

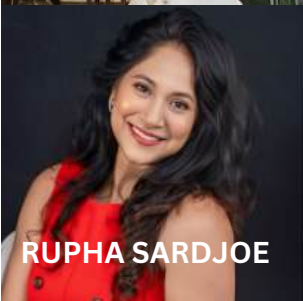
# City Bite Magazine

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2024 DECEMBER

## WILD FLOWER THE MAKING OF RAELE NYTE

PG. 3



RUPHA SARDJOE

*Fashion with a View is about untold stories, adventures, experiences, expectations and acceptance...*

**PG. 16**

### Is A.I. A Threat?



A.I. can be both a threat to human employment and a boon for innovation. On the one hand, A.I. is capable of automating many tasks that are currently done by humans...

**PG. 30**



From humble beginnings, Meredith Clayton Beal rose to the apex of Media Industry in the United States of America. Having created a solid resume in the fourth estate and diplomacy, he was sent by to by Bill and Melinda Gates foundation in 2011 to Africa, where he now, 13 years later, bears the title of His Royal Highness. Here is his story...

**PG. 12**

# ✦ Editor's Note ✦

## Odima Osure

### Editor-in-Chief

This edition talks about what lies ahead for the African Continent. From technology to geopolitics, we analyse the different spectrums of development in the continent.

The main feature is the inspirational life story of Ms. Rael Nyte, a journey of challenging experiences and positive impact.

Passionate about empowerment, Ms. Nyte founded Tunza Sports, an organization using sports to champion education for vulnerable children in Africa.



✦ Among other stories, we are glad to feature advertorial content, aimed at promoting businesses that make impact in their respective industries. Enjoy your reading.

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This might not be the first time the name Rael Nyte is featured on City Bite Magazine, but it is definitely our first rodeo with her life's journey. Full of challenging experiences, her resilience has been the spine of her growth and transition, from humble beginnings to the apex of empowerment. In this edition, CBM had a conflagration with Rael herself, who loquaciously narrated the story of her life, declaring that she is a testament of the miraculous workings of God. A revenant at five months old, she ran away from home thrice in her teenage days and faced over twelve instances of abuse but in the end, like a wildflower, she rose from ruins to become a role model and mentor to many young girls.

### Her beginnings

Rael Nyte's early years were marked by significant challenges that shaped her character and resilience. Regardless, her maternal grandmother, who raised her up to school-going age believed in her and could tell a bright future for Rael. Her childhood nonetheless, was overshadowed by a strict and harsh upbringing by her mother, a stalwart disciplinarian who adhered to old school methods of instilling discipline in children, marked by

## 2016

**The year when  
Tunza Sports  
was founded**

severe flogging. " Her harsh punishments were driven by the desire to prevent me from straying. Throughout my childhood ergo, I never felt loved because in all instances, the punishments had no justification," Rael notes for City Bite Magazine.

This environment taught her the painful art of silence so much early on in her life that at a tender age of twelve years old, when a relative she once respected tried to molest her, she kept it under the sleeves, terrified that in retrospect, she'd be blamed for it. Feeling utterly alone, she took matters into her own hands and courageously confronted her abuser. Harrowing as it was, this experience was such an important turning point in her life that later on, as she went through eleven other separate instances of abuse and harassment, she braved them boldly and authentically, always emerging

**FACT** Rael Nyte is the  
Founder of Tunza  
Sports Foundation

out of them stronger. Life in Rael's household was anything but easy, considering the fact that as early as six years old in age, she was the primary caregiver to her young siblings. This role left her little room to enjoy childhood. To 'cultivate values', as the responsible first child she was, Rael resorted to her mother's methods of instilling discipline in her siblings. Despite this, her siblings revered her dearly. At her immaculate maturity and exposure to changing times, she recognized how harsh these methods were and has since apologized to them.

Regardless, it is the weight of these responsibilities that imbued her with the strength and painstaking determination that continue to inspire her life's mission, of empowering and nurturing young people in the society, through varied mentorship programs.

A wildflower, as known, outgrows all odds to withstand the test of time. What constitutes the making of Nyte as a wildflower is not only the challenges she faced as an individual—her journey was like a bridge of thorns, upon which she was walking barefoot. No matter the direction you looked, there were challenges you had to either deal with or surrender to. Some of these challenges impacted her both personally and indirectly, through the people she loved and cared for.

Hailing from a family of five children, her parents were members of the middle class, who afforded a basic life, checkered with chronic domestic violence which caused an atmosphere of instability in their home. Desperate for peace and stability, she ran away from home in three separate instances, partly as a way to compell her parents to solve their issues but also partly as an escape route from the negative emotions she harboured at the time.

Her first time running away from home was shortly after completing her high school education. At the time, her parents had temporarily separated to work out solutions for their increasingly tensed relationship. While her mother decided to relocate further South to Homa Bay, the father remained in the capital, Nairobi. Traditionally, in such instances children remained under the custody of the mother.

However, having done away with high school education and awaiting college placement, Rael's relationship with her mother deteriorated. As a spiritual person, it got to a point she felt that maybe, there were dark forces working against her relationship with her mother and her family and that God's intervention was imperative. She therefore decided to seek it. Like in times of Moses, she went to the hills



*A young Rael Nyte (centre) pictured with her parents.*



hoping to pray for three straight days and to meet God but unlike the old times, her stay on the hills didn't last long - she couldn't bear the bugs, the cold, the agrizoophobia and the dark of the first night. Regretting her naive decision, her prayer items turned from God saving her family to just taking her through the night in one piece. In what became another turning point in her life, her father who had married a second wife had an epiphany and responded by relocating her to Nairobi, where he would enroll her to the Kenya Polytechnic University to study Telecommunications Engineering.

While she achieved a temporary ambiance of serenity, life in the capital was never all rainbows and sunshine. Adjusting to the demands of the city was a tough call. Unbeknownst to her also, a reunion between her parents was a plan afoot behind the scenes. The decision was so furtive that Rael only learnt of it when her father visited the rest of the family in Homa Bay returned with her youngest sibling. Confused, she asked the obvious question and was heart broken to find

out that the family was set to live together once again. Already traumatised by past instances of domestic violence, she attempted to stop it but her efforts were futile. Desperate to find a solution, she ran away with the sibling, back to Homa Bay, to confront her mother, whom to her dismay seemed to have made up her mind about the reunion. Apparently, this decision had been decreed by elders, whose words were like law at the time.

In Rael's words, the following period of their family life can only be described proverbially as 'hell on earth,' especially with the second wife in the mix. Desperate to find some peace, she resolved to seek her maternal grandmothers' intervention but as it was an exam period, she held up with a distant male relative. However, malicious rumours soon ensued that she had run away to marry the said relative.

Later on, having completed examinations, she visited her grandmother, to whom she expressed





her distress, swearing not to go back to her family, unless she stepped in. Nonetheless, she only encouraged her to be strong, and suggested that she temporarily stays with her aunt. According to Rael, this experience only taught her the value of living with your own parents, but she persevered through her discomfort to compell her parents into solving their issues. At one point, she trusted a fatherly guardian to help her secure a hostel, but the attempt was kiboshed when it exposed her to yet another

instance of sexual abuse.

Once Rael completed her college studies, she went back to a rather peaceful household. This was a fruit of her rebellion against domestic violence. We all respond to challenges in varied ways. While some see problems, others find opportunities and Rael, with her indomitable fighting spirit sought the light within the darkness.

In her quest for peace of mind, she found solace in sports-playing field hockey to be specific. At first, it felt like a reliable escape route but as time went by, she developed a passion for the sport. As a young adult she also started to seek meaningful connections and the dynamics of her life's challenges made her join

the church choir through which she came in contact with her gospel music icon Mary Otieno. For that period, her life revolved around hockey, church choir and job seeking.

Like the dynamo she is, Rael set her sight on one goal - to change her life. She was fed up with her protracted struggle for survival and completely refused to be poor.

Hunting for a job is not easy, and it comes with a myriad of challenges, at least according to lessons from Rael. By a way of illustration, it is during this stage of her life that she faced the most instances of sexual harassment, not only from



*In 2006  
Rael took up  
kickboxing  
to channel  
her  
frustrations*



men she looked upto but also from potential bosses, coaches, and even men of the cloth. This ordeal, in her words impeded her beliefs in religious systems. While exploring more opportunities, she took up an internship position at the Engineering department in Kenya Airways, where her attempts to seek employment as a stewardess, outside the scope of her career field often put her at the risk of compromising her principles.

Desperate to change her situation, she found herself taking unrelated jobs in multiple occasions. This was exacerbated by the fact that opportunities were limited for female engineers, with Kenya Power and Lightning monopolizing the industry. At the time, the world was already rapidly digitizing and her skill set was becoming obsolete. Concurrently, Foreign companies offering digital solutions for Africa started to come to Kenya and in the year 2000, she got an internship with one of them, known as FINTECH. While there, she learnt new skills and got new opportunities. Spotting her dedication, FINTECH's managing director soon hired her permanently and with her self-acquired skill set, opportunities opened up for her to work with two prestigious companies - Unilever and Kenya Breweries Limited- which outsourced from FINTECH.



However, with the rapid digitization, basic end user software solutions became unprofitable, and her department in the company unsustainable, thereby leading to its dissolution, which meant that yet again, she was going to be jobless.

The only difference was that this time round, someone else would join in to support her quest for a better life. "My father had a plan. He sought the intervention of his cousin, who was living in Johannesburg at the time," Rael notes.

According to her, the cousin in question endured such a difficult childhood that many a time he survived on the charity of Rael's father. It is for this reason that he believed that the cousin would be willing to extend a helping hand to his daughter. However, human beings change, and despite Rael using her savings to travel to South Africa, the cousin bailed on her, and she was left stranded at the heart of the city of Johannesburg for three days.

A harrowing experience, this was one of the most critical epiphanies for Ms. Rael, who at the moment accepted that for a fact no one was coming to save her from the misery of joblessness - it was herself against the world. Luckily, during her three day travel by Bus to South Africa, Rael had made a friendly stop in Botswana, where she met her long lost friend. When she was stood up by her father's cousin, she circled back to her friend where she stayed for five months, while taking casual jobs to both fend for herself and support her family back home.

The divine wonders of God are spontaneous and one day while still in Botswana, Rael received a communication that an employment opportunity had opened up in the the U.S. Excited, she returned home, by bus on Christmas Day of that year, to prepare for her relocation to the land of opportunities as it's famously referred. It was a long journey, but the excitement and positive emotions were a great distraction for the three day long haul.



*A young Rael Nyte shortly after her graduation from Kenya Polytechnic University*

## Key Years

**1995**

*Rael graduates from Kenya Polytechnic University*

**2000**

*Rael secures a job with FINTECH Company*

**2003**

*Rael participated in All-African Games and India-African Games*

**2004**

*Rael loses her job, travels to south Africa where she's left stranded by a relative.*

**2005**

*Rael relocates to U.S.A.*

**2008**

*Rael graduates with an associate diplom.*

**2011**

*Rael Graduates with BSC in Political Science and International Relations.*

**2016**

*Rael graduates with Masters in Diplomacy and Masters in Public Administration*

"Safely reunited with my family, I toiled to get my U.S.A. visa, in the backdrop of my father's increasingly diminishing health," Rael said. "Though he couldn't speak at this time, I knew that I had his blessings but took cognisance of the fact that I might never see him alive again." This gave her a bittersweet feeling. On one hand, this was her dream coming true while on the other, she was hugging her father for the last time, let alone the fact she was leaving her siblings behind. "I had become so protective of them, that it hurt to bid them goodbye," Rael told CBM. "Nevertheless, to fulfill my father's wish of ensuring that all of them completed their education, I had to leave for greener pastures."

In America, Rael was warmly welcomed by her friend, who had assisted her apply for the job opportunity. He went ahead and introduced her to his family, a kind gesture that warmed her heart. However, she was soon flummoxed to learn of her friend's unspoken terms and conditions that would thrust her into an intimate relationship that she did not consent to. Yet again, Rael was betrayed in a foreign land and with limited options, she was forced to seek help from a distant relative

with whom she detested to live.

From her past experiences, Rael testifies that when you live with relatives things are not always cosset and this was no exception. Nonetheless, she faced every challenge one step at a time. Lucky for her, her culture of saving came in handy one more time, as she used the money she had saved from playing in international hockey competitions for survival.

Unsettled by the quick approaching expiry of her visitor's visa, Rael swiftly switched to a student visa, then enrolled to a community college. She also joined a hockey community, which became her second family in the United States.

Back home, everyone knew she was on a bed of roses, and she tried not to reveal her suffering by always assuring them that everything was moving smoothly. In fact, whenever need arose, she sent back in bits the very savings that she had carried with her from Kenya. However, four months into her stay in America, her father died, just as she had anticipated. While she couldn't make it back home for his send off, Rael made peace with the fact that she had bid him farewell.

As she interacted with people from diverse backgrounds, Rael came face to face with the realities of culture shock. "For the first time I realized that I was black," Rael told City Bite. Coming from a country so divided by tribal fault lines, she soon learnt that racism was far more divisive and painful. To adapt to such situations, Rael became more reticent.

Having received her student visa, she started to pursue a whole new degree. At this point, it was her responsibility to take care of everything, from her own tuition fee to basic needs and to supporting members of her family back home, whose hopes burdened her shoulders.

This meant that she had to go an extra mile in everything she did. "After being granted authorization to work due to hardship, I slept for only two hours between work, school and coaching hockey," Rael said. "I also had meals while driving and slept in my car, but the bottom line is that this became my escape route from the chains of poverty." "Seven years later, to the dismay of many, I was able to fly back home," Rael notes. "It was so rare for people to return home from abroad at the time, that even my own family was surprised, having had low expectations of ever seeing me again."



*Rael Nyte as an intern at Kenya Airways*

Back home, everyone who knew her before was astounded by just how bold she had become. She attributes this transition to her exposure through coaching, interaction with different nationalities within the hockey community and above all her college professors who mentored her into becoming an outspoken social activist.

Today, Rael is a guardian to over two hundred young girls, whom she has mentored through her organisation - Tunza Sports Foundation - that nurtures talents and supports education through sports.

*As could be seen throughout the story, miss Nyte's rise was not all cosy. Nothing came easy, but like a wildflower, she beat all odds. In our next edition we will explore more details in Rael's story, including relationships and journey in empowerment.*



*Rael coaching Hockey in New Jersey- U.S.A from 2007 - 2016*



# KENYA UNDER THE SCOPE

## OPINION

### OMTATA IS CAPABLE

A misguided narrative that Omtata is a spineless politician has engulfed Kenya's political scene, ever since the seasoned human rights activist declared his ambitions to become Kenya's head of state. However, while some players espouse that he doesn't have the nous to win an election, a number of experts have come out to debunk this school of thought, claiming that for the first time in a very long time, Kenyans have a window of opportunity to make the right decision on the ballot.

He has presented himself at an opportune time, when nobody trusts the wielders of the instruments. People are desperate for change and if truly so, the citizens, upon whom the supreme constitution of Kenya confers all sovereign powers, must empower Mr. Omtata with the right level of confidence.

One can neither be a human rights activist for that long nor survive what he has gone through nor to win a County senatorial seat without the resilience of a man capable of leading Kenya.

## POLITICS

### RUTO'S TROUBLES ARE HIS OWN HAND WORK

The political malaise in the country has got President William Ruto cursing on the people he is supposed to be leading. While it's a normal thing in life to gloat, there's a limit to how a man of his status should respond to criticism. To be a leader and to get into a war of words with the people you lead is to surrender your frame and publicly admit your weak personality.

The key question that needs answering however is where exactly did the rain start to beat us as a people? Why is it that a man once so loved my many, has broken the record by becoming the fastest Kenyan head of state to attract public vitriol?

The answer lies in the foundations of his Presidency. It's how he rose to power in the first place, through a populist narrative. He promised seventh heaven but according to public consensus, delivered hell.

For instance, since assuming office, Mr. Ruto has delivered only the exact opposite of everything he promised. He has continued making the same mistakes made by the previous administration, while blaming the same administration which in fact he was part and parcel of for over ten years.



Police brutality is still a thing, while extra-judicial killings are on the rise, let alone tough economic times, checkered with consistently increasing taxes. While the cries of many are glaringly valid, the Kenyan president has continued to spark public anger at any given opportunity he speaks or addresses the media.



From showing no remorse towards the death of a twelve year old boy shot by the police multiple times to claiming that only evil people see fault in his leadership, he has branded himself as a victim of unfair circumstances, who only cares about his authority, less about the people he leads, let alone their tribulations.



A flashback to 2022 and Mr. Ruto is a cult hero. Everybody looked at him as a saviour, who was trampled on by a cabal of oligarchs.

While a number of thinkers opined that the hustler narrative was a counterfeit product whose promoters were just good at selling, Mr. Ruto and company packaged it so well, that the majority hoi poloi believed that they finally got someone that knows and resonates with their economic shortcomings.



The thought of regular donations to the Mama Mboga and boda boda operators was music in the public's ear. Hustler fund was another promise that resonated well, not only with a boda boda operator somewhere in the remote areas of Gem Kathomo, but also to this writer.

A government that grants its citizens seed capital for SMEs sounds nice yeah? However, it was nice until it wasn't nice. "You can not receive government money for free," William told his supporters, in an infamous turn of events, just shortly after he was sworn in - it was no longer hustler fund grant- it was a loan, subject to an interest and a five percent 'saving'.

Oh yeh poor Kenyans, how I wish someone educated you about the 1MDB fund and the downfall of P.M. Najib Razak of Malaysia and an eccentric man named Jho Low..

If Kenyans were properly informed, maybe they could've scrutinised the BETA strategy with pedant attention to detail. Its weaknesses were blatant and foundations feeble. It was bound to end in unprecedented chaos.

However, many of us were revelling in euphoria. We couldn't help but swim in the fantasies of a billion dollar donations to boda boda self help groups and the grant that was hustler fund.

Today, the fund is a major flop. And not only so, a majority of Kenyans who borrowed it are yet to pay, while it's no longer as vibrant as its promise was. Hustler fund was an advancement of the infamous fuliza economy.

That notwithstanding, the incumbent administration in Kenya, has shown signs of cluelessness in almost everything they do. There's no indication whatsoever that anyone is taking responsibility for what matters to the people of Kenya.

The country has no foreign policy at all. The energetic youth bulge is being hawked for Middle Eastern employers, mostly for casual jobs. It's an open secret that these employers mistreat and underpay our people, especially the girls. Most of them come back in poor health conditions if not in coffins.

How then, does a person employed as the Minister For Labour, decide to start pushing for the youth, some of whom graduated from college with brilliant grades to go work in such countries? It beats logic. Where have we gone wrong? Why can't we innovate? Why does our president encourage brain drain and labour exportation when we are still a developing country?

What happened to the Asian Development Model that they so waxed lyrical about when they were campaigning? It's appalling to witness the cluelessness with which decisions are being made in this country, off the back of increasing intimidation of critical voices.

The country is clearly on the verge of becoming a failed state. No political legitimacy, no economic progress, no promise of a better tomorrow-just taxation. New half-baked policies are also cropping in and whenever they attract public outcry, they change the name, hoping to appease Kenyan citizens, whose patience with the political class is running thin.

A case in point is the recently re-

branded Taifa Care, formerly SHIF. While on paper, it sounds like a good idea, the aura of the men promoting it inspires little to no confidence among Kenyans. It had earlier been alleged that disgraced billionaire Gautam Adani had a secret hand in the policy and would be the private investor to benefit most off it, upon it's rolling out. While City Bite has not confirmed this, the timing for the name change is quite telling, as it came immediately Mr. Adani was indicted for corruption by the United States Department of Justice.

Same applied to the JKIA PPP deal that was being rolled out between the Government and the Adani Group. Why are we on a back and forth? What happened to the public participation policy? We are wasting too much valuable time and energy, on decisions that public participation could easily cushion.

Well, the events of June 25th should act as a warning to everyone. If commoners revolted in France, in 1789, in what constituted the famous French Revolution, then those at the helm of our countries decision making ranks must recognize that we are in the age of information and this is a spark of consciousness. Africa is the fulcrum of the new era of consciousness and that must be acknowledged.



# The Legacy of Meredith C. Beal

From running his own Magazine in New York at the tender age of eighteen years old to becoming a cultural leader in Africa, H.R.H Meredith C. Beal boasts an inspirational story, checkered with the highs and lows of this world, which form the core of a great life. CBM recently caught up with the Bakholokoe Kingdom's global envoy and senior paramount Chief, who shared his story of transformation.

" I was born at Hoover Hospital, a small community hospital which is now defunct," a smiling Beal told CBM. " Our first family house I remember was on 50th Street," Beal stated. " We moved to 78th Street in 1960," he declared. " My father was a financial manager at Horace Mann and Jefferson High, and then when Crenshaw High opened he transferred there," he declared.

" My mom, on the other hand, was a beautician who operated a Beauty Bar named after herself - Cherry's," he told us. " At the time we had moved to the 78th Street," Beal declared.

" My dad was from Texas and my mother was from Arkansas," he continued. " Growing up, my family took frequent road trips down South," he told CBM. " These were rich experiences for me, and they gave me opportunities to connect with nature," he stated.

During his elementary school days, Meredith joined the orchestra, in which he played the clarinet. It was a 74th Street School. As a young musician, his very first music mentor was Harlean Beal, his paternal aunt. However as he developed, Beal started to take private clarinet and sax classes from Mr. Thomas, a music teacher who lived in their neighbourhood. Additionally, Beal took both piano



and organ lessons.

" My foundational mentor in music theory was Mr. Kay Mukagawa, who at the time was a music teacher at Horace Mann JHS," Beal said.

" Besides music, I had a knack for science and writing," he said. " Behind my story are the painstaking support of both my parents," Beal told City Bite. " However, my great aunt Dr. Christine B. Cash, who broke glass ceiling by becoming the first woman in Texas to earn a PhD had a more significant impact in my life," he said. " She became a highly reputable figure, not only in our family, but even in the larger Texas community and the United States of America," he stated. " This was majorly influenced by the fact that she was an astute educator."

" Due to her achievement, she was so admired by many people from all walks of lives, that when the book **Tall Black Texans -Men Of Courage** was being published, she became the only woman achiever to feature.

" Growing up, reading was my cup of tea and in her library, I found a niche,"

Beal told City Bite, with a sophisticated beam on his face.

" As I grew within the structure of the education system in my community, I developed different skills and interests in varied subjects," he declared. " When I was in high school, the legendary Bill Cosby came to my school, and addressed an assembly of students and tutors," he stated. " After that, we were assigned to write about the incident " he said. " When all were done, I was pleasantly surprised when my article was the only one featured on the school newspaper," he stated. " This incident triggered my passion for writing, and today, I can authoritatively testify that I have communicated my thoughts and opinions to millions of people across the world and I have inspired millions of young writers in the different countries that I have visited, through the different podiums on which I have gotten the opportunity to speak," he said.

" Of those who inspired me in my early days, the most prominent one was Dr. George Washington Carver," he declared. " Carver was a renown Agricultural Scientist, who influenced my love for chemistry," Beal continued. " I tried and yes, at some point I was a quality control chemist for Spectrum Chemical Company LTD. in Gardena, California."

" As a student in Crenshaw High School, I enrolled to be a member of the Basket Ball team," he told CBM. " At the time, we were trained by the legendary Basket ball coach Willie West, who won a record eight state titles among many others," he said.

Beal also ran tracks and competed in hurdles and high jump, having been inspired by four of his elder cousins Otis, Alden, Andy and



" Long story short, I am here, fifty years down the line still reciting the routine Nam Myoho Renge Kyo mediative chant and I am a lay buddhist priest."

" In 1978, I had an experience that redefined my general approach to life," Beal said. " As I aided my elder cousin in his liquor store, some amateur robbers attacked me and shot me at a close range," he said. " As I gathered strength and got on my feet, the first person I called was my mother, and soon I was taken to hospital, where doctors conducted an X-Ray procedure," he told City Bite.

Beal noted to us that at the time he was waiting for help, it is the chant - Nam Myoho Renge Kyo - that gave him strength. " It was like a dream. I couldn't believe that it was me. I sought strength from my spirituality and the chant came in handy," the senior paramount Chief notes to our interviewers.

Anyways, when the X-Ray procedure was complete, Beal says that Doctors found five double ought shotgun pellets in his heart, one in his eyes and at least a dozen in his chest , a horrifying sight that he says made him show more gratitude for the gift of life.

In 1980, Beal got a job in Los Angeles Times as a hard news reporter with a byline, an experience he says inducted him to the concept of manipulation of information. " In most cases, the raw news was transformed into a whole new story," Beal said. " It shocked me a lot and my conscious was pricked every moment this happened," he declared. " This experience made me trust no one," he said. " It also taught me the value of probing and asking questions about everything that I hear," he declared.

" To date, whenever I watch news, I have to verify them through my wide range of contacts," he said. " However, from my time with the paper, I decided to create my own

Garland Burrell, who were dominant track runners in Los Angeles, during the mid 60s.

" Otis and Alden went on to shine on a global scale, being crowned the best high jump combination in the world at a given point of their remarkable careers," Meredith notes.

" When I finally won the Los Angeles City title in the low hurdles, I made the fourth Burrell a honorary city champion," a smiling Beal stated. "

" During my time there, Crenshaw was just a new school in the black community, which benefitted from a program known as Model Cities," Beal said. " Through the offerings of the program, it became the first ever school in Los Angeles to have a functional computer laboratory, a television studio and a horticulture laboratory," he stated. " While there, I was aggressive enough to go out of my way and learn Cobol, Pasqual and Fortran, skills that have immensely benefitted me throughout my development, career and general adulthood," he said.

" As of 1975, I was a reporter for a certain Soul & Jazz Magazine," Beal said. " Through the platform, I got

privileged with the opportunity to interview Jazz legend Harbie Hancock," Beal stated. " Mr. Hancock was a Buddhist and it is my experience with him that informed my conversion to budhhism, prior to which I was just a scientist." When I first entered his compound, I found a group of people chanting the mediative mantra titled Nam **Myoho Renge Kyo** , and I was obliged to wait until the chanting was complete," he said. " As I waited, curiosity struck me, as I was eerily moved by the rhythm of the mantra and the mood it set," Beal told us.



" Deep down, I wanted to know more about this chant," he declared. " From my middle school education, I had a rough idea on Buddhism. However, it's Mr. Hancock who gave me an in depth insight of what the religion is all about, and that is how I was influenced."



media channels, in order to shine more light to the world through truthful airwaves."

After quitting The Los Angeles Times, Meredith was out of the media and venturing into other fields. In 1983, he became a part time chemist at spectrum and a part time editor. "I was a chemist by the day and a copy editor by the night," Beal notes in our conflag. "However, when I was made editor - in - chief of the magazine, I quit my job as a chemist," he stated.

"Time flies and soon, my chapter with the paper was closed, and I had to leave. However, my lifelong friend Jonathan Clark had just been appointed the Vice President of Motown records, and he brought me on as the marketing director," he stated. "At the time, there were only two computers in our seventeen storey building, and they were owned by Jonathan and I."

From strength to strength, Beal's journey with different companies

in tech, media and science grew until Bill and Melinda Gates foundation sent him to Africa back in 2011.

***Beal's story will be continued in our subsequent volumes.***



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# FASHION WITH A VIEW

For the special feature on fashion, we caught up with Rupha Sardjoe, a talk host and the founder of **Fashion With a View Foundation**. An energetic character, Rupha believes that what an individual wears is not just about making a statement to the outside world, but empowering themselves from within. "Each outfit you chose, is a reflection of your unique personality, your life's journey and your self-worth" she said. "Fashion is a powerful tool for enhancing emotional intelligence and self-awareness," Rupha told us. "Whether you are a trend-setter in your twenties or a seasoned fashion connoisseur in his or her sixties, the connection between feeling fabulous and your choice of outfit is indefatigable," she declared. "It is psychologically proven that during pregnancy, a time when women exude natural glow that deserves to be seen and celebrated, the bond between fashion and fabulous feeling becomes stronger," she stated. "Men who are transitioning to fatherhood also develop a deeper sense of fashion, that make them feel better in preparation to welcome their unborn child," Rupha said. "Embracing your style therfeore, is about honoring the beautiful person you are, and letting your inner glam shine" she said.



Asked of what Fashion With A View Foundation is about, a loquacious Rupha responded with a brilliant smile on his face. "It's about untold stories, adventures, experiences, expectations and acceptance," she said, inviting more questions from our curious interviewers. "It's about the laughter, the joy but also the loneliness and sadness that we deal with in our day to day living," Rupha said. "However, our main focus is on the untold stories around pregnancy," she declared. "It's about each and every story of the different stages in our lives, the current generation and future of our society," she declared. "At Fashion With a View, we believe that beauty is inherently inside us and fashion is how we communicate that beauty to the outside world," Rupha believes.

Ms. Rupha was born in Suriname with Indian roots. She now resides in the Netherlands, where she is a polarising figure in the field



of Fashion, beauty and lifestyle for both men, women and youths. Having started at the age of 55, she is now a global citizen, travelling across the world to speak about fashion, coach fashion enthusiasts and mentor young people in the fashion industry. She hosts a global talk show on YouTube and is a reliable trend setter on Gala Expo events.

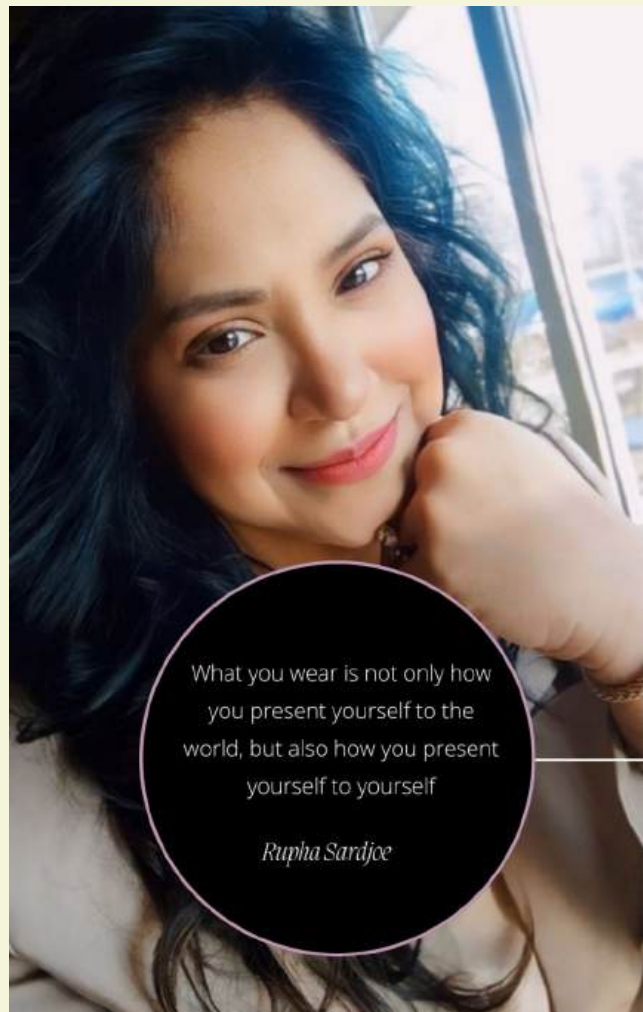
Miss. Rupha strongly believes in the significance of dressing and feeling fabulously regardless of age or stage in life. In her own words, her empowering personal story resonates with those trying to navigate the often overlooked stage of pregnancy, a journey she believes deserves to be celebrated.

Everything we do in life has its challenges and setting up Fashion With A View is no exception. Rupha says she has faced a confluence of challenges but the major one is social media communications. "I am old school," she said. "Adapting to social media therefore was a herculean task," she declared. "I struggle a lot with the immense pressure to appear perfect," she declared. "In my entire life, authenticity and imperfections are values that I have really cherished," she said. "Throughout my life, societal expectations made me forget myself some times," she told us. "To overcome this, I defined my own rules and decided to never overanalyze anything," she stated. "I continue to stand on my principles no matter what happens."

Looking ahead, Rupha believes that Fashion With A View is destined to go global and to impact many people across the world. "We want to be known for our immersive storytelling in fashion," She told City Bite. "We shall impact a diverse range of audiences with unique experiences without distorting our identity in any way," she said. "The brand will continue to push boundaries, inspiring generations to come with its innovative approach to fashion, that goes beyond the runway by including the beauty of pregnancy among women and also expecting fathers," she declared. "This is because naturally, the preference lies with the woman but the man is also important in the journey."

As we ended the conversation, Rupha affirmed her belief in the relationship between fashion and what we feel. "I believe that fashion is what you feel, I believe that beauty is what you do, I believe that lifestyle is what you create and I believe that style is a person. You create your own view, so make it a fabulous one."

"Fashion is how we want to be seen because beauty is internal. Through what we wear, we communicate who we are. Our personalities, our characters, our beliefs, our traditions and our status in the society," she said. "So when choosing what you wear, be thorough. Choose yourself always and be happy with what you see, because the universe sees you through what you wear."



What you wear is not only how you present yourself to the world, but also how you present yourself to yourself

*Rupha Sardjoe*

A vertical graphic with a purple and black background. At the top is a gold-colored logo consisting of a stylized 'F' and 'V' inside a hexagon. Below the logo, the text 'FASHION WITH A VIEW' is written in gold. Underneath, the name 'Rupha Sardjoe' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'FOUNDER &amp; CEO' in a sans-serif font. A list of services follows: 'Fashion, Beauty &amp; Lifestyle', 'Gala Expo Events', 'Luxury Fair', 'Fashionshows', 'Networking', 'Charity', 'Global Talkshow', and 'Fashion Speaker'. At the bottom, social media information is provided: 'Social Media', '@Fashionwithaview', and 'Info@fashionwithaview.com'. Small icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter are at the very bottom.

*Dressed by Afyehry*



# AFRICA FORWARD

## AFRICA MUST DEVIATE FROM WEST VS EAST DIPLOMACY

Africa's geopolitical landscape has long been influenced by the tug-of-war between Western and Eastern powers. This dynamic, rooted in the Cold War era, has shaped the continent's political, economic, and social fabric. However, as Africa stands at the crossroads of a new era, it is imperative to reconsider this binary approach to diplomacy. The continent's unique challenges and opportunities necessitate a more nuanced and independent foreign policy strategy. This article explores why Africa should deviate from the traditional West vs East diplomacy and chart its own course.

From a historical perspective, Africa's engagement with Western and Eastern powers is crucial to understanding the current diplomatic landscape. During the Cold War, African nations were often pawns in the ideological battle between the United States and the Soviet Union. This period saw the continent divided, with some countries aligning with the West and others with the East. The legacy of this era continues to influence Africa's foreign policy decisions.

While this is a necessary evil, given the immense benefits of diverse multilateral ties, these relations have had their own shortcomings on the growth trajectory of the continent. For instance, dependency, which infers over-reliance on either Western or Eastern powers has made African nations susceptible to external pressures. This dependency often comes with strings attached, thereby limiting the continent's ability to make autonomous decisions. By a way of illustration, Western aid and investment are frequently tied to political and economic reforms that may not align with local contexts.

Secondly, economic exploitation is another threat, that these relations imposes on the development of Africa. A number of thinkers and policy experts

Eastern powers have been exploiting Africa's resources. The West, through multinational corporations, has often been criticized for extracting raw materials without adequate compensation or investment in local communities. Similarly, China's Belt and Road Initiative, while providing much-needed infrastructure, has raised concerns about debt dependency and environmental degradation.

One of the most critical shortcomings of these diplomatic ties is the risk of political interference. The influence of external powers in African politics has been argued to lead to instability. Western interventions, such as those in Libya and Somalia, regardless of the originally presumed good 'intentions' have been said to have long-lasting negative impacts in the said countries. The said impacts are said to stultify development in those countries. On the other hand, Eastern powers, particularly China and Russia, have been accused of supporting authoritarian regimes in the pursuit of their own self-aggrandizing interests.

## Why non-aligned approach?

One reason for non-alignment, which can be considered the most important reason is to safeguard both sovereignty and autonomy. By adopting a non-aligned approach, African nations can reclaim their sovereignty and make decisions that best serve their interests. This strategy allows for greater flexibility in foreign policy, enabling countries to engage with a diverse range of partners without being beholden to any single power.

Either, breaking the imaginary diplomatic boundaries caused by alignment can help the continent build diversified partnerships. This is because dissociating with the West vs East dichotomy opens up opportunities for



*African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [Coutersy]*



*A.U.C Chairperson Moussa F. Mahamat*

partnerships with many more other countries and continents. For instance, free from the policy influence from either side of the diplomatic divides, African countries can freely engage with emerging economies in Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, thereby fostering a more balanced and multipolar world order. This diversification can lead to more competitive and favourable terms for trade, investment, and assistance for development.

Further, strengthening regional integration within Africa can reduce the continent's reliance on external powers. Initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aim to boost intra-African trade and economic cooperation. By focusing on regional integration, African nations can build collective strength and resilience against external pressures.



Without Non-Alignment, African Countries remain open to opportunities presented by both BRICS and the G7, among other Inter Governmental Forums.



## Success Stories of Non-Alignment



President Paul Kagame

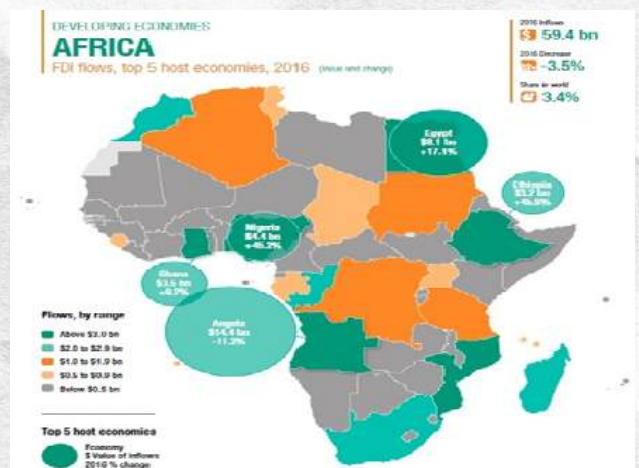
Some notable countries where Non-Alignment has manifested itself is in Rwanda, whose foreign policy under President Paul Kagame exemplifies the benefits of a non-aligned approach. The country has successfully diversified its partnerships, engaging with both Western and Eastern powers while maintaining her autonomy. This strategy has immensely contributed to Rwanda's impressively steady economic growth and development.

In Ethiopia, the diplomatic strategy has also been characterized by a balanced approach. The country has engaged with a wide range of partners, including the United States, China, and Gulf states, to advance its development agenda. This sectarian diplomacy has enabled Ethiopia to attract significant foreign investment and support for its infrastructure

projects.

Botswana's foreign policy has also long been marked by a commitment to non-alignment. The country has maintained strong diplomatic ties with both Western and Eastern powers while prioritizing its national interests. This approach has been credited with Botswana's political stability and economic success.

**As of 2017, Ethiopia was among Top Performing African Countries in FDI Flow, according to statistics from Ethiopian Investment Commission**



## Challenges and opportunities

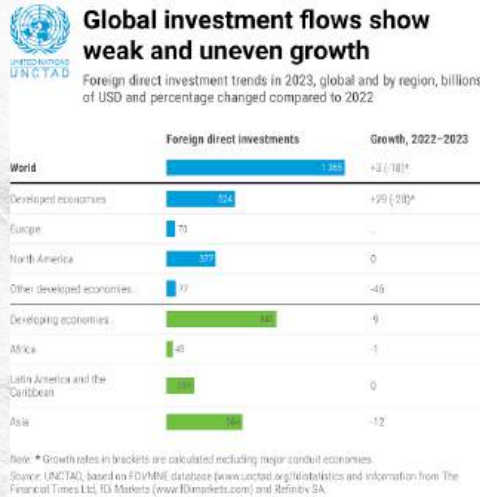
Regardless of its benefits, non-alignment has its own challenges. This though, is a natural characteristic of all concepts. The Balancing Act, to begin with is considered one of the main challenges of a non-aligned approach. This is because maintaining a delicate balance between competing interests can be herculean, near impossible to developing African countries. Therefore, African nations must navigate complex geopolitical dynamics and avoid being drawn into conflicts between major powers.

Additionally, to effectively pursue a non-aligned foreign policy, African countries need to invest in meticulous capacity building. This includes strengthening diplomatic institutions, enhancing negotiation skills, and developing strategic thinking. This way, it's easy to build a cadre of skilled diplomats, which is essential for advancing national interests in the international community.

Finally, leveraging collective strength through regional organizations such as the African

THE DIPLOMAT

Union (AU) play a crucial role in supporting non-aligned diplomacy. Through the synergistic opportunities provided by the existence of said intergovernmental organisation, African nations can amplify their voices and influence in international forums. The AU's efforts to mediate conflicts and promote peace and security are examples of how regional cooperation can enhance Africa's diplomatic influence.



[From UNCTAD website]: As of 2023, Global investment flow shows weak and uneven growth

In conclusion, as Africa navigates the complexities of the 21st century, it is imperative to move beyond the binary West vs East diplomacy. The continent's unique challenges and opportunities require a more nuanced and independent foreign policy strategy. By adopting a non-aligned approach, African nations can reclaim their sovereignty, diversify their partnerships, and strengthen regional integration. Success stories from countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Botswana demonstrate the potential benefits of this strategy. While challenges remain, the opportunities for a more balanced and multipolar world order are within reach. Africa's future lies in its ability to chart its own course and assert its place on the global stage.

SHOULD AFRICA HAVE ONE CENTRALIZED CURRENCY?



The idea of a centralized currency for Africa has been a topic of discussion for many years. Inspired by the success of the Euro in the European Union and the stability of the US dollar, many economists and policymakers believe that a single currency could bring numerous benefits to the African continent. This article explores the potential advantages of a centralized currency for Africa, the challenges that need to be addressed, and the steps required to achieve this ambitious goal.

One of the primary benefits of a centralized currency is the facilitation of economic integration and trade. A single currency would eliminate the need for currency exchange, reducing transaction costs and making cross-border trade more efficient.

This could significantly boost intra-African trade, which is currently

hampered by the existence of multiple currencies and fluctuating exchange rates.

Secondly, a centralized currency could also bring greater economic stability to the continent. Many African countries suffer from high inflation and volatile exchange rates, which can deter foreign investment. A single, stable currency could attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) by reducing the risks associated with currency fluctuations. This, in turn, could spur economic growth and development across the continent.

The other benefit of this is enhanced monetary policy. With a centralized currency, Africa could implement a more cohesive and effective monetary policy.

This is because currently, individual countries have their own central banks and monetary policies, which can sometimes be at odds with each other. Having a single central bank for Africa could ensure that monetary policy is aligned with the continent's

overall economic goals, leading to more consistent and predictable economic outcomes.

Beyond the economic benefits, a centralized currency could also foster greater political and social unity among African nations. The European Union's experience with the Euro has shown that a common currency can strengthen political ties and promote a sense of shared identity.

For Africa, a single currency could symbolize a commitment to unity and cooperation, helping to overcome historical divisions and conflicts.

However, while there exist immense benefits of a centralized currency, there are also downsides to it, that need addressing. One of such major obstacles is the economic disparity between African countries.

The continent is home to both medium developed economies and some of the world's poorest nations. Therefore, achieving the level of

economic convergence required for a successful monetary union will be a complex and lengthy process.

Another challenge is the need for strong political will and cooperation among African leaders. The success of a centralized currency depends on the willingness of countries to cede some degree of sovereignty over their monetary policies.

This requires a high level of trust and collaboration, which can be difficult to achieve in a continent with diverse political systems and interests.





**T**he City of Nairobi is renowned for the industry of her people. With its growing importance in the international space, the City plays host to a number of global events.

While some take place occasionally, others are annual events. Between the 9th and the 11th of December 2024, the Jacaranda Hotel became a convergent point for Kenyans living in the diaspora, Africans from different countries and historical world's Africans as the Kenya Diaspora Alliance hosted the 11th Annual Diaspora Convention.

It was an event of pomp and color, that featured conversations, speeches, networking, innovation, business deals and feast. Delegates came from different parts of the country, while speakers were drawn from all parts of the world and different professional backgrounds.

Across each of the three days, there were sessions touching on different concepts that define our day to day living, with the aim of finding solutions to the gaps that exist in said fields. From sports to music, climate change to business and investment, the conversations were geared towards using the rich tapestry

of experiences garnered by Africans living beyond borders to positively contribute to the alleviation of development in the continent.

At the core of the conversations was the deeply rooted quest to embrace the superiority of our varied skill sets and tap into the existing synergistic opportunities to not only build the economy, but also nurture young people into success in their varied fields of interests.

Themed Knowledge and Skills for Resilience and Growth, the event itself, was according to its planners, led by Dr. Shem Ochuodho aimed at emphasizing the critical need for adapting to technological advancements, enhancing climate resilience and fostering economic transformation for sustainable development.

Present at the forum was Rev. Dillon Dennis, the New York Christian Times executive who was representing Prof. Julius Garvey, with some of the key topics of discussion revolving around spirituality, technology and African consciousness.

Keynote speakers were officials from various Government departments including ICT Minister Hon. Margaret Nyambura, Permanent Secretary for

the State Department for Labor Hon. Shadrack Mwandime and among others Hon. Roseline Njogu, the Principal Secretary for State Department of Diaspora Affairs.

Throughout the three days, Kenyans and other members of the African diaspora showcased brilliance of high degree while discussing possible solutions to the to every gap stemmifying the country's development.

Standing out was the discussion on the safflower seed that is said to be the next big crop in Africa. Emanating from Botswana, the crop is said to be of high medicinal value and contributed immensely to the healing of a number of COVID-19 patients at the height of the infamous 2019-2021 pandemic. Till its end, it was an eye opening occasion, that borrowed from the previous ones and will be built on by the next.



# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL

Will Manchester United ever really return to their glory days? If yes, then they may still have a long way ahead. In Ruben Amorim, they might've snatched the hottest property in modern football coaching but is their current squad ready to cope with the intensity of modern football?

# 2024

It was Rasmus Højlund who came to the rescue of Manchester United, who displayed a rather abysmal performance against Plizen in Kazakhstan weeks ago. Ten Hag is long gone but it seems his spirit still looms large among the red devils. Who will save United?



# WHO WILL SAVE THE DEVIL?

*The more you look at Manchester United the less you see any promise of a better future for the once vibrant football institution. Where did those in situ at Old Trafford go wrong, that however how hard they try to solve their problems, things keep moving from a bad state to a worse one, as if the club is nestled on a quicksand.*

*Sacked manager Erik ten Hag was the eighth man to stand on United's touchline since Sir. Alex Ferguson retired from football coaching almost 11 years ago, but the more things change at the Theatre of Dreams, the more they stay the same. When Louis van Gaal came in, he was just fresh from a terrific run in the 2014 World Cup tournament, emerging as the second runners up, off the back of a sterling reputation, having managed football giants like Barcelona and Bayern Munich. An air of confidence filled the United fraternity, but in retrospect, none of the expectations came of age.*

*Van Gaal was packing his bags two years later, with only an F.A. Cup trophy to show.*

*In response to his ouster, LvG as he was commonly known said he was deeply disappointed not to see off his three year contract and ever since, he has had his reservations against Manchester United. Word has it that when United finally settled on Erik ten Hag later on, in 2022, he advised him against taking the job.*

*However, life has to move on and soon the then Manchester United C.E.O Ed Woodward saw the transition from LvG to José Mourinho, who at the time was considered one of the best coaches in the world. There were high hopes that the red devils were finally going to return to their glory days, The Special One, who is comfortably the most successful United manager post Sir. Alex Ferguson only lasted two years, during which he won the Europa League, The EFL and the Community Shield trophies.*





linked with the job in what many a football pundits regarded as disrespectful. However, after protracted speculations, the red devils furtively extended the former Ajax manager's contract for one more year, a calamitous move that cost new Sporting Director Dan Ashworth his job.

From the word go, the 2024/25 was poor and with every game, Erik's tenure at United seemed to be getting closer to an end. An online upheaval began on the social media channels, while pundits continued to criticise the Dutch man, some outrightly calling out his inability to turn things around. Long story short, after securing an abysmal nine points out of possible twenty seven, new Manchester United Chief Executive Omar Berrada grabbed with two hands, the opportunity to make his first major tough decision at Old Trafford. Ten Hag was sacked, and United furtively hired Sporting's Ruben Amorim, who was on an eleven game win run at the time.

Negotiations took less than a week, and for the first time, The hierarchy at Old Trafford showed some ambition. There was massive mystique surrounding the former Portuguese international's appointment, given his track record at Sporting, which by the way, on a different note has a resemblance to Erik ten Hag's track record at Ajax.

Few weeks in, similar problems are still glaring. Regardless of the fact that there's some clear game plan being implemented by Ruben, unlike Erik, deficiency of goals and chronic concession of easy chances and goals are both still a major

Like LvG, Mourinho left with a bitter taste in the mouth, having openly criticised the United hierarchy during a press conference post a comprehensive 3-1 thrashing by fierce rivals Liverpool.

Along came Ole Gunar Solksjear who despite creating a visibly ruthless attacking system, only lasted for another two season before Michael Carrick took over from him as an interim manager.

When Erik succeeded Carrick, everybody within the United family was confident that they finally had a modern coach, given his achievements with a young squad at Ajax.

In his first two matches, he lost, something which is characteristic of many new coaches. However, as he grew into the season, he instilled a winning mentality into his team, seeing academy graduate Marcus Rashford garner more than thirty direct goal involvements for the first time in his United career.

Anyways, honeymoon ended with the carabao cup as the icing on the cake and the second season began on a low note. Even though it ended with another trophy after beating Manchester City to the 23/24 F.A Cup trophy, united were generally so poor in the league, that news from veritable sources like the renown Italian journalist Fabrizio Romano confirmed that part owners INEOS were talking to other managers who could potentially replace the Dutch man. Former Chelsea head -coach Thomas Tuchel was strikingly





*issue. The question of whether Amorim will stand the test of time or he will be just another passing wind may only be answered by the output on the pitch.*

*Determined to return the club to glory days, INEOS boss Sir. Jim Ratcliffe has repeatedly insisted on the need to make unpopular decisions and he has stuck his guns with regards to that theme. Heads are rolling lately, with two other departures already reported since Mr. Ashworth, who has been widely credited with the decision to stick with Erik.*

*Since winning the bid for 25% shares, INEOS has also been astute with cost cuttings decisions, some of which distant murmurs have indicated that staff at United are disappointed with.*

*While the environment at United continue to be toxic, fans and stakeholders from all walks of life are put on the edge by the emotional roller coaster that comes with being associated with the club in the recent past.*



***Manchester United has become mediocre. It is supposed to be one of the best football clubs in the world. We have to make some difficult and unpopular decisions.***



***Sir. Jim Ratcliffe***



## IMPACT STORIES

This feature talks about stories of humanity and charity.

In the contemporary world, regardless of the confluence of challenges many people from vulnerable communities face, a silver lining is provided by organisations dedicated to light a candle in the dark.

Together For Better foundation is the cradle of humanity in Kenya, fighting against menstrual poverty.

# T4B



# FOUNDATION *Article by Aruna Varsani*

In a world increasingly focused on sustainability, addressing fundamental human needs while safeguarding the environment has never been more critical. At Together for Better Foundation, we believe that meaningful social impact begins with meeting basic necessities—particularly those that affect women and girls. One such area that continues to require attention is access to sanitary pads, which remains a significant challenge in many communities, especially in Kenya and across Africa.

For many girls, menstruation is not just a biological process but a major barrier to education, self-confidence, and long-term success. When young girls do not have access to sanitary products, they are often forced to miss school during their periods, falling behind in their studies and, in some cases, eventually dropping out. This leads to a vicious cycle of poverty and disempowerment.

The solution seems simple: free pads. However, the impact of providing free menstrual products goes beyond physical hygiene—it is an investment in a girl's future. Ensuring that every girl can attend school, no matter her menstrual cycle, is essential to building stronger, more educated communities. The provision of free sanitary pads must be framed as an issue of human rights and gender equality.

## *Breaking the Taboo: Menstrual Health as a Human Right*

For many girls, menstruation is not just a biological process but a major barrier to education, self-confidence, and long-term success. When young girls do not have access to sanitary products, they are often forced to miss school during their periods, falling behind in their studies and, in some cases, eventually dropping out. This leads to a vicious cycle of poverty and disempowerment.

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2016

*The year in which  
Together4Better  
Foundation was  
conceptualised*



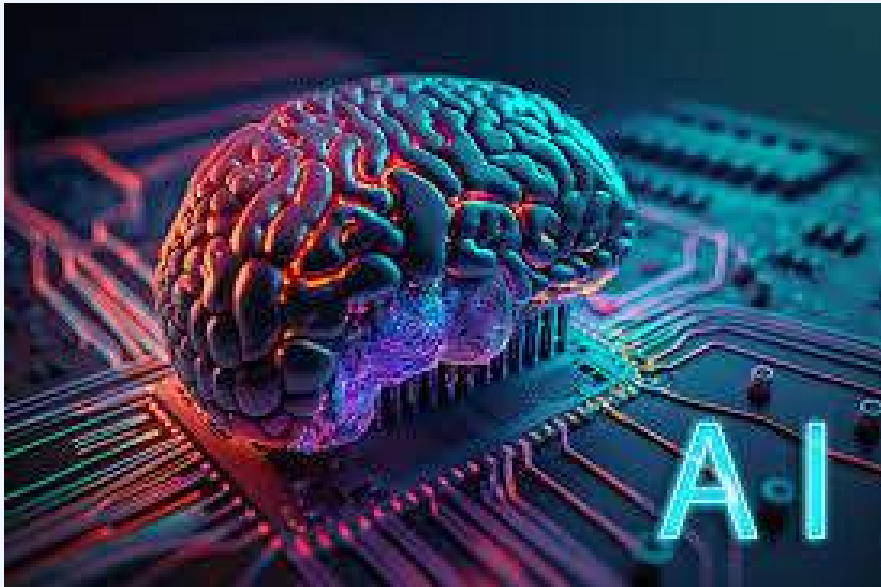
As vital as free pads are, we must also consider the environmental footprint of these products. With billions of non-biodegradable pads ending up in landfills every year, traditional sanitary pads present a sustainability challenge. At Together for Better, we are actively working on promoting eco-friendly alternatives that not only protect the environment but are also accessible to underprivileged communities.

Our mission is to empower young girls and women by ensuring that menstruation never hinders their progress or potential. By distributing free, eco-friendly menstrual products, we aim to promote health, dignity, and equality while safeguarding the planet.



# TECHNOLOGY

## IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE A THREAT?



### "Africa is lagging behind on A.I"

Eng. John Opiyo

#### FROM THE ANGLE OF AN EXPERT

The ubiquity of artificial intelligence in the contemporary world is a subject that requires meticulous attention, given its deep rooted contribution to our day-to-day living in the current world. While many opine that A.I. Technology has simplified the achievement of certain tasks, some have expressed their reservations on it, as a threat to human employability. Additionally, from the archives of Netflix documentaries 'The Great Hack' and 'Social Dilemma', it is alleged that the increased use of Artificial Intelligence has reduced the quality of data privacy, given we live in the digital age. This in turn has made users of the Internet susceptible to psychological operations, manipulative algorithms and misuse of their data points.

To understand the benefits, the downsides and the future of the technology, CBM caught up with Eng. John Opiyo, a distinguished expert in the

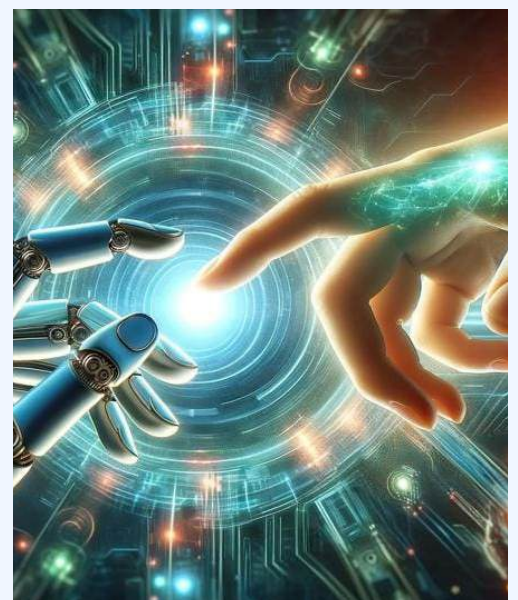
realms of technology, innovation and artificial intelligence.

Throughout his career in Technology, he has established a reputation for his commitment to advancing cutting edge technologies and their application in solving real world challenges.

John boasts a profound understanding of Artificial Intelligence systems and strategic approach to technological innovation. He has also made significant contributions to driving progress across various industries. His main focus is on developing ethical, data-driven solutions that enhance operational efficiency, foster economic growth and create sustainable futures. John is committed to continue shaping the future of A.I and its role in transforming business and society.

For the first part of the interview, CBM asked John to give, in his own words a definition of what Artificial

Intelligence is. In his response, he said, " A.I. is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy," John told us. "A.I. is applicable in this era of cyber physical system -CPS-, which is the new generation of digital systems."



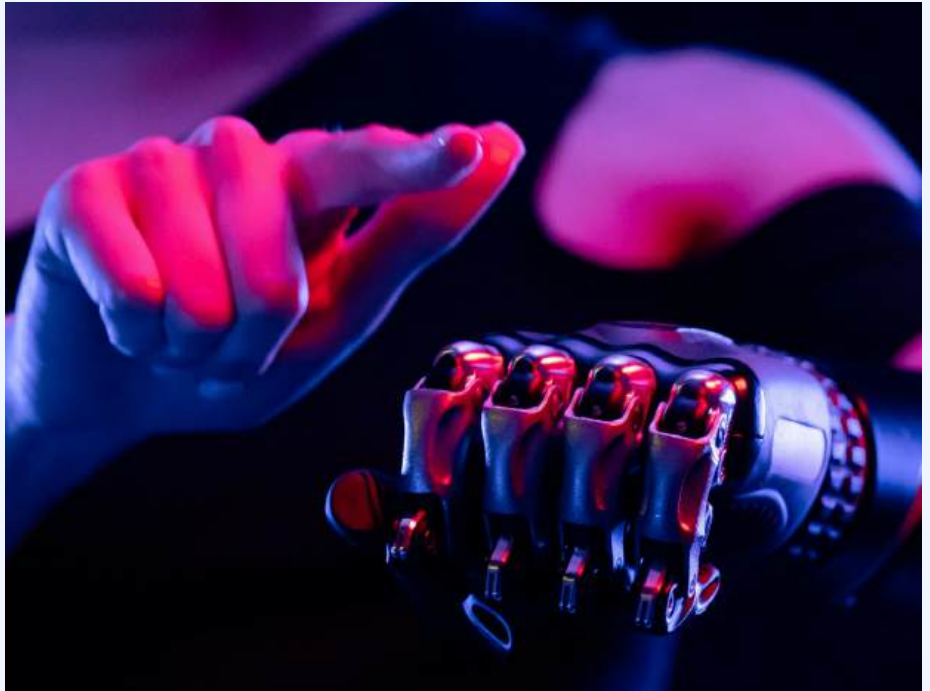
CPS is said to be composed of computational and physical capability that engages with humans like never before. Such systems are designed to act like a network of multiple variables with both physical input and output – rather than standalone technology. They're closely related to sensor networks like robotics that function according to computational Intelligence.

As of 2024, the global cyber physical system market is valued at \$124.1 Billion and is anticipated to reach \$ 255.3 billion by the year 2029. This accentuates its heavy existence, meteoric rise and its implications on world's economy today. This informed the next question to Eng. John Opiyo, which sought to establish the importance of Artificial Intelligence to the contemporary world. "Artificial intelligence is quickly changing our lives," he stated. "Due to numerous applications and softwares powered by AI technology, it has brought limitless benefits at our doorsteps," he declared.

"Further, it has the potential to transform and revolutionize several fields and industries including healthcare, finance, education, transportation, marketing and entertainment," he said. "That notwithstanding, AI Technology offers a number of other general benefits to the world, like for instance, one can say it improves efficiency and productivity," he declared.

"In manufacturing by a way of illustration, AI powered robots can perform tasks that are repetitive and time consuming," he stated. "This ergo frees up human employees to perform more complex tasks," he declared. "Similarly, in healthcare, this technology can be used to improve patient outcomes by streamlining administrative tasks and allowing medical professionals to focus on providing personalised care to their patients."

According to CDC, streamlining workforce by Artificial Intelligence can lead to diagnostic accuracy, however, in a major downside, some have argued that it raises concerns of potential dehumanisation in health care and reduced patient-provider interactions. John discussed the shortcomings later on, towards the conclusion of the interview. However, he insisted that this technology still has more benefits like



the concept of predictive analysis. "Through predictive analysis, AI can help businesses make better decisions," he said. "By analysing large amounts of data, algorithms powered by AI technology can identify patterns and trends that human beings, prone to error might miss," he said. "This in turn provides businesses with insights that can help them make better informed decisions."

"That's not all, however. In the field of education for example, AI has immense impact," he said. "For instance, it can enable personalised learning and improve student outcomes immensely," he stated. "This can really transform the education sector," John told us. "In intelligent tutoring systems to adaptive learning platforms, it will be widely implemented to adjust to the needs and abilities of individual students," he declared.

Going back to the concern raised by CDC on dehumanisation of service delivery, CBM asked John whether he thinks that AI Technology is a threat to human employment or employability, a question to which he comprehensively responded.

"AI can be both a threat to human employment and a boon for innovation," he commenced his response. "On the one hand, AI is capable of automating many tasks that are currently done by humans," he continued. "This could lead to job displacement, especially in industries where repetitive tasks are common," he'd declared.

"For example, AI is contemporarily being used to automate tasks in manufacturing, customer service, and transportation," he said. "This can reduce the number of employees required in a certain company or field, that uses it to perform some tasks that were traditionally performed by humans," he said.

"On the other hand, however, AI is also creating new jobs in fields such as data science and machine learning," he told us. "It is also being used to improve the efficiency of existing jobs by automating tasks that are time-consuming or repetitive," John said. "To illustrate, this technology is being used to help doctors diagnose diseases, lawyers review contracts, and teachers personalized instructions."

"Overall, the impact of AI on employment is relative," he said. "Some jobs will be lost to automation, while new jobs will be created. It is important for workers to prepare for the changing job market by upskilling and reskilling."

As modern tool, Artificial Intelligence, given its ubiquity definitely has a direct impact on the growth trajectory of the different continents of the world, including Africa, which according to experts is a fertile ground for innovation in this field. For instance, according to statistics published in SovTech website, the AI market value in Africa as of last year was \$5.20 billion, and is expected to grow at an annual rate of 19.72%. This begged our next question to Mr. Opiyo, which sought to establish his opinion on what he thinks is the position of this technology in the continent and its contribution to Africa's

future.

"According to assorted reports, Africa is lagging behind on A.I. However, the continent is beginning to bridge the gap with several initiatives looking to capitalize on its vast potential," he said. "With a growing population of over 1.4 billion people and the majority of those under 30, the continent is ripe for investment," he declared. "By a way of illustration, with agriculture and mining, A. I. models could be used to optimize yields and production," he told CBM. "Further, In the banking and financial sectors, it could help in automating more customer transactions in the commercial banking space," he stated. "Additionally, A.I. models can be used to make predictions and recommendations on the market or investments," he declared. "A major hurdle for African enterprises to invest in A.I. , however, is to understand its return on investment, fung adds," Mr. Opiyo said.



**Eng. John Opiyo [ Coutersy]**

"Policymakers must therefore understand the potential impact of regulations on innovation before enacting broad and heavy-handed laws. With that said, history has shown over time that new technology is the engine of economic growth," he said. "A.I. will augment many jobs, create even more opportunities, improve productivity and enhance our quality of life across the continent and worldwide."

Talking about general technology and its shortcomings, Opiyo indicated the threats of technology to humanity. "The term **technology** is not new in this generation and generation before. It is the practical of scientific knowledge for a specific purpose. The first shortcoming is that people can use technology for negative reasons like hacking, fishing which is a major threat to global organizations," he said.

"Secondly, the use of nuclear technology to create weapons of mass destruction somehow threatens humanity, especially if these weapons fall in the wrong hands," he said. "Further, technology has increased people's dependency on it, some leading to addiction and finally, it has increased the financial spending of most people since most are very costly."

"Some of humanity's greatest threats today result from technological advancement," he said.

"The long-term effects of children growing up with unlimited screen time are not well understood but early signs are not encouraging," he continued. "Poor attention spans, anxiety, depression and weak social connections are some of the impacts of doom scrolling and excess screen time," he stated. "There is also a number of teens who become complete addicts and non-functioning adults."

"To mitigate these risks, good governance can be as important as the technology itself."

"Technologies are improved day by day. Future technologies will obviously be created better than existing ones," he said.

"Currently technology is better viewed as an inherent part of human evolution and adaptation. Humans adapt via the tools they create more than by changes to their physical makeup," he declared.

"From my experience, Technology is neither inherently helpful nor harmful. It is simply a tool. The real effects of technology depend upon how it is wielded. It can be used to inspire and catalyze change just as easily as it can be used in ways that are detrimental to society. Technology's influence in the world is highly dependent upon extraneous factors. However, in future, we have the responsibility to create a secured technology for the people security."

Asked about data privacy and protection in the age of machine learning and training, John insisted that new technologies has exacerbated human susceptibility to cyber insecurity. "As digital transformation continues to advance, organizations are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits that modern technologies offer," he said. "However, with greater technology adoption comes a higher risk of cyber security threats and attacks," he declared. "Therefore, there is a need for more advanced measures to protect against constantly evolving threats," John said.

"Data is the central to the functioning of artificial intelligence systems," he continued. "Without large amounts of input data, these technologies are essentially useless. Privacy must be protected and promoted throughout the AI lifecycle. Adequate data protection frameworks should also be established."

For the final part of the interview, CBM asked Mr. Opiyo on which A.I. engine is the best compared to Google. He differentiated the different platforms and how they function in this manner.

"AI has become an integral part of our daily lives. From virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa to self-driving cars, it is transforming the way we live and work. As the demand for the technology continues to grow, more and more companies are entering the market with their own A.I. platforms.

"**Grok** is an A.I. platform that specializes in natural language processing (NLP). It can analyze large volumes of text data and extract meaningful insights, making it a valuable tool for businesses looking to understand their customers' sentiments and preferences," he said. "ChatGPT on the other hand is a chat bot platform that uses Generative Pre-trained Transformer technology to generate human-like responses in real-time," he declared. "It can be integrated with messaging apps like Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp, making it an ideal choice for businesses looking to improve their customer service through chatbots."

"Unlike ChatGpt, **Copilot** is an AI-powered code completion tool that helps developers write better code faster," he said. "It uses machine learning to analyze code patterns and provide suggestions for improved coding practices. Therefore, Copilot is a popular choice for developers."

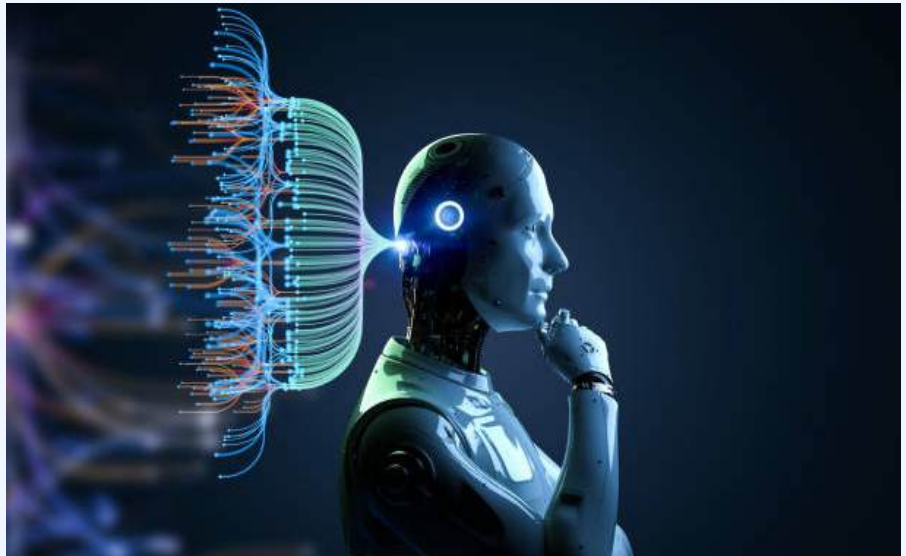
"Finally, Google is a machine learning platform that offers a wide range of AI tools and services," Mr. Opiyo said.



It uses Google's powerful algorithms to provide accurate predictions and insights.

Therefore, depending on your business model you can utilize any of the above AI technology. However, Google offers user-friendly interface and seamless integration with other Google engines like Google Cloud Platform."

"As a conclusion, I'd say that it is important to thoroughly research and test different AI platforms before making a decision. With the rapid advancements in AI technology, there will surely be more options available in the future. Therefore, it is imperative to stay informed and choose the platform that best fits your business needs."



*An image illustrating Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics.*

## ELON MUSK'S COMMITMENT TO MAKE HUMANITY MULTIPLANETARY.

In the realm of modern innovation and technological advancement, few figures stand as prominently as Elon Musk. The visionary entrepreneur behind companies like Tesla and SpaceX has consistently pushed the boundaries of what is possible. Among his most ambitious goals is the aspiration to make humanity a multiplanetary species.

This commitment is not only a testament to his visionary thinking but also serves as a source of inspiration for millions around the globe.

This vision for a multiplanetary future is rooted in the belief that humanity must become a spacefaring civilization to ensure its long-term survival.

This idea is not merely a flight of fancy but a well-considered response to potential existential threats, such as asteroid impacts, climate change, and other global catastrophes.

By establishing a human presence on other planets, Musk argues, we can safeguard the future of our species.

Central to Musk's vision is SpaceX, the aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company he founded in 2002. Since its founding, the company has achieved numerous milestones that were once thought impossible, including the successful launch and landing of reusable rockets.



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