

The Villager

wherever you are

Suspected Potential Tax Evasion of N\$47,3bn in 4 years

Nghiinomenwa Erastus

For the past four years, N\$47,3 billion was suspected of having gone through the country's financial system as potential tax evasion. At the end of 2018, the FIC flagged N\$7,3 billion as a potential tax evasion. However, that amount jumped to N\$17,8 billion in 2019. Last year, as the country battled the pandemic, FIC has flagged N\$16,2 billion to be potentially evading tax obligation. In the past 12 years, N\$52,8 billion of the money that went through the country's financial system is suspected of evading tax payments. This amount is based on the financial intelligence analysis done by the Financial

Intelligence Centre and has been submitted to NamRa for further action. The findings are included in the Potential Tax Offences and Money Laundering Typology Report, prepared by the Financial Intelligence Centre, released July this year. The report avails a detailed summary of common typologies, patterns, and indicators of such offences identified in cases within the domain of the FIC. The suspected tax offences are detected through the suspicious transaction reports (STRs) and suspicious activities reports (SARs) related to possible tax evasion. Accountable and reporting institutions have filed the reports since the reporting obligation commenced, until 31 December 2020. From 2017 to 2020, the FIC has received 1

768 suspicious transaction reports related to potential tax offences - mainly from the banking sector. The financial watchdog said banks are filing more reports because they appear to have the most matured AML/CFT/CPF control systems. Moreover, the banks are generally exposed to higher risks as almost all other sectors use the banking systems. In the same period (4 years), the FIC received 288 suspicious activities reports related to potential tax offences from various accountable and reporting institutions- banks, real estate agencies, and accounting offices filed more of the SARS. In terms of the 2012 National Risk Assessment (NRA) outcomes and various FIC monthly and quarterly reports,

"potential tax-related offences remain one of the main predicate offences associated with Money Laundering (ML) in Namibia". ML is how proceeds of crime, including tax offences, are hidden or disguised as legitimate assets. The FIC has explained that given the high prevalence rate of tax offences in Namibia, understanding the underlying ML trends is essential for combatting such crimes. Among various methods, money laundering emanates from tax offences when funds or assets earned are not presented to taxation authorities to determine taxes payable and ensure the collection of such taxes. "This is often referred to as tax evasion," the report highlight. For the four years observed, the FIC has

provided 459 Spontaneous Disclosures/ tip-offs from their data analysis to the receiver of revenue which is now called NamRa. The disclosures are financial intelligence analysis on the utilisation of the country financial system (NamRa) still has to validate such FIC suspicions. Then follow up with investigation and enable prosecution by the relevant authorities. Overall, the highest number of disclosures (143) were disseminated during 2018, with a decrease observed in 2019. The potential annual monetary value from suspected tax offences was highest in 2019 since 2009. The FIC said such is mainly attributed to

Continued on P2

Stefansson Bags Two Awards in Weeks

Wonder Guchu

The man who blew the whistle on massive corruption in Namibia's fishing sector, Johannes Stefansson, is the 2021 recipient of The Order of the Baobab award from the Business Ethics Network (BEN) Africa. The award will be handed over at Swakopmund during the BEN Africa's 20th annual conference at Swakopmund between 4 and 5 November. Stefansson will, however, receive the award virtually. Last week, Stefansson told The Villager that he received the Win Win Gothenburg Sustainability Award in Sweden. BEN-Africa, formed in 1999, brings together Africans who share an interest in business ethics; business ethics will be expanded on the African continent. Stefanssons' story began as early as 2007 when he started working for the Icelandic fishing company Samherji. After being stationed in Morocco, among other places, he moved to Namibia in 2011 and became head of the company's operations there. In Namibia, the company would acquire fishing quotas, and after the company had established itself, Stefansson began to realise that not everything was right. His company did business with high-ranking Namibian business leaders and politicians to

Continued on P2



El Comandante... The Defence forces commander-in-chief, President Hage Geingob, decked in complete military attire, ready to officiate at the Khan Strike II exercise in the Oshana region on Thursday (see story on page 3). Photo: Contributed

MTN doesn't need to co-invest in MTC infrastructure

Nghiinomenwa Erastus

The regulator says that the South African telecommunication giant MTN does not need to co-invest with MTC to share its existing telecommunication infrastructures. A statement released on Wednesday by the Communication Regulatory Authority of Namibia (Cran) rubbishes the notion that since MTN was approached to partner up with MTC for infrastructure investment and refused, it should not benefit. According to Cran's chief executive officer, Emilia Nghikembua, "the contention that licensees that do not co-invest in infrastructure may not share, is not legally nor economically correct". As the dominant player, she said MTC has obtained economic advantage and now is time to allow others to share in that advantage. "The concept denotes that dominant operators have gained an economic advantage over other operators and must allow other operators to share in that

advantage for the benefit of consumers," said Nghikembua. She said the arrangement is not for free as the lessee of infrastructure must pay a sharing fee to the lessor. According to Nghikembua, MTC is welcome to approach them through the Communications Act to raise its grievances for re-consideration. MTC last week vowed to challenge Cran's order, citing that the firm to benefit refused to partner up to build infrastructure. According to Cran, the country has two legal instruments plus the second Harambe Plan that dictate the dominant operator to share its infrastructure if it has a spare capacity that it is not utilising itself. The legal instruments are the Telecommunications Policy of 2009, the Communications Act, while the country economic road map Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP II)' Pillar 4 encompasses Infrastructure Development. The regulator wrote that "the infrastructure sharing is an economic arrangement that

Continued on P2



Stefansson

illegally buy fishing quotas, and parts of the profits went through accounts in tax havens. Stefansson's whistleblowing landed two former ministers - Bernhardt Esau and Sacky Shanghala - two former bosses of Investec - James Hatuikulipi and Ricardo Gustavo - Esau's son-in-law Tamson and Pius Mwatelulo in prison, where they are awaiting trial next year.

On Thursday, Stefansson said he did not expect to receive the award from his home in Iceland.

Although the award does not come with any money, Stefansson said it was still a great honour in the fight against corruption.

"It is a huge meaning for me and helps to bring change for the people of Namibia," Stefansson said.

Stefansson added that he needs every support, especially now.

"I have lost a lot, and the most important thing right now is to finish the case," he said. Last week, Stefansson told The Villager that he received the Win Win Gothenburg Sustainability Award in Sweden.

The award is the leading sustainability award that aims to recognise and support outstanding contributions worldwide.

According to the organisers, the award stimulates creativity and achieve lasting synergies to strike the right balance between ecological, environmental and social needs.

The theme for 2021 was anti-corruption, and it came with the prize money of one million kronor (US\$120 000).

Stefansson said he did not expect the award and that he still did not know who nominated him.

The money, he said, came at a good time because he has been fighting for five years.

"I have a whole village behind me," he said, adding that he needs the money to fight corruption further.

The Win Win Gothenburg Sustainability Award jury chairperson Emma Dalväg said



of the five finalists Jóhannes won partly to draw attention to the importance of his role as a whistleblower and when the case is still ongoing.

"It is an opportunity for us to support the work with the case," Dalväg said.

TIGHT SECURITY

Stefansson said he had occasionally decided not to let the company get away and started working with a friend from the Congo he met in South Africa to expose the corruption scandal.

"I began to realise that something was not right, that I was threatened. Strange people started appearing in my life, and people spied on me. Two months after I left the company, he says I had to find a place to hide because the threat had become so great," he said during the award ceremony.

At one point, Stefansson said, someone tried

to kidnap him from the house where he lived, but his security guards were armed.

He also said several times; they found out that there were plans to shoot him by actors in Namibia who wanted him badly.

He also said in Iceland that he has no personal protection but still has a great sense of security in everything he does.

The operations manager at Win Win Gothenburg sustainability award, Nathalie Bödtker-Lund, said they had a dialogue with the police in Sweden before Stefansson travelled to Sweden.

Bödtker-Lund said the police had his driving schedule, and he stayed under aliases in hotels.

"We used aliases when we picked him up at the airport. So we have taken action during the week," says Bödtker-Lund.

The Swedish police also said they assessed the security situation before he came to Gothenburg.

Suspected

the reports related to the so-called Fishrot, pending in court at the time of reporting. After their analysis, the agency has prepared 110 financial intelligence disclosures sent to NamRa to take it up further.

The financial watchdog explained

numerous types of tax offences such as under-invoicing, smuggling, suppression of sales, fraudulently claiming Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds and undervaluation of imports.

As a result, the report shows the abuse of the financial system to disguise ill-gotten gains in potential tax offences, explained FIC.

Furthermore, the Financial watchdog has observed from the many cases at hand; there appears to be a general changing of trends in ML methods used.

"This may suggest that perpetrators continue to explore and find new methods of hiding or concealing the illicit origins of funds they launder," wrote FIC.

erastus@thevillager.com.na

MTN

bears a legal obligation on dominant telecommunications operators to share spare capacity on their network with non-dominant operators".

Section 50 of the Communications Act sets out the legal requirements for infrastructure sharing on dominant operators.

According to Cran, Mobile Telecommunications Ltd (MTC) has been declared a dominant operator for the Wireless End-user Access Market as per Section 78 of the act.

The Communications Act provides license categories that allow operators to only provide an electronic communication service without constructing their network. With the understanding that they will share capacity with other operators.

Nghikembua said, "dominant operators must have spare capacity to share infrastructure with other operators".

In the case of MTC, an independent assessment was conducted by the authority (with participation by MTC).

The assessment, according to Nghikembua, revealed that the supply side capacity on the MTC networks exceeds the levels of traffic demand (both in the current year and soon) and hence directed MTC to share infrastructure.

"The said assessment was based on network data provided by MTC for the investigation," she said.

Nghikembua highlighted no obligation for infrastructure sharing if the dominant operator will utilise the infrastructure for its purpose.

However, an exemption from the authority needs to be extended.

However, MTC has not received an exemption from the Cran in this regard for them to utilise their excess space.

CONSUMERS AT THE CENTRE

According to Cran, from a telecommunications and economics perspective, infrastructure sharing is designed to benefit consumers primarily by limiting duplication of infrastructure so that new investments can be geared towards underserved areas and improved customer service.

Sharing infrastructure will significantly reduce barriers to market entry, which means that more operators can enter the market, and consumers will have more choices.

Resulting in costs reduction, and improved quality of service, and lower prices, explain Cran.

Furthermore, the regulator highlighted that sharing would alleviate the pressure of network deployment and allow operators to turn their attention to improved innovation, better customer service, and eventually better commercial offerings and healthier competition.

Cran explained that telecommunications networks are built with consumers' money, and consumers have therefore earned the privilege to receive services from such a network, regardless of the operator.

According to the regulator's assessment, the cost of data and other telecommunication services in Namibia remains high due to operators' refusal to share infrastructure.

The African Affordability ranking indicates Namibia dropped from the 4th cheapest on the continent in the first quarter (Q1) of 2016 to the 33rd most affordable country in Q1 2021 for 5GB per month.

Infrastructure sharing will allow for effective competition, which will lead to price reductions for the benefit of consumers.

"The Authority has observed with concern that dominant operators have demonstrated a low appetite for regulatory compliance concerning sharing infrastructure," revealed Nghikembua.

Urging MTC to consider consumers, She said the refusal by the operator to share might deprive consumers of enjoying the fruits of competition, such as reduced prices and better network quality.

Nghikembua indicated that the regulator should enforce the infrastructure sharing framework for the benefit of all Namibian consumers.

Moreover, to comply with the objectives of the government policy.

Cell-C (an operator in South Africa) is one the case of infrastructure sharing, with 10 million customers all receiving network services from other licensees.

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na

HELLO WINDHOEK!

WELCOME BACK THE EAGLE...
TUNE IN ON YOUR RADIO
AT **104.0 FM** TODAY.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

EAGLE fm

#EagleFMNamibia

HELLO REHOBOTH!

WELCOME BACK THE EAGLE...
TUNE IN ON YOUR RADIO
AT **104.0 FM** TODAY.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

EAGLE fm

#EagleFMNamibia

Be ready for any uncertainty - Geingob

Hellen Andreas

Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF), President Hage Geingob on Thursday said Namibia must enhance its preparedness in the event of uncertainty to ensure greater chance of success when faced with unexpected challenges. Geingob made these remarks while officiating the final stage of the NDF joint field training Exercise-Khan Strike II at Uulunga waKolondo in Oshana region. The NDF's Exercise-Khan Strike II, includes all arms of military, the army, air force as well as the navy. The operation has been conducting military field exercises from the 28 September until 28 October 2021 at Uulunga WaKolondo. Geingob said Namibia is a child of International solidarity, enemy to none and friend to all. "However, as a nation, we are also aware that we live in a world defined

by ever shifting geo-political realities and new forms of conflict that have emerged in the post-Cold War Era." "Combat readiness is an extremely important aspect of our national defence apparatus because Namibian soldiers must be adequately prepared to respond to orders or attacks at any given time," Geingob said. The President further stated that Exercise-Khan Strike II was planned with the aim to enhance joint training and interoperability amongst the Army, Air Force, Navy and Special Forces by evaluating and testing of combat readiness of equipment, firepower, logistic support in the field, as well as competence of officers and troops in conventional warfare. "We must enhance our preparedness in the event of uncertainty to ensure greater chance of success when faced with unexpected challenges. This is achieved by equipping our soldiers with the necessary tools to achieve military success," he said.

Exercise Khan Strike II is the second phase 1 of Exercise Khan Strike I, which was conducted in mid-2020 at Karibib Air Force shooting range, and is amongst other similar exercises the NDF has undertaken since independence. The exercises include exploiting and testing various conventional warfare tactics, in order to advance the NDF's combat readiness and intensify synergy among soldiers. Chief of the Defence Force Air Marshal Martin Kalumbu Pinehas said the "Exercise Khan Strike II" is designed not only to test the member's military skills, knowledge, endurance and discipline but also to assess the defence state of readiness in carrying out their constitutional mandate of defending and protecting the territorial integrity and national interest of Namibia and other national, regional and international obligations. "The exercise will go a long way in improving the capacities of the

participating formations and units in carrying out their duty," he said Pinehas MJ Matheus Alucendo, MJ Josua Namhindo and 7 others were honoured

by the President for contributing to the development of the NDF in various capacities with dedication.



Don't drink coffee and take pictures at COP26 – Venaani

Justicia Shipena

Popular Democratic Movement's President, McHenry Venaani, called upon the Namibian delegation going to the 26th Congress of Parties (COP26) to deliver a robust debate on climate change and not go there to drink coffee. Venaani said this at the party's conference on reviewing its policy conference and election. Venaani said Namibian delegations tend to go to international events for photo opportunities with world leaders without addressing national issues. "So, I want to call upon President Geingob to prepare the delegation of Namibia to make valuable points. I want to see your voice at COP26," he said. He added that Namibia must take the fight as climate change affects the country too. "We must take centre stage at COP26 to demand developed countries to give us a fair share to mitigate the challenges of climate change," he stressed. Venaani further said it's no secret that developing countries release an infinite portion of carbon emissions. He said the first world needs to land a helping hand to the developing world in the battle against climate change. "The other day, Cyril Ramaphosa even outsmarted us at the UN General Assembly. He spoke about slavery to be brought on the agenda. We have a country that is suffering from the issue of genocide, and our

delegation does not even raise the question of genocide at the general assembly," he lauded. Namibia will participate in COP26, held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 1 to 12 November 2021. According to the environment forestry and tourism ministry, Namibia will be represented at COP26 at both technical and political levels. At the political level, President Hage Geingob will be delivering his statement on 2 November. Namibia will focus on renewable energy and forestry. "You may be aware we have one of the best solar regimes in the world. We, therefore, urge parties to agree on the extent and rules for these markets to implement the Paris rulebook fully," said the environment minister's spokesperson Romeo Muyunda. Namibia will also focus on adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, loss and damage from climate change impacts, and capacity building. Cop26 is a follow up to the 2019 COP25, which was held in Madrid, Spain. COP26 aims to bring forward the 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. The summit is a supreme decision-making body of the Convention at which countries review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts.



Valombola Convicted of Student Murder

Kelvin Chiringa

The conviction of the Commissioner of Refugees, Likius Valombola, over the murder of a student leader is nothing to celebrate, ex-Nanso leader Bernard Kavau has said. After a lengthy court fight, Valombola has been found guilty of the murder of the former Nanso executive member, Helao Ndjaba. The court has heard that the 56-year-old Valombola gunned down Ndjaba by shooting him two times in the head in the middle of a scuffle in the Ombili location of Windhoek sometime in May of 2018. However, Kavau has expressed dismay citing that it took so long to arrive at conviction finally. He said that while the courts have done their part, the conviction will, sadly, never bring back the life of Ndjaba. "Indeed, when the incident happened, I was the national vice-president of Nanso, dealing with the discipline and affairs of the organization. In the first place, I can say that we are very disappointed that the case took this much longer when it was always there that this man who has now been found guilty was the one who committed the crime. "It makes us wonder why it took this long. It is very disappointing that justice could not prevail during that period. Just imagine the

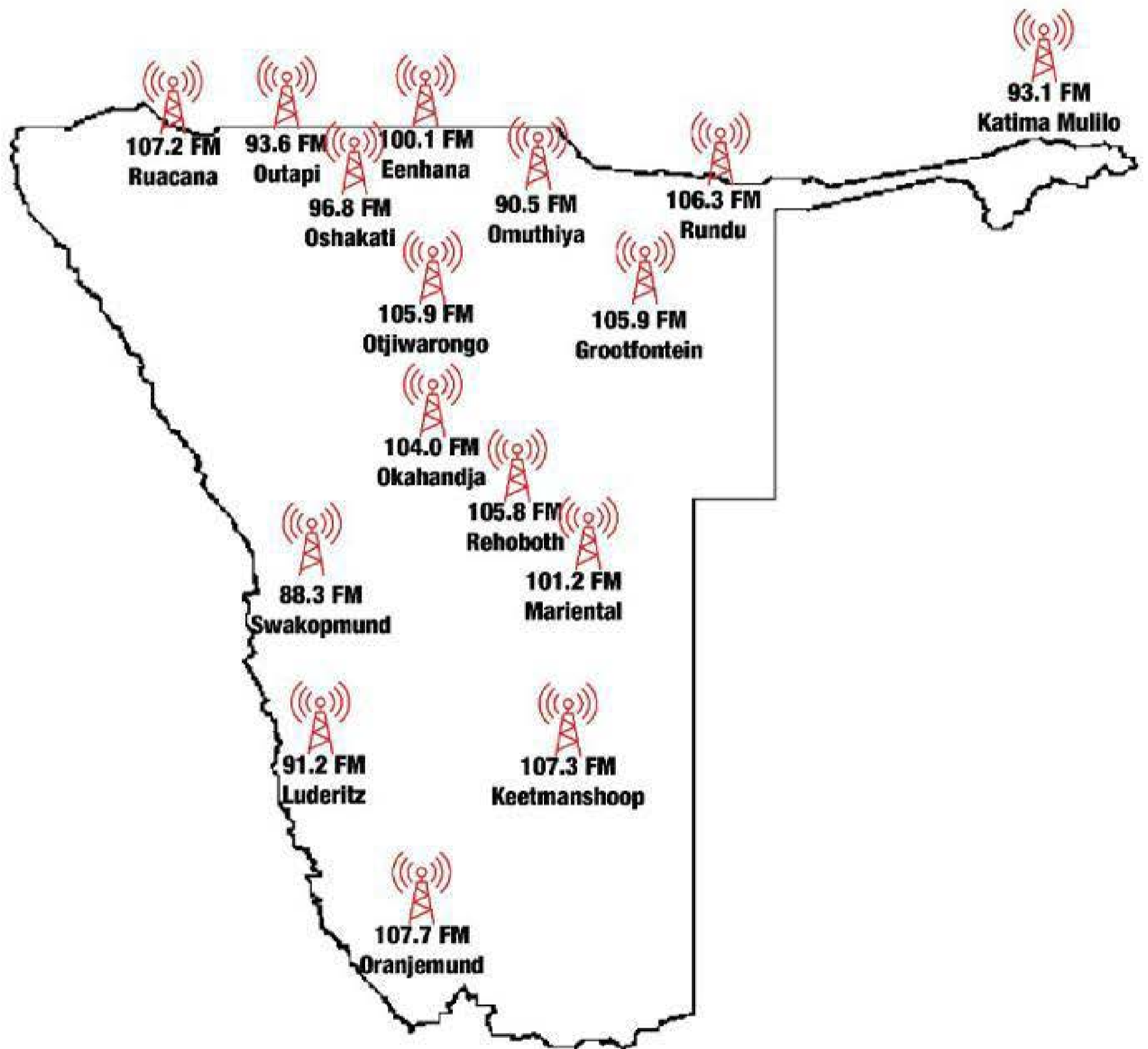
pain the family has gone through all this time. We are talking about 2018, and that is three years. We have to question our justice system. How serious are they in terms of taking legal cases like murder seriously?" he said. Kavau has said that money has played a role in the case taking time. "So, it gives us the impression that the more you have money, the more your case is postponed so that you are made to be better prepared," he said. During the trial, Valombola has constantly denied killing Ndjaba with intent. He admitted to firing two shots at 10-second intervals but said these were meant to warn Ndjaba during a confrontation in the streets of Ombili in Windhoek. Valombola's lawyer at some point argued that the state had failed to prove that the commissioner had shot the student leader and murdered him intentionally. Lawyer Nambili Mhata then delivered an application before Windhoek High Court Judge Claudia Claasen to dismiss all charges. Mhata had also tried to convince the court that the evidence of the key witnesses in the murder case was riddled with contradictions and inconsistencies. He also pointed out that the evidence of the expert witnesses

COVID-19 STATISTICS LATEST

Cumulative confirmed cases	128 868
Newly confirmed	9
Recoveries	124 518
Recovery rate	97%
Active cases	788
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine 1st doses	320 985
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine 2nd doses	203 710
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine completed	253 232
COVID-19 Deaths	3 260
COVID-19 Related Deaths	290
Total Deaths	3 550
Total samples tested	745 068
Active contacts	407
Cumulative number of people quarantined	80 976
Number of quarantined people discharged	80 430
Number of people in quarantines	546



Frequencies



Download Your App Eagle FM Nam on Android or Apple Store

www.eaglefm.com.na

START YOUR

CAREER

WITH US TODAY!



IUM
THE INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT

Visit IUM website

www.ium.edu.na

IUM QUALIFICATIONS

ONLINE APPLICATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 ARE NOW OPEN

UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Admission to Stand Alone Programmes requires 20 points in the best 5 subjects with a D symbol in English at NSSCO/H level or equivalent.
- Admissions to Diploma in Education (Pre and Junior) requires NSSCO/H or equivalent with a minimum of 23 points in the best five subjects (including a minimum D symbol in English and any Namibian Language) on the IUM's evaluation scale.
- Admission to Bachelor Degrees and Integrated Bachelor Honours Degrees Program requires 25 points in the best 5 subjects with a D symbol in English at NSSCO/H or equivalent.
- Admission to Master Degree Programmes requires a Bachelor Honours at NQF Level 8 or equivalent.
- Admission to Doctoral (PhD) Programmes requires a Master Degree NQF level 9 or equivalent.

FACULTIES:

1. Faculty of Business Administration
2. Faculty of Education
3. Faculty of Health and Social Sciences
4. Faculty of Information and Communication Technology
5. Faculty of Strategic Management and Leadership
6. Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality and Events Management
7. Postgraduate Studies

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- IUM Graduate School of Business mission is (a) to provide applied curriculum that will equip business leaders with skills to become world-class executives capable of solving organizational problems, using techniques that will contribute to social-economic transformation. (b) to equip graduates with skills to be competitive in the job market, successfully run a business, and empowered to be job creators.

THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE OFFERED:

1. MBA (Finance) (NQF level 9)
2. MBA (Management) (NQF level 9)
3. MBA (Marketing) (NQF level 9)
4. MBA (Human Resources) (NQF level 9)
5. Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Business Administration (NQF level 10)

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Admission to Integrated Honours Degrees Programmes requires 25 points in the best 5 subjects with a D symbol in English at NSSCO/H or equivalent.
- Admission to Master Degree Programmes requires a Bachelor Honours at NQF Level 8 or equivalent.
- Admission to Doctoral (PhD) Programmes requires a Master Degree NQF 9 or equivalent

Admission to all IUM Programmes and detailed Programme Specific Admission Requirements, durations and fees are in the Prospects available on the website.

(Visit IUM website www.ium.edu.na)

THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE OFFERED:

- Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Natural Science (NQF Level 10)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Integrated Natural Resources Management (NQF Level 10)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Sustainable Development (NQF Level 10) (Can Major in Sustainable Communities and Inclusive Development)
- Master of Science in Integrated Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (NQF Level 9)
- Master of Science in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (NQF Level 9)
- Master of Science in Conservation Agricultural Management (NQF Level 9)
- Bachelor of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development Honours (NQF Level 8)
- Bachelor of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Honours (NQF Level 8)
- Bachelor of Conservation Agriculture Management Honours (NQF Level 8)

CENTRE FOR IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE (CIIP)

- Certificate: Secretarial and Office Administration
- Diploma: Office Administration
- Certificate: Bookkeeping
- MDP: Management Development Programme
- Computer Studies: Fundamentals of Databases
- Computer Studies: Advanced Data base design
- Computer Studies: Web development
- Computer Studies: PC Maintenance
- Entrepreneurial Studies: Foundational Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurial Studies: Advanced Entrepreneurship Preparatory Course
- English Language Upgrade Course
- Foreign/Second Language Courses: French; German; English – Foreign/Second Language
- Professional Development and Soft Skill Workshops

A NAMIBIAN UNIVERSITY DEDICATED TO ITS PEOPLE'S FUTURE



Big Lips

The More Things Change in Politics, The More They Remain the Same (Part 2)

On Wednesday, I looked at how almost every politician today has links to the founding parties in Zambia and Kenya. In Zambia, for example, the current ruling party has ties to UNIP through MMD. In Kenya, too, the politicians have links to KANU.

Today I am looking at other countries to show that the more things change in politics, the more they remain the same. The fact that most politicians have ties to ruling parties or defunct ruling parties show one thing - continuity in different form, name and structure.

In Namibia, for example, all the new parties - LPM and IPC - including the Affirmative Repositioning Movement, came from the ruling party Swapo.

All the politicians who are talking about change and progressivism know no other mother party but Swapo. It does not matter how much they swear and call Swapo names; they all remain Swapo.

If fate had not taken charge and saw them treated like dogs by Swapo, they all would still be members of the Swapo Party. It also does not matter much; they portray Swapo as an evil party, their history and that of the ruling party are intertwined. If they used to boast that Swapo is in their blood, can they explain how Swapo was taken out of their blood? This is what I said on Wednesday that your mother would remain your mother. You can disown her and discredit her, but you cannot be anyone else's child but your mother's child.

What I mean is very simple - those who left Swapo learnt their politics from Swapo. What they are doing in their parties they learnt from Swapo.

The current parties giving Swapo a headache belong to former cadres of the ruling party. Apart from PDM, most if not all opposition parties broke away from Swapo. There was the Congress of Democrats. Then RDP. Now there is IPC, LPM and AR Movement.

Ben Ulenga of CoD was a Swapo government was a deputy minister, and an ambassador. RDP's Hidipo Hamutenya Hamutenya was a Swapo representative to the Americas from 1965 to 1972 and secretary for Education from 1974 to 1976.

In August 1976, he joined Swapo Politburo and helped found the United Nations Institute for Namibia in Zambia as deputy director. After independence, HH was a leading figure in the party.

IPC's Panduleni Itula joined Swapo at an early age and served as a Swapo ideology school lecturer, while LPM's Bernadus Swartbooi was a Swapo governor and deputy minister. AR's Job Amupanda too comes from the Swapo Party blocks.

Do not forget the All People Party that broke away from CoD. The leader of APP, Ignatius Shixwameni, cut his political teeth in Swapo before joining Ulenga in CoD.

If we expect these new political parties to behave otherwise, we may have to wait long.

This is the same thing with Zimbabwean politics. Almost every party has links to Zanu-PF. Look at what happened when the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangirai, died.

Look at how the current leader, Nelson Chamisa, moved in quickly to claim the position without going to congress. Tsvangirai died in 2018, and until today, there has not been any congress to choose a new leader.

The same thing happened in Zanu-PF, where Emerson Mnangagwa usurped power from Robert Mugabe through a coup. Until today, Mnangagwa is in power without having through a congress.

Just like Zambia's Frederick Chiluba, Tsvangirai was the secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, linked to Zanu-PF.

The Zambia Congress of Trade Union too was linked to Zambia's ruling party UNIP. Just like Chiluba, Tsvangirai belonged to Zanu-PF before he formed the MDC.

From the beginning, Tsvangirai and now Chamisa run the MDC the same way Mugabe and now Mnangagwa run Zanu-PF. Just like Zanu-PF, MDC suffered and still splits from time to time.

In the short history of the MDC, there was MDC-N that the founding secretary-general Welshman Ncube founded. There was also MDC-99 formed by Job Sikhala and the MDC-Renewal founded by Tendai Biti. Tsvangirai was left with MDC-T.

Therefore, it follows that whatever these politicians say about their mother political bodies is because they have fallen out.



Living a life of purpose after retirement- GIPF pensioner

■ **Wilma Kamati**



After 39 years of service, Mee Wilma Kamati retired and has since not regretted it. She served on the Khomas Region team and started her career as a teacher at 21.

"The fear of the unknown plants a seed that retirement is the end of the world, but I beg to differ. Retirement is not a death sentence; it is just the beginning of a new chapter," stated Mee Kamati.

Mee Kamati emphasised the importance of all GIPF members to ensure that their nomination forms and member details are updated to assist GIPF in distributing member pension benefits to legitimate beneficiaries.

She also added how honoured she is to be a part of a remarkable pioneering Fund such as the GIPF.

"GIPF has throughout the years consistently proved that their primary purpose is to grow the pension funds not only for the benefit of us, its members, but that of our beneficiaries through impactful investments throughout the Nation and internationally.

As senior citizens, I want you to reciprocate the efforts of the GIPF of being a model citizen. Remember that as much as we do not have physical strength or power, we have authority.

Use your authority to plough back into your community as the GIPF does and share your knowledge, experience, and challenges with the youth impactfully," expressed Mee Kamati.

During these current trying times, Mee Kamati urged pensioners and those nearing retirement to ensure that their medical aid benefits are paid up to date and where finances permit can be complemented with additional medical aid benefits from a different medical aid provider.

Additionally, she encouraged members nearing retirement to clear their debts such as cars and home bonds before retirement to ensure they start retirement on a clean slate.

"With GIPF administering my pension, worrying about money is the last thing on my mind. I joined church activities, enjoyed travelling, watching television, listening to music, got involved in community projects, exercise frequently, and read a lot to keep my brain fit and up to date with what was going on around me and in the world at last," stated Mee Kamati.

She added that pensioners should prioritise making memories with family and loved ones with so much time on one's hands.

"I love visiting our family village and farm to spend quality time with my loved ones. I'm also fond of braai's, parties, playing games as it's a great way to have fun with my children and grandchildren. Tomorrow is not promised, but the memories you build with your loved ones never die," concluded Mee Kamati.

**Wilma Kamati is an executive committee member of the GIPF National Pensioners Association of Namibia (NAPAN)*

Congratulations

100.4 FM



Congratulations **Shipi FM**, **Eagle FM** and **Desert Radio** for commencing Radio Broadcasting in **Windhoek**.

104.0 FM



We look forward to many hours of exciting radio broadcasts to keep us entertained and informed on local and international news and events.

95.3 FM



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

TO ADVERTISE

CONTACT MONICA: Cel: [+264 812703727](tel:+264812703727) | Email: monica@eaglefm.com.na



Abortion in Mexico: Fight for rights just beginning, women say

■ Will Grant

Few customers who get into Paulina Ramírez's taxi know her awful story. But 20 years ago, the so-called Paulina Case made headlines around the world, her name synonymous with Mexico's strict rules and attitudes on abortion.

In 1999, aged 13, Paulina was raped and was left pregnant by a man who broke into her family's home. Following the brutal attack, she sought an abortion, fully legal in Mexico in cases of rape. However, Paulina was harangued by conservative doctors, state officials and priests who put up constant obstacles to stop her from terminating the pregnancy.

"I heard the doctors say 'I'm not doing it, they'll sack me. I'm not a murderer'," she recalls in her sweltering home-town of Mexicali on the US-Mexico border.

The campaign of intimidation was relentless. One doctor told Paulina she could bleed to death or be left sterile from an abortion. A priest told her she might be excommunicated. "They brought pro-life representatives to my room who showed me pictures of dead fetuses and the image of Christ," she says. "It was a very difficult time; I was still dealing with the trauma of the rape."

Their cruel tactics worked. Eventually the 12-week deadline for an abortion passed and Paulina, still only a child herself, had to carry the baby to full term.

The suffering of that time has never fully left her but she is greatly encouraged by a unanimous ruling from Mexico's Supreme Court last month to decriminalise abortion. Specifically, the decision referred to the law in the northern state of Coahuila but it set a precedent for the entire country.

"I cried! I cried when I heard!" smiles Teresa Mesa, a single mother-of-three in Coahuila. When she became pregnant a fourth time, Teresa decided the most responsible thing to do was to abort - then illegal in her home state. "It wasn't easy. At that time, there was no legal protection for women, no places of an adequate health standard to carry them out, and really a lot of social stigma."

Teresa hopes the measure will make it easier for other girls to have an abortion than it was for her, particularly as neighbouring Texas in the US moves in the opposite direction, towards much stricter control.

"This is just the start. There's still mountains to overcome before this is fully legal. We need proper health clinics which carry out abortions and doctors that are prepared to do them."

"And it's not just about normalising abortion," she continues, "but also making

visible the domestic violence under which so many women live in Coahuila. Eight in every 10 women here experience some form of violence at home."

While the Supreme Court's ruling set a historic change into motion, there are several legal challenges ahead before safe abortions are available across the country.

In the meantime, many women - including Teresa - must turn instead to the Safe Abortion Network, an abortion rights' group which operates on the margins of the law. I met members of the Coahuila branch as they plastered posters with their contact details on them at bus stops around the state capital, Saltillo.

"We helped nearly 300 women last year to obtain abortion pills or travel to Mexico City," where abortion is legal, the group's founder Malu Reina told me.

Although their opponents paint them as somehow "promoting abortion", Ms Reina says that is a deliberate mischaracterisation, and that the co-operative provides sexual health education and support to vulnerable mothers in Coahuila's marginalised communities.

Nevertheless, there are some powerful forces in Mexico lined up against the new law. Mexico is Latin America's second-biggest Catholic nation and anti-abortion campaigners have held several demonstrations outside the Supreme Court recently. They say they are determined to block the court's decision.

"The Supreme Court has failed against the fundamental freedom of life," argues Rodrigo Ivan Cortes, president of the National Front for the Family.

"Now they also want to proceed against the fundamental freedom of the health sector and take out the freedom of conscientious objection for doctors and nurses. That is very, very dangerous for a democratic country."

Still, such campaigners appear to be losing ground. Across Latin America, attitudes on abortion are shifting. In Chile, Argentina, Mexico and beyond, younger generations are slowly knocking down the traditional positions of their parents and grandparents. Paulina Ramírez's son is now 20 and they have a strong relationship. But she deeply resents her harrowing treatment as a teenage rape victim, shamed and victimised by those legally obliged to help her.

"Everyone decided for me except for me. All I wanted was to exercise my rights and they didn't let me."

Forced teenage pregnancies in impoverished circumstances will not vanish overnight in Mexico. But decriminalisation, Paulina says, is the first step to make sure no other girl goes through the same trauma she did. - BBC



Managing solid waste and planting a tree

■ **Nghiinomenwa Erastus**

The environment stakeholders have observed Arbor Day by launching a solid waste team in the country's biggest wildlife park and restocking the environment with trees.

In a statement released by the Namibia Wildlife Resort this week, the day was observed early this month, where the environment and tourism ministry and the Hai//om community have come up with a solid waste management team.

According to the state-owned resort manager, the waste management team ensures that the environment is well managed within the Etosha National Park.

If unattended, the lack of solid waste management may lead to significant environmental problems such as soil/land, water, and aesthetic pollution.

As a result, impacting the country's pristine environment and landscapes that attract substantial tourists.

NWR managing director Matthias Ngwangwama explained that the solid waste management team is an excellent initiative. It offers an opportunity for different individuals within the Etosha National Park to work together.

"Without managing our solid waste, we as Namibia risk our reputation of being the destination of choice for various tourists," he stated.

The solid waste management initiative is only running in the Etosha National Park, with volunteers so far.

Ngwangwama indicated that the initiative presents an entrepreneurial opportunity.

Tasking the current volunteers will turn this initiative into a business enterprise that will run across all the National Parks in the country.

Ngwangwama also highlighted that other stakeholders, such as Rent-a-Drum, have been long-standing partners managing solid waste.

At the same time, he calls upon other stakeholders to join in tackling solid waste, "which will then see an improvement in our environment".

Arbor Day aims to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

This year the day was observed under the theme "Forest Restoration: A path to recovery and wellbeing".

Ever since 1992, Namibia has been observing Arbor Day create awareness on the importance of conserving trees and discouraging human activities that threaten the sustainability of Namibia's trees and forests, such as deforestation and land degradation.

The day saw the environment and tourism stakeholders restocking the environment by planting 40 indigenous trees to replace the ageing ones in Okaukuejo. In comparison, 14 and 25 trees were planted in Namutoni and Olifantsrus, respectively.

As the famous quote by Warren Buffet states, - "someone is sitting in the shade today because someone decided to plant a tree, explained NWR environmental and compliance specialist Fransiska Nghitila.

She highlighted that "it is important that we all observe this day for our future generations".

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na



“

Without managing our solid waste, we as Namibia risk our reputation of being the destination of choice for various tourists.

”



26 September 2021

LISTENED TO IN

172 COUNTRIES

WORLDWIDE VIA OUR MOBILE APP



#EagleFMNamibia

NAB to subsidise retailers for eye-catching local produces display



■ **Nghiinomenwa Erastus**

On its journey to attract consumers to buy local-grown fresh produce, the Namibia Agronomic Board will subsidise retailers for eye-catching local produce displays. The board announced in a statement placed on its website. The board explained that as part of its effort to effectively promote the sales of locally produced fruits and vegetables in the country, it has partnered up with the Namibia Association of Traders on Fresh Produce (NATFP). The partnership is to implement the eye-catching display of Namibian fresh produced products in all shops all over the country. "This was aimed at guiding our consumers to spot local-grown produces on the shelves when shopping and subsequently promote the sales of locally fresh produces in the country," the board wrote.

For the NAB to encourage traders and fast-track the project's implementation process, "all NATFP members are subsidised for the purchasing of the standard eye-catching signage," stated the board.

The subsidy entails the NAB paying the total cost of one shop, per trader and if such a trader has more shops, the NAB will only pay N\$ 1000 per shop.

Namibian fresh produce traders took notice of the request, and a total of 59 orders have been received and subsidised by the NAB to date, with more orders expected before the end of November 2021.

All shops that are already implementing their eye-catching signage are permitted to continue using such signage for a maximum period of six (6) months.

After which, they are expected to replace the signage with the approved standard signage by March 2022.

To further enhance governance and ensure compliance to this requirement, the NAB's Standard Compliance Inspectors will commence with the inspection of shops from effective 01 December 2021.

Non-compliant shops will be subjected to punitive measures stipulated in the existing Market Share Promotion rules and procedures.

The eye-catching display of the local fresh produce initiative was introduced in 2012 by NAB.

However, the board explained that its implementation by traders has been slow, and it has lacked uniformity (each store used its signage to guide consumers).

In some instances, the consumers get confused and unable to locate fresh Namibian produce on the shelves.

Therefore, through collective efforts by the NAB and the NATFP, standard signage was developed and approved by the NAB board for implementation by all shops countrywide.

NAB promotes the agronomic and horticulture industry and facilitates the production, processing, storage, and marketing of controlled products in Namibia.

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na



26 September 2021

LISTENED TO IN

182 COUNTRIES

WORLDWIDE VIA OUR WEBSITE



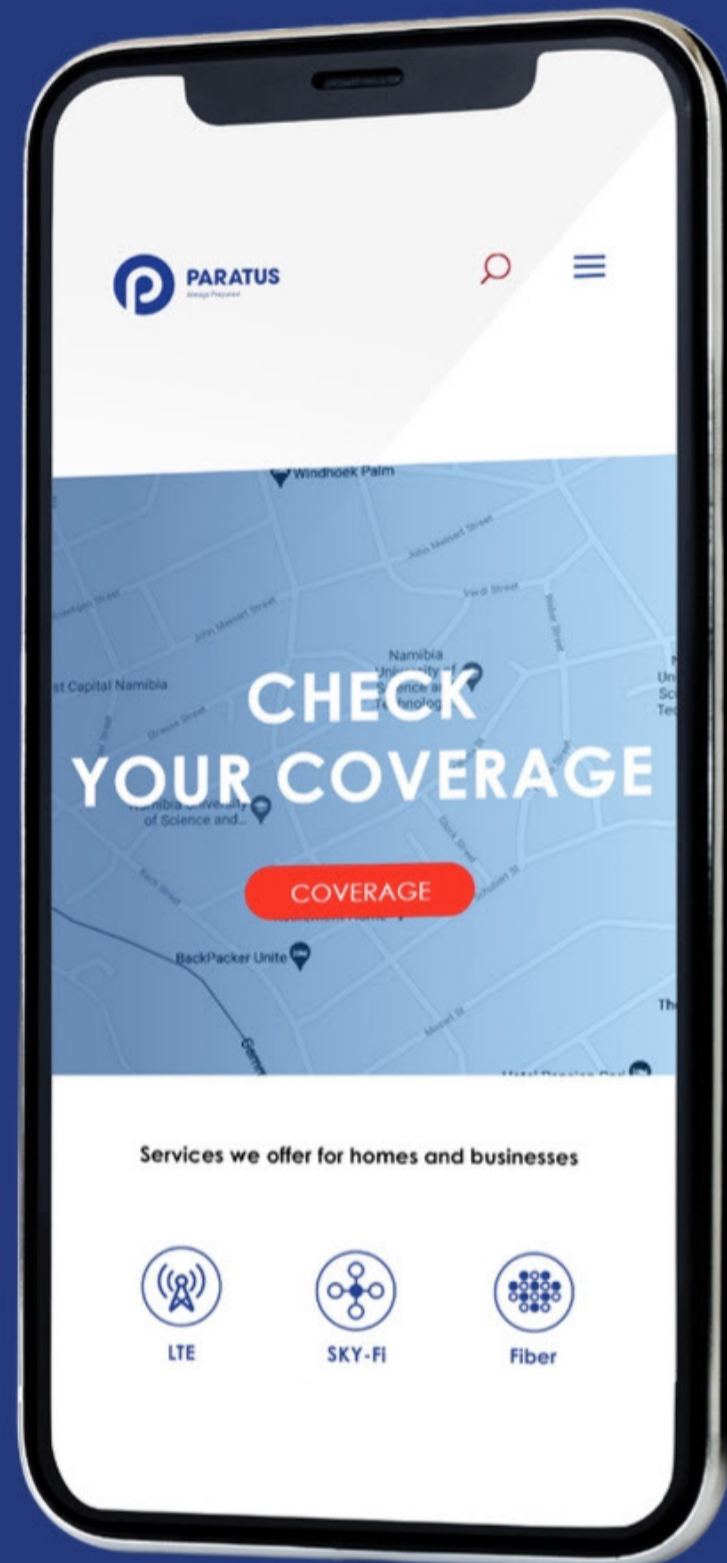
#EagleFMNamibia

Easy online
sign up.

**YOU'VE
GOT IT**

**Find out what services are
available at your location
with the click of a button.**

**Sign up for Paratus
Fiber,
SKY-Fi
or Mobile-LTE.**



paratus.africa/na



PARATUS
Always Prepared

Brother Colm: 'Unbelievable' to get Irish award for coaching in Kenya



Brother Colm O'Connell says it is a "tremendous honour" to receive an award from the Irish government for his work coaching athletes in Kenya. The Catholic brother is among 11 recipients of this year's Presidential Distinguished Service Award, which recognise the contributions of the Irish diaspora. He has spent over 40 years coaching middle-

and long-distance runners in the east African country, nurturing world and Olympic champions and world record holders including double Olympic 800m champion David Rudisha. "It's incredible and unbelievable that I should be selected," O'Connell told BBC Sport Africa. "It is the highest honour a person can get, especially people from the diaspora."

"I often wonder sometimes how somebody who lives in a remote village in Kenya can be singled out. It's a tremendous honour and very, very special." Originally from County Cork, Brother Colm's association with Kenya began in 1976 when he joined the staff of St Patrick's High School in Iten. The school for boys, which was set up by Irish missionaries and built on a hillside

overlooking the Rift Valley, went on to establish a world-class track and field record. Brother Colm's first Olympic success came in 1988 when Peter Rono, then aged 21, became the youngest-ever winner of the 1500m at the Seoul Games.

Matthew Birir and Brimin Kipruto, both winners of the Olympic 3,000m steeplechase title, also worked under O'Connell.

He also developed female talent such as two-time world marathon champion Edna Kiplagat and former world 800m champions Janeth Jepkosgei and Eunice Sum.

"The coaching of Kenyan athletes, and particularly in the area of youth - identifying young talent and nurturing it - has been very much part of my aim right from the beginning," he said.

"I think that's one area I really came very far in. The success at the top level came as a progression from the young people that I was coaching."

"Maybe one of the most satisfactory things was the development of the women athletes in my group. That is something that I'm very proud of."

"I would like to think that, as a person working in Kenya, I had an impact on young people's lives through athletics - using it to add value to young people's lives, to give them a future, hope and values."

"My biggest satisfaction is the lives I've

impacted'

Brother Colm, now in his early 70s, has found a balance between keeping his Irish roots alive and embracing life in Kenya, he says.

"I've always felt part of my Irish community, and I think that has been a strength to me because there is strength in diversity," he said.

"I've always felt very encouraged by the support I've been given by my family and community in Ireland. And of course, I had a very high level of integration into the Kenyan community."

"That has played a huge role in helping me to reach the level [I have], between being Irish and being Kenyan."

He previously received a coaching achievement award from World Athletics in 2019 and also has a street named after him in Iten.

"I have been recognized locally, and I appreciate that," he added.

"But I didn't come to Iten to find an achievement. In a sense, my biggest satisfaction is the athletes themselves and the people's lives I have impacted."

Brother Colm will be presented with the award by Irish President Michael D. Higgins at a ceremony on 2 December.

- BBC

Head Office & Factory
Onamungundo
900m from B1 road,
Basic Minimarket to Olukonda

Oshakati Branch
Tel/Fax: 065 222 077
Oshakati Main Road

Windhoek Branch
Tel: 061 220 748
Fax: 061 220 798
Windhoek

Rundu Branch
Tel: 066 267 012
Fax: 066 267 013
Rundu

email: sales@namibiagravestones.com

Medusalem Gravestones & Investment

WE SPECIALIZED IN THE FOLLOWING ALLIED GRANITE PRODUCTS

- ▶ Customized granite tables
- ▶ Kitchen, bar and restaurant counter tops
- ▶ Onsite construction of gravesites (actual building of grave to the tombstone erection)
- ▶ Official inauguration plate
- ▶ Fitting kitchen and bar tops


















"Don't do it Twice, Do it with Stone"



Benin Bronzes: 'My great-grandfather sculpted the looted treasures'

■ **Mayeni Jones**

On the bustling streets of Nigeria's Benin City, residents cannot wait to get their Bronzes back - for them their return symbolises reparations for some of the wrongs committed by British troops during the colonial era.

A statue of a cockerel is one priceless artefact soon to be welcomed home, after Jesus College handed it over to a delegation from Nigeria at a ceremony at Cambridge University on Wednesday.

It is one of thousands of metal sculptures and ivory carvings made between the 15th and 19th Centuries and looted by British troops in 1897 from the West African kingdom of Benin, in modern day Nigeria's Edo state.

"I feel happy that the work of my great-grandfather will be coming back to Benin," says Monday Aigbe, who, like his ancestor, is a sculptor.

He runs a foundry in Benin City, the capital of Edo state, where his craftsmen work quietly on brass statues.

The skilled workers fashion a myriad of shapes out of metal, including busts of the Oba - the title of the traditional king of Benin - as well as statues of animals and carved doors.

They have been making bronzes here for six generations. In the middle of the foundry is a large statue of Mr Aigbe's great-grandfather.

He worked for Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi when the raid took place on the Royal Palace more than 120 years ago.

"It makes me upset because they came, they destroyed the palace, they made my great-grandfather run from the city to the village," says Mr Aigbe.

The loot was amongst the most valuable African artworks ever made - and was sold

or gifted to private collectors and museums around the world.

With more and more of the stolen artefacts expected back in Nigeria - on Thursday the University of Aberdeen in Scotland will also be returning one of its Bronzes - Mr Aigbe plans to take his children to see them when they go on display.

This will be at the Edo Museum of West African Art - a grand initiative by the governor of Edo state to house all the returned Benin Bronzes.

The authorities say it will not be completed for at least five years - construction on the building, set to be designed by famous British-Ghanaian architect David Adjaye, has yet to start.

But for Theophilus Umogbai, deputy director and curator of the National Museum Benin, this is no excuse to delay returning the Bronzes.

The artefacts are akin to a library as they tell the history of the kingdom of Benin, he says.

"You now have empty shelves. The return of those objects will be like filling those shelves. There's a lacuna in our history because those objects were taken away."

The British government has argued that the Benin Bronzes "properly reside" in the British Museum, which has the largest collection of them in the world - with more than 900 pieces.

Hosting the ancient objects in London also ensures they are accessible to the world; the UK authorities say.

But it is an argument that Mr Umogbai takes exception to, saying that most Nigerians will never get to see them there given visa and travel costs.

"I went to the British Museum because my trip was sponsored. I wouldn't have

been able to go otherwise, even as a public servant.

"It's easier for those abroad to visit us, because of the economic buoyancy of Europe, compared to Africa."

For him the Bronzes simply do not belong in Western museums.

"When I saw the Bronzes in the British Museum I was happy at first. Then that thought was replaced by the feeling that these objects were incongruously sitting where they shouldn't be. They should be back home."

The past 'feeds inspiration'

Twenty-eight-year-old artist Joe Obamina agrees - as he believes it is the past that inspires the future.

In his sunlit studio in Benin City he makes pixelated paintings - inspired by his

childhood spent indoors, playing Tetris.

These artefacts being returned is going to mean a lot, because it will help me connect with my ancestors"

From a distance the paintings look like a collection of multicoloured boxes, small symbols peppering the odd square. But if you squint, or better yet, watch the paintings through your phone camera, the overall image becomes clear.

"Each pixel is a continuous story. Besides the overall image, I tell other stories inside each cube," says Mr Obamina.

Despite using modern imagery, some of his work does reflect the history and culture of Edo state.

One painting depicts the Idia mask, one of the most famous Benin Bronzes. It is said to be a carving of the face of the mother of an oba from the first half of the 16th Century.

"My painting of the Idia mask was inspired by the ongoing restitution of the Benin Bronzes," says Mr Obamina.

"We grew up without seeing the actual mask, just the replicas. Our heritage has been scattered, so I had to paint something to depict that: the scattered heritage that is abroad.

"But nevertheless we still have our own identity and cultural practices. That's why when you take a picture of it with your phone you can still see the mask in full."

Mr Obamina's paternal great-grandfather was a sculptor. Although he does not know whether he worked on any of the ancient bronzes, he believes that seeing them will help connect him to his past.

"I'm a Nigerian, I'm an Edo citizen - so I can't really detach myself from that, it's rooted in me.

"These artefacts being returned is going to mean a lot, because it will help me connect with my ancestors."

- BBC



Facebook's response to child abuse 'inadequate'

■ **Angus Crawford**

A former Facebook employee has told US authorities the company's efforts to remove child abuse material from the platform were "inadequate" and "under-resourced".

The allegations are contained in documents seen by BBC News and submitted to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) two weeks ago.

The anonymous whistleblower says moderators are "not sufficiently trained and are ill prepared".

Facebook said in a statement: "We have no tolerance for this abhorrent abuse of children and use sophisticated technologies to combat it."

"We've funded and helped build the tools used by industry to investigate this terrible crime, rescue children and bring justice to victims."

It added that it has shared its anti-abuse technologies with other companies.

The revelations come after former insider Frances Haugen told the US congress earlier this month that Facebook's platforms "harm children, stoke division and harm our democracy".

This week she also gave evidence to the UK parliamentary committee examining the proposed Online Safety Bill.

Senior executives from Facebook, Twitter, Google, YouTube and Tiktok are also due to give evidence.

No solution

The latest revelations come from an unnamed whistleblower, with inside knowledge of the teams within Facebook set up to intercept harmful material.

In a sworn statement to the SEC, which regulates securities markets and protects investors, the individual said there was no solution to illegal material at Facebook because there had not been "adequate



assets devoted to the problem". They claim that a small team set up to develop software which could detect indecent videos of children was broken up and redeployed, because it was seen as

"too complex". Facebook says it uses technology known as PhotoDNA and VideoDNA, which automatically scan for known child abuse images - each image recovered by law

enforcement worldwide and referred to the American National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, is given a unique identifying code. Other accusations from the whistleblower

include: Facebook doesn't know the full scale of the problem of child abuse material because it "doesn't track it"

A constant question allegedly asked by senior managers was "what's the return on investment?"

The whistleblower told the SEC that this was a legitimate business question, "but not when it comes to public safety issues as critical as child sex abuse".

In the five-page legal document there was also a warning about Facebook "Groups", which were described as "facilitating harm".

The groups, many of which are only visible to members, is where "a lot of terrifying and abhorrent behaviours occur".

Paedophiles "use code words to describe the type of child, the type of sexual activity...they use Facebook's encrypted Messenger service or Whatsapp to share these codes, which change routinely."

"Facebook's system depends on a self-policing model that can't rationally or reasonably be enforced".

Facebook told the BBC that it does scan private groups for content that violates its policies and has 40,000 people working on safety and security, with an investment of more than \$13bn (£9.4bn) since 2016.

It said it had actioned 25.7 million pieces of content for child sexual exploitation in Q2 of 2021.

Sir Peter Wanless, chief executive of the NSPCC, said: "These revelations raise profound and disturbing questions about Facebook's commitment to combat illegal child abuse on its services."

"For the first time, evidence from inside Facebook suggests they have abdicated their responsibility to comprehensively tackle child sexual abuse material".

The former employee concluded their statement by writing: "Unless there is...the credible threat of legislative and/or legal action. Facebook won't change".

- BBC

Tech giants try distancing themselves from Facebook

TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube are the latest technology giants to have been quizzed by US senators over concerns about their youngest users' safety.

During nearly four hours of questioning, on Monday, they tried to differentiate themselves from Facebook, which has faced increasing scrutiny from politicians in recent months.

But they were told: "Being different from Facebook is not a defence."

"That bar is in the gutter. It's not a defence to say that you are different."

In his opening remarks, senator Richard Blumenthal added: "We're hearing the same stories of harm."

"The problem is clear - big tech preys on children and teens to make more money"

"Everything you do is to add users, especially kids, and keep them on your apps."

Online safety plans need more clarity, says Twitter

"This is for big tech a big tobacco moment."

"It is a moment of reckoning."

"There will be accountability - this time is different."

'Camera company'

Facebook, accused of harming children's

mental wellbeing, has faced increasing calls for regulation.

But Snapchat told senators it did not belong in the same category.

"Snapchat was built as an antidote to social media," Snap global-public-policy vice-president Jennifer Stout said.

"In fact, we describe ourselves as a camera company."

TikTok public-policy head Michael Beckerman, meanwhile, told the hearing: "TikTok is not a social network based on followers."

"You watch TikToks, you create them."

But TikTok has faced accusations its algorithm serves harmful content to its teenage users, such as weight-loss videos or dangerous pranks.

'Addict's narrative'

The hearing follows Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen's document leaks to the Wall Street Journal, which include claims the parent company was aware of the "toxic" impact Instagram was having on teenage girls.

She said Facebook's own research had described one problem as "an addict's narrative" - where children were unhappy but could not control their use of the app or feel like they could stop using it.



But Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg said the platform had made efforts to fight harmful content.

"We care deeply about issues like safety, wellbeing and mental health," he said in a letter posted on his Facebook page.

"It's difficult to see coverage that misrepresents our work and our motives."

Main shield

Senators also have growing concerns about both censorship and the spread of misinformation.

And some say legislation protecting social networks from being sued - known as Section 230 - needs to be revisited.

Originally seen as a way to protect internet

providers such as BT or Comcast, it has become the main shield for huge sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, which cannot possibly review every post from their users before publication.

However, many US politicians claim the legislation is outdated and social networks must be held accountable.

- BBC



SUBSCRIBE FOR A FREE COPY
 BY SENDING YOUR EMAIL AND NUMBER
 TO **+264 81 200 4144** << **CLICK HERE**



EAGLE FM PROGRAMMES

FRIDAY

05h00-07h00
Morning Scoops with Kelvin
 07h00-09h00
Unpacking the Day with Wonder
 09h00-10h00
Free Your Mind
 10h00-12h00
Tech Eagle with Frans
 12h00-13h00
Brand Conversation with Sally
 13h00-14h30
On the Radar with Dwight

14h30-16h30
Ookundana Dthingi with Helen
 16h30-18h30
The Home Run with Frans/ Fanus
 18h30-20h00
Business Segment with Gabriel
 20h00-23h00
Omutumwa pamuee naTate Fly
 23h00-02h00
Penge Omhito pamue na Leonard

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

TO ADVERTISE

CONTACT MONICA: Cel: [+264 812703727](tel:+264812703727) | Email: monica@eaglefm.com.na



Pope Francis to visit Canada for indigenous reconciliation

Pope Francis has agreed to visit Canada to assist with ongoing reconciliation efforts with indigenous groups, the Vatican said on Wednesday.

The trip follows disturbing revelations this spring about the indigenous children who died while attending residential schools.

The Catholic Church was essential in the schools' founding and operation.

The date of the papal visit has not yet been announced.

The Pope has not issued a formal apology for the Church's role, despite repeated calls by Canadians.

In a short statement, the Vatican said that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops had invited the pope to make an apostolic trip to Canada "also in the context of the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples".

"His Holiness has indicated his willingness to visit the country on a date to be settled in due course," the statement said.

The pontiff had already invited an indigenous delegation from Canada to the Vatican. Three groups - First Nations, Metis and Inuit - will meet with him between 17 and 20 December.

In a statement on Wednesday, Toronto Cardinal Thomas Collins said he hoped that meeting would allow the Pope to "hear directly from those who have suffered".

In Canada, support for reconciliation - repairing the relationship between indigenous people, non-indigenous people and the government - is at a recent high. The support comes after a series of

“

In a short statement, the Vatican said that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops had invited the pope to make an apostolic trip to Canada "also in the context of the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples".

”

unmarked burial sites were discovered in western Canada over the spring and summer, most believed to belong to former students of residential schools.

Between May and July, more than 1,100 burial sites were found. Some of the remains were believed to be of children as young as three.

Assembly of First Nations Chief RoseAnne Archibald wrote on Twitter that she would welcome the Pope to Canada "to issue a long overdue apology" and called for reparations.

"I continue to ask that the Catholic church be accountable for their role in the forced assimilation and genocide of our children, families and Nations. Someone must be criminally charged," she said.

Jagmeet Singh, leader of the New Democratic Party, has said the church should not only apologise for its role in the school system but also offer compensation to survivors and release school records.

"An apology is not good enough," he told CBC News.

The landmark Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, released in 2015, detailed sweeping failures in the care and safety of these children, and complicity by the church and government.

"Government, church and school officials were well aware of these failures and their impact on student health," the authors wrote. "If the question is, 'who knew what when?' the clear answer is: 'Everyone in authority at any point in the system's history.'"

Among the TRC's 94 recommendations is a formal apology from the Catholic Church to survivors and their families. - BBC

Anti-Muslim violence flares up in Indian state

Subir Bhaumik

Tension prevails in India's north-eastern state of Tripura following attacks on mosques and properties owned by Muslims.

Security has been tightened and restrictions on gatherings have been enforced in the affected areas.

The violence followed clashes between Hindu groups and the police.

The groups were protesting against the police refusing them permission to hold a rally against recent attacks on Hindus in neighbouring Bangladesh.

At least seven people were killed, temples desecrated and hundreds of houses and businesses of the Hindu minority torched in Bangladesh earlier this month after rumours spread that the Quran had been insulted at a special pavilion set up for the annual Hindu religious festival of Durga Puja.

Tripura is encircled on three sides by Bangladesh and connected by a thin corridor to the neighbouring state of Assam. The state has been run by India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since 2018 after 25 years of Communist rule.

More than 10 incidents of religious violence have been reported from the North Tripura district in the past four days. Authorities enforced restrictions on large gatherings after Tuesday night's violence in the border town of Panisagar in which

a mosque and several shops belonging to Muslims were vandalised.

The attacks followed a rally taken out by the hardline Hindu organisation, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) - a close ally of the BJP.

Soubhik Dey, a senior police official in Panisagar, said some 3,500 people had taken part in the rally.

"Some VHP activists participating in the rally ransacked a mosque in the Chamtilla area. Later, three houses and three shops were ransacked and two shops were set on fire in the Rowa Bazar area, around 800 yards from the first incident," Mr Dey said.

Police said the ransacked shops and houses belonged to Muslims and a case has been filed based on a complaint by one of them. Narayan Das, a local leader of Bajrang Dal, another hardline Hindu group, has claimed that some youngsters in front of the mosque abused them and brandished swords, a charge that could not be independently verified.

The Tripura police tweeted that "some people are spreading rumours and circulating provocative messages on social media" and appealed to people to maintain peace.

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites.

Last week, the state unit of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, a Muslim organisation, had alleged that mobs had attacked

mosques and neighbourhoods dominated by Muslims. The Tripura police said that they were providing security to more than 150 mosques in the state.

Muslims make up less than 9% of Tripura's 4.2 million population.

"Though a majority of Tripura's population is Hindu refugees from what is now Bangladesh, there has never been any backlash against Muslims here after previous religious disturbances in the neighbouring country," said Bikach

Choudhury, a Tripura-based writer.

Opposition parties have blamed the "politically motivated fringe elements" close to the BJP for the attacks on Muslims. Sushmita Dev, an MP from the regional Trinamul Congress party, told the BBC that the BJP was trying to use the recent violence in Bangladesh to "polarise" the voters ahead of the municipal elections in the state in November.

Calls to Tripura's Minority Affairs' Minister Ratanlal Nath went unanswered.

But a BJP leader, on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media, told the BBC that the opposition should "not try to spin political capital out of a few sporadic incidents in reaction to the massive attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh".

He claimed that "the state government had done what is needed to control the situation".

- BBC





Israel advances plans for 3,000 new homes in West Bank settlements

The settlements are seen as illegal under international law, although Israel disagrees. Israel's government has advanced plans for more than 3,100 new homes in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. A planning committee gave its final approval for 1,800 housing units and preliminary approval for 1,344 others. The announcement follows a public rebuke of Israeli policy from US President Joe Biden's administration. It warned that it "strongly opposed the expansion of settlements" because it damaged prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. More than 600,000 Jews live in 145 settlements built since Israel's occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in

the 1967 Middle East war. Most of the international community considers the settlements illegal under international law, though Israel disputes this. The Palestinians have called on the world to confront Israel over the "aggression" constituted by settlement construction on land they claim for a future independent state. Media caption,(February 2020) The Gharib family's house is in a fenced-off enclave within an Israeli settlement. This week has seen the most significant announcements for expansion of Israeli settlements since President Biden entered the White House in January, says the BBC's Yolande Knell in Jerusalem. The Israeli anti-settlement watchdog Peace Now reported that the vast majority of the new homes approved on Wednesday

would be built in settlements deep inside the West Bank, and that several isolated settlements would undergo a "massive expansion". The decision follows another development on Sunday, when the Israeli authorities asked builders to submit bids for the construction of more than 1,355 settler homes that already have final approval. The Israel-Palestinian conflict explained On Tuesday, US state department spokesman Ned Price told reporters that it was "deeply concerned" by the Israeli plans. "We strongly oppose the expansion of settlements, which is completely inconsistent with efforts to lower tensions and to ensure calm, and it damages the prospects for a two-state solution," he said. Mr Price added that the Biden

administration would "raise our views on this issue directly with senior Israeli officials in our private discussions". Former US President Donald Trump displayed a much more tolerant attitude towards settlement activity and declared that settlements were not inconsistent with international law. Israel promoted plans for more than 30,000 settler homes in the West Bank during the four years he was in power, according to Peace Now. A senior Israeli official told Reuters news agency on Wednesday that Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government was "trying to balance between its good relations with the Biden administration and the various political constraints". Mr Bennett is a right-wing nationalist who took office in June at the head of a

coalition of eight parties from across the entire political spectrum of Israeli politics. He has long championed the right of Jewish settlement in the West Bank and rejects the notion of the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The prime minister has ruled out resuming peace talks with the Palestinians and said he will instead focus on initiatives to improve living conditions for them. Next week, the Israeli planning committee is scheduled to discuss plans for 1,300 new homes in Palestinian villages in the 60% of the West Bank, classified as "Area C" under the Oslo Accords, that is under full Israeli military and civil control. It would be the largest number of homes for Palestinians approved by Israel for more than a decade, according to Israeli media. - BBC

Paris attacks

UK Bataclan victim's sister tells accused 'we don't hate you'

The sister of the only British national killed in the 2015 Paris attacks has told the suspects on trial over the atrocity that while her family "deplore what you did, we don't hate you". Her brother Nick Alexander, 35, was killed when gunmen stormed the Bataclan Theatre in Paris during a rock concert. The attack was part of a co-ordinated assault by Islamic State (IS) group extremists that killed 130 people. It was the worst attack in France since World War Two. Salah Abdeslam, the only surviving member of the IS cell, and 19 other defendants are being tried in Paris over the attacks on a busy Friday night. The deadliest attack of the night came at the Bataclan, where Californian rock band Eagles of Death Metal was playing a gig in front of a sold-out crowd. Mr Alexander, from Essex in the UK, was working as the merchandise manager for the band when three gunmen entered the



venue and started shooting indiscriminately into the crowd. He suffered gunshot wounds and died in the arms of his ex-girlfriend Helen Wilson. "We're not at war with you" In court on Tuesday, Mr Alexander's sister, Zoe, addressed the defendants directly as she testified on the 33rd day of the biggest trial in France's modern history. Her brother, she told the court, shunned hatred. "You cannot neutralise poison with more poison," she said. Zoe Alexander to the BBC: 'My brother's life isn't defined by that night' Describing her brother as a music lover who upended conventions, she told the court Mr Alexander lived "a life of true authenticity, something those who carried out the atrocities of that night, under the orders of others, will never know". "We're not at war with you, you're at war with yourselves," Ms Alexander told the defendants. On the first anniversary of the attack, Ms Alexander and her parents created the Nick

Alexander Memorial Trust, which provides music equipment to disadvantaged communities across the UK. "The terrorists tried to leave a legacy of darkness but through the work we have done we have left a legacy of light," Ms Alexander told AFP news agency after testifying. She is one of the latest relatives of a victim to testify since the trial opened at the Palace of Justice last month. On Wednesday she told the BBC the atmosphere in court was "very emotional". "It's very intense and it's hard to relive those details, especially six years later, when a lot of healing has gone on," she said. "To unpack those emotions again has been a difficult process for a lot of those survivors." On Tuesday, the court also heard from the father of Guillaume Valette, who killed himself two years after the attacks. Known in French media as the 131st victim of the attacks, he came out alive and physically unharmed from the massacre in

the Bataclan. When the attackers struck, Mr Valette had recounted lying on the ground, hiding among a mass of bodies, cut down by the bullets, his father Alain told the court. He then hid until police intervened and managed to escape unscathed. However, he received "invisible bullets, which killed him, slowly but surely", his father said. He said his son suffered from post-traumatic stress and took his own life two years later, aged 31. About 350 survivors and relatives of the dead are expected to give their accounts during the trial. IS admitted carrying out the co-ordinated attacks on the Bataclan concert hall, a major stadium, restaurants and bars on 13 November 2015. Of the 20 suspects on trial, six are being tried in absentia. They are facing charges of murder, complicity and terrorist conspiracy. Most of the accused, including Abdeslam, could be sentenced to life in jail if convicted. - BBC



Big Style, Big Screen, Big Hybrid Plans

■ Alex Kierstein

This compact SUV welcomes big-time tech and an in-your-face look.

Hyundai and Kia are clearly rivals, albeit sibling rivals. The two brands feature overlapping offerings, each with a distinct character and design. This competition is proving very good for consumers with an eye for style, as the two brands trade bleeding-edge design broadsides. Take, for instance, the Hyundai Ioniq 5's neo-retro vibe. Kia's EV6 rides on the same platform, with an equally avant-garde look—but much sleeker. The EV6 is part of Kia's forward-looking "Opposites United" design philosophy. Kia's electric SUV may have forged this design language, but the brand new 2023 Kia Sportage is going to be its crucible.

It's a reimagining the Sportage desperately needed—the current model debuted way back in 2016 for the 2017 model year. The Sportage's styling turned heads a half-decade or so ago (it was certainly provocative, by the standards of the time), but now it just looks stale.

Especially next to the new model. Look at the complex interplay between the boomerang running lights and the new "Digital Tiger Face"—a paired design element that sits above, and complements, a complex and contemporary grille. As is the trend, the actual headlamps are less prominent than the boomerang running lights. Below the grille, a wide lower intake and fog lamps sit below a body-coloured chinstrap. The sides are deeply sculpted, and the kicked-up D-pillar garnish is a neat variation on the floating roof theme, which will surely be enhanced with the option of a contrasting black-finished roof. The rear plays with some EV6 styling concepts (albeit with less dramatic, larger taillights), but on the whole, this is a bold look for Kia compact SUV. In fact, it barely registers as a relative of today's Sportage.

The interior has almost as much of the sci-fi shuttlecraft look as the EV6's cabin. The most prominent part is the massive curved slab, a fusion of infotainment and instrument display that comes off a bit like a junior varsity version of the Mercedes-Benz Hyperscreen, covering nearly 25 inches of real state. It sweeps across an elegant dash, terminating where a large air vent and trim piece picks up and sweeps

clear to the door card. There are contrasting material colors melded with piano black and bright metal—particularly in the large, solid-looking interior door handles.

Just like with its newest models, Kia is expanding technology to the masses. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, and a new touchpad for the HVAC controls brings an upscale touch to the already premium-looking cabin.

The 2023 Kia Sportage will arrive with a diverse lineup. LX, EX, SX and SX-Prestige will serve as the urban models, while the X-Line and the new X-Pro and X-Pro Prestige will offer more off-road capability including standard all-wheel drive.

Sharing its platform with the Hyundai Tucson, the Sportage is much longer than the outgoing model—7.1 inches to be exact. That, along with the 3.4-inch longer wheelbase, means the new model has more passenger and cargo space. Kia says those in the rear will have 41.3 inches of legroom, while cargo capacity increases to 39.6 cubic feet.

Although Kia hasn't given us full specs on the Sportage, we can anticipate it will share most of them with the Hyundai Tucson. What we do know is that a 2.5-liter naturally aspirated four-cylinder will serve as the base engine for the Sportage, with Kia targeting 187 hp (just like in the Tucson). An eight-speed automatic will send that power to the front wheels, or all four corners if all-wheel drive is selected. Although Kia hasn't revealed torque numbers, we expect it will deliver the same 178 lb-ft the Tucson delivers.

While the Sportage will be available in hybrid and plug-in hybrid form, Kia is keeping quiet on specs or timing. Expect the same powertrains as in the Tucson, with the hybrid delivering 226 hp and 258 lb-ft of torque, and the plug-in hybrid delivering 261 hp and 268 lb-ft of torque.

Sportage X-Line and X-Pro variants come standard with AWD and synthetic leather seats that are easy to clean, according to Kia. X-Line can be easily distinguished thanks to its much different lower front fascia, blocky side sill trim, 19-inch wheels, a patterned rear bumper, and the addition of a roof rack. Inside, sage green or black trimmed seats pair with quilted accents and "black metal wood" for a premium outdoorsy feel. In addition to the BFGoodrich all-terrain tires, X-Pro models get 17-inch matte black off-

road wheels, multi-terrain drive modes with Normal, Sport, Smart and Snow modes and an available two-tone roof.

The 2023 Kia Sportage will arrive with a long list of standard safety technologies including lane keeping assist, forward

collision avoidance with cyclist detection, rear view monitor and automatic high beams. More equipped models can upgrade to features like blind-spot view monitor, highway driving assist, navigation-based smart cruise control, and smart cruise

control, among others.

We'll have more details on the 2023 Kia Sportage—including its price and specs on the hybrid and plug-in hybrid variants—once it arrives to the U.S. in the first quarter of next year. — **Motor Trend**



T20 World Cup: Scotland beaten by Namibia



Matthew Henry

Namibia held their nerve to beat Scotland by four wickets in the final over of a tense Super 12s match at the Men's T20 World Cup.

Namibia, who like Scotland are competing at this stage for the first time, stuttered in their chase of 110 but sneaked home with five balls to spare in Abu Dhabi.

They were 67-4 at one stage and their scoring ground to a halt as two more wickets fell late on, but JJ Smit hit an unbeaten 32 from 23 balls to seal victory with a six over point.

Scotland were left ruing a horror start with the bat before they limped to 109-8, largely

thanks to Michael Leask's 27-ball 44.

George Munsey was bowled by the first ball of the match and Scotland were 2-3 when Ruben Trumpelmann took two more wickets in the opening over.

Humbled by Afghanistan in their opening Super 12 game, Scotland face New Zealand, India and Pakistan in their remaining Group 2 fixtures.

Namibia had never won a World Cup match before this tournament but can now add this triumph to the historic victories against the Netherlands and Ireland which took them through the qualifying round.

Namibia came into the game as slight underdogs, ranked 16th in the world to Scotland's 12th, but, despite their wobble

with the bat, ended the match posing for photographs after another landmark victory.

When their captain Gerhard Erasmus was bowled by left-arm spinner Leask and opener Craig Williams was stumped down the leg side off Mark Watt in the 12th and 13th overs respectively, there was an outside chance of a Scotland victory.

But Smit remained calm, even when David Wiese fell for 16 with eight still needed.

In truth, Namibia won the game through Trumpelmann's opening burst.

The fiery left-arm seamer found swing and utilised it well. After Munsey played on, Calum MacLeod edged behind and Richie Berrington - Scotland's stand-in captain with Kyle Coetzer sidelined by a finger injury -

was lbw to a ball that nipped back.

Leask's hard-hitting innings, which included four fours and two leg-side sixes, rescued Scotland from a repeat of their 60 all out against Afghanistan.

He also took 2-12. Had Scotland mustered another 20 runs, their bowling display may have been enough.

'A very proud moment' - reaction

Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus: "It's been emotional coming through the group stage. We put those emotions away for a bit. The boys put in an excellent performance.

"It's a very proud moment and we'll savour with the small group of people here and all

the Namibians back home. It's a small but proud country."

Scotland stand-in captain Richie Berrington: "It's been a disappointing day for us. We were probably 20 or 30 runs short. It's pretty hard to recover after a first over like that.

"Credit to Namibia. They put us under pressure. We struggled to recover and couldn't get the score in the first innings."

Player of the match Ruben Trumpelmann: "I really enjoyed myself out there. It's awesome under the lights. It's the World Cup so why not enjoy it?"

"This victory means a lot for the team. Hopefully we'll get a few more. This is massive for us."

- BBC

Eddie Hearn: Chantelle Cameron deserved headline billing; Dillian Whyte v Tyson Fury 'perfect fight'



Cameron's promoter and talks to BBC Sport about Cameron's unification fight against Mary McGee and Whyte's options after injury forced him to withdraw from his bout against Otto Wallin.

Matchroom Boxing's next show on Saturday in London is headlined by Cameron - and Hearn also talks about Anthony Joshua's recent trip abroad to visit American gyms.

This sport is full of highs and lows. When we got the call last week that Dillian Whyte was injured, you're automatically faced with the disappointment of losing the main event, the fans disappointment of losing the main event and then bigger than that - what do we do?

On one hand it's easy to walk away from the show. You've sold 13,000 tickets, but now the refunds are flying out and you no longer have a main event, so what's the point?

On the other hand, you have nine other fights that are already made - unified world championship clashes, career-defining moments and some top British prospects. But more importantly 18 fighters that have worked tirelessly for the last 10 weeks to get themselves in physical condition, ready to work, ready to get paid and ready to chase their dreams.

None more so than the unified world championship fight between Chantelle Cameron and Mary McGee. It's the first semi-final of our 'road to undisputed' tournament at 140lb.

Cameron, who may already be pound-for-pound one of the top fighters in the women's sport, faces American world champion McGee for the WBC, IBF and inaugural Ring magazine titles. I felt to walk away from this show would not only be doing the fighters on the card an injustice, but the growth of women's boxing.

“ This 'road to undisputed' tournament is so simple. All the world championship belts are on the line in two semi-finals and a final. The winner comes out undisputed. ”

You've seen a women's world championship event headline a show on Sky Sports last week. Next week in Las Vegas, Mikaela Mayer fights Maiva Hamadouche in a unified world championship event that headlines a show on ESPN. So, there is tremendous momentum in the women's sport - Cameron against McGee is set to be a cracking addition to a blossoming female schedule.

This 'road to undisputed' tournament is so simple. All the world championship belts are on the line in two semi-finals and a final. The winner comes out undisputed.

How great would the sport be if there was one single champion in every division? Fortunately, in female boxing, you have the opportunity to make that happen.

That is down to: one - the desire of the champions; two, the lack of politics of other promoters and networks; three - they haven't yet earned the kind of money that is available in tournaments such as these.

We started this tournament in October and by the spring of next year we will be able to crown an undisputed champion in the 140lb weight class. And I would say that final will be between Cameron and Kali Reis.

It's no secret since Katie Taylor walked into my office eight years ago, we've been fully committed to the growth of female boxing. No-one has invested in the women's code like Matchroom and no-one understands it better. It is however very encouraging to see other promoters and broadcasters now do the same.

We're also in negotiations with Jake Paul to stage the biggest female fight of all time at Madison Square Garden between undisputed lightweight world champion Taylor and the seven-time world champion Amanda Serrano. It's only a matter of time before female events start getting the attention they deserve.

I know there's been a lot of speculation regarding Whyte and his injury, but for us it's a lot more simple than that. When the WBC confirmed he would be the mandatory challenger to the Tyson Fury-Deontay Wilder winner around a month ago, we spoke internally as a team and remained fully committed to proceeding with the Otto Wallin fight.

Whyte hasn't boxed since March. Quite frankly he was making a huge amount of money for the Wallin fight and he'd already been training for it since May.

A couple of weeks on, Whyte picked up an injury to his right shoulder. This was assessed by a doctor and treated. He took a very short rest from sparring and the following week returned to sparring, only to have to cut short a session, unable to continue. This was followed by further assessment and an MRI scan, where his doctor confirmed he was unable to go ahead with the fight.

Whyte had five sparring partners in Portugal, had spent an absolute fortune on a training camp. No-one wanted to fight more than Whyte. Unfortunately, injuries happen, especially with the big boys. His withdrawal from the fight benefitted no one.

I've spoken to Wallin's team at length, Whyte's options are now to look at rescheduling the Wallin fight or, of course, much more likely go straight into the challenge of Fury for the world heavyweight title early in 2022.

Let's be honest, he's waited long enough for this opportunity and what a great fight for world boxing. No-one deserves a shot at the world heavyweight title more than Whyte.

Coming off his great win against Deontay Wilder, it would be great to see Fury fight back in the UK. I couldn't think of a more perfect fight. I think it's the biggest all-

British heavyweight fight since Lennox Lewis against Frank Bruno in 1993.

Fury hasn't fought in the UK since 2018. With his profile now, following the three Wilder fights, and the popularity of Whyte, that one would fill a stadium for sure.

'AJ still hurting'

The boxing rumour mill was in full force following Anthony Joshua's trip to the States. I was out there with AJ in what was a mixture of a holiday and a little bit of training as well. I wouldn't look too deeply into the trip other than this is just part of the preparation to become a three-time world champion.

All that is in AJ's head is beating Oleksandr Usyk in a rematch. He knows he has to improve. He knows he has to come in with a better gameplan.

He spoke with a number of trainers and visited a number of gyms, not as an interview process, but as an experience. To look at different set-ups, speak to great minds about the fight and put a slightly different perspective on things.

It was nice for AJ to move around in public in the US without the pressure of hundreds of photographs and signatures, of which he always gladly gives. I wonder whether his training camp will take place in the States for this fight?

You can see the defeat is still hurting him, which quite frankly is great to see. It shows you how much he wants it. There are many people that, following a defeat like that, would bury their head in the sand, go on holiday, lose focus and spend their time eating and drinking. That's not the case with AJ.

You're going to see a different Anthony Joshua in the rematch, I'm sure of that. We'll talk together as a team for how preparation should look for what will be a crunch clash next spring.

- BBC