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NIDA CEO Gaomab Apologises Over Livestock Deaths



Annakleta Haikera

The Namibia Industrial Development Agency chief executive officer Mihe Gaomab II has apologised for the death of more than 100 cattle at the Kavango Cattle Ranch.

The Kavango Cattle Ranch is approximately 168,900 hectares and comprises over 40 individual farms primarily for livestock production.

Gaomab was part of a delegation led by finance minister Ipumbu Shiimi that visited the farm in the Mangetti area of Kavango West on Saturday.

The livestock is said to have died because of negligence after NIDA ordered the workers to move out to avoid elephant attacks.

Shiimi, who was in the Kavango regions where he was carrying out budget consultation, was accompanied to the farm by NIDA board members, Kavango West regional councillors and some farm workers. During the visit to the farm, five cattle carcasses were found at a water point. The delegation also found that most of the dams

were empty.

Gaomab assured the minister and the delegates that the situation would change and that no livestock would be left to die of negligence.

He said the NIDA management would take action regarding the safety of the farm workers against elephants or any other wildlife. According to Goamab, all the overall employees will receive an increment of 4,3 per cent because, over the past three years, employees did not receive any increase.

"It is no secret that we are faced with cashflow problems, but through the guidance of the board's chairperson, we will make a solid intervention to address the employees' salaries and allowance.

"I know I've only been here for over a year, but Mangetti East's situation is more challenging than in Mangetti West. Most of the employees are not stationed where the cattle breeding is. "We have lost one life to the elephant, and many workers were scattered during this process. Through this, workers will get a bush allowance, and we want all the employees to return to their

stations, and all the elephants will be moved to their distinction area," Gaomab said.

Shiimi said the government commits to support NIDA and make things better.

"We want to support the management and NIDA board for the businesses to move forward. We can solve problems if we all start working together.

"Let's not fight but bring out all the issues and solve them together. If we all work hard, we are all going to benefit. At the moment, NIDA has financial problems if all the employees and NIDA bring their part. We will fix NIDA together, and no cattle will die because if the cattle continue dying, Namibia will not make money," Shiimi said.

The Kavango Cattle Ranch chairperson Kasingana Galius said most of the dams at the Namibia Industrial Development Agency farm in Kavango West are dry. Galius told The Villager that the five carcasses were not the only ones found dead at the farm. According to Galius, the estimated number of animals found dead is more than 100.

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Ramaphosa Denies Kidnapping, Torturing Namibians



Staff Writer

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa says two of the five Namibians accused of breaking into his farm in February 2020 were assaulted by guards when they first broke into a farm close to his in the Limpopo province.

The five are Imanuwela David, Umbanus Shaumbwako, Petrus Muhekeni, Erkki Shikongo and Petrus Afrikaner.

They are accused of breaking into Ramaphosa's Phala Phala farm, where they stole US\$4m in cash.

The Public Protector's Office asked Ramaphosa to respond to more than 33 questions regarding the money found hidden in a leather sofa at his farm.

Quoting a source in the Public Protector's Office, The Sunday Times says Ramaphosa said some guards detained the alleged thieves after breaking into a neighbour's farm thinking it was Phala Phala.

"They identified the wrong farm and only came to Phala Phala later. By that time, the security guards of the other farm were already looking for them. They found two of them and assaulted them.

"They let them go because they didn't have any stolen items. The money was with others who managed to escape," the source told The Sunday Times. It was unclear which

The former correctional services boss Arthur Fraser, who spilled the beans on the farm break-in, accused Rhooide of illegal arrest and torture of the Namibians.

two Namibians were assaulted. Still, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) is looking into the police officers involved in the incident. The Hawks are checking out Fraser's claims of kidnapping.

Ramaphosa is also said to have denied involvement with the raids carried out in Cape Town by the head of the Presidential Protection Unit, Major-General Walley Rhooide.

The former correctional services boss Arthur Fraser, who spilled the beans on the farm break-in, accused Rhooide of illegal arrest and torture of the Namibians.

Fraser said Rampahosa paid the Namibians for them to keep quiet about the incident after they had recovered some of the money.

The Sunday Times, however, says Ramaphosa denied paying any of the men to keep quiet. The paper also says that Ramaphosa denied that they had recovered some money.

It is not only Ramaphosa who denied kidnapping and torturing the alleged thieves but Rhooide too. In his response to the Public Protector, Rhooide says he has no knowledge of any money or items derived from the proceeds of the money stolen from the farm being recovered. "Furthermore, I do not know of a referral

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NIDA

Galius also said the death of livestock was not the only challenge they faced at the farm. "There is more to what you see here. Many of our colleagues have survived elephant attacks, and for those of us stationed at the farm, we don't sleep. "The employees are only paid a low income. The farm has no water. We have electricity by using generators which run out of diesel, and we are forced to walk long distances to get water. For the animals, it's worse. They are forced to walk 60 km in searching for water."

Ramaphosa

being made to the Asset Forfeiture Unit in connection with this matter. I have no knowledge of any person, myself included, kidnapping, torturing or paying bribes to the alleged culprits in order to buy their silence in connection with this matter." Rhoode said the former South African police commissioner Khehla Sitole permitted him to travel to Namibia with Ramaphosa's envoy to Africa, Bejani Chauke, in June 2020. According to Rhoode, they met Namibian top police officers at the no-man's land before they were flown in a police helicopter

to Windhoek. Once in Windhoek, Rhoode claims President Hage Geingob accommodated them at State House, where they spent a night. According to the Sunday Times, it turns out that Rhoode said he did not sit in the meeting with Geingob but that Chauke did. Geingob has denied that he had anything to do with Ramaphosa's stolen millions that ended in Namibia. A few weeks ago, The Sunday Independent quoted Presidential spokesperson, Dr Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari, saying Geingob did not send a helicopter to fetch Rhoode and

Chauke near "no man's land". According to the paper, Hengari also said that it was not true that Rhoode and Chauke were accommodated at State House, where they spent the night. Hengari told the paper that Geingob "had made exhaustive and detailed public statements on the matter". He also reportedly said that the police Inspector-General, Sebastian Ndeitunga, and Prosecutor-General, Martha Imalwa, had also released statements on the issue. "It is concerning that your questions are mischief-laden in that you suggest that the information you supposedly obtained from

sources 'implicate' President Geingob. "Apart from the fact that no criminal offence is suggested from your questions, the criminal offences allegedly committed in relation to the Phala Phala matter occurred in South Africa. "To the best of our knowledge, no criminal offence was committed in Namibia; hence it troubles us as to why and how you suggest President Geingob is 'implicated' in this matter. Perhaps you seek to sensationalise this case by adding a cross-border element, despite no factual basis justifying this sensation seeking," Hengari was quoted saying.

Discrimination, low pay, and lack of protection- Nam's workplace



Nghiinomenwa-vali Erastus

There is a lack of protection for workers in the country, discrimination based on race, gender, and disability, while in some sectors child labour is practised. These are some of the confessions by Utoni Nujoma, the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation during the worker's day early this month. The confession shed light on the country's labour issues, treatment of workers, trade unions and relationships with employers. At the same time, the ministry has also indicated that between 2020 and March 2022, 37 accidents at workplaces were reported and 16 were fatal. Nujoma's ministry is, however, the one tasked to make sure there is a conducive working environment for both workers and employers, and that the country's labour laws are adhered to. According to his ministry observations, a large percentage of Namibian workers is paid low salaries and lack protection for their health and safety, a situation which does not reflect the country's aspirations and laws. "The current situation in Namibia's world of work does not measure up to the visions and principles set out in our laws," his speech read. According to him, not all employers in the country respect the dignity of their employees or subscribe to the goals of decent work. Nujoma also revealed that the country's labour market still has multiple discriminatory features from race, sex, and based on disability. The vestiges of discrimination on the basis of race, sex, and disability, among other grounds, persist in some sectors and some workplaces. Nujoma and his team indicated that the economic production is also being done by those who are not allowed to work, underage for employment purposes- "I regret to say that there is still child labour in Namibia". Beyond children running around with

wheelbarrows selling maize, the labour team indicated that too many workers are subjected to violence and harassment at work, including gender-based violence and sexual harassment. A large complement of Namibian workers are trying to earn a living in the informal sector without legal protection, as unemployment threatens the future of the youth, the minister acknowledged. Nujoma called for the situation to be reversed, "if we are to move forward as a nation". **FRAGMENTED TRADE UNIONS, AND IGNORANT EMPLOYERS** In terms of workers' representatives/unions, the ministry's observations are that, not all employers view trade unions as a positive force in Namibia's socio-economic development or as their partners. The labour minister encouraged the trade unions to rededicate themselves to improving their representation of workers. "A trade union should not be treated by its officials as a money-making opportunity or a political stepping-stone, he said. According to Nujoma, trade unions must be dedicated whole-heartedly to protecting and promoting the interests of workers, bargaining in good faith with employers, and organising unorganised workers. He also encouraged the trade unions, both old and new, to create platforms to promote unification of the trade union movement. "Fragmentation of trade union representation in sectors and unprincipled raiding of established bargaining units will never be in the interest of the workers and promotes unwarranted instability," stated the minister. On employers, Nujoma stated that they can maximize their productivity, profitability and continuity if they adhere to the laws, treat trade unions as their partners in achieving their business goals and respect the dignity of their workers. "I would dare say that many, if not most employers, particularly in urban areas, have no idea of the living conditions of their

employees or may even be oblivious to their daily challenges in trying to provide a standard decent living for their families," said Nujoma. According to the minister's observation and interactions with employer representatives, there may be a lack of appreciation of the need to support trade union development, rather than fighting modest legislative changes that could strengthen trade union representation. For 2021 the ministry received 4 793 labour complaints, of which an amount of NS2,8 million has been forced out of employers on behalf of complainants. The unresolved complaints (27%) were referred to the Office of the Labour Commissioner for Arbitration. **NUJOMA NOT IMPRESSED BY ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS WORK** After making the confession two weeks ago on the country's unhealthy working environment, Nujoma was, however, not impressed by various activists and political

parties that are not going through his office to solve labour issues. In his speech in parliament last week, Nujoma called out activists and political parties that are handling labour issues differently. "I take the floor to inform this House of the unlawful tactics of the political party NEFF, of a few politicians and of allied businesspeople who are masquerading as workers' representatives in order to intimidate employers and to disrupt the peaceful operation of Namibian businesses," stated Nujoma. He explained that the group projects itself as the modern-day saviours of Namibian workers, but has not been authorised by any workers to represent them. Nujoma described NEFF's manner of operating as a carefully-scripted form of guerrilla theatre wherein they show up at a targeted company unannounced and without prior arrangement, in colourful costumes, and demand to meet with the CEO or other senior managers to discuss or complain about the wages or conditions of employment at

the company. According to Nujoma if the employer does not agree to meet with them, they will proceed to block the entrance to the company or engage in other tactics that will keep the company from operating as normal, while making volatile speeches to the audience via a video. "These guerrilla thespians are acting in violation of the laws, including criminal laws," he said. The minister highlighted that if the activists and political representatives wish to take on the role of representing workers in relation to their employers, they must follow the procedures afforded by law. Furthermore, the group should seek to be recognized as the bargaining agent of a recognized bargaining unit, in accordance with the Labour Act. The Labour Act, 2007 supports the establishment of trade unions and establishes basic rights and protections for workers as well as basic conditions of employment. Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na

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Letshego Moves Into Ongos Valley Deal



■ Staff Writer

Letshego Namibia now extends soft loans to anyone who qualifies, unlike in the past, when the bank was heavily involved with government workers. Speaking during the signing of a partnership agreement with Ongos Valley Group in Windhoek on Friday, Letshego chief executive officer Ester Kali said they were creating a multifaceted solution. The Ongos Valley Group is developing a 28,000 mixed-used village that will include more than 20 schools, numerous malls and service stations, as well as institutions and businesses. This village is located in the north-western corridor just 14 kilometres from Windhoek's Central Business District, west of Nubuamis. The area covers 1,743 hectares and will become a self-sustaining walkable city with

schools, hospitals, institutions, businesses, malls and other supporting facilities. Letshego's involvement provides the Ongos Valley Group with muscles to help those within the low-income and middle-income group to own a house. Kali said the partnership was not simply offering a home loan with the lowest interest but rather about understanding the local community's demographics and unique needs. "This is an all-in-one solution with land and customisable houses. Or provide capital to purchase materials from trustable suppliers to renovate existing homes or structures elsewhere. "This partnership with Ongos Valley will provide all Namibians with an opportunity to build a home and have a better future. The cooperation will further help enhance our business and provide newer services, which

Letshego seeks to address the challenges experienced by individuals in accessing funds," Kali said. Ongos Valley Group chairperson Reagan Craig said they would hand over more than 350 houses this year. Craig said that in the next five years, the group would build 4 500 housing units. "When we started this journey nine years ago to provide 28 000 housing units, we knew we needed people and organisation to join us as we could not do it alone," Craig said, adding this was why Letshego had become a partner. Craig further said Namibia had needed affordable housing for years, but aspiring homeowners had no access to finance. "That is why we at Ongos devised means to offer rent to own as one of the solutions that elevate human dignity and decency in the pursuit of home ownership, and that is our philosophy. Therefore, we must solve this together as a nation by working together.

The Kavango Regions' Economic Potential Chorus



■ Nghinomenwa-vali Erastus

Beyond the agricultural sector, the two Kavango regions have been cited for having massive economic potential, especially food security. Despite this lauded potential, the two regions host most of the green schemes (seven of them), with many underproducing or nothing. End of last month, the central bank governor, Johanness !Gawaxab visited the eastern region for a public lecture at Rundu, where he highlighted the potential of the two regions again. He said the two Kavango regions have the potential to contribute to solving national economic problems due to their fertile land, immense supply of water, and favourable climate conditions. !Gawaxab explained the regions' abundant natural resources could play a key role in insulating the country against external shocks such as food prices. The food price inflation was observed to increase faster than other commodities in the consumer basket. "The Kavango East and Kavango West regions have the highest agricultural potential, which can significantly contribute to food security and diverse exports," he explained. !Gawaxab said that given the current situation, the private sector has a great chance to step up and serve as the engine of growth because the government can no longer do so. He, however, highlighted that "to maintain a competitive economy moving forward, other crucial changes include breaking up monopolies in significant economic sectors and advancing the SOE's reform agenda". The 2022 first quarter Agricultural Bulletin reveals that agriculture commodities brought income of N\$564.8 million. At the same time, the country has spent close to a billion (N\$839.6 million) on agriculture commodities during the first quarter of 2022. In terms of contribution, the agriculture (crop and livestock) subsector contribution stands at 4.2 per cent of GDP. The Bulletin has also indicated that Namibia's agricultural trade deficit maintains the country vulnerable to global food price developments and exchange rate risks. The vulnerability exists despite the potential

of the two Okavango regions and 11 green schemes. The country's vulnerability to food prices also heightened fertilizer imports as it imports most of its worldwide. During the first quarter of 2022, Namibia imported 11 383 750 kg of 'fertilizer and pesticide' from Russia at the cost of N\$160.0 million, compared to 1 308 910 kg imported at the expense of N\$6.4 million in Q1 of 2021. This translated into a hike in the average price of imported 'fertilizer and pesticides' from N\$4.9 per kg to N\$14.1 per kg imported from Russia. The increase in import prices for 'fertilizer and pesticide' does have an impact on future harvests and on food security, the Bulletin highlighted. The country leaders, however, continue to praise the two regions' agricultural potential while most of the green schemes (from the 7) in the areas underproduce. !Gawaxab, the public lecture at Rundu, aimed to provide a basic understanding of current economic shocks, their origins, and how Namibia, as a small open economy, can insulate itself from mounting externally driven shocks and pressures. The country's weak food production has also exposed it to imported inflation as it relies on other nations, mainly South Africa, for food supply. According to !Gawaxab presentation, "the current inflationary pressures in the economy are imported and primarily the result of supply-side factors". This indicates that the high prices felt by consumers are not induced by high demand locally or too much money chasing a few goods, but prices are increasing from where the country imports its goods. The constraints imposed by the Russia Ukraine war exacerbated commodity shortages such as wheat and cooking oil. Despite the massive potential of the agricultural sector and the Kavango regions, the governor pointed out, the various shocks were a direct result of external factors beyond the control of any authority. The seven green schemes in the two regions are Sikondo, Uvhungu Vhundu, Ndonga Linen, Shadikongoro, Musese, Mashare, and Shitemo. Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na

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Telecom Namibia to Invest N\$2,3b to Modernise Networks



Staff Writer

Telecom Namibia chief executive officer Stanley Shanapinda says the parastatal plans to invest more than N\$2,3 billion in the next five years to modernise our national fixed and mobile network, starting from the national backbone to the core network and the access technologies. The World Bank Group, in a report titled *Creating Markets in Namibia - Creating Resilient and Inclusive Markets*, stated that the cost of internet data services was high. The Group also pointed out that mobile data adoption at 36 per cent was behind regional peers at 52 per cent. Fibre uptake, the World Bank Group also said, was slow with 2,5 subscriptions per 100 people, while digital adoption rates are much lower than in peer countries. According to the World Bank Group, this challenges private businesses to access stable and reliable electricity. The World Bank said Namibia needs to promote and invest in digital infrastructure to enable digital transformation, which would lead to adopting digital processes. The Bank suggested that the digital transformation efforts could address inefficiencies in the logistics and trade sector by accelerating the implementation and scaling of digital systems along trade corridors to enable real-time cargo monitoring. In doing so, the Bank said, Namibia would, in turn, leverage the potential for the digital transformation of the economy. Shanapinda said Telecom Namibia couldn't agree more with the World Bank Group that digital transformation will bring about major economic developments.

He said Telecom adopted network modernisation and digital infrastructure investment as a key strategic objective in our current Integrated Strategic Business and Funding Plans and Beyond (ISBP 2023). "Under our 'ISBP 2023&Beyond' plan, we embark on a digital transformation journey to help enable Namibia's Vision 2030, 4IR, NDP 5, HPPII national goals," he said. According to Shanapinda, the first investment of about US\$5 million was the co-landing of the Google Equiano submarine cable in partnership with the private company Paratus, also allowing for the sharing of infrastructure as envisaged under HPPII. The Equiano cable landed in Swakopmund on 1 July 2022 and will provide us with the projected capacity of 4Tbps (4,000Gbps). "This is the second submarine cable we landed, the first one being the West Africa Cable System (WACS) that landed in February 2011, eleven years earlier. These cables address Namibia's international connectivity needs and gear Namibia towards 4IR, a revolution that intense data-driven needs will drive. We are positioning Namibia as a regional ICT hub for landlocked African countries such as Botswana (via Buitepos), Zambia (via Ngoma and Sesheke), Malawi, and the DRC. This is in line with our projected capacity demands to enable digital transformation in sectors such as logistics and trade," he said. Shanapinda said the economy saw significant benefits with the landing of WACS, and we expect the same trends with the landing of the Equiano cable. WACS, he added, enabled Internet content

utilisation growth at an average of 50 per cent per annum, leading to revenue growth that followed at an average of 11 per cent. "The next part of our Capex plan is to accelerate the roll out of fibre to pass and connect thousands of homes, thereby improving the coverage of our existing 10,676 km (65.2% of the national coverage) national fibre backbone. We aim to connect more homes and businesses with packages that start at 4Mbps and up to 50Mbps. "The packages can even go up to 300 Mbps. In December 2021, we automatically upgraded our customers with double the capacity at no extra cost. To date, we have invested over N\$148 million in deploying fibre. These efforts continue to accelerate the uptake of fibre broadband solutions and help to improve digital adoption rates," he said. Shanapinda also said to improve mobile data adoption rates via Telecom's subsidiary Powercom, they deployed new and upgraded 3G and 4G in mobile sites in rural and urban areas. The sites include Groot Aub, Omeya Golf Estate, Bergquell, Okahandja, Hosea Kutako Airport, Kappsfarm, Unam Neudam Campus, Luipersdvallei, Veddertsdal, Elizabeth Bay, Stampriet (Roots), Otjiwarongo, Otjiwarongo New Hospital, Uukwangula, Eenhana NHE, Eenhana Industrial Onawa, UNAM HP, UNAM Engineering Ekuku WT, Ehenye WT, Mahohoma, Warmquelle, Sesfontein Gunkwe, Gobabis TN, Gmunder Lodge, Onkani Sauyemwa Water Tower, Dama Water Tower, Kupferquelle, Onamishu, Werda Gate, Otjokowares Otjitjekwa, Repeater 1807 and Grootfontein (Omulunga). "Under PowerCom as the neutral operator, we continue to share passive infrastructure fairly and equally and with no favour, to all our competitors, as per CRANs infrastructure sharing regulations and HPPII," Shanapinda said. To excite customers, Shanapinda said, Telecom offers in mobile customers unlimited data packages, with reduced pricing and no restrictions on social media services such as WhatsApp, Facebook, or TikTok. This we do via our various Jiva packages. For example, with our 31-Day Jiva package, customers can get 50Gb of data for only N\$185.00. This translates to N\$3,70 per Gig or 0.25USD. "We are excited that under the national 5G strategy CRAN recently announced, our sites will be 5G-ready, using the latest standards, to enable real-time cargo monitoring with ubiquitous IoT connectivity. "This connectivity and our digitalisation investments can enable NamRA's digitalisation processes, which will, in turn, help to meet the goal of eliminating border delays under the advanced ruling programme. NamRA recently announced this goal," he said.

Connect Africa App wins N\$50 000



Staff Writer

Through the Old Mutual Sustainable, Economic & Empowerment Drive (OM SEED) initiative, Old Mutual Namibia, along with Launch Namibia, the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Lab, awarded three entrepreneurs from Windhoek with their share of N\$85 000. During the Award Ceremony that took place last night, Ndapewa Teressius of the Connect Africa App walked away with the first prize of N\$50 000. Teressius could not hide her excitement when she was announced as the overall winner of the Windhoek edition of OM SEED. "The Connect Africa app provides good support to the visual and deaf and hard of hearing members of our society by enabling them to access essential services independently by turning images into sound. Through the app, they can study at institutions of higher learning, participate in conferences and meetings without sign language interpreters, conduct banking services on their phones, and so much more. The prize money will help us add more app features and provide training within our 14 regions." Johannes Nawa of Community Bakery came in second place and won N\$25 000. "I will use the money to get a better place for my bakery that will enable me to start using electricity instead of wood when I bake." Diana Nakuumba, who produces Eembe Jam, came in third place and won N\$10 000. "With the money I have won, I will buy a pulping machine and spend money to better market myself." During the award ceremony Mufaro Nesongano, Manager: Communications and Old Mutual Foundation, highlighted

that "a little under a month ago we launched OM SEED and after that our partner Launch Namibia travelled to the various communities in Windhoek, Keetmanshoop and Oshakati to sensitise them about OM SEED. When we closed off our entries on 22 July 2022, we received over 800 applications from the three participating towns". Nesongano continued, "it was thus humbling to hear the various ideas pitched from our entrepreneurs in business sectors such as pig farming, poultry, general dealer shops, technological apps, wellness services, beauty and hair products and agricultural produce. OM SEED has highlighted the need for initiatives aimed at our grassroots business". During the Windhoek edition, entrepreneurs underwent business, financial, entrepreneurship and leadership training. During the pitches, the importance of such training came out very visibly and showed how critical it is in enabling entrepreneurs to upscale their businesses. The winners will be incubated for three months to assist them in utilising their training and capital in the most effective way to better position their businesses in the market. In conclusion, Iyaloo Ailonga, the Acting Secretariat Manager for the Financial Literacy Initiative, said, "we want to congratulate the individuals that brought us all together - the OM SEED Windhoek winners for 2022. You have shown hard work, dedication and commitment to realise your dreams through your pitches, and we are excited to see how your business will grow in the future". The next town's shortlisted candidates to receive training will be Keetmanshoop on 10 and 11 August, with Oshakati being slated to take place on 17 and 18 August 2022.



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CONTACT DETAILS

Eagle Media House
 33B John Ludwig Street
 Klein Windhoek
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Namibian Scholar Evaluates Commodification of Oviritje



Moses Magadza

Namibian scholar, Professor William Heuva, has published an eye-opening book chapter on Namibia's Oviritje popular music, probably marking the first time that the genre has had serious critical attention at a very high academic level.

Entitled "Commodification of Music in the Digital Age: Locating Namibia's Oviritje Popular Music Genre in the Capitalist Music Economy," the chapter appears in the Palgrave Macmillan journal called Indigenous African Popular Music, Volume 2 of 2022, pages 431– 446. It documents and examines the influence of neoliberal and digital capitalism on the Oviritje music genre of the Ovaherero people of Namibia.

In this work which constitutes Chapter 25 of this book, Heuva concludes that although the Oviritje music genre has been incorporated into the dominant mode of production of the Namibian neoliberal setting, all looks rosy in terms of new modes of production, distribution and consumption of music, the phenomenon has been profiting the Social Network Sites (SNSs).

These include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tik Tok, Spotify and WhatsApp. He argues that the distribution has not necessarily benefited the artists who run the whole venture, mostly on shoe-string budgets. Thus, while gaining from the new digital technologies of music production and a 'conducive environment' enabled by neoliberalism, the artists, according to this well-nuanced article, take home by far very little.

Heuva refers to Oviritje artists as 'music entrepreneurs'. He borrows the concept from Andrea Moore (2016), who refers to unemployed American youth who, during the 2008 financial crisis, was taught music entrepreneurship skills by the International Contemporary Ensemble to survive the crisis.

For Heuva, while Oviritje artists were not taught entrepreneurship skills, they went through the 'broader classroom of life' to acquire the necessary music skills amid economic difficulties and disadvantaged family backgrounds.

Heavy notes that although Oviritje initially emerged as a non-profit venture operated for the public interest, it has been progressively commercialised and objectified on various digital platforms in the digital capitalist era.

Arguably the most critical observation which colours most of this is that the development of the Oviritje music genre of Namibia and its subsequent commoditisation beginning in the 1990s is part of the neoliberal phase of capitalism across the world, which includes digital capitalism.

Clearly conceived and written from the point of view of critical theories, if one considers the character of the majority of the scholars referred, this chapter opens up many key essential terms and relations in music and many cultural practices worldwide. The chapter takes the reader to the basics by unbundling the concept of "popular culture" since the Oviritje music genre is now clearly part of popular culture in Namibia.

Heuva explains that while "culture" is the way of life of any group of people living in a geographical location, "popular" culture refers broadly to mass-mediated, frequently youth-driven trends, politics and leisure. So it follows that "popular culture" is the commercial side of culture (such as music) which appeals to the masses, particularly the young people. All this is aided by modern digital technology. Heuva provides a useful background: At Namibia's independence in 1990, the new government was keen to revive the people's cultural heritage. This coincides with the development of globalisation, whose spirit, ironically, clashes with the prerequisite of the genuine revival of any specific culture in the world.

Globalisation, the author emphasises, is the creation of numerous markets to promote conspicuous consumption, promoting high exploitation of the basic artist and not necessarily genuine cultural revival. This means that the adoption of neoliberal policies in Namibia in the 1990s had a massive impact on the economic sector but also in terms of the transformation of the cultural industry.

This neoliberal development, within whose wings the Oviritje music genre is caught up, ensures that new technologies, including digital technologies, are developed to recruit new and widespread audiences and consumers.

As Heuva argues, this has positive and negative effects on society in that in the process of turning Oviritje into a widely consumed musical commodity, the Internet Social Network Sites (SNSs) led to the artists and their fans being turned into providers of free digital

labour online for the benefit of GAFAM corporations. GAFAM refers to Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft, providing space for widespread cultural consumption.

The writer also delves into the development of Oviritje itself, pointing out that Oviritje is Herero slang for songs. It began around the late 1960s among school learners at sports and school events.

The roots of Oviritje in traditional Herero music are distinct and clear. In its infancy, the genre invited a meagre income to the performers. It was a non-profit micro activity. Through neoliberalism, the genre now uses predominantly electronic instruments. It has become a mass-produced item, driven by urban youths so much that it has outstripped other music genres of Herero origin like Outjina (practised by women) and Omuhiva (practised by men.)

The youth orientation of Oviritje naturally attracted mass production and commercialisation, which provided the wheels of capitalism. Omaha and Outjina art forms declined as they remained with the old Hereros, who were conservative and less inclined to embrace the capitalist

mode of production. This situation demonstrates the link between capitalism and specific genres of music. Overtime became famous by being hyped up until it became sellable.

The author introduces another exciting observation: although popular music reflects issues of importance to its target audience, it is not always the case that popular music critiques some of these issues, and Oviritje is not an exception. Popular music songs outside the West are not as critical of capitalism as popular music in the West.

Abiodun Salawu and Israel Fadipe edited the book in which Heuva's chapter appears. It examines how African artists deploy African indigenous popular music in democracy, politics and social crusades. The book subsequently focuses on how the music portrays the African future, its use by African youths and how it is affected by advanced broadcast technologies and digital media.

The book also contains some very informative articles like "The Communicativeness of Select Nigerian Afro-hip-hop Lyrics and Sociological Perception of Women" by Umwana Samuel Akpan, "Promotion of Food

Sovereignty in Africa Through Yoruba's Indigenous Music" by Lere Amusan and Ernest Jakaza's "Singing Democracy and Politics in Post-Independence Zimbabwe: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Self-censorship in Zimbabwean Indigenous Theological-Sungura Music," amongst many others across Africa.

Heuva is Professor in Communication and Media Studies at North-West University, South Africa. His expertise is in Critical political economy of communication, Communication (telecoms, media and ICTs), policies and regulations (laws), Sociology of the press (including the new media), media and information literacy and media history. He holds a BA, BA (Hons) and an MA in Journalism and Media Studies from Rhodes University and a PhD in Critical Political Economy of Communication from the University of KwaZulu-Natal).

He is the author of Media and Resistance Politics: The Alternative Press in Namibia, 1960-1990. Basel: P. Schlettwein Publishing (2001).

*Moses Magadza is a doctoral student with research interests in framing, agenda setting, (re)presentation, social justice theory and critical discourse analysis.

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I am just thinking while nursing my cold beer here. I am thinking about how it took the government about five years to think about awarding the civil servants a three per cent salary increase.

Imagine three years of jostling and shoving and wasted boardroom time just to say we are giving you a three per cent. It took them about five years and the threat of a massive mother of all strikes in the history of Namibia. All that just for a three per cent salary increase.

Our children lost two days of precious learning when the teachers voted on whether to go on strike or not. Other civil servants, too, left their workstations to go and vote. Can you imagine how much was lost? Of course, no one will ever talk about those losses because they do not matter. President Hage Geingob announced with so much pomp and fanfare that he had cancelled his trip to Jamaica to deal with the issue of civil servants' salary increases. It was as if President Hage Geingob never knew that his civil servants had not been awarded a salary increase in the past five years.

President Hage Geingob scored some political points for cancelling the trip to Jamaica. Any politically discerning person can easily see through this cheap political gimmick because who did not know about the civil servants' demands for salary increases?

Even the three per cent announcement was like announcing the return of Jesus Christ. Oh my God, why do we deceive ourselves so much?

Yes, I am sitting here nursing my beer on a Sunday afternoon, thinking how cheap we are to fight for this long for just a three per cent salary increase. I am sitting here looking in the distance, thinking how we enjoy wasting so much time to find a solution we have.

I am also wondering how those ministers - Ipumbu Shiimi, Peya Mushelenga and Utoni Nujoma - feel after all the fierce resistance they put up, telling anyone who dared and cared to listen that the government had no money and that there would be no salary increases.

I know those ministers could not have spoken the way they spoke if there was no government consensus that the civil servants would not receive a salary increase because there was no money.

I am unsure if all the negotiations between the unions and the government were done at State House. If the talks that failed were not held at State House, and President Hage Geingob was not the chief government negotiator, why was the announcement made at State House?

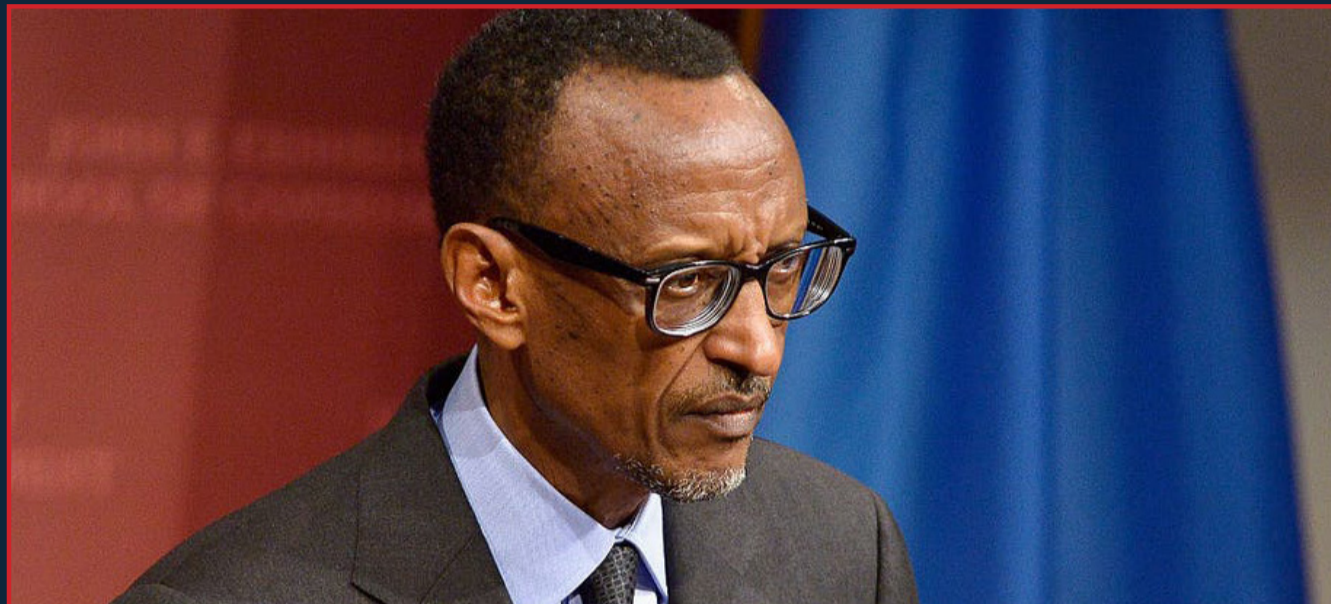
All along, Nghidinua Daniel was the chief government negotiator, but he was nowhere to be found when the deal was announced last week. Maybe I was too drunk to see, but I am sure I did not see Utoni Nujoma, Ipumbu Shiimi or Peya Mushelenga at that press conference at State House.

So, when they were denying civil servants salary increases, who were they representing if the President succeeded in striking a deal in a few days where the ministers had failed in years?

Now, here is the thing. The President may have undercut his ministers by taking away the negotiations (if he did, seeing that State House was used to announce the three per cent increase). Of course, George Simataa, secretary to Cabinet, was there but again, what does it mean to those talking about no money and no salary increases? I saw all that happened, and I am asking myself - all that just for three per cent salary increases? Anyway, that is not my main worry. I am worried that we could take all that effort for something as small as three per cent.

I am sitting here wondering how many hundreds of years we are likely to take to decide on carrying out a 100 billion dollar project. Could it be why we cannot, on our own, pull off significant projects?

The US and Rwanda: how the relationship has evolved since the 1994 genocide



One of the primary points of discussion between Antony Blinken and Rwandan president Paul Kagame in the US secretary of state's upcoming visit to Kigali will be the renewed tensions between Rwanda and its neighbours, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to a US state department statement, Blinken's visit will focus on the role the government of Rwanda can play in reducing tensions and the ongoing violence in eastern DRC.

Tensions between Rwanda and the DRC are running high. The DRC has accused Rwanda of openly supporting the Mouvement du 23 Mars (March 23 Movement, M23) in eastern Congo. Rwanda has dismissed these accusations. It has instead claimed that the Congolese government is spurring violence against the minority Banyamulenge population, and working with the rebel group called the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which holds pro-Hutu genocide ideology.

Regional actors, such as Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, have tried to reduce these tensions. But there has been little progress.

The issue is of importance to the US based on its historical relationship with Rwanda and its past alleged interference in eastern DRC by supporting antagonist forces, such as the M23. The charge was laid by the UN Group of Experts.

It's unclear if Blinken's mediation efforts will be successful. Relations between the US and Rwanda have had their high and low periods. One of the lowest points came in 2012, during Barack Obama's tenure as US president. He cut military aid to Rwanda over Kagame's human rights record, as well as Kigali's role in supporting the M23 rebel group. The US cut \$200,000 from a \$200 million programme, a symbolic gesture from one of Rwanda's staunchest defenders.

Since then, Rwandan-US relations have continued to grow, with a notable increase of American tourists and officials visiting the East African nation prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ups and downs Before the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, the country fell within France's sphere of influence. Washington did not view Rwanda as a strategic partner.

But the US's relations with Rwanda changed after the genocide, based on a desire to help support the new post-genocide government. The result was the forging of close diplomatic relations, a process described by Robert Gribbin, a former American ambassador to Rwanda (1996-1999), in his book, *In the Aftermath of Genocide: The US Role in Rwanda*.

Gribbin sets out how the US developed close relations with the post-genocide government and the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front. This included providing military training for soldiers and commanders, which still continues.

Thanks to the efforts of former assistant secretary of state for African affairs Susan Rice (1997-2001) under the Clinton administration, the US became a close ally of Rwanda.

This relationship held despite turbulent times under the Obama administration (2009-2017), which led to a reduction in military aid and harsher critiques of Rwanda's democratic and human rights record.

While there was some optimism about the Trump administration, disagreements on trade led to anger among Rwandan officials. Nevertheless, Rwandan-US relations have remained relatively strong.

Kagame as a pull factor

Possibly the reason for America's continued close relations with Rwanda stems from the stability of Kagame. First appointed as president in 2000, he presents a stable ally who knows the pro-western language of development and security. Kagame, however, has come in for a great deal of criticism for his domestic human rights and political record. Blinken, according to the US State Department, will be raising concerns about this record during his visit.

Blinken will particularly focus on Kagame's "transnational repression, limiting space for dissent and political opposition, and the wrongful detention of US Lawful Permanent Resident Paul Rusesabagina". Rwanda sentenced Rusesabagina to 25 years in prison for his connection to terrorist attacks in 2021 that killed nine Rwandans.

For the most part, however, American officials have chosen to overlook concerns about Kagame's human rights record. They are much more inclined to view Kagame's support as instrumental to promoting American policies and interests in Africa. These include promoting a business environment that is favourable for US foreign investment, his soft power influence in African relations and Kigali's peacekeeping contributions.

Peacekeeping America's willingness to send its military into peacekeeping missions was greatly hindered by the 1993 failed peacekeeping mission in Somalia. The US was seen to have been humiliated after 19 American soldiers died in the Battle of Mogadishu.

These events fostered great political backlash in the US. Many Americans failed to see the purpose of sending US military personnel in non-strategic military operations.

America's reluctance to be involved in peacekeeping opened the door for Washington to offer nations political, diplomatic and military support in return for their participation in missions. In this way the US could meet its commitment to peacekeeping without sending its own soldiers.

There is no doubt that Blinken will seek Rwanda's continued commitment to contributing military and police personnel.

This is a particularly tricky issue in the region at the moment. Over the past two weeks, the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC has come under attack. In two separate incidents, at least 20 people have been killed. Among them were three peacekeepers. Additionally, Rwandan authorities have previously threatened to remove their soldiers from peacekeeping missions after receiving international criticism.

Investment destination Even though Rwanda is a small country - it is a low-income economy with a population of just over 13 million - it is still an important destination for American multinational corporations seeking to invest in East Africa.

Rwandan officials, in particular Kagame, have developed close relations with international leaders of companies like Starbucks, Volkswagen, Costco, Macy's, Visa and Marriott International Inc.

These companies have either opened factories, such as Volkswagen, bought commodities, such as Starbucks, or as with Visa, invested in financial growth services in the region.

Outcome The current tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, as well as the holding of Rusesabagina, will not be solved by Blinken's quick visit. But these issues are unlikely to cause any long-term damage to Rwanda-US foreign relations.

Jonathan Beloff
Postdoctoral research associate, King's College London

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Aerobics isn't the only exercise that can slow mild cognitive decline, study finds



Sandee LaMotte

Cheer up couch potatoes! Regular stretching and balance and range of motion exercises are as good as aerobic exercise in slowing the progression of mild cognitive decline, a new study has found.

"My worry in the beginning of the study was 'What if only aerobic makes a difference? Good luck getting the majority of Americans to do aerobic exercise on a regular basis!' It's not sustainable," said study author Laura Baker, a professor of gerontology and geriatric medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, via email.

"But we found that cognitive function did not decline over 12 months for either intervention group -- the people who did aerobic exercise or the people who did stretching, balance and range of motion," Baker said.

Rudy Tanzi, a professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School in Boston, welcomed the findings that a modest amount of exercise -- 120 to 150 minutes per week for 12 months -- may slow cognitive decline in sedentary older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

Tanzi, who was not involved in the study, has examined the role of exercise in mice genetically bred to have Alzheimer's disease and found exercise induces the birth of new neurons in the section of the brain most affected by Alzheimer's while also boosting beneficial growth factors that improve neural activity.

"So often, the benefits of interventions observed in Alzheimer's mouse models do not translate to human patients. It is nice to see that in this new study, the benefits of exercise perhaps do translate from mice to human," said Tanzi, who directs the genetics and aging research unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

What is mild cognitive decline?

The study, presented Tuesday at the 2022 Alzheimer's Association International Conference in San Diego, followed 296 participants who were completely sedentary at the beginning of the experiment. All had been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment -- the earliest stage of the slow slide into dementia.

"Individuals who have mild cognitive impairment are not cognitively normal, but they don't have dementia," Baker said. "They're fully capable of taking care

of themselves, but what they have to go through to do so is exhausting.

"I can't remember where I'm supposed to be. Let me check my calendar. Oh, I forgot to write on this calendar. Let's check another calendar. Oh, I can't find that calendar. I've lost my phone. Where is the key? I can't find the key!"

"They're able to regroup in the early stages and accomplish things," Baker said, "but the toll is immense."

Participants in the study underwent cognitive testing and then were randomized into two groups. One group did moderate-intensity aerobic training on treadmills or stationary bikes, striving for a goal of 70% to 85% of heart rate reserve: "That's about 120 heartbeats per minute for about 30 to 40 minutes for a standard 70-year-old," Baker said.

The other group did stretching, balance and range of motion exercises designed to allow them to move their body in ways that would help them navigate in real life.

"Folks in the balance-range of motion group said they were thrilled -- they could go to soccer games with grandchildren without being concerned about tripping, or they could drive and turn their neck to see the back, which they had not been able to do before," Baker said.

Importance of support

Both groups exercised twice a week with a personal trainer and then two other times weekly on their own for the first 12 months. Combined, the groups completed more than 31,000 exercise sessions during that time, Baker said.

At the end of the 12 months, cognitive function had not declined in either group. That's impressive, Baker said, because a control group of equally matched people with mild cognitive impairment -- who did not exercise -- did decline.

Studies have shown that social support is also key to improving brain health. So is it possible the results of the study were due to an increase of social support and not the exercise?

"Well, we don't know for sure," Baker said. "But there is enough science showing the benefits of exercise on brain health alone. So this is not something to sweep under the carpet."

"And our recommendation would never be for people with mild cognitive impairment to do this alone," she added. "They are going to need support. So exercise alone is not a prescription. Exercise with support is a prescription, and that is going to be our recommendation."

-CNN

My worry in the beginning of the study was 'What if only aerobic makes a difference?'



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Four more grain ships leave Ukraine as hopes grow for export stability

Four more ships carrying grain and sunflower oil have left Ukraine ports via a safe maritime corridor.

Millions of tonnes of grain have been stuck in Ukraine due to Russian blockades, leading to shortages and higher food prices in other countries.

But last week the first ship left Ukraine's ports since February.

The latest ships to set sail are bound for Turkey where they'll be inspected as part of a deal reached with Russia and the United Nations.

They left on Sunday from the ports of Odesa and Chornomorsk, and will all travel through the Bosphorus strait.

After the inspections, two are then scheduled to dock in Turkey, while the others are headed for Italy and China.

Another empty ship arrived in Chornomorsk on Sunday afternoon, ready to be loaded with grain for export.

Under a deal brokered by Turkey and the UN last month, Russia agreed not to target ships which were in transit, while Ukraine said it would guide vessels through mined waters.

The deal, set to last 120 days, can be renewed if both sides agree.

The complex arrangement seems to be working, at least for now.

The success of this deal, a rare diplomatic breakthrough in this five-month-old conflict, is vital for Ukraine - and the rest

of the world.

Twenty million tonnes of grain are stuck in the country, as a result of the blockade imposed by Russia on Ukrainian ports. If the deal holds, Ukraine expects to export up to three million tonnes of grain per month.

Ukrainian authorities say there are good signs that the grain exports are safe, and have urged companies to return to the country's ports. The hope is that the exports will help ease the global food crisis while bringing in much needed foreign currency. But fears persist. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the resumption of exports, but said security concerns remained.

The first ship to leave Ukraine last week - the Razoni - departed Odesa carrying 27,000 tonnes of corn bound for the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

However officials have said it will not dock in Tripoli on Sunday as planned.

The Ukrainian embassy in Lebanon told Reuters news agency on Sunday that the ship was "delayed", with no details on the cause or an updated arrival date.

A Joint Coordination Centre which was set up to oversee the exports said the Razoni's voyage would be a trial run, with its experience used to fine-tune procedures for the following voyages.

-BBC



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			 <p>12⁹⁹ 90g Clover Cheese Slices asst.</p>

 <p>8⁹⁹ 250g Harvestime Country Mix</p>	 <p>19⁹⁹ 100g Hartlief Sandwich Ham</p>	 <p>24⁹⁹ 500g Windhoek Schlachtereij King Polony</p>	 <p>79⁹⁹ 2kg Realgood IQF Mixed Chicken Portions</p>
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Woermann, Brock



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19⁹⁹ 1kg Top Score Instant Maize Porridge asst.

33⁹⁹ 500g Bokomo Corn Flakes

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29⁹⁹ 750g Clover Creamel Creamer

15⁹⁹ 500ml Boston Lemon Juice

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33⁹⁹ 500g Thokoman Peanut Butter asst.

9⁹⁹ each Hinds Spice Refill asst.

9⁹⁹ 410g Quality Select Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce

11⁹⁹ 500g Imbo Soup Mix

10⁹⁹ 50g Robertsons Rajah Curry Powder asst.

12⁹⁹ 500g Pasta Joy Pasta asst.

29⁹⁹ 2kg Marathon Sugar Light Brown Sugar

39⁹⁹ 2.5kg Bakpro Vetkoek Wheat Flour

19⁹⁹ 1kg Bakpro Self-Raising Wheat Flour

14⁹⁹ 500g Supa Ginja Ginger Beer Powder

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Unpacking the Day with Wonder
 07h00-09h00
Free Your Mind
 09h00-11h00
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 Envaade
 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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Government shuts down key advocacy group

■ Leo Sands

Ugandan officials have banned a prominent LGBT rights group in a major setback for the community there.

Sexual Minorities Uganda (Smug) has been ordered to shut down with "immediate effect" for not registering properly with authorities.

The campaign group decried the order as a "clear witch hunt" by the government against LGBT Ugandans.

Sexual minorities face widespread persecution in Uganda, where anti-gay and transphobic views are common.

Gay relationships are illegal in Uganda, where they can be punished by up to life in prison for committing "unnatural offences."

Official police data shows that 194 people were charged under the offence between 2017 and 2020, including 25 who went on to be convicted.

"This is a clear witch hunt rooted in systematic homophobia, fuelled by anti-gay and anti-gender movements," said Smug's director Frank Mugisha, who is a gay Ugandan activist.

He accused authorities of treating members of Uganda's LGBT minority as second-class citizens and trying to erase their existence completely.

On Friday Ugandan officials announced

they were halting Smug's operations because the campaign group, founded in 2004, had failed to register its name with the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) properly.

It is the same reason given last year when dozens of civil society groups - including pro-democracy organisations - were also banned by Ugandan authorities.

This time officials say that the issue stems from Smug's name itself - Sexual Minorities Uganda.

In a statement the NGO Bureau acknowledged that Smug had attempted to register with authorities in 2012, but that the application had been rejected because Smug's full name was considered "undesirable."

President Yoweri Museveni, who has been in office since 1986, has made homophobic comments in the past - including in a 2016 CNN interview when he called gay people "disgusting."

Although there are no laws specifically criminalising being transgender in Uganda, trans people are regularly prosecuted for other offences including "personation" (false representation), according to reports compiled by rights organisations.

Since its establishment almost two decades ago, Smug has campaigned for the rights of LGBT people in Uganda by promoting

access to health services and supporting members of the LGBT community to live openly.

It has also taken legal action to protect gay people from hostility, including in 2010 when it successfully petitioned a Ugandan judge to order a newspaper to stop publishing the names and photographs of gay Ugandan men under the headline "hang them".

The group said several of its members had been attacked or harassed as a result of the article - including one woman who was almost killed when her neighbours began throwing stones at her house.

At the time, Ugandan politicians were preparing to debate whether or not to introduce the death penalty for same-sex relationships - a legislative amendment that attracted widespread international condemnation before eventually being dropped.

More recently, Smug has vocally criticised anti-gay speeches delivered by Ugandan politicians - including in the run up to national elections in 2021.

"The politicians are using the LGBT community as a scapegoat to gain support and win votes and it is fuelling homophobia," Smug's director Frank Mugisha told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

-BBC



Ivory Coast president pardons predecessor, Laurent Gbagbo

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has pardoned his predecessor and longtime rival, Laurent Gbagbo, as part of a reconciliation drive ahead of elections due in 2025.

Ouattara made the announcement in a televised address on Saturday, a day before Ivory Coast's independence celebrations.

"In the interests of strengthening social cohesion, I have signed a decree granting a presidential pardon," he said in his speech. The president said he has also asked that Gbagbo's bank accounts be unfrozen and that his lifetime annuity be paid.

Gbagbo, president from 2000 to 2011, returned to Ivory Coast last year after being acquitted in 2019 by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague on war crime charges for his role in a civil war sparked by his refusal to concede defeat after the 2010 election.

Back home, he still faced a 20-year prison sentence for a 2019 conviction linked to the robbery of funds from the Abidjan central bank during the post-election period.

But he has always denied the charges.

Ouattara's decision for a pardon follows a rare meeting in July between him, Gbagbo, and former President Henri Konan Bedie.

Ouattara, in his Saturday speech, described that occasion as a "fraternal meeting" in which the three men had "discussed, in a friendly atmosphere, matters of the national interest and the ways and means of consolidating peace in our country".

Gbagbo and Bedie have been invited to attend independence day celebrations on Sunday at Yamoussoukro, the country's

political capital.

The three men have dominated Ivory Coast's fractious political scene since the 1990s.

Bedie was president from 1993 until his removal in a 1999 coup. Gbagbo governed from 2000 until his election defeat to Ouattara in 2010.

Tensions came to a head most dramatically after the 2010 election. Gbagbo refused to concede defeat, leading to a brief civil war that killed about 3,000 people before rebel forces aligned with Ouattara swept into the main city Abidjan.

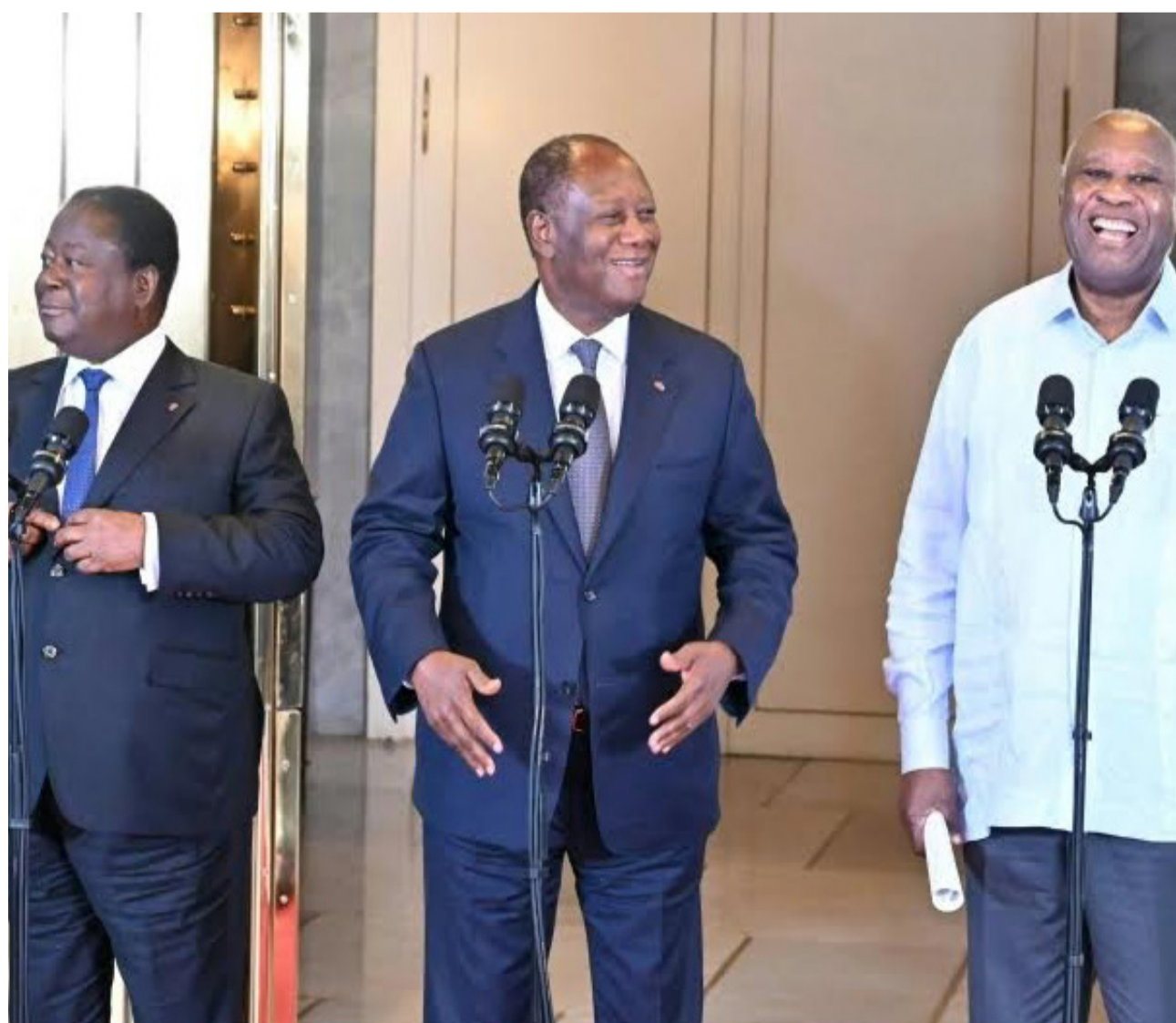
Ouattara has presided over relative stability during his decade in power. But dozens of people were killed in clashes that broke out around the 2020 election, when he stood for a third term that Gbagbo and Bedie said was unconstitutional.

The president has not yet said whether he plans to run for a fourth term in 2025. He has said he would like to step down but also suggested he would need Gbagbo and Bedie to commit to withdrawing from politics in order to do so.

They have not indicated so far what their plans are.

-Al Jazeera

"In the interests of strengthening social cohesion, I have signed a decree granting a presidential pardon."



US hits out at 'irresponsible' China amid attack rehearsal claims

George Wright

The United States has accused Beijing of "provocative" and "irresponsible" actions after Taiwan said China rehearsed an attack on the island.

Taiwan said it responded to the Chinese drills, now in their fourth day, by deploying aircraft and ships on Sunday.

The heightened tensions follow a trip to Taiwan by a US delegation led by senior Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

China views the visit as a challenge to its claims of sovereignty over Taiwan, which sees itself as distinct.

Taiwan's defence ministry said Chinese ships and planes carried out missions in the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, with some crossing the median line - an unofficial buffer separating the two sides.

The Taiwan military said it responded "appropriately" to the live-fire exercises, which it described as a simulated attack on the island, by dispatching multiple aircraft and ships on Sunday morning, Reuters news agency reports.

Speaking to reporters in Taipei, premier Su Tseng-chang accused China of "arrogantly" using the exercises to disrupt regional stability and appealed for restraint from the Chinese side.

Beijing has not commented on the latest exercises, but its four-day long series of military drills in the air and seas around Taiwan are expected to finish on Sunday.

Washington has accused China of escalating tensions.

"These activities are a significant escalation in China's efforts to change the status quo. They are provocative, irresponsible and raise the risk of miscalculation," a White House spokesperson said.

"They are also at odds with our long-standing goal of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, which is what the world expects."

China said Ms Pelosi's visit "seriously threatened" peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

China sees Taiwan as a breakaway province that will eventually be under Beijing's control. However, Taiwan is a self-ruled island that sees itself as distinct from the mainland.

But any hint of recognition of this by world leaders enrages China. It announced on Friday that sanctions have been placed on Ms Pelosi and her family over the visit.

Beijing also announced it was halting co-operation with the US in several key areas including climate change, military talks and efforts to combat international crime.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accused China of taking "irresponsible steps" by blocking key communication channels with Washington.

Ms Pelosi - a long-time China critic and the highest-ranking US politician to travel to the island in 25 years - arrived in Taiwan on Tuesday, despite Beijing's warnings.

During her visit, Ms Pelosi said that "the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy".

-BBC





Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services

NATIONAL INTEGRATED VACCINATION CAMPAIGN
8 – 19 AUGUST 2022





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5 Vitamin A for children between 6 months and 5 years	6 Albendazole (Deworming) for children from 12 months to 5 years	7 Screening of children 6 months to 5 years for malnutrition	8 Provision of Ready To Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF/Plumpy Nuts) to children with malnutrition

Parents (mothers & fathers), guardians, and caregivers of children under the age of 5 are encouraged to bring their children to the nearest health facility, outreach point and mobile point for vaccination and other services. Every person from the age of 12 years and above can also receive their COVID-19 vaccination.

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These activities are a significant escalation in China's efforts to change the status quo.

2021 Kia Sorento Long-Term Review

Verdict: A Golden Year?

■ Alex Leanse

As a midsize crossover with three rows of seats, Sorento teeters on the precipice of brilliance and irrelevance. Some may find its in-between form factor ideal (it's really more of a full-time two-row with part-time third-row perches); others that something more decided—like Kia's smaller smaller, two-row Sportage or larger, three-row Telluride—would better fit their needs. Over the many months and more than 23,000 miles we spent with the 2021 Kia Sorento SX in our long-term review fleet, we decided that, here, segment-splitting works. Better than simply being functional, the Sorento gives lots more to like than not.

Minimal Tarnish

Let's get the negatives out of the way. First and foremost is the dual-clutch transmission's low speed behavior, a gripe we've had with the Sorento since our first drive. When pulling away or creeping forward, particularly on an incline, it can stutter, leading to hesitant, jerky departures.

Despite that evaluation, we'll qualify it as minor annoyance. We call it out mostly for drivers accustomed to traditional automatics. If that's you, you'll notice that the Sorento's dual-clutch doesn't let you depart in a consistent and immediate way. You'll also likely be able to overlook it. And after first gear, shifts are nearly invisible, perceptible audibly more than any other way.

Relatedly, turning off the engine start/stop system became routine. It restarts too slowly, which combines with the transmission's fumbles to make smooth getaways impossible. We preferred sacrificing a little bit of fuel (and taking the emissions hit) for the sake of drivability.

Fuel Efficiency and Maintenance

Regarding fuel, in 23,033 miles we averaged 22.8 mpg, not quite meeting the EPA's 24 mpg combined economy rating, but not missing it by much either. Regardless, its commendable, given MT drivers' eager right ankles, and that we had a bulky tent fixed to the Sorento's roof rails for well over 4,000 miles. Additionally, we bested the EPA's 425-mile range estimate several times, at one point draining 471 miles out of the tank.

Nevertheless, the Sorento remained reliable during its stay. The only thing resembling an unexpected issue was a subtle yet persistent creaking noise that began emanating from the headliner as the odometer neared 20,000 miles.

A Serious Glow Up

On to the good stuff. We never got over the Sorento's crisp, angular styling. It's incomparably improved over the previous Sorento, and to our eye one of the better-looking vehicles in its segment, especially in our test vehicle's Crystal Beige hue.

The cabin also convinced us with its functionality

and ease of use. We appreciated Kia's preference—which seems to be changing—for unfussy physical knobs and switches, but the capacitive buttons mixed in worked as intended, too. Settling in was eased by the little bins on the center console, and getting out facilitated by the easy-pull door handles—Kia thought through the details, including those stylish geometric air vents. We have no gripes about our SX-trim Sorento's 10.3-inch infotainment touchscreen, although a driver-information display larger than 4.2 inches would've been nice. Maybe it'll arrive in the mid-cycle update.

Whether the second and third rows were upright or folded, the Sorento readily adapted to the situation. Its wide-opening rear doors made access a breeze, as did the super-simple folding

operation of the second-row captain's chairs. Drivers who plan to frequently pack their SUV to capacity should probably size up, but with ventilation and USB ports the Sorento's far-back seats produced few complaints. Our crossover's enormous panoramic moonroof was a favorite feature for riders-along. Folding the rear seats opened up a great deal of cargo space, making it easy for this writer to toss in his mountain bike. Then there was actually driving the Sorento. During its evaluation at our 2021 SUV of the Year contest one judge called it "the feel-good hit of the competition," a sentiment that held true through our long-term test. With sensitive steering and nimble reflexes, the Sorento had that oft-praised attribute of feeling smaller than it is. Undulating pavement could set the ride

afloat slightly, but the Sorento's overall handling verve made it enjoyable to pilot. Despite the aforementioned dual-clutch fumbles, the turbocharged 2.5-liter I-4 always delivered solid acceleration. We evaluated other Sorento powertrain options in parallel with our long-term, and came away convinced that this turbo mill is the one to get even if it's not supremely refined or efficient. The all-wheel drive system behind it seemed unbothered by the few dirt roads we traversed. Over the many, many highway miles we covered—throughout California, and to Oregon, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico—the Sorento's driver aids rarely faltered. The adaptive cruise control was responsive and consistent, aided by solid lane-keep assist which would take the lead in staying

centered even in surprisingly tight curves.

Good as Gold On the 2021 Sorento's arrival, we found ourselves thinking about Kia's midsize crossover in an unusual way: Surprised to realize we were giving even a modicum of mental energy to a Sorento in the first place. Prior iterations never warranted much consideration, let alone actual affection. But now that our Sorento is gone, we find our thoughts cast in another unexpected direction—we miss it. Not only did it prove itself as the best Sorento ever, but as a worthy competitor to crossovers bordering it on either side of the size spectrum. It could be a while yet before a similarly multitalented SUV joins our long-term fleet.

-Motor Trend



Frank Lampard must find striker or Everton's season could make dangerous false start

Phil McNulty

The last thing Everton needed after scraping over the line to survive at the end of one season, was to leave themselves hostages to fortune at the start of the next. Everton did plenty right despite starting the season with a 1-0 defeat at home by Chelsea, but an avoidable flaw was brutally exposed at Goodison Park and must be addressed instantly.

The sale of Richarlison to Tottenham for £60m was an inevitable consequence of last season's struggles, the talisman who did so much to keep Everton in the Premier League understandably seeking a higher stage on the Champions League.

Everton's backroom team, and a board who claim they have learned the lessons from their own ruinous mistakes and transfer policies, would have been well advised to have lined up the Brazilian's replacement in swift order, shortly after his departure for north London at the very latest.

The need is now even more urgent as Salomon Rondon looks a spent force, while Dominic Calvert-Lewin's increasingly concerning injury record should have had alarm bells ringing after starting only 15 games in all competitions last season.

Everton's failure to act was punished when Calvert-Lewin suffered a knee injury in training days before the start of the season that rules him out for six weeks.

It is hardly a catastrophic length of absence but Everton simply cannot afford a false start to this season after the horrendous struggles last term.

And how the weakness showed as Lampard was forced to play Anthony

Gordon in an unaccustomed attacking role, banging his head fruitlessly against Chelsea's defensive brick wall of new signing Kalidou Koulibaly and Thiago Silva, whose experience ensured the talented youngster was no match for them. Everton showed energy and application and certainly demonstrated enough in spells to alleviate at least some of the pessimism of their supporters, but there was an air of resignation around Goodison Park once Jorginho's penalty put Chelsea in front deep into first-half stoppage time. Everton boss Frank Lampard's side never gave up, but the lack of serious threat was as obvious as it was unsurprising and the markets must be scoured with urgency - maybe they even stretched to a chat with Chelsea opposite number Thomas Tuchel about talented striker Armando Broja in the bowels of Goodison Park post-match? These are crucial weeks for Everton, with a board - led by chairman Bill Kenwright - and owner Farhad Moshiri asking a critical fanbase to judge them at the end of this transfer window.

How they deal with this striker emergency and other aspects of recruitment will form part of that judgement after a much-touted "strategic review" at the end of last season, the specific results of which seem vague, and currently looks very much like a case of those who have made Everton's previous errors marking their own homework. Will it actually bring about change? Time will tell.

Business has been done so far this summer and will continue to be done, evidence of which was on show at Goodison Park against Chelsea.

James Tarkowski, a smart free transfer



signing from Burnley, was excellent in defence although it was a harder day for another Everton debutant, his former Turf Moor team-mate Dwight McNeil, who struggled to make an impact and was substituted.

A big positive was the sight of Lille's talented 20-year-old midfielder man Amadou Onana walking towards the directors' box during the first half, acknowledging the warm applause he received. Lampard understandably urged patience but this is a big talent and, at £33m, a serious investment.

Idrissa Gueye is on his way back to

Everton from Paris St-Germain to add his steel and discipline in midfield while Wolverhampton Wanderers captain Conor Coady may find his phone running hot after two desperate injury setbacks in defence.

Ben Godfrey fractured his fibula challenging Kai Havertz and Lampard said he will be out "for months" - an injury which could have been avoided as the ball had been out of play before he made his ill-fated tackle but was not spotted by the officials, while the sarcastic sweepstake touted by Everton fans on what time the endlessly injury-plagued Yerry Mina would pull up lame was answered when he did exactly that after 70 minutes.

Everton and Lampard want optimism, not the clouds that gathered over the club last season and which have continued into the summer with very public protests against Moshiri and Kenwright.

This was not the best start but there were elements of Everton's performance that pleased Lampard and suggested he feels he has something to build on.

Now Everton must get the right business done - including bringing in the striker they should have signed to replace Richarlison - as the next few weeks could shape their season.

-BBC

Daniil Medvedev beats Cameron Norrie to win Los Cabos title

World number one Daniil Medvedev won his first ATP title of 2022 with a straight sets win over British number one Cameron Norrie at the Los Cabos Open in Mexico.

The Russian beat the defending champion 7-5 6-0 for his first trophy since last year's US Open.

Since then, the 26-year-old had lost in five finals but did not concede a set this week.

"Every match was very good, but the final is always special," he said.

"In the final, you play the best player of this week, so it's always a high-level match and I'm really happy that I managed to show some good level, some good shots in such an important match."

Medvedev, who was unable to play at Wimbledon because of the ban on Russian players, had two set points on his serve at 5-4, but was broken.

In the next game he scraped his hand on the court reaching for a shot on the opening point, and needed treatment because of the blood.

But he quickly recovered and claimed a decisive break to lead 6-5 and once Medvedev had served out the opening set, there was no way back for Norrie, also 26, who had defeated second seed Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada in the semi-finals.

"It was not easy," Medvedev added. "Cam is an amazing player, so it was really intense. When you play against him, you know that you have to fight for every point."

Next up for Medvedev as he warms up

for the US Open, which begins on 29 August in New York, is the defence of his Canadian Open title before the Cincinnati Masters.

"I fought as hard as I could do, but Daniil was too good," said Norrie.

Meanwhile, Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios will face world number 96 Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan in the final of the Citi Open in Washington DC.

The Australian, who won the last of his six ATP titles at the event in 2019, defeated Sweden's Mikael Ymer 7-6 (7-4) 6-3.

Nishioka continued his good week, which included a win over Britain's Dan Evans in the last eight, with a 6-3 6-4 success over top seeded Russian Andrey Rublev.

In the women's event, 37-year-old Kaia Kanepi of Estonia will aim to win her first WTA title in nine years when she faces Russian Liudmila Samsonova in the decider.

Kanepi, the world number 37, eased past Australia's Daria Saville 6-3 6-1 while Samsonova was a 6-1 6-1 winner over China's Wang Xiyu.

-BBC

"I fought as hard as I could do, but Daniil was too good."

