Then I mentioned how in Africa the CIA had organized a coup against Kwame Nkrumah* and had actually murdered Patrice Lumumba. I went on down the line. I said, how could you possibly do this?"

The agent said he was sorry and that he wouldn't bother her again. But Maish wasn't satisfied. But Maish wasn't satisfied. If they thought they could convince her to spy for them, someone who so clearly wouldn't accept their offer, "a black psychologist who knows African politics, and who had been involved in political organizations for some

time," surely they were recruiting others.

"They've obviously bought other people," she said. "So after I thought about it, it began to make a little sense. I thought they would think, well, even if she says no, she wouldn't go public because of all the paranoia. But my feeling was that it is better to be in the open about it. I felt I had to let African people know what is happening so that they can protect themselves."

Maish organized an interview with WHUR, the Howard University radio station, so she could tell her story and warn others that the CIA was trying to recruit black professors to spy on Africans. The show was recorded, but sometime that night, the tape went "mysteriously missing."

So then she went back and spoke to the guy who had given her name to Savoy, another black psychologist named Oscar Barbarin. "I went to see him, and I was furious. He knew what it was about; he was physically upset: he knew why I was there."

"I asked him how he could do it, how he could give the CIA my name? He said that a number of government agencies come to him for names and information; he saw the CIA as just another government agency. I was shocked that he would even say that. I told him that he was supposed to be politically aware, that he had to know what the CIA has been doing, not only in Africa but also around the world. And he said he never stopped to think about it. He said that after he gave them my name he realized maybe he shouldn't have done it but then it was too late."

When the interviewer asked Maish if Barbarin knew what sort of criteria they had in mind, he said, "they were looking for black people who wanted to go to work in Africa." Barbarin didn't think she'd be interested but that she might know people who were, given her background.

"I told him that was even worse," said Maish. "Not only was he acting as an agent for the CIA, but he was assuming that I would also act as one. I told him that he had no idea what he was doing, that he could get me killed, just by having my name on a list."

Now Barbarin apologized, though he was pissed that she had called him a CIA agent. But Maish wasn't about to back down. "I told him that was the role he was playing, whether he realized it or not. That's the key point to me. A lot of people don't realize what they are doing, and they are getting a lot of other people involved in something they have no idea about.

Or they are closing their eyes to it; they don't want to face the fact that if they turn down the CIA, they might jeopardize some funding or grants. Perhaps they want to cooperate so it won't interfere with the development of their careers."

Next, Maish called up the Association of Black Psychologists, and told them the CIA is recruiting black psychologists to go to Africa. She wanted to make sure everyone knew what was happening. "They've already used black people from this country to infiltrate liberation movements and progressive groups both in Africa and in the Caribbean, basically using one group of African people against another." She refused to turn a blind eye to any of this.

In August that year she went to one of the Association's conferences and saw that Savoy was registered to attend. She got him kicked out.

"People must understand that they are not doing a service to us in America, they're doing a service to the large corporations and to the American government, and to maintain profits—but in terms of our lives, all the FBI and CIA have done for us as a people is to kill us and our leaders and to destroy our organizations, not only here but around the world. They're doing it through our institutions, through our black organizations—they're recruiting us and we think we're doing a service to our people when actually they're helping to destroy our people."

Maish was only one among many black academics being contacted by the CIA, but she was the one who went public. "I know of about ten people at Howard and other places who had been contacted, and not one of them had said a word," she told the interviewer.

She also discovered that there were CIA programs to recruit foreign students, who would then go back to their home countries as agents. "These students need to be alerted, need to understand whose agents they are if they work with the CIA. They will not be working in the interests of their people, but working against them," said Maish.



H.E William Ruto meets President Joe Biden



Kimani Ichung'wa meets Shaquille O'Neal



Rodri kisses his PL winners medal

FESTAC
AFRICA
RENAISSANCE



Atalanta's Ademola Lookman with his man of the Match award from the UEFA Europa League Final against Bayer Leverkusen.

FESTACAFRICA2024 **KARIBU KISUMU DALA**
ENJOY THE PASSION OF KISUMU

DR. MATHEW OCHIENG
DEPUTY GOVERNOR
DESTINATION KISUMU, KENYA
AUG. 25TH-SEPT 1ST, 2024





LIFE AND GROWTH OF KISUMU DUNGA BEACH RESIDENTS

Over the years, Kisumu County has held pride in it being located near the great Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria, being the largest fresh water lake in Africa, has drawn a lot of activities and a lot of lives have been shaped from this great work of nature. Dunga beach is such a place where locals have a lot of pride in, and shower praises towards this beach. Dunga is a term used in the early days by the Indian engineers who settled at the shore during the construction of the Kisumu - Mombasa railway, the term meant " the lake" and from then, the name has lived on to the now Dunga beach.

Fishing and tourism thrive in this particular area as most of the locals have got into fishing practices either in sourcing for the fish or in the sale of this commodity. Most families have managed to survive, pay for education and live decent lives. An interview with a handful of local fishermen within the area states that lots of lives have been shaped with the presence of the water body. Due to the economic activities that take place in this area, there has been formation of cooperatives, which give the fishermen and small business owners loans and grants that help them in carrying out various activities within the community. This has helped them set up schools, build permanent residential houses and support the community at large.

Fishing has developed from the ancient day methods and traditions that used to be valued and have been done away with yet, despite this, some of the traditions have lived on. The talking to boats by the fishermen still exists as they plead with it for a good catch before setting sail. They also name the boats after great and prominent people in the community for example a grandmother, they can be deceased or alive. The main reason to this is for the spirits to help them whenever in the waters. Apart from fishing, Dunga also host a number of tourists, both domestic and international, They refer to the tourists as "goose that lays golden eggs," this is because the coming of tourist bring forth great things like non-governmental organizations that build the society.

There is a set up museum where the tourist get a glimpse into the Luo traditional life and some of the ancient practices that were carried out by the Luo people. One outstanding practice was the preparation of the catfish "mumi" by a newly husband to the wife; this was as a symbol of love which was meant to last through the union.

The small museum was set to help the new generation learn more about life in the then days and understand life from the traditional view. Despite the insufficient equipment, they say that what is available is very much willing to tell the tale. They are hopeful that in the coming years, the museum will grow to its great potential and show off the good cultural practices of the Luo and the fishing society.

The existence of Dunga beach within Kisumu is a great achievement since the area's economic activities contributes to the growth of the county. It has created employment to many and given many a reason to wake up every morning. Tourists have also impacted this community as their presence sets to make the place stand out as a tourism destination, and with proper support from the government, the residents of Dunga are certain of better days.



BY OSCAR ALANDO

FESTACAFRICA2024



KARIBU KISUMU DALA
ENJOY THE PASSION OF KISUMU



Victor Nyagaya

LAKE REGION
ECONOMIC BLOC

DESTINATION KISUMU, KENYA
AUG. 25TH-SEPT 1ST, 2024

The Chief Executive Officer of The Lake Region Economic Block welcomes you to the Fifth World's Black and African Festival, which is poised to take place in Kisumu between Aug. 25th and September 1st 2024.

FESTAC, as it is abbreviated provides an elevated platform for business brands to expose themselves, while appreciating the beauty of Afrocan cultural heritage.



+254715211781

INTERVIEW WITH BOTSWANA FILM ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN PRINCE MONNA

Who is Prince Monna?

My name is Prince Monna and I am a film and television producer. I am also a media entrepreneur and consultant. I have worked with Government and private entities in film production. Some of the entities I have led conduct advocacy and film regulation. I am also the Chairperson for Botswana Film Association, the body responsible for collecting and distributing royalties, and championing professional film production in Botswana. Additionally, I am a trained journalist who will participate in FESTAC Africa Festival 2024 as a juror.

What's the Importance of FESTAC Africa?

FESTAC Africa is a platform that furthers unity in Africa. As a journalist, I believe that journalism exists to communicate our identity to the world, through authentic and right narrative. In my view, our story has long been manipulated, controlled and shaped by foreigners. They collect the dark side and ignore the bright side, and that's the gap FESTAC is bridging, by providing a platform for journalists to change the narrative. By elevating our authentic afrocentricity, it helps in telling who we originally are.

As a juror for FESTAC Africa, what's your role?

A juror is simply a judge for content. The songs produced for screening will be selected and ranked. To choose the best produced songs, we settle for most riveting and answers the production tenets. As jurors we appreciate content that resonate well with the audience. To judge, we used a tri-factor structure. This is to ensure that the song being produced is well developed with clear concise storyline with strength.

In your capacity as the Chairperson for Botswana Film Association, what are the contributions of the Association to Festac Africa and how do you think the festival contributes to your Organisation's mission?

My approach to work is not linked or dictated with the association but the business model. For years, we have been consuming films and stories that came from the Western World. They have done it to the extent that they no longer have new story lines.

A time has come for us to realise that we have our own unique stories to tell. To realise this, we must embrace the cultural and creative industries in Africa and monetize the artistic craft of Africa. However, mobility has been an issue in the continent because our film trade is not as monetized as it should be. Most of African artists consider art a hobby, when in reality, art should be a source of income. The Festival's model therefore creates a platform for expression, collaboration and networking. Through this, the art fraternity in Africa can come together and scale forge synergies.

What sets FESTAC Africa apart from other Festival's?

FESTAC Africa communicates the identity, not only of Africa and her people but those of African descent to the world. It is a statement by us to them, we are sufficient. It is also a statement to us, that if we join hands and move together, then we have the potential to rise through the ranks of the world order.

What is your closing remark?

This is Africa's time. In every respect, our turn is now. Be it literature, academia, value chain development, art et cetera, the world is looking at Africa for motivation.



Prince Monna

RASHFORD URGED TO QUIT MANCHESTER UNITED BY EX-LIVERPOOL MAN JOSE ENRIQUE

"In my opinion, he 100% has to leave Man utd. There's too much pressure on his shoulders now and people are criticising him too frequently. He's never out of the spotlight. I just think that mentally for Rashford, Man Utd has really affected him, he became the club's talisman at young age and that is a lot of pressure - he needs to leave England.

"I don't know whether Rashford should go to another Premier League club, that may be just as difficult for him. I think maybe he could go abroad to somewhere like Italy or Spain in order for us to see the best version of him again. Rashford in full flow is a really top player - I think if you put him in a team like PSG or Barcelona, he would fit in and really prove himself to be the world-class player that I believe he is.

"I think that's the best career move for him at the moment - get out of the spotlight in England and rediscover your form abroad."



FESTAC AFRICA 2024

KARIBU KISUMU DALA
ENJOY THE PASSION OF KISUMU

ABALA MICHAEL WANGA
KISUMU CITY MANAGER

FESTAC AFRICA URBAN FUSION FASHION AND RUNWAY EXPERIENCE

The Committee of Festac Africa Fashion Show is pleased to release the preliminary Official FESTAC AFRICA URBAN FUSION FASHION EXPERIENCE [RUNWAY/EXHIBITIONS] FAUFFE[R/E] Schedule.

Mr Wale Apata's debut show as creative director of Festac Africa will formally kick off the introduction Collections on Wednesday, August 28th, and Salami Olamyde Ojuinu [Edaibile71024] Villager, One of the FAUFFE[R/E] 2023 Arusha Fashion Designer.

Will close the week with the Raw Cottons display show on the evening of Wednesday, August 28th, 2023.

The preliminary schedule features more than 7 confirmed designers, with additional collections being presented digitally and by appointment.

Returning brands include Edaibile71024 from Nigeria.

First-time additions to the schedule include Advisory Moderator Conie Aluoch .

This year's FAUFFE[R/E] Fashion finalists Mphatso, Brenda, Ojuinu, and Lynn also join the week with collection showcases.

FESTAC AFRICA URBAN FUSION FASHION EXPERIENCE [RUNWAY/EXHIBITIONS] Show is an integral part of Africa pride vibrant culture and sense of constant evolution and discovery," said FESTAC AFRICA CEO . "This season's official FESTAC AFRICA URBAN FUSION FASHION EXPERIENCE [RUNWAY/EXHIBITIONS] plays to this sentiment and will once again showcase the best of African fashion, both emerging and established. We're excited to see the return of Edaibile71024 by Ojuinu to the Festac Africa Urban Fusion Fashion Experience Kisumu Kenya 2024 runway, adding to the week's energy."

Kala tv will continue to be the central hub for media's : The Shows. The preliminary Official FAUFFE[R/E] Schedule is in partnership with KALA's FAUFFE[R/E]:

The shows and presentations will continue to be presented via SpiceTv, kala tv centralized digital hub and business tool to support African fashion brands' collection releases year-round.

Click here www.festacafrika.org to view the preliminary official FAUFFE[R/E] Arusha Tanzania May 24th 2023 schedule >



FESTAC Fashion Ambassador Villager Salami Olamyde Ojuinu



FESTAC Fashion Ambassador Lynn Ambasa



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RENAISSANCE

Terrorism as a means to an end.

There has been a debate on what exactly is terrorism, why does it happen and the intentions behind every act of terrorism. Well, this article is going to address the key issues and concerns behind terrorism and other acts of violent extremism. The debate on what terrorism is and what terrorism is not still remains a challenge among the social scientists. The study has indicated that terrorism is as old as the human history itself.

From a historical point of view the first instance of terror can be traced back in the late 18th century, this was the period which historians refer to as the reign of terror. The term was coined in 1793, when the revolutionary government in France was under threat of the Aristocrats and the upper class who conspired with foreign rulers to restore the ancient regime. In response, the National Convention, led by the Jacobins, on 30th August 1793, declared terror as the order of the day to bring justice to all traitors.

Evolution of terrorism

Originally conceived as an instrument of state repression against the loyalist traitors, the traitors soon began to kill the republican too. Over 300,000 French nationals were arrested during the French's Reign of Terror – 5th September 1793 to 27th July 1794. About 17,000 were officially executed by the state and many others died without trial. (The Revolution Eating its own children).

Since 1794, the meaning of the term terrorism has undergone a number of changes, the most important being an almost complete shift from state actors to non-state actors as perpetrators of terrorism. The guillotine as an instrument of regime of terrorism was replaced in the second half of the 19th Century by the bomb which was facilitated by the invention of dynamite in the 1860s by Alfred Nobel. The invention of rotary press which was producing cheap newspaper, the philosophy of the bomb practiced by anarchists and social revolutionaries, was able to catch the attention of many more people than in the case of direct witness of beheading in the public square in 1793- 1794. The non-state terrorists of the 1870s and beyond called their exploitation of mass media coverage propaganda.

What is terrorism?

Generally, there is no universally agreed definition of terrorism, in defining the term terrorism, several actors must be considered, these are the Inter-governmental organizations such as the United Nations, the governments, the academia and the terrorist organizations themselves. Looking at the term terrorism from this point of view presents different definitions and clues on what terrorism actually is, what terrorism might be and what terrorism is not. There are challenges in defining this terminology due to the question on who has the legitimate moral authority to define and regard a group as a terrorist.

With the 11th September 2001 al Qaeda attack on America however, different scholars have come up with various terms to refer to terrorism. Terms such as violent extremism have been used widely to refer to acts of terror. Scholars of armed conflict and peace studies refer to terrorism as a form of political violence to convey messages and information to the intended audiences. The violence is symbolic in that they are shaped to challenge a watching audience e.g. the government, the United Nations among other audiences targeted by terrorist organizations.

With terrorism, the violence is critical because it aims at the effect of the shock, surprise and outrage. It is always directed towards victims who are unprepared and undefended. This can be civilians with no responsibility. The civilians in this case are not collateral damage but victims. Scholars of terrorism and violent extremism view terrorism as a systematic campaign of violence giving a signal that more violence is yet to come. Most terrorist organizations operate as underground organizations. They exist in conditions of extreme secrecy and there is an aspect of loosely attached networks making war on terror difficult.

What is not terrorism?

The debate on what is not terrorism still remains a puzzle. According to the specialist of terrorism and violent extremism, the use of sporadic violence as a means of acquiring or holding territory is not regarded as terrorism. Terrorists are not supposed to want a territory. So then how do we clarify al-Shabaab, the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Tamil Tigers among other terrorist groups demanding for a territorial control? Al-Shabaab and the Taliban have been able to seize and control a sizeable piece of land and territory.

In defining terrorism, we must then be able to differentiate between insurgency from terrorism. For this reason, terrorism must meet the following criteria; it must be a form of violence or threat of violence, it must be political in nature and must be organized in a systematic manner.

There is however, a legitimacy question on who should be permitted to use what kind of violence against whom and under what circumstances and for what reason or purpose? The puzzle with terrorism is that they often kill strangers whom they have never met before in the context other than war and the direct victims – who are generally unarmed and often have no idea why their death should serve others involved in a conflict. This is the strategic rationale behind terrorism as a form of violent extremism.

Why terrorism?

The question on why individual may resort to terrorism is still a challenge up to date. Why would only a few individuals take up arms over something that is affecting the larger population? The answers that most terrorists give is that they resort to violence as the way to communicate their grievances- the last resort. Implying terrorism as the weapon of the weak. But this is not always the case and it is not always true that those people that use terrorism as a means to an end are the weak. Recent radical groups such as jihadists regard terrorism as imperative even if they had other means. For them terrorism is justified and necessary and obligation.

One of the main approaches that terrorist analysts adopt to explain the causation of terrorism is to look at underlying conditions. These are the society to individuals are born, economy, political regime. These conditions provide both suitable environment for and against the occurrence of terrorism. These conditions can be poverty, inequality, injustices and even repressive government. The problem with this approach is that it does not explain the behavior of a few people in what affects the many. These underlying conditions are not sufficient as an explanation as to why individuals may resort to terrorism. This gives room to other sources of causality i.e. the group level explanation, country level factor and international factors.

The group level factors

Individuals may be motivated to strong religious and ideological beliefs, this makes them to see the rights and benefits of engaging into terrorism and violent extremism. They can also be driven by a sense of justice and the desire to do something meaningful like with the case of The Taliban in Afghanistan.

Country level factors.

Certain features in a country can attribute to the risk of armed rebellion, terrorism or violent extremism. These factors are majorly influenced by the country's political institutions, type of government and economic factors within the state. Most countries whose institutions does not key fundamental human rights issues are at high risk of violent extremism. Failed institutions of justice, leadership structures and electoral bodies are prerequisite for armed rebellion. Is Kenya safe? A countries wealth also provides are room for the explanation of armed rebellion. Countries whose resources are not share equally and with equity is also at risk of war and armed rebellion as citizens strive to survive, this is called survival tactics.

International level factors

Individuals can be motivated to resort to terrorism if they are sure of the support from internation sympathizer organizations and government. The support can be in terms of finance, intelligence, training and logistics. This can be used to explain when the group will resort to war, how long the war can be sustained and the end result. The Taliban, Hamas, and Hezbola are key examples on the influence international support of terrorism.



By Kevine Odhiambo

The Good Child

A properly socialized three-year old child is polite and engaging. He's also not pushed over. He evokes interest from other children and appreciation from adults. He exists in a world where other kids welcome him and compete for his attention, and where his seniors are happy to see him, instead of hiding behind false smiles. He will be introduced to the world by people who are willing to do so. This will do more for his eventual individuality than any cowardly parental attempt to avoid day to day conflict and discipline.

As a parent, discuss your likes and dislikes with regards to your children with your partner or even a friend. But do not be afraid to have likes and dislikes. You can judge suitable from unsuitable, and wheat from chaff. You realize the difference between good and evil. Having clarified your stance, and having assessed yourself for pettiness, arrogance and resentment, take the next step and make your children behave in accordance to the required standards. Ensure you take responsibility for their discipline. Take another responsibility for the mistakes you will inevitably make while disciplining. You can as well apologize when you're wrong and learn to do better.

After all, ensure you love your kids because if their actions make you dislike them, think of the effect they may have on other people who care much less about them than you do. Those other people will punish them severely by omission or commission. Don't allow that to happen. Better to let your little monsters know what is desirable and what is not, so they become sophisticated denizens of the world outside the family.

A child who pays attention, instead of drifting, and can play, and does not whine, and is comical, but not annoying, and is trustworthy, that child will have friends wherever he goes. His teachers will like him, and so will his parents. If he attends politely to adults, he will be attended to, smiled at and happily instructed. He will thrive, in what con so easily be an unforgiving and hostile world. Clear principles of discipline and punishment balance mercy and justice so that social development and psychological maturity can be optimally promoted. Clear rules and proper discipline help the child, the family and society as a whole to establish, maintain and expand the order. That is all that protects us from chaos and the terrors of the underworld, where everything is uncertain, anxiety-provoking, hopeless and depressing.

There are no greater gifts that a committed and courageous parent can bestow. Do not let your children do anything that makes you dislike them, but, remember also, that this can only happen when you teach them the right way of life.



By Oscar Alando



Salami Olamide Ojuinu is the Founder of Eda Ibile and Festac Africa Fashion Ambassador



FESTAC
AFRICA
RENAISSANCE

PRESIDENT RAISI BURIED , [RETRIEVED FROM BBC]

Iran's late President, Ebrahim Raisi, has been buried in his home city of Mashhad, four days after he was killed in a helicopter crash.

The 63-year-old hard-line cleric was laid to rest in the holy shrine of Imam Reza, a revered figure in Shia Islam.

TV pictures showed large crowds gathered in one of the north-eastern city's main streets ahead of the ceremony.

Seven other people died in Sunday's crash during bad weather in Iran's mountainous north-west. They include Raisi's foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, 60, who was buried on Thursday at the Shah Abdol-Azim shrine in Rey, a southern suburb of the capital Tehran.

Acting President Mohammad Mokhber, who will serve until an election is held on 28 June, was present there to make preparations for the burial.

Ebrahim Raisi's burial at the gold-domed Imam Reza Shrine - a memorial to the eighth Shia imam - which is considered the holiest in Iran, came after three days of ceremonies elsewhere.

Ebrahim Raisi's burial at the gold-domed Imam Reza Shrine - a memorial to the eighth Shia imam - which is considered the holiest in Iran, came after three days of ceremonies elsewhere.

State media described Thursday's event as "historic", while Mashhad's mayor was quoted as saying that "three million mourners" had attended - a figure almost equal to the city's entire population.

Earlier, thousands also turned out to watch his coffin being driven through the eastern city of Birjand, where Raisi had been the representative to the Assembly of Experts.

On Wednesday, leaders and other dignitaries from the country's allies and neighbours attended a commemorative event in Tehran.

Also present were representatives of the so-called "Axis of Resistance", a loose network of armed groups which receive Iranian weapons, training and funds.



They included the political leader of the Iran-backed Palestinian armed group Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, the deputy secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, Naim Qassem, the spokesman of Yemen's Houthis, Mohammed Abdulsalam, and the head of Iraq's paramilitary Popular Mobilisation Forces, Faleh al-Fayad. Senior Western officials were noticeably absent from the ceremony, reflecting their countries' strained relations with Iran.

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also led prayers for those killed.

"[The president's death] was a difficult issue for us, but the Iranian nation will turn this bitter incident into an opportunity," he told the speaker of Lebanon's parliament, Nabih Berri. Raisi was close to the 85-year-old supreme leader, who is the ultimate authority in the Islamic Republic, and was widely seen as a potential successor.

Tens of thousands of people have taken part in the funeral processions in recent days, which the government and state media have portrayed as demonstrations of national unity.

"How do I find someone like him? I'm really worried about that," Mohsen, a cleric from Qom, told AFP news agency at Wednesday's funeral procession in Tehran. "As far as I know, we don't have anyone of his stature."

Civil servant Ali Mousavi-Nejad, said the presence of so many people "sends a message to the enemies of the revolution".

However, many more people have stayed at home, with some even celebrating the president's death despite prosecutors warning that they could face prosecution.

Millions despised Raisi for overseeing the deadly crackdown on the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests that erupted in 2022, a year after he took office.

He also faced calls for an international investigation into his alleged role on the "death committee" which ordered the mass executions of political prisoners in the 1980s.

His time as president will also be remembered for a deepening economic hardship and an unprecedented direct military confrontation with Israel last month, which raised fears of a regional war.

A female student, who took part in the protests two years ago, told the BBC: "People are so happy. Most of them are wearing white or bright colours and smiling at each other."

"The image they keep showing to the world [is] that we're all sad, that we loved him. But it isn't true."

She added: "Today, when I attended my classes, there was a big banner of his face in the university's main hallway. And the students would show the middle finger to his picture."

The student also said the streets of Tehran were "full of security patrols" to deter protests or celebrations.

Hadi Ghaemi, the director of the US-based Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) advocacy group, said Raisi's death should not be exploited to further crack down on civil society.

"Raisi was a pillar of a system that jails, tortures, and kills people for daring to criticize state policies," he said. "His death has enabled him to escape being held accountable for his many crimes and the state's atrocities committed under his rule."

Iranian authorities say they are still investigating what caused the helicopter crash in which he died.

Officials have said the aircraft - a decades-old, US-made Bell 212 - hit a mountainside as it flew to the north-western city of Tabriz in fog and heavy rain.

Raisi was travelling with Amir-Abdollahian, the governor of East Azerbaijan province, Malek Rahmati, and Tabriz's Friday prayer leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Al-e Hashem, as well as the head of the presidential security team and the helicopter's three crew following the inauguration of two dams on the border with Azerbaijan.

2024



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ENG. YINKA ABIOYE

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