

the Villager

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- INSIDE -



South Africa's epochal 1976 uprisings shouldn't be reduced to a symbolic ritual

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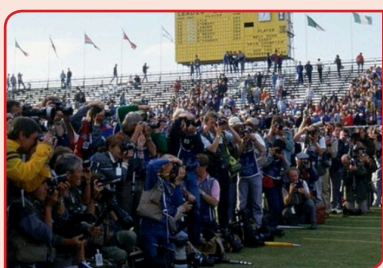
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In Zimbabwe, reporter's conviction sparks fears of renewed abuse

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Ndeitunga Breaks Silence on Ramaphosa Scandal



■ Kelvin Chiringa

Inspector-General of the Namibian police Sebastian Ndeitunga has disclosed that South African authorities went silent after being asked whether a crime had been reported in connection with a robbery at Ramaphosa's farm.

This is after the Namibian police had successfully secured a preservation order to confiscate assets of the alleged Ramaphosa robbery masterminds suspected to have been proceeds of a crime.

Due to the lack of response from South Africa, the assets were released, Ndeitunga has said.

Before that, he said the Namibian police had identified individuals, bank accounts and various properties, including lodges, houses and vehicles suspected to have been bought with proceeds of crime and consulted the Office of the Prosecutor General to consider a preservation order of assets.

"A preservation order was issued, and a formal request was made through the ministry of justice to South Africa to confirm whether or not a crime was registered in South Africa.

However, no response was received from South African authorities, resulting in the cancellation of the preservation order and release of assets," Ndeitunga disclosed.

The police boss has also admitted that two police authorities met in no-man's land near Noordoewer to share operational information pertaining to Imanuwela David and other Namibian nationals accused of robbing Ramaphosa. He said the meeting aligned with Covid-19 measures, and a resolution was taken to launch separate investigations. Ndeitunga has at long last broken his almost tangible silence by coming to deny ever doing any dirty work for South African president Cyril Ramaphosa.

The I.G has been missing in action while his police service was being dragged in the mud and connected to reports of a cover-up of criminal activities on the farm of Ramaphosa in South Africa.

He also refuted allegations of torture and abduction of Imanuwela David and that a joint investigation is underway between the Namibian Police and the South African law enforcement agents.

Ndeitunga has bashed recent media reports saying they erode the trust of Namibians in the police. "These undesirable comments are noted on social media as well as in newspapers, and these comments have the potential to erode public confidence in the Namibian Police Force, as it could be understood to mean that the force is entrusted with the responsibility of upholding the law and protecting the rights of all citizens indeed has failed to act in accordance with the laws and to disseminate accurate information in the case of Mr Imanuwela David," he said. Ndeitunga stamped that David was arrested and charged as per fur process.

Ndeitunga has provided what he called the sequence of events that followed David's illegal entry into Namibia on 12 June 2020 through an ungazetted entry point near Noordoewer by a canoe. He said David was assisted by a police officer, Sergeant Hendrick Hidipo Nghede, attached to the Tourism Protection Sub-Division in Luderitz, and Fishcor's acting boss, Paulus Ngalangi.

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You Have Shown Me Motherly Love, Hishoono Tells Geingos



■ Ludorf Iyambo, Justicia Shipena

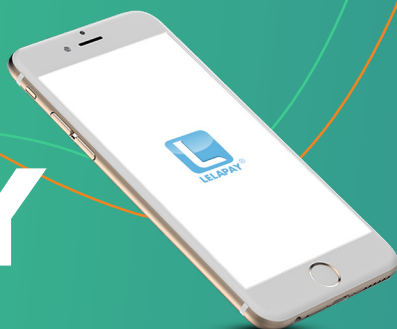
Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) mobiliser and teacher Abed 'Bishop' Hishoono says he finally sees the kindness and motherly love of the First Lady. This comes after the First Lady, Monica Geingos, instructed her lawyer to release a statement that she forgave Hishoono. Geingos had sued Hishoono for hurtful social media statements about her. A court ruling in February this year ordered Hishoono to pay Geingos N\$250 000 for defamation of character and damage to dignity.

"When I got the news, I had to drink a cup of water to calm my nerves because it came out as a surprise and a shock to know that the First Lady had forgiven me. I am overwhelmed that the first lady has forgiven me. The news has shocked me as much as it excited me," said Hishoono. Overflowing with emotions, he expressed that he finally saw that what people talk about the First Lady is not who she is.

"I heard how wonderful a person you are from people after you have made that case against me.

Continued on P2

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Ndeitunga

They then drove to Windhoek in Ngalangi's BMW X5 and arrived at midnight, with David spending the night in Rocky Crest at No.18 Faith City Flats apartment, he said. Ndeitunga said that the following day, David was arrested at Hotel 77 Independence Avenue on charges of violating the Immigration Control Act, Act 7 of 1993 and the State Emergency regulations that were in place. He said David was also found in possession of N\$300, US\$1 100 notes, a TAG Hauer watch worth N\$28 000, a Rolex watch worth N\$280 000, a gold chain worth N\$163 000 and four cellphones. He was then subjected to a Covid-19 test and came out positive, got detained and quarantined at the Hosea Kutako International Airport police station holding cells, said the I.G. David was then sent to Noordoewer for his court appearance, where he pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to declare his goods. He was subsequently found guilty and sentenced to a fine of N\$5 000 or a year's prison term for the first count of contravening the immigration laws. He was sentenced to N\$15 000 or two years of prison on count two, contravening the Customs and Excise Act, Act 20 of 1998. "Mr Imanuwela David ultimately paid a fine of N\$20 000 n respect of his sentence and was released on the same day. A 48 hours notice was issued to him by immigration

officials to leave the country, and he subsequently left Namibia via Noordoewer border post on 14 November 2020 at about 08H00," said Ndeitunga. He said the other accused, Ngalangi, the Fishcor acting boss and Sgt. Nghede were also arrested, charged and pleaded guilty to contravening sections of the Immigration Control Act, aiding and abetting an illegal immigrant, and contravening the ACC Act.

“ He said David was also found in possession of N\$300, US\$1 100 notes, a TAG Hauer watch worth N\$28 000, a Rolex watch worth N\$280 000, a gold chain worth N\$163 000 and four cellphones. ”

Hishoono

Only now do I realise that is true. Now I know you are not what people say you are; I want to thank you very much for that motherly love. When I first reached out to The Villager, I asked: am I a child of this mother? Today I answer myself, I see now I am a child of this mother," he slowly takes a breath to the shock of the news. Hishoono had dedicated his June holiday to raising the fund for the lawsuit and said he declared the project done on Thursday. He also thanked those scrabbling money together for his plea, adding that there is no need to do it anymore. "I have demolished the fundraising project because it is not necessary anymore. Those who had money to pay for this cause, please use it for other people; they need it more than me because now I am a free man," Hishoono says out of joy. Hishoono struggled to pay N\$250 000 as per the court order with him stating that 'maybe I will sell my teeth' to asking for donations from the public. At the court, during his closing arguments, Hishoono begged for mercy and informed the court he could not pay the amount asked of him. He also had said it would strain his mental health as he was already struggling with the cost of attending court and was paying off his wedding loan. However, in compliance with the court order, Hishoono tendered a public and unconditional apology to Geingos on the same day. He also

retracted his statements which he admitted were politically motivated. He stated that he profoundly regretted making such statements without any factual foundation. I FORGIVE YOU - GEINGOS In a letter by Geingos through her lawyer Sisa Namandje, she said the High Court's judgment was essential to defamation law in Namibia. Recent media reports also indicated that Hishoono sought financial assistance from public members to enable him to honour his payment obligations as ordered by the court. Geingos said she has always made it clear that her decision to institute legal action against Hishoono was not motivated by a desire to make money out of litigation. "Mine, from the beginning, has always been a resolve to fearlessly and firmly assert, protect and vindicate my rights which were gravely violated by the highly false statements made by Hishoono." She expressed that she was convinced that Hishoono has now honestly, sincerely and genuinely indicated that he has wrongfully violated her rights and that of her family. "I have decided, upon careful consideration, not to enforce and execute the High Court judgment against Hishoono both in respect of the amount of N\$250,000-00 that he was ordered to pay as compensation and the recovery of my legal costs of approximately N\$400,000-00," she said. Geingos said she decided on the condition that Hishoono permanently desists from

engaging in slanderous butchery against her family or her. "Since Mr Hishoono has gone on record stating that he has so far collected an amount of N\$20,000-00 I have directed my legal practitioner to inform him that that amount must be paid to my legal practitioner with immediate effect so that I donate it to a charity organisation of my choice," she added. She also said she is alive to the fact that reconciliation is one of the values of constitutional democracy. "It is within our DNA as Namibians, where appropriate and possible, to forgive one another and reconcile to keep and maintain social unity, cohesion, and peace in our country." Moreover, she stated that arrangements are being made to meet with Hishoono. "I, however, hasten to add that it is possible to forgive a person while holding them accountable. While I had long forgiven Mr Hishoono for his actions, I felt it necessary to hold him accountable through this lawsuit," emphasised Geingos. Geingos stated that her decision not to execute the court order would somehow avoid a situation of Hishoono's family suffer the consequences of his wrongful conduct. She also hopes Hishoono will become an ambassador for promoting responsible public debate and constructive engagement devoid of primitive and toxic content. justicia@thevillager.com.na

Street Kids Have Rights Too

Hertha Ekandjo, Annakleta Haikera

Street kids who are also part of the African child are, in most cases, excluded from youth spaces. These were the words of the chairperson of the health committee of the children's Parliament Rivaldo Kavanga, as the country commemorated the African child day on Thursday. "If we look at our youth spaces, with the different engagements that we host with children, how often do we see children on the street being included in those programmes," he said. He said that street kids are hardly given the opportunity to express themselves and their needs. Kavanga said when he spoke to street kids, they informed him that they feel they are not seen and are treated as stepchildren in their own country. He said these kids should be taken back into society and involved in youth spaces. Kavanga says that the day of the African child is commemorated in celebration and remembrance of the students in Soweto who protested against the apartheid Bantu education. "We need to continue fostering a system in which we allow African children to thrive. Primarily there should be a fight against child labour, a fight against child marriages," he told the villager. Kavanga says child rape and child labour were common back in the days and are still experienced. "It is a difficult fight to eliminate these harmful practices. However, it is attainable," Kavanga explained. He narrated that the current education system is the best education in the world, looking at the Namibian context. According to him, with the new curriculum, government is trying its best, and the Soweto students' dream to win the battle against the Bantu education will be reached. In Namibia, the day was officially commemorated in Kavango East at the Rundu sports stadium for the first time under the theme of "Eliminating Harmful Practice Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and

Practice since 2013." The Kavango East governor Bonifatius Wakudumo said the region faces challenges affecting children, such as teenage pregnancy, early marriages, rape and child neglect, children with absent fathers and mothers and in most cases, children are dumped in the care of the grandparents. "The region has recorded the highest number of teenage pregnancies in 2020 with 552 and increased to 860 in 2021. The youngest was 11 years old girl. This unfortunate situation needs to be challenged by all of us seriously. Therefore, I am appealing to all of us to start acting and condemning these social evils in our societies because it contributes to child death. Wakudumo further said while the region is one of the poorest, this can be reversed if children make education their priority. "Education must be the number one priority for all children because education is our only key to eradicating poverty. Those youth and children who participated in the uprising fought for our freedom so that we could have a better education, and surely we are now enjoying free education in most African countries. In its part, the government of the Republic of Namibia is doing much giving social grants, providing free education to every Namibian child to ensure that the future generation is educated and have a brighter future." he said. Meanwhile, poverty eradication and social welfare minister Doreen Sioka said that for 2022, the day presents an opportunity to review the status of harmful practices affecting children in Namibia by highlighting the issues they face in their daily lives and assessing where the country is in protecting and assisting children who are at risk of being victims of harmful practices. "Harmful cultural practices include socio-cultural practices, beliefs, and customs that continue to violate the rights of children across the continent and hinder them from fully enjoying their fundamental rights as enshrined in national, regional and international legal frameworks, which Namibia has ratified," the minister said. She further said children exposed to harmful practices risk suffering from both physical and mental health breakdowns. "These practices further have a negative impact



on children's dignity, psychosocial, moral integrity and development, participation, health, education, economic and social status." Abraham Angula, a Grade 12 learner at Windhoek Gymnasium Private school, told The Villager that this day holds great significance for him. Angula said this was a day when young Africans took a stance against oppressive regimes where they decided enough was enough and demanded active change. "These significant come from young African youth oath to be fearless and advocate for the certain changes that we want," said Angula. He said that Hector Pieterse stood up and protested against the apartheid Bantu education, which showed that African children have the power to reform laws and request what they want. Angula said that the voice of the African child holds a significant amount of importance.

Sicilia Ambunda, a second-year Occupation Therapy student at the University of Namibia UNAM, says that this day is significant since it does not only serve as a reminder that the African child is seen and recognised. She said it is also a day where we look back and reverse to see that the African child has rights. "There is little or no awareness of what the African child's rights are, and most of the children are not aware of their rights," Ambunda tells The Villager. According to Ambunda, more must be done to ensure that children are aware of their rights, and the public should play a role in ensuring their rights are respected. "Child labour is an issue which started from the roots. We should go back and see to it that it ends," she said. The African Child for this year is celebrated under the theme "Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children". The day honours those who participated in

the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day. It also raises awareness of the continuing need to improve the education provided to African children. In Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976, about ten thousand black school children marched in a column more than half a mile long, protesting the poor quality of their education and demanding their right to be taught in their language. Hundreds of young students were shot, the most famous being Hector Pieterse. More than a hundred people were killed in the protests of the following two weeks, and more than a thousand were injured. On June 16 every year, governments, NGOs, international organisations and other stakeholders gather to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the full realisation of children's rights in Africa. For 2014, the theme was chosen returns to the movement's roots: A child-friendly, quality, free, and compulsory education for all African children.

Fisheries Unsure When Bacteria In The Sea Will Stabilise



Justicia Shipena

Deputy director of aquaculture at the fisheries ministry, Johannes Hamukwaya, says they are not sure when the concentration of *Vibrio Parahaemolyticus* bacteria in the sea will stabilise. This comes as the ministry on Tuesday closed down the Walvis Bay Aquapark 4 production area for oyster harvesting and banned the sale and consumption of raw oysters after detecting *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* bacteria. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* is a food-borne pathogen that causes diarrhoea. "It depends on the environmental condition, but it usually stabilises after two or three weeks," said Hamukwaya. Adding that, they do not know when this specific one will end because the aquaculture department does not know when exactly it started. He said that the closure of production and consumption is nothing special as it happens regularly.

"It is not a new thing that comes into the sea. It is just because the concentration and accumulation of the parahaemolyticus bacteria that animals feed on are too much in the water," he said. Hamukwaya stated that they would wait for the sea system to stabilise. "We are still collecting water and oyster samples to test. Once we get the concentration within the limit, we can say this can also open for business and consumption," he added. Earlier this week, the department said it is potentially unsafe to consume oysters from Aquapark 4 until further notice. "The ministry of fisheries and marine resources herewith warns the general public to not consume oysters from Aquapark 4, Walvis Bay production area." The statement also said the oyster samples from the Aquapark 4, Walvis Bay production area, were tested for microbiological contamination during an official sampling and testing. The testing was facilitated by the Namibian

Standards Institution (NSI) as part of the National Shellfish Sanitation Programme. In this vein, the ministry had said *vibrio parahaemolyticus* could be destroyed by properly cooking oysters. "The symptoms of *vibrio* poisoning are acute dysentery and abdominal pain, accompanied by diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, fever, chills and water-like stools. When any of these symptoms appear, seek immediate medical assistance," he said. According to information from the fisheries ministry, oysters have been produced commercially in Namibia since the late 1980s, when commercial oyster farms were established. Much of Namibia's oysters are exported to Europe, South Africa and Asia, where Hong Kong and China are the most important importers and consumers of Namibian oysters. Namibian oysters can range in size from 30 grams (cocktail oysters) to 150 grams (full maturity).

Take Action on Those Misappropriating Funds - Parliamentary Committee



Justicia Shipena

The parliamentary standing committee on public accounts says despite sending out teams to investigate the financial books of local authorities or parastatals, nothing is done after finding that money was misappropriated or mismanaged. This was revealed by the committee, which United Democratic Front's (UDF) Dudu Murorua chairs through its member Vincent Mareka during a consultative meeting with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Thursday at parliament. "What is the way forward? We cannot just year in and year out; come public accounts committee must send out teams to the regions to investigate the financial books of local authorities or parastatals, and nothing is happening," said Mareka. He stressed that this could not continue this way. "Where are we heading to? Sometimes, somewhere these things must come to an end. Who is responsible for us to rectify this?" he questions.

While at the same meeting, auditor general Junias Kandjeke said on the civil court issue that auditor generals are faced with problems like this. "The audits we report to parliament, the reports go to the committees to be viewed and then go back to parliament. I think the implementation and action are important," he said. Kandjeke stated that Namibia faces a challenge of implementation and action of those who have done wrong to book. "It is time for us to develop our own system and combing systems. We cannot just say we are that system. We must come up with a system that is working for us," he emphasised. Hence, he said Namibia requires a court of accounts or civil court to deal with financial matters and other maladministration. Adding that, the current system does not mention what should be done if one overspends. "In our system, nothing says what should be done to you if you overspend. If you have not reconciled your books, what will happen to you? There is no action and punitive measure in the end; however, there is a law that is ignored, the public service act of 1995." Furthermore, ACC director general Paulus Noa stressed that when the ACC is not doing something, it is because it is outside its powers. "Sometimes there is the power to do something, but we expect at the same time the authority to take civil litigation actions and recover the loss that has been done," he said. Noa said that if civil litigation actions are taken, a lot will be recovered from those mismanaging the public's resources. He added that sending people to jail for mismanaging the public's resources is not a punishment. "They are having three meals there, he comes out, and this person is boosting before you. What is punishment there? There is no punishment. The most effective punishment is chopping this person to their knees and recovering what the person has taken," he lamented. Noa said Namibians want a remedy for the damage that has been caused. "They don't want talk shops. They are not taking us anywhere as long as no recovery of the damage has been caused." He said there should be recovery and accountability. "Those who are causing mismanagement of resources should be taken into account. I do not know to what extent the committee has some punitive power to hold the wrongdoers accountable," said Noa. He concluded that things should not remain business as usual regarding mismanagement of funds. "Otherwise, this country will go down the drain; accountability should play a critical role." justicia@thevillager.com.na

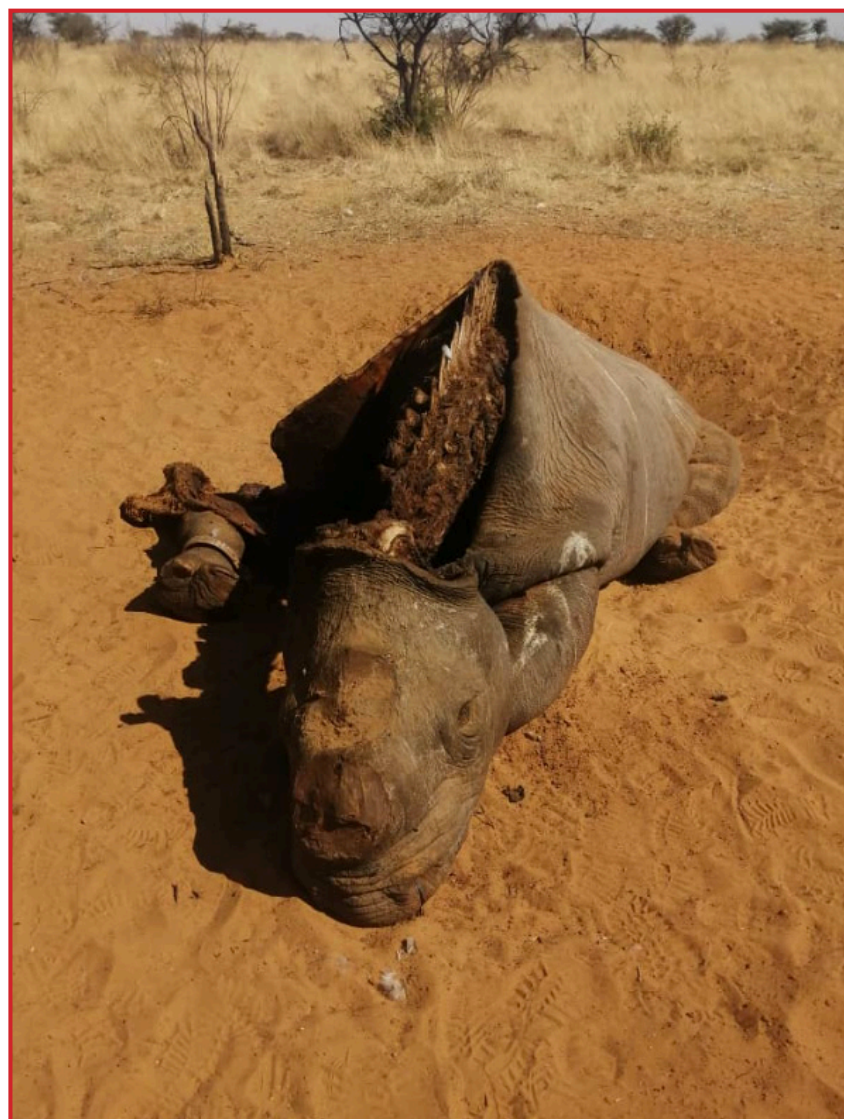
Police Arrest Two Poachers, Three on the Run

Envaalde Matheus

Retired police commissioner Ndahangwapo Kashiakumwa says that the anti-poaching team has arrested two of the five suspected poachers. They entered the Etosha National Park yesterday intending to poach rhinos after they (the anti-poaching unit) received a tip-off from the public. According to him, the arrest was made between Omuthiya and Omutwogonime in Oshana Region this morning between 04h00 and 05h00. It is reported that; the other three are still on the chase within the same area. "We are appealing to the general public to help trace the remaining three. We have been chasing them since yesterday, so they must be tired by now," said Kashiakumwa. He said their clothes must be torn by now. "They are trying to hike or conduct with the getaway cars they normally have," he said. This was not long ago after the environment ministry reported that 11 black rhino carcasses were discovered in the park at the beginning of June 2022. This was announced by the environment and tourism ministry spokesperson Romeo Muyunda. Muyunda had said the horns had been removed. The issue of rhino poaching is alarming, and the country has thus far lost 22 rhinos poached in 2022. A media statement issued by the ministry said the carcasses were discovered during ongoing operations in Etosha. According to investigations, the carcasses found are suspected to range between three

weeks and older. Furthermore, the gruesome acts indicated that the fight against poaching was not over. No arrests have been made with the recent case of 11 carcasses, and investigations continue. Namibia has the second-largest white rhino population in the world after South Africa and also accounts for a third of the world's remaining black rhinos. "We are trying to answer where we went wrong with the whole team and the security around the park. We are trying hard to have the question answered and solve the problem at hand," answered Kashiakumwa on how the suspects entered the country's largest national park. He thus urged the public who may have information related to the poaching to contact the police or ministry. envaalde@thevillager.com.na

We are trying to answer where we went wrong with the whole team and the security around the park.



New Omaheke CRO Vows To Advance Region

■ **Uakutura Kambaekua**

Former Omeheke Education Director Pecka Semba, who was recently appointed as the substantive Chief Regional Officer (CRO) at the Omaheke regional council chambers, has promised to strengthen the region's development with Council support. Semba was appointed to head the previously troubled regional council, a position he will serve for the next five years. Semba, a renowned educator with experience in administration and management ranging close to 35 years, succeeded Maria Vaendwanawa, who left in 2019. She was suspended on several charges ranging from maladministration and financial irregularities in 2018. During an exclusive interview with the Villager, Semba said that it's impossible to name the managerial quality he possesses, adding that he is looking forward to the position. "Being at the helm of the accounting officer, managerial qualities will be needed in many ways and in many situations. The regional councillor will hopefully benefit from administrative qualities, which have been with me for many years as an educator," said Semba. He added that through his managerial skills and as a firm devotee to unity, he would strive for harmonious interpersonal relationships

amongst the staff, noting that it's imperative for generating positive outputs for everyone. "I am a firm believer that harmonious interpersonal relationships amongst staff are absolutely crucial for generating positive output from everyone. If you miss the interpersonal value of colleagues you work with daily, then we will have problems in our operation. Interpersonal relations for me are very dear in trying to contribute to the harmonious relationship that exists, not only in the Omaheke regional councillor but in every organizational setup," said Semba. Furthermore, Semba said decision-making becomes an everyday virtue, a quality he said he would drag along to the council chambers. "I have to make decisions, whether popular or unpopular, and I have to make them quickly in this position which I have been doing all these years. I have to be decisive in my decision-making. I have to choose the correct one for the work to be effective and efficient. Otherwise, many things will pass you without actually being effective and efficient. That is a managerial quality that I also hold very dear," said Semba. Touching on other issues in his manifesto, the CRO stated that as a leader, he will not only supervise but will also play a guiding role for his subordinates, adding that proper guidance contributes to a positive workforce. "You know it's impossible to manage staff without proper guidance and a proper work

environment. In the absence of guidance, this could easily lead to frustration, and some of them will claim they have never been guided," he said. Semba, who has also been part of the regional council since 2007, serving in various positions such as chairman of the Procurement Committee, stated that he would address the plight of the residents of the Omaheke region through honest interventions. He possesses a B degree in Education and Law systems and a B Honors degree in Organisational Management and Leadership, including a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and Organisational Development. Omaheke Regional Council spokesperson Kauno Iileka confirmed Semba's appointment, stating that he was awarded a five-year contract and will subsequently be responsible for the strategic leadership and management of the Regional council operations. Semba's appointment brings to an end years of a leadership vacuum at the regional council following more than two years during which the CRO's position at the council chambers has been operating on a provisional basis. Amongst those who headed the regional council on temporary appointment were Karukirue Tjijenda and Sophia Eises. Pederius Tjihoreko was the last substantive CRO of the Omaheke Regional Council.



Dundee Precious Metals Appoints New Human Resource Director

■ **Staff Writer**

Zebra Kasete, DPM Tsumeb Vice President and Managing Director, announced the appointment of Brumilda Britz as the company's new director of Human Resources, effective 1 June 2022. Brumilda joins Dundee from the Walvis Bay Salt Holdings, where she has been Senior Human Resources Manager for the past eleven years. She also held the position of State Prosecutor for two years at Namibia's justice ministry. Brumilda is a seasoned Human Resources professional who significantly contributed to the mining industry. She is currently the Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee of the Chamber of Mines of Namibia. She serves as a Trustee on the Board of the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology. Brumildaholds qualifications in law (LLB, BA Law) and Human Resources (National Diploma Human Resources) and is currently studying towards a Master of Business Psychology. In her off-time, she dedicates her time and expertise to the governance and management of several welfare organizations she is involved with. Brumilda said, "it is an extremely exciting time for DPM Tsumeb as it transitions towards a more sustainable future. I am fortunate to take over a competent and settled team. My focus will be identifying opportunities for improvement, improving efficiencies in the HR processes and creating a platform enabling value-creating interactions between the HR personnel and the people it serves, namely the employees and management." Kasete expressed his confidence in Britz's abilities to help transform the smelter into a sustainable and agile business. He further expressed that the company's success depends on how well it creates a positive employee work experience. He stated, "Britz is uniquely qualified to transform employees, attract and maintain talent amongst other attributes she brings to the team."

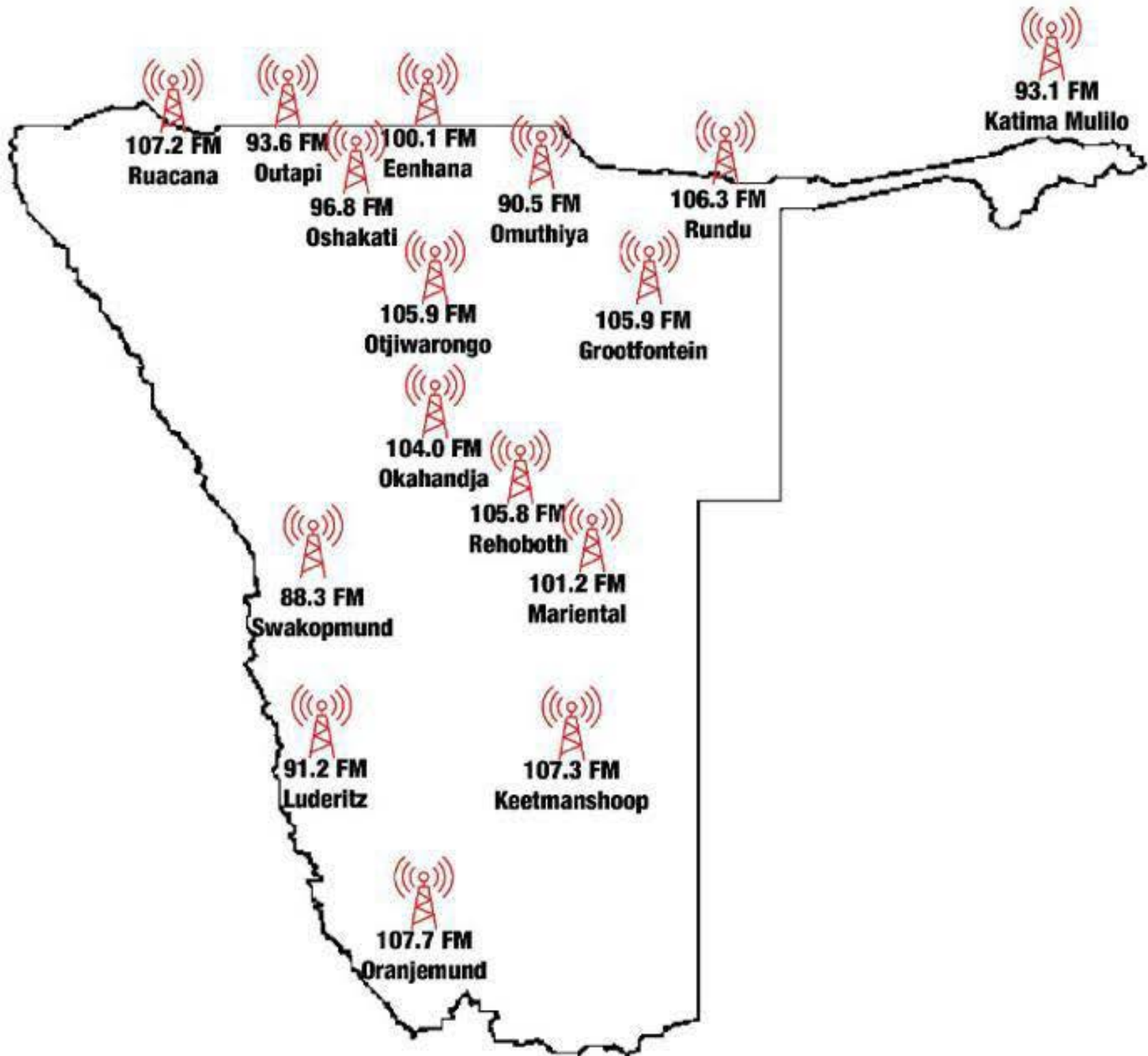
He also expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Human Resources Director, Linus Gwala, for creating sound labour relations at DPM Tsumeb; and for mentoring many human resources professionals and union leaders over the years in his long industrious career in Namibia. Britz takes over from Linus, retiring at the end of June 2022. Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb (Pty) Limited is located in Tsumeb, Namibia, approximately 430 km north of the capital city of Windhoek. The smelter was constructed in 1963 and is one of only a few worldwide that can treat complex copper concentrates. The smelter produces 98.5 per cent pure copper blisters. With its ability to treat complex copper focuses, it is transitioning from a captive smelter, receiving mainly Dundee Precious Metals (DPM) concentrates, into a toll treatment facility, with brown-fields expansion potential. Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb is one of the largest employers in the Oshikoto region, with approximately 600 employees.

Brumildaholds qualifications in law (LLB, BA Law) and Human Resources (National Diploma Human Resources) and is currently studying towards a Master of Business Psychology.





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CONTACT DETAILS

Eagle Media House
33B John Ludwig Street
Klein Windhoek
Office Tel: [+264 832888400](tel:+264832888400)
Studio Tel: [+264 832888 401](tel:+264832888401)
Email: news@eaglefm.com.na

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How to Depoliticize Universal Health Coverage

■ **Nambata Angula**

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a means for all individuals and communities to receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. UHC includes a full spectrum of essential quality health services from the promotion of health to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care across an individual's life. It forms part of the International Labour Organization's social protection floors. UHC focuses on what services are to be provided and how these will be funded, managed, and delivered. Furthermore, it will require strengthening a country's health system; therefore, robust funding is of utmost importance. Without UHC, people without medical aid are forced to pay for medical expenses out of pocket, which disadvantages the poor as they cannot obtain the services they need; in the same vein, it exposes the rich to financial hardship in the event of severe or long-term illness. Therefore, UHC is beneficial to all social classes in society as a strong health care sector is one of the cornerstones of a sustainable health system and is a major driver of economic growth. Universal Health Coverage is a target under the Sustainable Development Goal 3 of Good Health and Well-being, targeting financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. Furthermore, other international legal instruments underpin UHC are as follows: World Health Assembly (Resolution 58.33); ILO Recommendation 202 Social Protection Floor; World Health Assembly Resolution 69.1 (May 2016). Domestically, the Social Security Act 34 of 1994 establishes the National Medical Benefit Fund with the objective to provide medical benefits to every employee who is a member of the Fund... [emphasize added]. Therefore, coverage is limited to employees only. This is equivalent to the concept of social health insurance (SHI) or the lack of a better description of

National Health Insurance (NHI). Whereas the intention of UHC is the coverage of all individuals and communities.

Namibia does not currently have a UHC policy in place, unlike our southern neighbours, who adopted a National Health Insurance policy in 2011, albeit lagging in implementation.

A pre-requisite to UHC is that the necessary health infrastructure and services must be in place regarding geographic accessibility and availability of quality services. A multisectoral and community-centred approach must be adopted to ensure that UHC reaches challenging to access areas and vulnerable populations. Most importantly, the elephant in the room must be addressed: funding.

Financing Options & Success Factors

Namibia has a well-established private health insurance industry with eight active medical aid funds operating, regulated by NAMFISA through the Medical Aid Funds Act 23 of 1995. However, the total population coverage through these medical aid funds is limited to 204,713 members, with fund reserves amounting to N\$2.06 billion.

Government employees are covered by the Public Service Employee Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS), a fund not regulated under the Medical Aid Funds Act, with a total membership base of 412,125 members. It has a larger beneficiary base than the combined private medical aid sector. However, there is a lack of proper risk pooling as premiums paid by members are at a flat rate regardless of the salary level and are not based on their risk profile or ability to pay. The government heavily subsidizes the Fund to ensure full coverage of claims made to the Fund. This makes the contributions to PSEMAS highly regressive.

Other forms of health financing in Namibia are the Employees Compensation Fund of the Social Security Commission and the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund. Donor funding has decreased significantly as donors have transitioned due to Namibia's upper-middle-income status.

In exploring the financing of UHC, the different stakeholders, such as government, workers, employers, industry players, academia, civil society and development partners, will need to coordinate to decide in terms of health sector reforms and the resources available as simply introducing a new tax to already constrained workers is not the easy option. A costing exercise needs to be undertaken to determine the real cost of UHC.

Reforms of PSEMAS should consider whether the Fund will be liquidated and utilized for the realization of UHC since the government is already heavily subsidizing it or whether it will be merged with UHC.

A levy from the private medical aid funds is another consideration with the aim of cross-subsidizing the public health sector.

The Employees Compensation Fund and Motor Vehicle Accident Fund can also explore other funding options.

A critical success factor for UHC is political will driven by a need for all stakeholders to speak the same language, particularly lawmakers. These important considerations should drive the overarching goal of universal health care: a health care system designed to pool funds to provide access to quality, affordable personal health services for all Namibians based on their health needs, irrespective of their socioeconomic status.

A legal framework needs to be developed to establish UHC, as the only current legal instrument close enough to UHC is the National Medical Benefit Fund established by the Social Security Act, which is limited to members of the Fund.

The importance of a political will cannot be understated, as evidence has shown that without political will, good programs fail. This is also due to changing leadership, whereas new leadership may not believe in the vision of the previous leadership due to political differences. A case in point is the frequent changing of Ministers of Labour before they reach tangible milestones in extending coverage as per the existing legislation. In the past 31 years, Namibia has



been served by no less than 9 Ministers of Labour under whose jurisdiction the SSC schemes are administered and implemented. This means that the average time spent by the political head of social security is a mere three years. Therefore, all stakeholders must put politics aside and work together towards achieving UHC.

Furthermore, the government should use the many medical graduates and trained community health workers to deliver UHC

as health workers are integral to building strong, resilient and safe health systems in urban and rural areas, thus reducing inequities.

Lastly, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that countries must hastily scale up their investments in essential public health functions or risk large market failure.

Namrata Angula is the General Manager: Business Development at Social Security Commission. She is writing in her capacity.



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Hishoono He That Keepeth His Mouth Keepeth His Money

From today onwards, everyone using social media to impugn other people must read 1 Proverbs 13 verse 3.

I have copied all the different versions below, but King's Version has the best quote - He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: But he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

The New International Version says: Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

New Living Translation: Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.

New Century Version: Those who are careful about what they say protect their lives, but whoever speaks without thinking will be ruined.

1890 Darby Bible: He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his soul; destruction shall be to him that openeth wide his lips.

New International Reader's Version, 1998 ed: Anyone who guards what he says guards his life. But anyone who speaks without thinking will be destroyed.

I will not repeat what Hishoono said about the First Lady because we know everything was a lie. Hishoono admitted in court that whatever he said was a damn lie.

Well, the First Lady heard Hishoono's agonised appeal for help and asked her lawyer Sisa Namandje to tell Hishoono that all was forgiven.

She said: There was no justification for Mr Hishoono to make the highly defamatory statements against me. I am alive to the fact that reconciliation is one of the values of our constitutional democracy. We have enjoyed peace and stability over the last 30 years, largely because our Founding Fathers wisely adopted the policy of national reconciliation. Therefore, on a case-by-case basis, it is within our DNA as Namibians, where appropriate and possible, to forgive one another and reconcile to keep and maintain social unity, cohesion, and peace in our country. Arrangements are being made, in this spirit, for me to meet face-to-face with my brother, Mr Hishoono, in the near future. However, forgiving a person while still holding them accountable is possible. While I had long forgiven Mr Hishoono for his actions, I felt it necessary to hold him accountable through this lawsuit.

We must learn that following likes on social media can ruin our lives and bring us so much agony. Hishoono himself learnt this too late when he spoke about the politics of hate.

There are lessons to be learnt from Hishoono's case. One of the lessons is never to believe what people tell you. When the court ordered Hishoono to pay the N\$250 000, some people on social media said they would chip in to help him.

Most of those who faked love for Hishoono thought if they were to assist with money, they would have 'fixed' the First Lady Monica Geingos.

Until recently, Hishoono appeared to have harboured many hopes that people would help. But when the due date for the payment drew closer, Hishoono realised that he was all but alone.

He then started asking sympathisers to come in and help. He went back to the same social media platforms to appeal for help. It turned out that no one heard him, just like the way most heard him when he made the damning statements.

In an interview with Kelvin this week, a contrite Hishoono said he managed N\$20 000 and had no plan of raising the N\$130 000. Gone was the confidence and the I-dare-you-dare-me attitude. Gone was the bravado that dripped off Hishoono when he allowed his mouth to ruin him.

But I noticed one thing: Hishoono has cast the First Lady Monica Geingos in a different light where she could be seen as a very forgiving, understanding and motherly figure.

The First Lady Monica Geingos' statement, saying she would meet her 'brother' Hishoono when the time comes, is humbling. Such a show of forgiveness embarrasses the one who would have started a fight. Well, maybe this is the time Hishoono read the Bible more.

South Africa's epochal 1976 uprisings shouldn't be reduced to a symbolic ritual



On the morning of Wednesday, 16 June 1976, young students from schools across Soweto set out on a march through the sprawling black township outside Johannesburg. The march was to amplify their opposition to the apartheid government's new school-language policy that would see Afrikaans replace English as their main medium of instruction in several key subjects.

Before the march began, they were confident. They knew the risks that they faced – “we decided that there should be no placard inciting the police as such, one activist put it afterwards, because “we wanted a peaceful demonstration – it had to be disciplined”. Even so, they were excited, believing that the march would be a carnivalesque event, “a Guy Fawkes thing,” as one put it – an event in which the world would be turned upside down.

Their excitement buoyed them in the early hours of the morning, as thousands of students joined in the march. But this atmosphere did not last.

A few hours into the march, heavily-armed members of the South African Police confronted a crowd of students near the Orlando West High School. They fired tear-gas at the students, and then, moments later, fired live ammunition. In the moments that followed, they shot and killed Hector Pieterse an eleven-year old child. As if energised by this death, the police continued to assault and kill students.

In the hours that followed, another 10 people died at the hands of the police. Over the next three days, at least 138 people died. And the deaths did not stop. Throughout the rest of the year, the police and military would patrol Soweto and many other sites of popular resistance, and use whatever force they deemed necessary to suppress dissent, quash protest, and establish order. These protests reignited the public flame of resistance, and helped re-make the opposition to apartheid. They provided a model and an example for activists to follow into the 1980s.

June 16 in perspective

Today, 46 years later, South Africa commemorates June 16th as National Youth Day.

It is no doubt important to do this, and to remember the sacrifices and struggles of the past. But in commemorating this day, South Africa runs the risk of sacralising these events – of lifting them out of their historical context, stripping them of their political complexities, and remaking them into a mere symbol, something that only needs to be remembered once a year and then forgotten the rest of the time.

In my book, published on the eve of the 40th anniversary of June 16th, *The Road to Soweto*, I argued that the sacralisation of this singular day has distorted understandings of South Africa's post-apartheid democracy.

It is now almost trite to suggest that the political order of post-apartheid South Africa was forged in conference rooms and around negotiating tables in the 1990s; that the conversations, debates, and arguments between the representatives of the negotiating parties are what shaped the terms of the country's political institutions and laws; and that the country constitution is best understood as the product of an elite idealism. All of this is at least partially true.

What is wrong with this vision is that it leaves out the role of ordinary people taking to the streets -- the role of protest, of marches, of popular organisation, dissent, discordance, creativity, and struggle -- in making the post-apartheid democratic order.

It presumes that the state is the beginning and the end of the

political order; that democracy is only achievable through representation; and it presumes that “the people” are a political resource to be deployed by elite actors (whether these be politicians or intellectuals, revolutionaries or revanchists) and not a source of political ideas in themselves.

But this is not true.

Making democracy

While democracy may be encouraged and entrenched through institutions and ideas, it is first made through action. The students who marched on 16 June 1976 did more than simply register a political opinion.

They enacted an alternate form of politics. By gathering and marching together, and by acting together they constituted themselves as political agents – as people who already possessed the kind of agency that the apartheid state denied they could ever claim. And by marching side-by-side – regardless of their age and gender, status and authority – they constituted themselves as a democratic force, as a community of equals.

As I've argued before, this form of politics is not merely a product of the past, not merely a product of the anti-apartheid struggle. Instead, it has marked – and still marks – popular dissent and democratic organising in South Africa since the end of apartheid.

Over the past two decades, such forms of popular democracy have marked the struggles of Abahlali baseMjondolo, a shack-dwellers movement that organises in informal settlements across South Africa. It has driven the activism of the Treatment Action Campaign, and its grassroots work to force the state to provide anti-retroviral medication. And it has led to labour activists, unions, and other communities achieving significant changes in the platinum mining industry.

The roots of democracy lie in these actions, in these claims to agency and equality. These acts are themselves rooted in a complex pattern of joy and anger – in the desire to turn the world upside-down, and emerge out of specific historical and social contexts. But they can transcend these moments. They can open up a channel, create a model, and instigate a revolution.

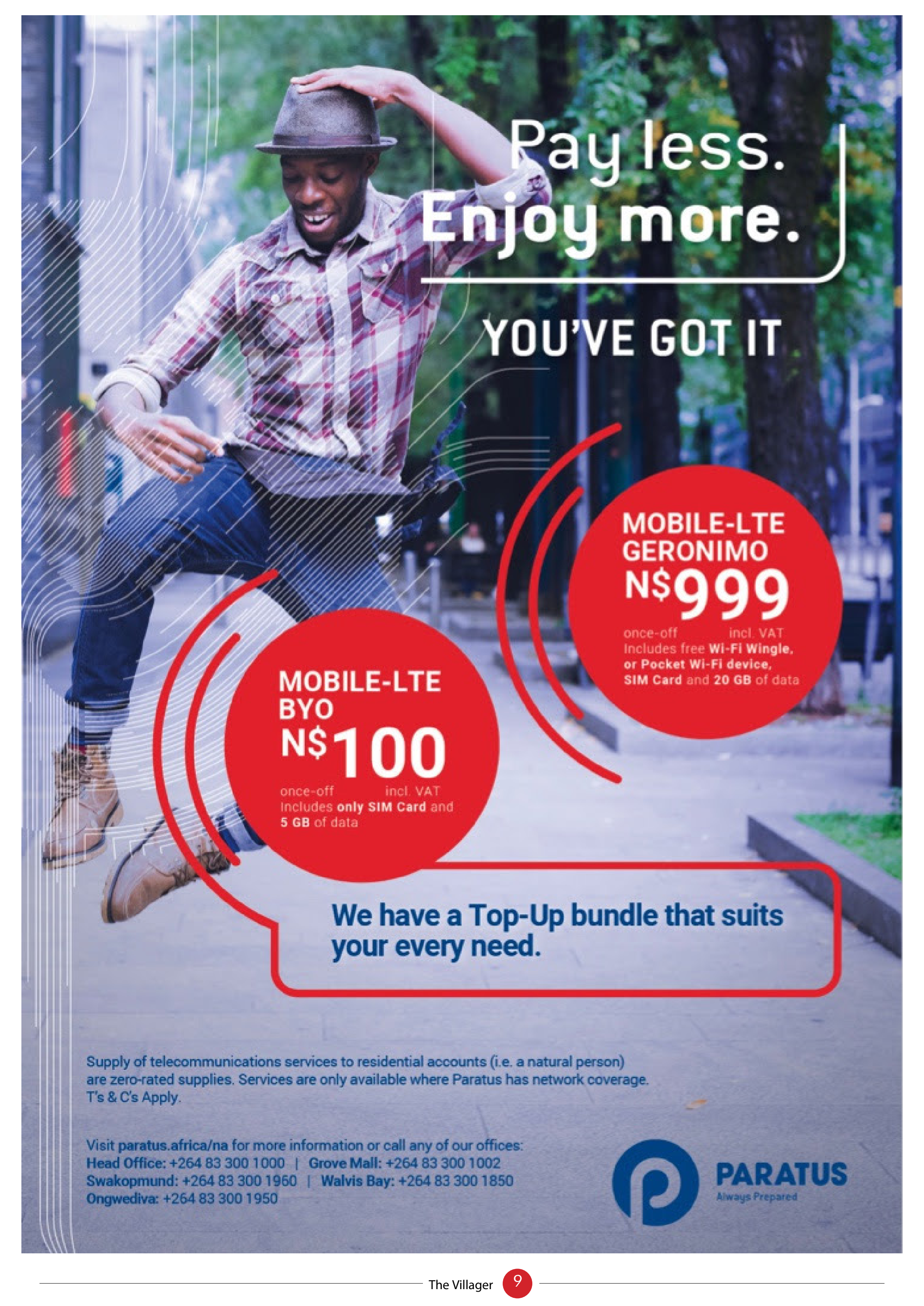
In other words: if the events of 16 June 1976 are seen as an ongoing part of the process of constituting democracy in South Africa, then we can see it as part of contemporary political struggles – and not just as an historical event, safely sealed away in the past.

The marches, protests, and pickets that mark contemporary South Africa are the source of a continually-renewing (and, perhaps, continually-mutating) democracy. The institutions of the state may shape the ways in which this democracy develops, but they do not create it. “The people” make politics.

At this moment, as South Africa's political elites continue to be mired in scandal, as the state bureaucracy struggles to fulfil its functions, and as scholars and activists question the legitimacy of the constitutional settlement, the anniversary of the uprising of 16 June 1976 in an opportunity to think about what post-apartheid democracy can mean.

It does not only mean the forms and institutions that define the democratic state. It must also mean the ongoing acts of ordinary people, the acts that assert and imagine democracy on the streets over and again.

Julian Brown
Associate Professor of Political Studies, University of the Witwatersrand



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Portugal's COVID deaths grow as tourism season kicks off



■ Charlotte Peet

Marie Braud until recently considered herself an anomaly. Despite travelling extensively for her work, the recruiter had managed to avoid testing positive for COVID-19 throughout the coronavirus pandemic. But that all changed in June. The 37-year-old began to experience fever and fatigue shortly after attending the Santos Populares festival. She thought it was a cold at first, but after taking a PCR test on June 8, it was confirmed she had COVID-19.

"I thought coronavirus was a distant memory," she told Al Jazeera while quarantining at her home in Lisbon. "I was meant to start a new job this week, it's come at the worst possible time."

Braud is one of thousands of citizens in the country of 10 million people who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, leaving health officials across the nation and Europe concerned about Portugal's infection rate, as well as its high death count.

After pandemic curbs were lifted earlier this year, a spate of COVID-19 cases and deaths are growing in popular tourist population centres like Lisbon, Porto and the Algarve region as two years of pandemic-related cancellations have given

way to popular parties and festivals during the summer season.

Portugal's latest outbreak has made the country a hotspot of COVID-19 in Europe and home to the second-highest coronavirus case count in the world, after Taiwan.

The nation registered an average of 1,989 new cases per million people over the past seven days. In comparison, Spain registered 232 and the UK 161, according to tracker Our World in Data.

Portugal also registered an average of 41 deaths per one million inhabitants over a seven-day period, making the country home to the fifth-highest mortality rate in the world.

Many health officials have expressed a mixture of light concern and disappointment at Portugal's uptick in infections.

"The hope was that during the summer, we would have no more waves, no more coronavirus increases, so the hopes are somewhat diminished," Hajo Zeeb, professor of epidemiology at the University of Bremen in Germany, who is closely monitoring Portugal's current COVID-19 situation, told Al Jazeera.

The nation's coronavirus outbreak, which is "above levels of concern" comes after the World Health Organization (WHO)

warned in March that several European countries had lifted coronavirus restrictions too "brutally", as they were witnessing an increase in infections "likely" caused by a more contagious coronavirus strain.

"There is no treatment in Portugal and other European countries towards the virus. The feeling is that people are basically accepting what is happening right now," Zeeb said.

Perfect storm

In February, the Portuguese government announced a series of rollbacks of coronavirus measures as the country experienced a "significant fall" in COVID-19 cases and deaths after a peak in January, dropping to 62 fatalities per one million inhabitants in a 14-day period. National health authorities say that the increase in illness is likely due to the easing of preventive measures, the emergence of Omicron sub-variants, steady tourist footfall, as well as super-spreader events like the return of crowded live events that have created the perfect storm for virus transmission.

Partly due to the Russia-Ukraine war, Portugal is currently experiencing a strong rebound in tourism, which has offered some respite for the nation given the economic hit the conflict is expected to deliver.

Experts say that tourists will see Portugal as a safer option than other countries, in addition to the heat, the beach and lower prices than other European countries.

As a result of strong tourist footfall and high contagion rates, health authorities have said that a high number of infections will "naturally" result in a higher number of deaths.

However, Miguel Castanho, a researcher at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Lisbon argues that while high contagion rates may be one contributing factor to Portugal's spike in deaths, they do not tell the full story.

"The problem here is the impact on mortality, which is quite high, for a reason that is not completely known. Since the beginning of 2022, mortality has never dropped to significant levels," he said.

One possible explanation is that there is a subcommunity of the population actually more sensitive to the disease compared with the general population.

"There is probably a group of people that is more exposed, or living in conditions that make them more fragile, or we are talking about a small fraction of the population that did not get vaccinated," said the researcher.

Vaccination rate

More than 90 percent of the Portuguese population is vaccinated against the disease, according to Our World in Data.

However, scientists have warned that the subvariant BA.5, which represents nearly 90 percent of new COVID-19 infections in the country, is more contagious and could evade natural immunity from past infections and vaccinations, resulting in breakthrough infections.

The BA.4 strain has also been detected in the country.

Experts say vaccines are not helping in preventing particularly fresh infections.

"The vaccines have decreased in efficiency for new strains," said Castanho, though he noted that the vaccines still have a high efficiency in protecting against the evolution of severe cases of the disease.

Health authorities have criticised the Portuguese government for dragging its feet on urgently tackling the spread of more contagious strains and for the delay in introducing vaccines adapted to the Omicron subvariants.

Portugal's health minister Marta Temido announced earlier this month that the autumn COVID-19 vaccination campaign would include a fourth booster shot that is adapted to Omicron.

But she has dismissed the possibility of reintroducing stricter measures like the use of face masks in outdoor areas or limiting the number of people in restaurants.

'Not over its peak'

Although the rolling averages of COVID-19 cases and deaths have subsided slightly during the past week, representing just over a third of the January 31 peak, health officials warn that Portugal's sixth wave of infections is far from rescinding. Henrique Oliveria, a mathematician from the Superior Technological Institute of Lisbon said that Portugal was "still not over its peak", warning that the propagation of the virus is likely to reach its height during the Festas dos Santos Populares this month, and could result in the emergence of a new strain.

"Hospitalisations in wards and intensive care units and deaths will remain high until June 25," he told Al Jazeera.

Portugal currently has reported 1,991 hospitalisations and 108 people in intensive care units per million inhabitants in the past week, according to Our World in Data.

Despite hospitalisations, cases and deaths being high, both the economy minister Antonio Costa da Silva and small tourism businesses hit the hardest during the pandemic have resisted health authorities' calls for tougher restrictions.

"The pandemic has been a monumental struggle for all. Businesses, particularly small, young tourism organisations feel like they have endured the toughest possible time in the past two years," Carlos Correia, manager of Cafe Fresco in the Algarve, told Al Jazeera.

As Portugal's hospitality sector endures a chronic labour shortage, driven in large part by rising fuel costs and workers seeking more stable sources of income elsewhere, the concern for many local businesses is not the reintroduction of strict COVID-19 measures during the summer, but more of the tourism sector – which badly needs its workforce to get back to work – being drained of employees who are quarantining at home.

"We were expecting a new employee to start on Saturday, but after testing positive for COVID-19, he can only start on Wednesday. We're inundated with clients," said the manager Correia, before adding that he felt that Portugal had "psychologically moved on from the virus".

Across Europe, health authorities have warned that a relaxed approach to the virus and an abrupt removal of COVID-19 measures by authorities during the summer months could spell a "very, very hard winter ahead", resulting in the prospect of fresh, tougher restrictions across the continent during the colder months.

"I'm concerned that if we keep the virus circulating at this level, that it's enough to eventually start a new big wave."

-Al Jazeera



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Rail strikes will drive passengers away, Grant Shapps says

Train strikes will drive passengers away and threaten rather than protect rail workers' jobs, Grant Shapps says.

The transport secretary urged unions to call off next week's strikes, with thousands of workers set to walk out on 21, 23 and 25 June.

The RMT union announced the strike action last week after talks over pay and redundancies fell through.

Passengers have been advised not to travel on trains unless necessary during the strikes.

But season ticket holders "will be able to claim full compensation on strike days", Mr Shapps said in a speech at a train depot in north London.

Network Rail said if strikes go ahead about half of all rail lines will be closed, with only a fifth of services running across Britain.

The services that run will start and finish earlier, from 07:30 to 18:30, and some places will have no trains at all.

The timing of these rail strikes were "designed to inflict damage at the worst possible time", Mr Shapps said.

He said the walkouts would cause "misery" for groups including workers, those heading to Glastonbury festival, and students sitting the 17 public exams over the strike period.

Mr Shapps said commuters, who three years ago may have had no alternative but to take the train, now have other options like Zoom meetings.

"Wave them goodbye, and it will endanger

the jobs of thousands of rail workers," he said.

He added that unions were "alienating" passengers and freight customers with "long and damaging strikes".

The strikes were not about a pay freeze as union bosses claimed, he said, because if the railways can make more money through reform, wages will go up.

Addressing rail workers, Mr Shapps said: "Your union bosses have driven you to the verge of a national strike under false pretences. And rather than protect your jobs, they are actually threatening your jobs."

The transport secretary was asked repeatedly why he could not meet with the unions and Network Rail, to try and avert next week's strikes.

In response, Mr Shapps said "I can't settle this", adding that "it is for employers to negotiate pay" and "they set the terms and contracts".

Mick Lynch, RMT general secretary, accused Mr Shapps of making "disgraceful" threats to railway workers' livelihoods and their right to strike.

He called on the transport secretary to meet with unions to help reach a negotiated settlement.

Earlier, Tim Shoveller, Network Rail lead on the talks with the RMT, said he did not think the government could help with the situation.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "The biggest thing we need to do with unions is work out between ourselves how we make the railway more efficient."



He said this included "how we use our people more wisely, so we run the railways even more safely than we do now, making better jobs, then providing that opportunity to reduce costs - that's the only solution." More than 40,000 RMT union members from Network Rail and 13 train firms plan to walk out on three days next week.

On the first day of the planned strike on 21 June, London Underground RMT workers

plan to walk out in a separate dispute over pensions and job losses.

The RMT union has claimed Network Rail plans to cut up to 2,500 jobs as part of a £2bn reduction in spending, with the proposed job cuts including workers who maintain tracks, signals and overhead lines.

It also said train operators had been subject to pay freezes and changes to their terms

and conditions.

The rail industry is under pressure to save money due to the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic and Network Rail has said it wants to modernise working practices.

It estimated between 1,500 and 2,000 fewer staff would be needed, but insists this could be achieved through voluntary means.

-BBC



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Eight million Australians urged to turn off lights

■ Annabelle Liang

Australia's energy minister has urged households in New South Wales - a state that includes the country's biggest city Sydney - to switch off their lights in the face of an energy crisis.

Chris Bowen says people should not use electricity for two hours every evening if they "have a choice".

However, he added he was "confident" that blackouts could be avoided.

It comes after Australia's main wholesale electricity market was suspended because of a surge in prices.

Mr Bowen asked people living in New South Wales to conserve as much power as possible.

"If you have a choice about when to run certain items, don't run them from 6 to 8 [in the evening]," he said during a televised media conference in Canberra.

Why is there a crisis?

Australia is one of the world's biggest exporters of coal and liquefied natural gas but has been struggling with a power crisis since last month. Three quarters of the country's electricity is still generated using coal. It has long been accused of not doing enough to cut its emissions by investing in renewables.

In recent weeks, Australia has felt the impact of disruptions to coal supplies, outages at several coal-fired power plants and soaring global energy prices.

Flooding earlier this year hit some

coal mines in New South Wales and Queensland, while technical issues have cut production at two mines that supply the market's biggest coal-fired station in New South Wales.

Around a quarter of Australia's coal-fired electricity generating capacity is currently out of service due to unexpected outages and scheduled maintenance.

Some electricity producers have seen their costs soar as global coal and gas prices have jumped due to sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, demand for energy has jumped amid a cold snap and as Australia's economy opens up after Covid-19 restrictions were eased.

All of this has helped drive up power prices on the wholesale market to above the A\$300 (£173; \$210) per megawatt hour price cap set by the market's regulator, the Australian Energy Market Operator (Aemo).

However, that cap was below the cost of production for several generators, who decided to withhold capacity.

On Wednesday, Aemo took the unprecedented step of suspending the market and said it would set prices directly and compensate generators for the shortfall.

It also asked consumers in New South Wales to "temporarily reduce their energy usage".

What happens next?

Aemo has not given a timeline on when

the suspension would be lifted. It said in a statement, "The price cap will remain until cumulative wholesale electricity prices fall below the cumulative price threshold."

"Aemo, as the national power system operator, will continue to monitor the situation and provide further updates should conditions change," it added.

On Thursday, Australia's biggest electricity producer AGL Energy said it expected to be able to supply more power to businesses and consumers in the coming days.

It has three units that have been out of service at its coal-fired plant in Bayswater, New South Wales.

They are among several planned and unplanned outages that have helped cause the power crisis.

AGL said that one of the units should return to service on Thursday, while another will come back online by Saturday.

Meanwhile, Australia's new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the crisis would be raised at a meeting with state premiers which starts on Thursday.

Lynne Chester, an energy expert from the University of Sydney, told the BBC that policymakers have been aware of the risks of ageing generators for decades.

"The sector's regulators and policy makers have ignored the escalating capacity constraints of aging generation assets, fired by fossil fuels, that dominate the sector," Prof Chester said.

-BBC



Asos shoppers return more as rising prices hit

Asos has warned that full-year profits will fall sharply as cash-strapped customers return more items to the online clothing retailer.

The company said that while sales rose in the three months to the end of May, profit had been hit by "inflationary pressures on consumers".

Asos's chief operating officer Mat Dunn said it was "too early" to tell how long this behaviour would continue.

But the firm expects adjusted pre-tax profit to fall to between £20m to £60m.

It is far below Asos's prediction in January when it said annual profit was set to reach between £110m and £140m, and a sharp decline from the previous financial year when it hit £193.6m.

Asos said the higher rate of returns was adding to warehouse and delivery costs. It said profit would be impacted if it had to cut prices to shift goods.

Over the three months to 31 May, Asos said sales rose by 4% to £987.9m, driven by the UK and the US and the resolution of supply chain issues which had dogged its performance over the first half of its year. This "led to an improved stock profile and increased newness and availability".

But Mr Dunn said: "What is now clear, based on the significant increase in returns rates that we have seen, is that this inflationary pressure is increasingly impacting our customers' shopping behaviour."

Asos's share price plunged by 15% to a 12-year low of 987.5p following the update.

Online clothing retailer N Brown also said rising inflation - which reached a 40-year high in April - had affected consumer confidence since the start of its financial year when its sales fell by 2.1% to £165.1m in the first quarter.

"Sales volumes since the start of the financial year have been softer, reflecting various well-documented pressures on consumer confidence, which are showing no signs of abating in the short-term," said N Brown's chief executive Steve Johnson.

"As these pressures persist, we expect the trading environment to remain challenging and will, therefore, continue to take actions to mitigate the effects wherever possible."

Meanwhile, Asos announced it had found a replacement chief executive after Nick Beighton resigned last October. Chief commercial officer José Antonio Ramos Calamonte is taking on the top job with immediate effect. He joined Asos nearly 18 months ago from Portugal's Salsa Jeans.

Asos has also appointed Jørgen Lindemann as its new chairman. Currently a non-executive director, Mr Lindemann will take over the role from Ian Dyson who will step down on 1 August.

-BBC

“
Asos said the higher rate of returns was adding to warehouse and delivery costs. It said profit would be impacted if it had to cut prices to shift goods.
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Tech Eagle with Frans
 11h00-12h00
Brand Conversation with Dwight
 12h00-13h00
On the Radar with Justicia
 13h00-14h30

Ookundana Dhangi pamwe na Eba
 14h30-16h30
The Home Run with Frans/ Fanus
 16h30-18h30
Business Segment with Dwight
 18h30-19h30
Pulling Heart Strings with Elizabeth
 19h30-21h00
Omutumwa pamwe na Tate Fly
 21h00-23h00
Off the Hook
 23h00-02h00
Penge Omhito
 02h00-05h00

CONTACT DETAILS

Eagle Media House
 33B John Ludwig Street
 Klein Windhoek
 Office Tel: [+264 832888400](tel:+264832888400)
 Studio Tel: [+264 832888 401](tel:+264832888401)
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Africa being ‘punished’ by fossil fuel investment ban – Niger

Africa is being “punished” by the decisions of Western countries to end public financing for foreign fossil-fuel projects by the end of 2022, Niger’s president has said. The comments came within weeks of a May 27 pledge by the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised democracies to phase out support for new investment in foreign oil, gas and coal projects by end of this year. The ban applies to schemes that are “unabated,” meaning those that fail to take steps to ease or capture carbon pollution. “We are going to continue to fight, we have fossil fuels that should be exploited,” said President Mohamed Bazoum at a business forum in the Ivorian commercial city of Abidjan.

“At one point, companies had plans to mine Niger’s coal. But with these measures, no banks are willing to commit – we are being punished,” he said.

He made the remarks at the Africa CEO Forum, a two-day conference gathering about 1,500 African business executives and politicians.

The West’s decision to cut fossil investments could be detrimental to the economy of Niger, the least developed country in the world according to the 189-nation Human Development Index



(HDI) compiled by the UN.

A similar declaration was signed in November last year by 20 countries at the COP26 UN climate parlay in Glasgow, a move expanding a ban that several had already imposed on financing for coal. Senegalese President Macky Sall who

was present at the conference supported Bazoum’s remarks.

“Let the African continent be allowed to exploit its natural resources,” he said. “It is frankly unbelievable that those who have been exploiting oil and its derivatives

for more than a century prevent African countries from reaping the value of their resources.”

Sall said he hoped that COP27, running in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh from November 6-18, would open the way

to a “balanced agreement which takes Africa’s reality into account”.

Sall also said that African countries were being hit by Western-led payment restrictions imposed on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

“Africa should be able to obtain a mechanism from all its partners, especially the West – a mechanism such as Europe uses [to buy] Russian gas – which enables us to continue to import fertiliser and wheat from Russia without payment difficulties,” he said.

“If we don’t have fertiliser for our locally grown grain, which is important in our diet, we will face a genuine risk of famine,” he said, describing Africa as a “collateral victim” of the conflict.

Russia’s invasion has choked off grain exports from Ukraine, one of the world’s bread baskets, forcing up the cost of wheat. The two countries together account for approximately 30 percent of the global trade in wheat. The United Nations warned that 18 million people in Africa’s Sahel region face severe hunger in the next three months, citing the effects of Russia’s war in Ukraine, the coronavirus pandemic, climate-induced shocks and rising costs. -BBC

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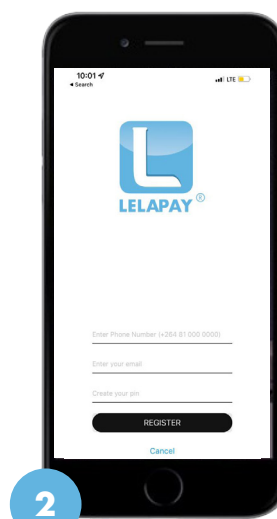
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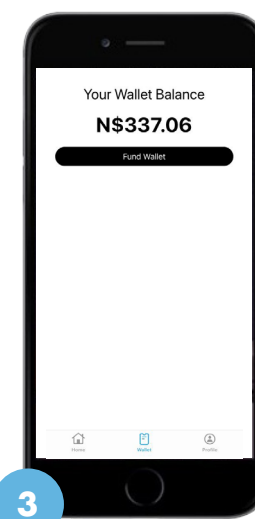
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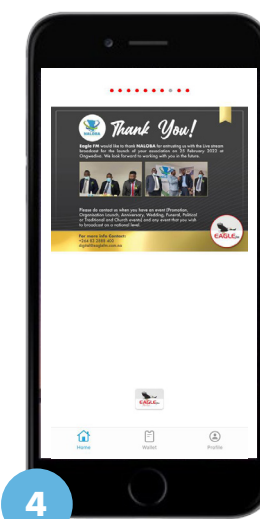
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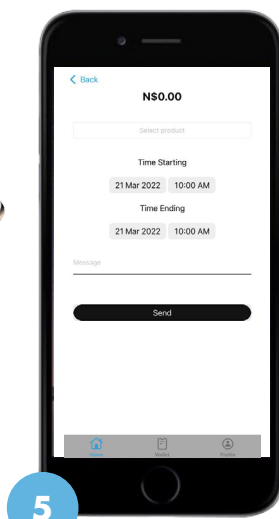
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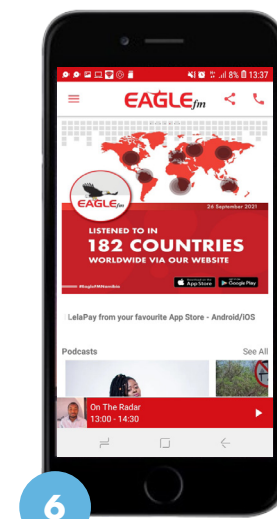
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In Zimbabwe, reporter's conviction sparks fears of renewed abuse



■ **Chris Muronzi**

For the first time in more than a year, Jeffrey Moyo, reporter for The New York Times in Zimbabwe, is breathing rather easy.

Last May, he was arrested and imprisoned for 21 days on accusations of obtaining fake press credentials for two New York Times journalists who entered his home country last year on a reporting trip. Since then, he has frequently shuttled between Harare, the capital where he lives, and a court in Bulawayo, the country's second-largest city, some 500km (310 miles) south.

"I am happy that I have not been cast into prison," Moyo told Al Jazeera on Wednesday, a day after being convicted on charges of breaching the country's immigration laws.

But the prospect of ending up in jail still hovers over the 37-year-old journalist who was awarded a two-year suspended prison term, which can be imposed if he is convicted of a similar crime in the next five years. He was ordered to pay a fine of

200,000 Zimbabwe dollars (about \$450) "It could have been worse," Moyo told Al Jazeera, while still describing the decision as "outrageous and irrational".

Zimbabwe, which is in the grips of an economic crisis characterised by hyperinflation, a rapidly devaluing local currency, 90 percent unemployment and declining manufacturing output, has a notorious history of repressive media laws and undermining press freedom.

The onslaught on journalists began with the enactment of the infamous Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, enacted as the Southern African state descended further into dictatorship under Robert Mugabe, its first president.

Under the draconian law, a popular independent daily, the Daily News, was shut down for years and many journalists were arrested.

'Akin to applying lipstick to a frog' After backing anti-government protests in July 2020, investigative journalist and government critic Hopewell Chin'ono was detained three times and spent two months in prison.

This year, several journalists have been arrested for various offences while they were doing their work.

Two weeks ago, police detectives raided the home of ZimLive.com publisher and editor Mduduzi Mathuthu in Bulawayo. He turned himself over to the police within a week and was charged with insulting and undermining the authority of the president in a tweet.

If found guilty, Mathuthu faces a year in jail or a fine of up to 4,800 Zimbabwean dollars (\$12) or both, according to the law. In early May, police arrested Blessed Mhlanga and Chengeto Chidi, independent journalists from online TV channel Heart & Soul TV, after they photographed officers attempting to detain an opposition lawmaker in Chitungwiza, south of Harare. If convicted, they could face up to one year in prison and a fine of up to 70,000 Zimbabwean dollars (\$155), according to the criminal code.

In the last few years, Zimbabwe's ranking on the 2022 World Press Freedom Index of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has been on a sustained decline amid concerns

the country is reversing the gains it made following Mugabe's removal.

In the aftermath of the coup, Zimbabwe initially rose on the index, but has been on a decline in the past two years.

In 2022, Zimbabwe was ranked 137th, seven places lower than the year before. The accompanying RSF report noted that extremely harsh laws are still in effect and, when new laws have been adopted, their provisions are just as harsh as those they replaced.

"The amended penal code and Official Secrets Act and the new Cyber Security and Data Protection Act continue to hamstring journalism," it said. "In theory, the confidentiality of sources is protected by law, but that hasn't been the case in practice."

In a country where journalism is increasingly being criminalised, Moyo's conviction has sent shivers down the spines of many practitioners.

"That Jeffrey Moyo has been found on the wrong side of the 'law' does not come as a surprise because such an accomplishment is not very difficult in a virtual police state

like Zimbabwe," a veteran journalist who requested anonymity for fear of being targeted by the authorities, told Al Jazeera. "It is a confirmation that what Emmerson Mnangagwa told the world through his New York Times article [a 2018 op-ed on 'a new Zimbabwe'] is a lie. If anything, he is worse than Mugabe."

Nyasha Chingono, a stringer for The Guardian and CNN, told Al Jazeera that he was now worried about working with foreign media because of "fear that I will be tracked down once the foreign journalists leave".

Angela Quintal, the Africa coordinator of the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), said the court's decision showed that press freedom in Zimbabwe had worsened under Mnangagwa, who promised democracy after seizing power in a palace coup from his friend Mugabe in November 2017.

"The fact that Moyo's prison sentence was suspended does not make it any less of a mockery of justice," Quintal said. "Authorities must not contest Moyo's appeal, and ensure that he and other journalists can work in Zimbabwe freely, especially with a general election scheduled for next year."

In August 2023, presidential elections are due in Zimbabwe and now there are worries that in the build-up to the polls, there could be an intensified onslaught on its media.

"The conviction of Jeffrey Moyo gives credence to assertions that media reforms under the so-called Second Republic is akin to applying lipstick to a frog; trying to beautify the pig. It still remains ugly," Njabulo Ncube, coordinator of the Zimbabwe National Editors Forum, told Al Jazeera.

"This has the adverse effect of instilling fear on our journalists, resulting in self-censorship and fear to assist our regional and international colleagues from following the Zimbabwe story," he said.

And the man at the centre of the debate is almost certain that his conviction is a harbinger of worse things to come for the media in Zimbabwe.

"I am now living in fear, especially following this conviction, knowing anytime the regime can pounce on me or any other journalist trying to do their work with foreign colleagues who are perceived as 'saboteurs'," Moyo said.

And he is worried that even though he may not go to prison, he will carry the convict tag. So he wants to change that. "My defence team will make an application to overturn the conviction and sentence," he told Al Jazeera.

-Al Jazeera



Bitcoin: Will El Salvador's big crypto gamble pay off?



Joe Tidy

Cryptocurrencies have continued to tumble this week with billions wiped from the value of tokens like Bitcoin. The crash is affecting investors worldwide, including the government of El Salvador. The Central American country has poured millions of dollars into Bitcoin and made it legal tender nine months ago, encouraging people to use it for day-to-day transactions. From trinkets and tacos to petrol and even houses - you can shop for pretty much anything in El Salvador with Bitcoin. Buying with cryptocurrency from street sellers and major chains alike is a remarkable experience.

It shows how far Bitcoin has come since it was dreamt up on internet forums back in 2008.

The decision by President Nayib Bukele to make the cryptocurrency legal tender means that in theory it must now be accepted by all businesses, alongside El Salvador's other currency, the US dollar. But the latest cryptocurrency crash has prompted more questions about the policy,

especially the use of nearly \$100m of public funds to buy Bitcoin - each purchase celebrated by the president with a tweet.

The country's 2,300 bitcoins are now worth half what the government paid for them, but the finance minister has brushed off criticism, saying there is "extremely minimal fiscal risk".

Bitcoin Beach

The place where El Salvador's Bitcoin movement started is El Zonte, a small surfing and fishing town on the south coast. Here, in 2019, an anonymous donor gave a group of cryptocurrency fans the first of many large donations of Bitcoin.

No-one admits to knowing who he or she is, but the deal was that the town could keep the digital coins on condition they weren't converted into dollars.

The idea was to create the world's first circular Bitcoin economy, where people can be paid in Bitcoin - a peer-to-peer internet cash system - and live on it.

It's a radical idea. In the rest of the world Bitcoin can be used for online purchases, but except in a small number of trendy cafes or one-off projects, it hasn't been possible to use it on the high street. El Zonte has so far received about

\$350,000 from its anonymous benefactor, a significant amount for this shabby but beautiful town, now also known as Bitcoin Beach.

Katerina Contreras was one of the first beneficiaries.

Two years ago, during the pandemic, she was offered a lifeguard course, and it seemed like a good deal. The organisers paid for the trainees' transport and food in Bitcoin.

"Then for six months we worked as lifeguards and were paid our wages in Bitcoin," she says.

Some businesses in the town say they have seen a 30% uptick in trade as Bitcoin Tourists, fuelled by crypto YouTube channels, are attracted to the novelty of spending their digital coins on holiday.

However, Bitcoin adoption remains patchy.

My travels led me to conclude that the further you move from Bitcoin Beach, the less likely you are to be able to buy things in the digital currency.

In Bitcoin Beach just over half the businesses I came across accepted Bitcoin, but drive north 80 minutes to the capital, San Salvador, and it's more like a quarter.

Subsidised wallet

The government says it has no plans to force businesses to accept Bitcoin, even though they should under the country's Bitcoin Law. So far it has restricted itself to offering incentives.

Cash is still very much king here, with more than half of Salvadoreans not owning a bank account, but President Bukele has poured \$200m of public money into a subsidised Bitcoin wallet app, called Chivo.

Anyone who downloads the app receives \$30 in Bitcoin for signing up, which may explain why it has been downloaded four million times, in a country of 6.5 million. But many people use the app for transactions in dollars, not Bitcoin. It's often used this way, for example, by people who work abroad and send money home to their families, as there are no commission or transfer fees.

And there are signs that after the initial surge of interest, people are using Chivo less.

Another incentive to use it came into existence at the end of February, with the opening of the country's most advanced

animal hospital.

Large queues are common, with people and pets sheltering in lines under gazebos for their appointments. And that's because all animal care, even complex surgery, costs only 25 cents - as long as it's paid for with the Chivo app, and preferably in Bitcoin.

Staff say the centre is being paid for with "the profits of Bitcoin", but government officials didn't answer requests to explain how these profits were made.

Public money

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been urging El Salvador to reverse its decision to make Bitcoin legal tender, arguing that it's too unstable for this purpose, and local economists like Tatiana Marroquin are increasingly concerned.

She says the government doesn't have enough money to help vulnerable people, so shouldn't be taking risks by pouring public funds into cryptocurrency. She also says there is a lack of transparency. "We don't know exactly when or with what money they've bought bitcoins."

Tourism Minister Morena Valdez, however, insists Salvadoreans have confidence in President Bukele, despite Bitcoin's falling value.

"We know that each of the president's decisions are made in the right moment. People have a lot of trust in his decisions and in how the country's economy is going," she says.

Other countries were thought to be considering following El Salvador's move, before the latest crash began in May, though the Central African Republic is the only one that has done it. The country's president, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, announced the step on Twitter, describing Bitcoin as "universal money".

El Salvador now wants to go further.

President Bukele has announced plans for a new city - Bitcoin City - to be built at the foot of a volcano that will provide geothermal energy, and power a giant Bitcoin mine.

He's hoping to raise the money by selling \$1bn of Volcano Bonds, though these were meant to go on sale in March and have not yet appeared.

Officials say they are confident they will be able to raise the funds - and pay a looming foreign debt bill of \$800m.

But the cryptocurrency crash is piling pressure on this government as it continues to bet big on Bitcoin.

-BBC





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No Israeli police to be punished for attacking Abu Akleh funeral

An Israeli police investigation into the attack by its officers on mourners at the funeral of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh has concluded that no one should be punished, despite finding that there had been police misconduct, sources have told the Israeli newspaper Haaretz.

The attack on the pallbearers at the funeral, which almost caused them to drop Abu Akleh's coffin, was broadcast live around the world, and caused international outrage at what appeared to be an unprovoked assault. The Police Operations Division presented its conclusions on Wednesday night to Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai, who had initially ordered the investigation in May.

The probe was supposed to clarify the series of events that led up to the police attacking the mourners. The police chief has refused to release the report's findings to the public. Abu Akleh, a longtime television correspondent for Al Jazeera Arabic, was killed while covering Israeli army raids in the city of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank.

Thousands of Palestinians attended her funeral last month. Several policemen charged towards participants and dispersed them with batons. Israeli forces seized Palestinian flags from mourners and later smashed the window of the hearse carrying Abu Akleh's body and removed a Palestinian flag. The Jerusalem Red Crescent said 33 people were injured in the attacks and six were hospitalised. Israeli authorities said six people were arrested after mourners threw "rocks and glass bottles".

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply disturbed" by the violence, according to a spokesman. The European Union said it was "appalled by the violence in the St Joseph Hospital compound and the level of unnecessary force exercised by Israeli police throughout the funeral procession".

Abu Akleh's brother, Anton, has previously disputed an Israeli claim that mourners at the funeral had taken the coffin without the family's consent, calling it "illogical and untrue".

Haaretz said Abu Akleh's coffin was initially slated to be carried by a vehicle through the procession, in agreement with police, but was instead carried by pallbearers on foot without permission from the police.

Police sources told Haaretz at the time of the probe's launch last month that they supported the officers' conduct at the funeral. "Obviously the images that emerged were unpleasant and could have been different, but overall the police acted well in a complex and violent incident," one senior police officer said. The newspaper said the commander overseeing the event was a lieutenant colonel, despite such a sensitive event usually necessitating the supervision of a senior commander. Anton Abu Akleh rejected out of hand the police probe into the unrest at his sister's funeral. "We don't care what Israel says or does, everything is clear from the photos. The police are the aggressors," he said. "They are trying to cover up their actions and mistakes."

-Al Jazeera



War-fuelled food crisis to add to 'staggering' number displaced

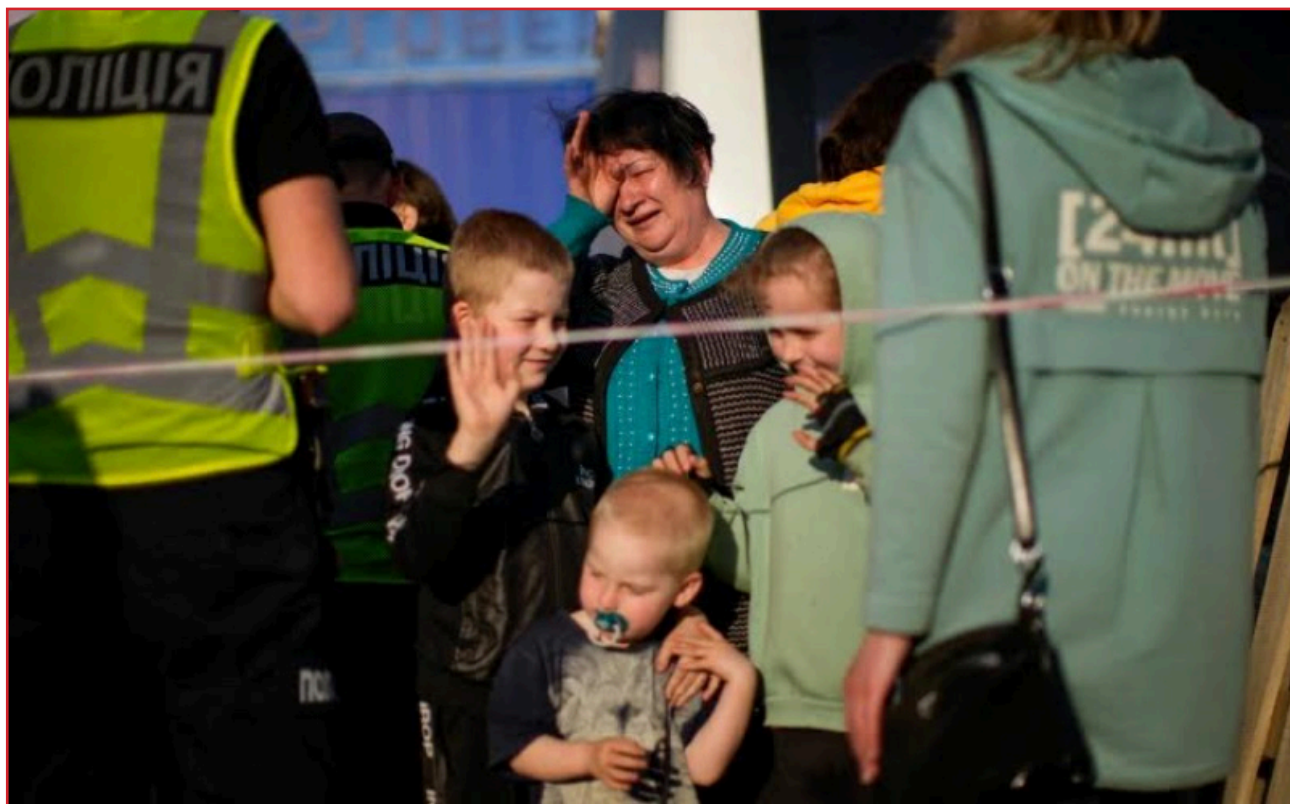
Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed global displacement numbers above 100 million for the first time, and the UN warns the resulting food crisis could force even more to flee their homes.

Some 89.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, abuse and violence at the end of 2021, according to the UN refugee agency's annual report on displacement, which was released on Thursday.

But as many as 14 million more people have joined that number since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, while surging prices linked to blocked grain exports and disrupted harvests are expected to drive more displacement elsewhere.

"If you have a food crisis on top of everything I have described – war, human rights, climate – it will just accelerate the trends I've described in this report," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told journalists this week, describing the figures as "staggering".

"Clearly the impact if this is not resolved quickly will be pretty devastating." Already, more people were fleeing as a result of rising prices and violent insurgencies in Africa's Sahel region, he said. "It is already devastating," Grandi added.



The numbers displaced – many of them within their own country's borders – have more than doubled over the past 10 years, according to the UN.

"Every year of the last decade, the numbers have climbed," Grandi said.

"Either the international community comes together to take action to address this human tragedy, resolve conflicts and find lasting solutions, or this terrible trend will continue."

The report said that at the end of 2021,

some 27.1 million people – a record – were living as refugees, while the total number of asylum seekers rose 11 percent to 4.6 million.

For the 15th straight year, the number of people living displaced within their own

country due to conflict increased, reaching 53.2 million.

The UNHCR said last year was notable for the escalation in violence in countries already facing protracted conflict, such as Afghanistan, as well as the emergence of new unrest.

Grandi welcomed the outpouring of support for fleeing Ukrainians but highlighted the contrast with the response to people escaping war in countries like Syria and Afghanistan.

He also criticised what he called a "monopoly" of resources given to Ukraine while other programmes to help the displaced were underfunded.

"Ukraine should not make us forget other crises," he said, noting the two-year-old conflict in Ethiopia and a drought in the Horn of Africa.

The European Union's response to refugee crises has been "unequal", Grandi added. He compared the bickering between states over taking in small groups of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean by boat with EU countries' generosity towards Ukrainian refugees.

"Certainly it proves an important point: responding to refugee influxes, to the arrival of desperate people on the shores or borders of rich countries is not unmanageable," he said. The report says that low- and middle-income countries hosted 83% of the world's refugees at the end of 2021.

-Al Jazeera

Jordan university sexual harassment sparks



■ Hanna Davis

Inappropriate messages, flirtatious comments, and physical sexual harassment – the allegations against a professor at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) began as a trickle, but quickly turned into a deluge, first online, and then on national media. #TechnoHarrasser – as the case became known – went viral at the start of June and eventually led to the physics professor's suspension from work, and a referral to Jordan's prosecutor general's office for further investigation. The case has shocked Jordanians, both because of the number of students who decided to share their accounts of alleged sexual harassment by the professor, but also because it has led to a wider debate about the prevalence of sexual harassment in Jordanian society.

Seba Al-Taamari, a 21-year-old second-year student at JUST, has released multiple students' accounts of alleged harassment

from the professor on her Twitter account. Al-Taamari told Al Jazeera that she had received accounts from former students going back as far as 2006, highlighting how long the alleged actions had been taking place.

The professor, according to the posts, would require female students to meet him privately in his office where he would often attempt to sexually harass them.

An anonymous student told Jordan's Roya television the professor had "insisted" she come to his office and that she was "verbally harassed", noting she had text messages as proof of the incident.

In a live conversation with Roya on June 5, another anonymous JUST student told how one day after a lecture, the professor touched a student who waiting to ask questions "in the most sensitive areas of her body".

The accused professor also spoke to Roya, denying the allegations, saying he had been "subjected to a fierce campaign by the students", that the videos and posts that

had been shared were "fabricated" and that he had "never touched anyone".

'Breaking the silence'

The campaign is the first time Jordan has seen a movement against sexual harassment at this scale, said Salma Nims, the secretary-general of the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW). It is "breaking the silence", Nims told Al Jazeera.

Nims noted that past incidents that have led to discussions about harassment have either involved clear physical abuse or were "very anonymous" stories where you could "not pinpoint" who had been accused, unlike in the JUST case.

Since the hashtag went viral, students have shared testimonies of sexual harassment with a committee the university created to investigate the case, including testimonies of harassment committed by other faculty members.

A 22-year-old JUST student, who requested that her name be withheld, told Al Jazeera she had shared her case of physical sexual

harassment with the committee. The student said a professor, during her first year at the university in February 2020, had "put his hand in a sensitive place", but that she had not reacted at the time because she "was shocked and afraid at the same time".

The student said she had been warned by her peers to not tell the university – a decision she changed her mind about after she saw the accused professor on television.

"I told myself, why do I have to keep silent?" the student said. "If I didn't speak up, I will regret it for the rest of my life." She added that JUST had supported her and that "many students" also recently come to the committee with stories of harassment.

"This [harassment] is not something rare in universities or in the streets, but this is the first time people are talking about it in Jordan, in this way – in a really strong way," the student added.

In response to a request for comment from Al Jazeera, JUST spokesperson Raed Tal

said the university was unable to speak on the matter, due to the ongoing "active investigation".

Fear of speaking up

A 2017 JNCW study on harassment in Jordan found that 68.7 percent of respondents had experienced physical sexual harassment and that nearly 90 percent had experienced nonverbal and verbal sexual harassment.

However, the "vast majority" of respondents had not submitted a formal complaint against the perpetrator and for those who did, "in most cases" the authorities had refused to follow through on the complaints due to a lack of evidence, according to the study.

"It is very difficult for women to go forward and speak up," said Nims.

The term "sexual harassment" is not included in Jordan's penal code, which leaves the process "complicated" and the legal definition of sexual harassment unclear in Jordan's laws, she said.

Nims also noted that there are seldom efforts to educate students about harassment in Jordan's universities, contributing to a lack of knowledge as to what actually constitutes sexual harassment.

Al-Taamari said all the students who sent her their accounts of harassment asked to remain anonymous. "They are scared of their families and of their professor and of university culture, everything..." she said. The accused JUST professor has filed complaints to the police department about the allegations made against him. Al-Taamari said she is one of 13 students with defamation complaints against them for their social media posts targeting the professor.

The professor argued that some students may have been angry after failing exams, which led them to launch a campaign against him "in revenge".

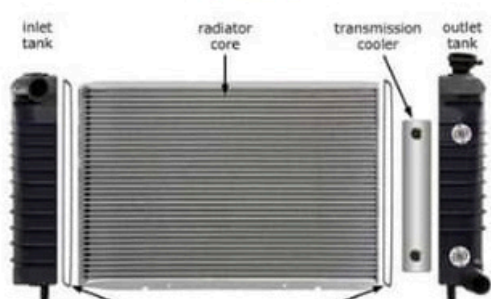
However, Nims said, "in a country like Jordan where mostly the victim is blamed for being harassed, it's really rare for a student to do this for blackmail. Few students would expose themselves".

The anonymous 22-year-old student noted her concerns over how society would view her if she decided to publicly talk about her case.

"Yes, many people will stand by me, but the majority will blame me," the student said. "I hope it will be better for later generations."

-Al Jazeera

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2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S 4Matic+ First Test: It's Not Personal, It's Business

■ Scott Evans

The 2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S 4Matic+ is one of those frustrating cars you really want to love but end up only being impressed by. We'd hoped in the nearly three years since we'd driven one, the good folks in Affalterbach might've made adjustments that would endear the car more to us but, alas, they have not.

Therefore, our previous reporting on the Mercedes-AMG GT63 S holds true for the 2022 model. The GT63 S is an incredibly capable car that sets track records while failing to make any serious emotional connection with its driver. We come away deeply respectful of what it's capable of, but we don't feel any need to go another round with it.

Check the Numbers

We're not exaggerating when we say we respect what the 2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S can do. The numbers speak for themselves. The car we tested recently wasn't the overall most impressive GT63 S we've ever tested, but it was close. It tied the top performer, a 2019 model, in 0-60-mph acceleration by recording a run of 2.9 seconds. And it beat that car by a tenth of a second in the quarter mile, 11.1 seconds at 124.6 mph.

On the other hand, this GT63 S needed 3 additional feet to stop from 60 mph, 103 feet in total. In doing so, we noted the pedal is squishy at the top of its travel before really digging into the massive carbon-ceramic brake rotors; we'd like to see that initial response firmed up.

Similarly, the 2022 model was slightly off the pace in our handling tests. It matched the older car on the skidpad with an average lateral g measurement of 1.05. However, when acceleration, braking, and handling

were combined in our figure-eight test, the AMG GT63 S was 0.2 second slower with a 23.3-second lap at 0.88 average g.

So What's Lacking?

While not a perfect recreation of the 2019 model's performance, the 2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S 4Matic+ was impressively consistent throughout our tests. Some cars put down slightly different numbers across the board every time you test a new model year, so the GT63 S coming out nearly the same four years later is worth mentioning.

It's a tragedy, then, that a sedan that repeatedly delivers supercar numbers is so dispassionate to drive. It has all the right moves, but the delivery feels mechanical and overly rehearsed, not natural and organic. On a mountain road, it's incredibly fast and has seemingly endless grip, but it provides little sense of joy. You and the car work together to put in a fantastic drive, and then you go to lunch and never think about it again.

It would be excusable in a vacuum, but with thrilling alternatives like the Porsche Panamera Turbo S, BMW M5 CS, and Cadillac CT5-V Blackwing all vying for the same customer, the AMG doesn't make the best case for itself. It's especially true if you're at all price conscious when it comes to your six-figure super sedan, as the BMW is cheaper and the Cadillac is literally half the price. Also, the BMW is quicker in the quarter, stops shorter, and pulls higher lateral g. The upshot is, you get a very nice car for your money. The GT63 S has this sleek, chic presence to it. The deep-dish, two-tone wheels and the fixed carbon-fiber rear wing give away its performance intentions, but the Mercedes still gives off a cool, suave vibe. It's like a shark gliding through traffic: People know it means

business, but they don't really understand how deadly it is until it strikes.

Cool Cockpit

The vibe is the same inside. The cockpit feels modern and forward-looking with a bit of an expensive-lounge atmosphere. It's trimmed in excellent materials, all stitched and bolted together quite expertly. It's a hell of a boulevard cruiser.

The interior is also where you'll find its other shortcomings, though. That wing mentioned earlier is a double-edged sword as it perfectly bisects the already tiny rear window and manages to make your rearward visibility even worse. Like all new Mercedes-Benz products, the user interface is fitted with experience-compromising touch-sensitive buttons that make the already layered MBUX infotainment software more cumbersome to use. Even the shortcut buttons—which otherwise make the system quicker and easier to use—are touch-sensitive pieces that work against the goal, as you still have to look at them and the screen to see what you're touching.

Although we're disappointed to find the 2022 Mercedes-AMG GT63 S hasn't gotten any more fun to drive during the past several years, all hope is not lost. The upgraded GT63 S E Performance is coming soon with 831 hp and 1,033 lb-ft of torque from a hybridized version of the car's twin-turbo V-8. The plain old GT63 S certainly isn't hurting for power, so we're even more excited by the new high-tech dampers on the GT63 S E Performance. Hopefully, those and other changes made to put down all the extra thrust will help bring out some personality in a car desperately in need of it.

-Motor trend



Kylian Mbappe must have changed dream - Real Madrid president Florentino Perez

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez says Kylian Mbappe "must have changed his dream" after the France striker rejected a move to the Spanish club.

Mbappe, 23, signed a new lucrative three-year contract at Paris St-Germain instead of moving to the La Liga club.

"His dream was to play at Real Madrid,"

Perez told El Chiringuito.

"We wanted to do it last August and they didn't let him leave, he kept saying he wanted to play at Madrid and 15 days before changed the situation."

According to Spanish football expert Guillem Balague, Mbappe had agreed a financial package with Real months ago for a potential switch to Spain prior to opting to stay with PSG.

Spain's La Liga reacted angrily to the news, calling the deal "scandalous" and has since filed a complaint to Uefa about what it believes to be Financial Fair Play breaches by PSG and Manchester City.

"This is not the Mbappe I wanted to bring, he is another one, who must have changed his dream," Perez was quoted as saying in Marca from the interview with El Chiringuito.

"He changes, he is offered other things, he is pressured and he is already another footballer."

"There is no-one at Real Madrid above the club. He is a great player, he can win more than others, but it is a collective sport and we have values and principles that we cannot change."

Mbappe has not ruled out moving to Real Madrid in the future, saying it is "never over" when asked about joining the Spanish champions.

Perez added: "The Mbappe who was going to come here is not this one. If it is, I prefer him to stay at PSG. I want the one with the dream."

Real Madrid won La Liga and the Champions League last season with France striker Karim Benzema scoring 44 goals in 46 games.

He is one of the favourites to win the Ballon d'Or and Perez suggested the 34-year-old's exploits were behind them not signing striker Erling Haaland, who has joined Manchester City.

"We have the best nine in the world and we weren't going to bring in Haaland to have him on the bench, right?" said Perez.

"We have no interest now other than to build the new team with the youngsters we have and some reinforcement."

In the interview, Perez also said the formation of a European Super League "is still alive".

Real Madrid were one of 12 clubs in a proposed European Super League when plans for the competition were announced last year.

All of the sides, except for Juventus, Real Madrid and Barcelona, pulled out after widespread protests from fans, politicians and governing bodies.

-BBC



Lord Coe expresses importance of keeping athletics at London Stadium

■ **Dan Roan**

Lord Coe said it is "really important" that athletics remains at the London Stadium amid uncertainty over the sport's future at the venue.

UK Athletics (UKA) has a 50-year agreement to turn the centrepiece of the 2012 Olympics into an athletics facility for one month each year, despite West Ham's lease of the ground.

The BBC has learned that UKA is considering track and field's future at the venue, with a relocation to Birmingham's revamped Alexander stadium seen as one potential option.

However Coe, who headed up the 2012 organising committee, told BBC Sport that "it is really important that London maintains a pre-eminence in track and field."

"My instinct, having spoken to UKA recently and to the Olympic Park authorities, is that everyone is on the same page. They want to maintain athletics as a part of the multi-purpose facility that the Olympic stadium has become."

"We had a hugely successful world championships in London in 2017 and we want to maintain that," said Coe, who is now World Athletics president.

"West Ham are the legacy tenants but yes we want to keep track and field there and I think everybody's on that page."

In 2020, the annual Anniversary Games at the stadium were cancelled because of Covid, with UKA saying it suffered a "significant financial impact".

Last year's event was moved to Gateshead because of the £3m reconfiguration costs of turning the stadium from a football into an athletics facility, intensifying doubts

over the future of track and field at the venue. Birmingham hosted this year's Diamond League meeting.

A source close to the LLDC denied that any formal talks had taken place about offering UKA a deal to relocate, and allow West Ham to turn the stadium into a full-time football ground. They pointed out that Major League baseball would be played at the stadium in 2023, 2024 and 2026, ensuring the venue would remain multi-use.

Any move away from the capital would raise a reported £15m for UKA, but raise questions over the 2012 legacy and any future London Olympic or World Championship bid. A number of British athletes, including Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill, have expressed concern at the prospect.

The London Stadium, which is owned by E20 - a wholly owned subsidiary of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) is the most visual reminder of the 2012 Olympic Games.

London mayor Sadiq Khan took control of the LLDC in 2017 after a critical independent review highlighted the negative financial impact of deals agreed over London Stadium in particular.

Last year a report found that future estimates for annual losses are between £8m and £10m

The government has said it would not intervene if athletics decided to leave the Queen Elizabeth Park.

Both UKA and the LLDC declined to comment.

-BBC



Sandy Lyle recounts 1985 win at Royal St George's

Sandy Lyle only won the Open Championship once but his 1985 triumph was hugely significant for UK golf.

It had been 16 years since Tony Jacklin's 1969 victory at Royal Lytham & St Anne's and with Americans dominating - Tom Watson had won five in nine attempts, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino claimed a couple apiece - the fans were desperate for a home winner.

In this week's podcast building up to July's 150th Open Championship at St Andrews, the focus is on British and Irish successes, kick-started by Jacklin and moved on by Lyle, who revealed a streaker at Royal St George's helped ease his nerves on the final tee.

Lyle had been at Lytham as a young boy and "got the smell of the tournament" as he watched Jacklin's victory.

"It left an impression in my mind, seeing a British winner and The Open not being controlled by the US," he added. It was a weekend that started the Scot on a journey that would see him become Britain's next winner of the golf's defining championship. However, the Scot conceded he had "no expectations" of winning in 1985.

"The week before I was in Dublin and I retired in the first round when I was heading for a 90 in windy conditions, so you wouldn't say that was the greatest start to an Open Championship," he said.

"But I had a bit of inspiration. I found a driver that seemed to be working miracles. It was passed down from Eamonn Darcy to Ian Woosnam, who said it was too big,

so do I want it?

"I changed the shaft straight away, which was not an easy thing to do in those days, but I drove the ball exceptionally well with it, which was a key thing for Sandwich."

Lyle started the final round three off the lead.

"I was playing with Christy O'Connor Jr, who is probably as nice a guy to play with as you'd want to have for a major championship.

"He was not a Greg Norman who would look at you with steely eyes and almost put you off.

"But between us it was like we were putting with blindfolds on, nothing was happening. Then I made a birdie putt from 40 feet on the 14th and that started the momentum."

Lyle holed a 20-foot putt on the 15th for another birdie that gave him a one-shot lead, a lead he would still have on the 18th tee. "There was a tremendous commotion up on the green and I couldn't quite see what was going on, but in fact it was a streaker," said Lyle.

"It was a good time for a bit of humour, to back off and relax a bit."

He said he hit an "adequate" drive but missed the green with his second shot, finding greenside rough. Then he "fluffed" his chip, the ball failing to get up the slope in front of him and running back towards his feet.

"I went down on my knees so I could have a few swear words to myself and nobody could lip-read," laughed Lyle.

"The scoreboard started to change just after I hit that chip shot. If it had changed 10 seconds earlier I would probably have been more aggressive knowing I now had a two-shot lead because Bernhard Langer had bogeyed 16."

Lyle two-putted from the edge of the green but said he was "a little deflated because I thought probably it was an opportunity missed of winning outright".

He then faced an anxious 35-minute wait in the recorders hut watching while Langer finished up, unable to get on level terms.

"There was a lot of emotion," said Lyle when he realised he'd won. "All the banked up concentration, putting your game face on for many hours, its all gone.

"There's relief and excitement, almost like you could sit down and be a blob for half an hour and gather your thoughts."

Lyle's victory sparked a mini flurry of home wins with England's Nick Faldo claiming three titles in six years from 1987.

Scotland's Paul Lawrie was an unlikely winner in 1999 before Ireland's Padraig Harrington won successive titles in 2007 and 2008.

Darren Clarke's 2011 triumph came after 20 years of trying while in 2014 his fellow Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy claimed his one and only Claret Jug to date.

And of course, nobody will forget the emotion of Ireland's Shane Lowry winning in 2019 when The Open returned to Royal Portrush on the Northern Ireland coast. You can hear from Lowry in the podcast...

-BBC



Melbourne Grand Prix: Australian race on calendar until 2035

Andrew Benson

Formula 1 has struck a new contract to race at the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne until 2035.

The deal is a 10-year extension on the existing contract, which had been due to expire in 2025.

It will extend the race's stay on the calendar to nearly 40 years.

Melbourne faced opposition from rival bids, including Sydney, but won out because of the commercial deal on offer and its status as an established successful event.

Melbourne's Albert Park track made its debut on the F1 schedule in 1996.

It has become a mainstay of the F1 calendar, and continues to be a major success for Melbourne and the state of Victoria.

This year, as Melbourne returned to the schedule after an absence of three years because of the coronavirus pandemic, 419,000 spectators visited Albert Park - the largest crowd for a weekend sporting event in Australian history.

F1 president and chief executive officer Stefano Domenicali said: "The race has always been a favourite for the fans, drivers and the teams, and Melbourne is an incredible and vibrant international city that is a perfect match for our sport.

"This year we saw huge crowds and passionate fans at the Grand Prix, and we

are very excited by the future in Australia as our sport continues to grow."

Victoria's minister for tourism, sport and major events, Martin Pakula, said: "The Australian Grand Prix has never been bigger. We know how important this event is to our economy and that's why we've delivered the longest extension for the race since it has been held in Melbourne."

Melbourne organisers have agreed to upgrade the pits and paddock facilities to future-proof the event for its new deal.

The track was modified for the first time for this year's event in April in an attempt to increase overtaking possibilities.

From 1996 until 2019, Melbourne was - with the odd exception - typically the opening race of the season.

That position was lost to Bahrain this year, as Australia was moved to the third race of the season because of uncertainties over immigration restrictions in the context of the pandemic when the schedule was being set last year.

In the future, Bahrain and Melbourne are likely to share the opening slot. Bahrain is set to become the de facto first race of the season, but Melbourne will step in when the timing of the Muslim festival of Ramadan makes it impossible to race in the Middle East on the required date.

F1 is still working on the 2023 schedule but insiders say Melbourne is not expected to be the season-opening race next year.

-BBC

