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A celebration of Community & Joy
THE KENYA FUN DAY HIGHLIGHTS

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THE POWER OF WELFARE

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WORD FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN



Being Chairperson is a title, but true leadership is about service, and that's something you can never step away from. It has been a tremendous honor and joy to serve the people of Western Cape for the past 16 years. As I now step aside to make room for new leadership, I do so with a full heart, knowing that I leave behind an incredible team ready to serve the community with passion and dedication.

There are no shoes to fill—each leader brings their own unique strengths and skills, and I have every confidence that they will grow into their roles, just as I have.

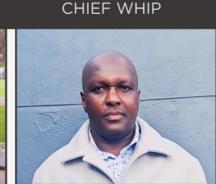
This is not a farewell. I'm still here, and it will always be my pleasure to continue supporting our community in any way I can. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Chairperson.



Pauline Mburu Tel: +27 741 709 752

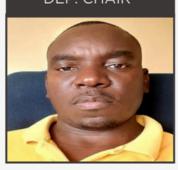


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From Miraa Trader to Matatu Mogul

The Remarkable Journey of Japheth Mugania Thiane

n this edition, we had the privilege of speaking with Japheth Mugania Thiane, affectionately known as Jeff, the Chairperson of Genesis, an association for Kenyans living in Cape Town. Jeff's inspiring journey from a Miraa trader in Kenya to the proud owner of Rock Family, a thriving Matatu business in Cape Town, is one that speaks volumes about determination, resilience, and innovation.

Jeff's journey began in December 1998, when he launched Rock Taxis. Before this venture, Jeff was involved in the Miraa (Khat) trade in Kenya, a business that unexpectedly paved his way to Cape Town, South Africa. His frequent trips to the airport to collect Miraa from Kenya required him to hire Matatus (referred to as taxis in Cape Town), as he needed the extra space and time for his cargo. Jeff quickly developed a deep familiarity with the Matatu culture, spending long hours at taxi ranks waiting for his shipments. Little did he know that this would be the foundation of a new business chapter in his life.

However, fate took a sharp turn when, just four months into his Miraa business, the South African government banned its use. Left with no viable business venture, Jeff turned to his newly acquired knowledge of the Matatu industry. He began requesting short trips from his Matatu driver friends, eventually working full-time for a taxi owner for three years. By November 2001, his hard work and savings had paid off, allowing him to purchase his first Matatu—a moment that marked the birth of Rock Taxis.

But the Matatu business in Cape Town was not for the faint-hearted. Jeff found himself in a dangerous industry, one largely controlled by gangsters. He faced numerous threats, including break-ins and vandalism, with windshields of his vehicles being shattered multiple times. But Jeff's unyielding determination set him apart. "It is by courage, God, and never giving up," he says of his survival in this perilous industry. Every time his vehicle was attacked, he would immediately repair the damage, using his savings to stay in operation.

What truly set Jeff apart, however, was his innovative mindset. Drawing inspiration from the Matatu culture in Nairobi, Jeff invested heavily in top-quality music systems for his Matatus. His vehicles became known for their lively, engaging atmosphere, attracting a younger clientele eager for a vibrant commute. This unique blend of Kenyan street culture and local business savvy quickly gained him popularity among Cape Town's residents.

Despite the dangers, Jeff's persistence and vision allowed him to thrive. Today, the Matatu industry in Cape Town has transformed into a viable and lucrative business. Jeff speaks highly of the opportunities it offers, encouraging others to join the trade. His influence has brought many Kenyans into the industry, mentoring and employing several along the way. More than just a businessman, Jeff is a dedicated family man. He and his wife have raised four children, one of whom has already joined him in the family business. Jeff's story is one of triumph against the odds, a testament to what can be achieved through courage, determination, and a deep-rooted belief in one's dreams.

As he looks to the future, Jeff remains optimistic about the Matatu industry in Cape Town, encouraging anyone willing to take the leap. His journey from a Miraa trader to a Matatu mogul is nothing short of remarkable, a true example of resilience and innovation at its finest.

"Though it's a risky business, it has been worth every step of the way," he concludes with a smile.



Robert Githua My Story Editor



A Celebration of Community & Joy

The Kenya Fun Day, a highly anticipated event organized by the leadership of the KCWC, was nothing short of a spectacular success. Held under the warm skies of Cape Town, it drew in a crowd of eager Kenyans from all walks of life, each one bursting with pride for their heritage and enthusiasm for the day's activities.

A Day of Laughter, Play, and Togetherness

From the moment families began trickling in, it was clear that Kenya Fun Day would be an unforgettable celebration of Kenyan culture and unity. The day's activities were carefully curated to ensure that everyone had something to look forward to.

There were competitive games like table tennis, where community members of all ages showed off their skills in friendly matches. The highlight of the day was the *Tug of War*, an old favorite that never fails to spark laughter and excitement. Teams locked hands and heaved with all their might, while bystanders shouted words of encouragement.

A Fun-Filled Paradise for Kids

The children were in absolute paradise. A massive jumping castle dominated the kids' corner, where young ones bounced away their energy, their joyous laughter filling the air. Various other games and activities, including face painting and basket ball, ensured that the little ones were never bored for a second.

Food, Music, and Kenyan Spirit

Vendors set up stalls offering mouthwatering dishes succulent *nyama choma*, *pilau*, *samosas*, & *mandazi*. The aroma alone was enough to make anyone feel at home.

Unity Through Culture

Beyond the games, food, and music, the Kenya Fun Day was a testament to the unity and resilience of the Kenyan diaspora in Cape Town.

As the day wound down, it was clear that the Kenya Fun Day had left an indelible mark on everyone who attended.



99

Wakenya Pamoja proudly celebrates these moments, where our shared love for Kenya brings us closer together, even in the diaspora









DELIVERING DREAMS Jecuring Futures

For many Kenyans living in Cape Town, the dream of owning a home or investing in property back in Kenya has always been elusive. Many tales have been told of complicated processes, scams, and dashed hopes. But since Optiven Real Estate came to town, everything has changed for the better.



In February 2024, Dr. George Wachiuri, the CEO of Optiven, and his dedicated team visited Cape Town. They came with a mission—to bring hope and confidence to Kenyans in the diaspora who longed to invest in their homeland. Dr. Wachiuri spoke passionately about Optiven's commitment to delivering dreams through secure investments, and his message resonated deeply with the community.



www.optiven.co.ke

The Cape Town Visit: A Turning Point

Optiven's visit was more than just a business trip—it was a promise. Dr. Wachiuri and his team assured the Cape Town Kenyan community that investing in land back home would no longer be a gamble. With clear processes, flexible payment plans, and dedicated diaspora support, Optiven had created a seamless experience for Kenyans living abroad.

September 2024: A Dream Realized

September 2024, Optiven has delivered on that promise. The first batch of title deeds was handed over to Kenyans in Cape Town. . Owning property back home is no longer just a dream but it is now a reality.

Building Futures, One Title Deed at a Time

Optiven Real Estate is more than a company—it is a bridge between the dreams of the Kenyan diaspora and the reality of owning land in Kenya. By providing secure transactions, flexible payment plans, and timely delivery of title deeds, Optiven is proving that investing back home is not only possible but also fulfilling.

With this recent delivery of title deeds in September 2024,
Optiven has already transformed the lives of many Kenyans in
Cape Town. They now stand as a beacon of trust for those who have always wanted to secure their future back home but were unsure of how to do it.

For Dr. Wachiuri and the Optiven team, this is just the beginning. The mission is simple deliver on promises made.





The scholar pioneering aviation law for africa

In the fast-growing aviation industry, legal scholars in Africa have often been a rare find. But William Kiema, a 30-year-old Kenyan, is rewriting that narrative. Earlier this month, William graduated with a PhD in Air Law from the prestigious University of Cape Town (UCT), becoming only the second PhD graduate from UCT's newly established Air and Aviation Law Programme. His thesis, "Open Skies for Africa: A Principled Approach to the Implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market," promises to revolutionize the continent's aviation sector by creating a more open and regulated airspace for Africa.

Before his journey into aviation law, William had already laid a strong foundation in academia. He earned his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Nairobi in 2018, and soon after, he pursued a Master of Laws at UCT with the help of the MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Program. This program offered William not just an academic platform but also the opportunity to interact with global scholars and grow within his field.

Driven by an unrelenting passion for research, William saw significant gaps in Africa's civil aviation regulations. Eager to address these challenges, he embarked on his PhD journey in 2021. Reflecting on his childhood in Kenya, William recalls the awe he felt watching planes soar overhead. He dreamt of becoming everything from a doctor to an engineer, and in some ways, he achieved those dreams—becoming a "Doctor of Philosophy" and a "social engineer" guiding Africa's aviation industry through legal intricacies.

William's contributions to aviation law go beyond academic research. He pioneered the "Fundamentals

of Aviation Law" course, designed to train aviation professionals on topics such as international air service agreements, traffic rights, and the institutional frameworks that govern global aviation. His course has drawn senior executives from civil aviation authorities, airlines, and international aviation bodies across Africa.

Beyond academia, William consults for leading law firms in Kenya and Nigeria, training civil aviation officials and offering legal expertise on aviation matters. He is also a partner at PMAK Africa Law, a boutique law firm in Nairobi.

Outside his demanding career, William is a Sunday school teacher, choir member, and an avid photographer. His remarkable journey from the small town in Kenya to shaping Africa's aviation law landscape is an inspiring story for African scholars and professionals alike.

In William Kiema, the continent has found a trailblazer whose work is paving the way for a more connected and regulated African airspace.

~Story also published at UCT News



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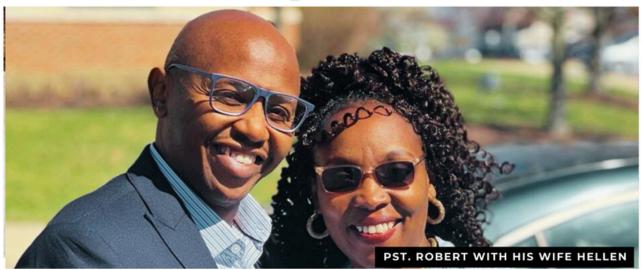
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A Servant Leader in Cape Town's Kenyan Diaspora WANJOHI GITHUA



When you sit down with Pastor Robert Wanjohi Githua, it's easy to be struck by his warmth and humility. Asked how he found the courage to lead a community, Pst. Robert's response is both simple and profound: "To lead is to serve, and serving is what comes naturally to me." This statement perfectly encapsulates his leadership philosophy—one rooted in service, empathy, and a deep commitment to uplifting his fellow Kenyans in Cape Town.

Robert's journey into leadership was neither planned nor pursued, but rather a calling that came to him at a moment of deep reflection. In 2007, a tragic incident occurred when a Kenyan living in Cape Town passed away, they struggled to send the body back home for a dignified burial. The delay revealed a much deeper issue—one not only of finances but of leadership. This gap in the Kenyan community required someone to step in, not just to guide but to serve.

Pastor Robert's leadership flourished. With a willing smile and a determined heart, he began by addressing the immediate issue at hand: memorial services. He initiated the process, and his efforts helped the Kenyan diaspora develop a tradition of honoring their departed, which has since become a cornerstone of the community's practices.

Robert's service didn't stop at organizing memorials. Kenyans struggled with securing birth certificates, renewing passports, and obtaining IDs, among other vital services. He saw the need and, in 2008 he reached out to the Kenya High Commission in Pretoria and, with the assistance of Amb. Tom Amolo, facilitated regular consular visits to Cape Town. this achievement brings Pst. Robert immense joy.

He identified another obstacle affecting his community: economic exclusion. Never one to shy away from a challenge, he advocated for support from Kenyan banks. His persistence paid off when I&M Bank & KCB started, offering their services to the diaspora. This financial inclusion empowered many Kenyans to take control of their financial futures.

Pastor Robert's leadership is not marked by grand gestures but by quiet, steady service. His personal mission is clear: to serve humanity with humility and integrity. He has hosted dignitaries such as former President Uhuru Kenyatta, introduced land investment companies like Optiven Ltd and Imara Land Investment Ltd. He has continually played a key role in organizing immigration workshops and moderating community leadership training.

Pastor Robert sees his greatest success in the opportunity to serve. For him, leadership is not about power or recognition; it's about solving problems, uplifting others, and building a stronger, more united community.

As he continues to serve, one thing remains certain: his leadership has created a lasting impact, and his legacy will continue to inspire many long after he has passed the torch.

The Power of Welfare

Living far from home can be both exciting and challenging., Our sense of community has become an invaluable source of comfort and support. One of the most vital expressions of this unity is the welfare group we've formed, a collective effort designed to support one another in times of need.

This welfare initiative goes beyond just financial aid—it represents the heart of our shared commitment to one another.

Why our Welfare Group?

Life is unpredictable, and at times, tragedy strikes when we least expect it. Our welfare group helps alleviate some of



these worries, providing a system that ensures no one is left alone during challenging moments, particularly when bereavement occurs. The group steps in swiftly to assist members with funeral expenses and to offer support to grieving families, offering much-needed relief.

How Does the Welfare Group Work?

The welfare group operates on the principle of pooling resources from its members. The group collects funds when a need arises.

This form of community-based assistance is rooted in the traditional Kenyan way of showing solidarity. Just as we would come together back home to assist a neighbor or friend in mourning, we replicate this spirit in Cape Town.

We have seen our members receive help through the welfare and therefore creating a safety net built on trust and empathy.





1st Annual General Meeting

We are excited to announce the first AGM of the KCWC Welfare on **Saturday**, **12th October 2024**, at 40 Plein Street, Woodstock, Cape Town.

Agenda:

- 1. Achievements Report
- 2. Future Strategies
- 3. Open Forum

Join us as we celebrate our progress and discuss the future of our welfare group. Together, we are stronger!

Together, we are stronger!



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A Tale of Resilience, Unity, and Triumph

Dominic Gundeh's Journey

It was the early morning of April 3rd, 2008. As the sun kissed the horizon, Dominic Gundeh drove his Toyota Mark II through the streets of Nairobi, with his friend Maina Omweri by his side. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport loomed ahead. This flight; would take him away from his beloved Kenya to Johannesburg, South Africa, where a new chapter awaited. It wasn't his first time flying, but it felt different—a mix of excitement and a deep sense of loss. He was leaving everything familiar, heading toward the unknown.

By 4:00 p.m. on March 3rd, Dominic and his companion headed to Cape Town, a city that would soon become his second home. His first few days in this new land were filled with uncertainty, but he found solace in the warmth of fellow Kenyans. Kennedy Omweri, a friend and brother in this foreign land, opened his doors and hosted Dominic for an entire year—a gesture of kindness he holds close to his heart to this day.

With the help of Mr. Armstrong Omollo, another Kenyan brother, Dominic landed his first job with Loudfire Company. Though it was a modest beginning, it laid the foundation for his future. But the restless spirit of an adventurer always seeks more, and soon, Dominic found himself venturing into the restaurant business, taking on a role at Braza, a Portuguese eatery in Canal Walk. This would mark the beginning of a lifelong passion for the restaurant industry—an industry that he continues to thrive in with no regrets.

Dominic's work exposed him to influential circles, notable figures such as Jacob Zuma, Patrice Motsepe, and even Kenyan leaders like Uhuru Kenyatta, DP Gachagua, and the late Jakoyo Midiwo. From the bustling streets of Nairobi to rubbing shoulders with leaders and trailblazers in South Africa.

But life, as Dominic knew, September 24th, 2020, became one of the darkest days in Dominic's life as he mourned the loss of his beloved mother. Yet, in the midst of his grief, the spirit of Ubuntu came alive, as Kenyans in Cape Town rallied around him, supporting him through one of his toughest moments. It was a reminder of the strength that comes from unity—a strength that had always defined the Kenyan community.

This spirit of togetherness continued as supported Peter Were, a friend who tragically lost his father. It was during this time that the Western Nyanza group was born, a close-knit family of Kenyans standing by one another, ensuring that Peter's journey back home was one of dignity. A year later, the community faced another heart-wrenching loss with the passing of their dear friend Judy. But once again, the Kenyan diaspora rallied, coming together in solidarity to send her body back to Kenya, where she could rest in peace.

From humble beginnings, navigating the challenges of a foreign land, to the unwavering unity that binds them through both triumph and tragedy, the Kenyan diaspora in South Africa stands as a shining example of the power of community.

"We have achieved so much as Kenyans in Cape Town and South Africa at large," Dominic urges, his voice filled with both pride and hope. "I encourage every Kenyan to always take a moment to greet a fellow Kenyan. As the old saying goes: Pamoja ni nguvu, utengano ni udhaifu."





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TRANSFORMING **DREAMS INTO REALITY:** THE IMPACT OF IMARA LAND INVESTMENTS LTD ON LAND OWNERSHIP

Driven the by motto "Shamba kwa wote, Deed kwa wote

Imara Land Investments Ltd, a Kenyan-based real estate company, is transforming the landscape of land ownership, both in Kenya and for the diaspora. Established in 2020, the company's vision is simple yet powerful: making land ownership accessible to every Kenyan. By focusing on cities like Nakuru, Malindi, Nanyuki, and more, Imara Land Investments Ltd has already helped thousands of individuals secure land ownership through transparent, efficient processes.

The company's mission is to ensure that every Kenyan has the opportunity to own land with a secure title deed. Their operations focus on trust, affordability, and efficiency, values that have allowed them to grow rapidly within Kenya and now expand internationally, including to Kenyans living in South Africa.

Imara Land Investments Ltd's achievements speak for themselves. In just four years, they've issued over 3,500 title deeds, earned multiple industry awards, and become a trusted name among the Kenyan diaspora.





Kenneth Wamburu Njambi ~ CEO

Among their most notable recognitions are the Nabla Awards for Best Land Selling Company and Fastest Growing Real Estate Company, alongside the Starbrand East Africa Awards in 2022, 2023 and 2024 for their efficiency and trustworthiness in title deed issuance. Other awards include BOYA awards for Brand of the Year in 2023 and 2023 and CEO of the Year for visionary leadership in 2022,2023 and 2024.

One shining example of their impact is Catherine Wanjohi, a young Kenyan living in South Africa. She purchased her first piece of land in Malindi through Imara and has since become a key investor. Her success mirrors Imara's commitment to empowering clients-no matter where they are-to realize their dreams of land ownership.

As they expand further into the diaspora, Imara Land Investments Ltd remains dedicated to making land ownership easy, trustworthy, and accessible. Their recent South African venture highlights this dedication, as they continue to bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement for many Kenyans.

For those looking to secure a future through land ownership, Imara Land Investments Ltd stands as a trusted partner, offering opportunities to make dreams a reality.

For more information, connect with them via:

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