

The Villager

wherever you are

Education Not To Be Blamed

For Vision 2030 Failure - Iivula-Itana



Justicia Shipena

Former home affairs minister and Swapo Secretary-General Pendukeni Iivula-Itana says education should not be blamed for the derailment of the Vision 2030 agenda. Her comments come after, Swapo's Think Tank cautioned that Namibia might not attain its Vision 2030 because its education system fails to produce quality graduates. According to her, the education part of the vision was just an aspect of it. "I don't know why people are talking about the derailment by education, meaning the students were supposed to be the ones to



drive vision 2030 or what?" questioned Iivula-Itana. She said Vision 2030 covered many areas of development. "Well, education is part of it, but it cannot delay the achievement of the Vision 2030 because it was just an aspect that was not the main aim of Vision 2030," she said. She added that education was not going to be the vision's driver. "The driver was supposed to be government putting in place those policies and actions taken to achieve the vision's end goals," she adds. Iivula-Itana said a five-year planner accompanied Vision 2030. "It means that at every interval of five years,



the nation is supposed to evaluate how much the vision has been achieved and what was achieved," she added. She also stated that since she was in the government, they had gone through five terms of five years of evaluation on the achievement intended by Vision 2030. "Now, with the Harambee Prosperity Plan which has come into play, I do not know whether that was following the vision, or it replaced the vision, or what it was." "I don't know. I lost track of it over the past ten years, so I cannot tell how far Vision 2030 has been followed and achieved."

Continued on P2

Comalie Says Oil Discovery to Double Namibia's GDP by 2040

...As Geingob Pushes Gas Project



Justicia Shipena

National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor)'s board chairperson Jennifer Comalie says the oil and gas discoveries in the country could double Namibia's GDP by 2040.

Comalie said this in an interview with Qatar Economic Forum sponsor Bloomberg at the ongoing Forum in the middle east. "So this is a massive game-changer for us. These two discoveries could bring up to US\$5.6 billion to a tiny economy and double the GDP by 2040," she narrated.

Hence, she said Namibia looks forward to having the resources to implement its plans to address our social-economic issues. "What we have realised from the learnings of other African countries that have discovered oil and gas is that we need to be serious about local content." Comalie expressed that the country has an opportunity to negotiate that local content still.

"Wat it looks. What it will look like

with our partners when we come closer to issuing that production license," said Comalie.

While stating that Namibia has learned that policy is one, but there is a need for legislation in the country.

"This is to ensure we have the backing that these targets. That we can monitor them, enforce if those targets are not reached, so really the conversation in Namibia now is what will be that local content."

The Namcor chair, however, says the discoveries of light oils in Namibia will not get the country into net zero.

When quizzed whether Namibia is receiving more pressure to deliver carbon neutral in producing net-zero oil, she said Namibia had discovered light oil. Net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible. Countries, Namibia included, were asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reduction targets that align with reaching net zero

Continued on P2

adforce

INTRODUCING

Stream all your regional and international entertainment.

MTCTV+

Subscribe Now
<https://mtctvplus.com/>

make the connection
mtc

f t i mtc.com.na

Education

Meanwhile, political analysts have criticised the Think Tank on Vision 2030 comments, stating they are coming alive to what is happening on the ground.

Political analyst Henning Melber says the Swapo Think Tank referring to the non-delivery of the Namibian education system as a root cause for not achieving vision 2030 is blaming a symptom.

He stated that the lack of delivery of the education system is an integral part of the overall lack of delivery during the last 30-plus years. He added that Vision 2030 was based on entirely unrealistic assumptions and wishful thinking.

"To assume that Namibia would be a fully industrialised country within the given time limit, self-sufficient in the food supply, autonomous with no unemployment and no poverty is just something which everyone could predict will not happen in the given time," said Melber.

Melber expressed that the Swapo Think Tank, now after 25 years, is saying something that should have been common sense is simply a late effort to prepare the public for non-delivery.

"But that in itself was not needed because the public experiences it daily that there is no non-delivery," he said.

Additionally, he said the existing policy where never able to implement Vision 2030. "Even more and better-planned investments would not have achieved Vision 2030 considering the point of departure and limited means this government had at its hands," he said.

Melber also emphasised that the government did not use the options that would have existed.

"It was obvious from the start that Vision 2030 is just a popularised prime, but almost nobody dared to say so out of respect for Tatekulu Sam Nujoma. But also because the culture of fear which is an integral part of Swapo politics, prevents almost everyone from pointing out that vision 2030 will not happen within the time frame."

He further stressed that government authorities, institutions and line ministries pretended that Vision 2030, as the guideline, would be followed to be implemented by 2030.

"As we now know, that won't happen, and we could have known then," he stated.

Melber also observed that it is good to have plans, strategies and a concept against which the aims and goals can be measured and a degree of delivery.

"But that requires a realistic blueprint and good governance, and I'm afraid Namibia lacks both," he said.

Another political analyst Ndumba Kamwanyah says the reality is hitting Swapo.

"As I agree with the Think Tank, that Vision 2030 will never be realised. Lately, for the past five years, government officials have been careful not to talk about it," he said.

He stated that the problem with the vision is that it is very broad, over-ambitious, and promises many things that could not be realised.

"But it is also because there is no clear road map to achieve or implement it. It was sort of a symbolic vision but over-promised many hopes with no agenda on how to move towards," said Kamwanyah.

Hence he said he does not think it is realistic for politicians to talk about Vision 2030 because it is a vision to nowhere at this stage. "Sometimes we have to be honest with ourselves, and I think the Think Tank should be thanked that they are being honest," he adds.

On speaking policies, he said many Namibian policies do not speak to the agenda of Vision 2030.

"We also have a problem implementing our policies, and that is where the issue is. You can have good, well-written policies written on paper, but if we don't have a strategy on how to implement them, you will have a problem. That is where we find ourselves," he stressed.

He also aired that Namibian people have given up on Vision 2030.

"Unfortunately, that is a sad situation, but I think it speaks to how we plan things."

VISION 2030 A BAD DREAM

Meanwhile, opposition leader McHenry Venaani paints Vision 2030 as a mirage and a bad dream.

"I have been saying that vision 2030 was a mirage and a bad dream. The think tank just came very late onto the party," he said.

Venaani added that if one wants to industrialise a country, one must have niche markets in which they wish to industrialise.

"Those markets have never been identified. Namibia is a net importer 70 per cent of our food commodities are imported from South Africa," said Venaani.

He adds that it is coupled with the education system that is "throwing graduates into the streets" and lacks research bodies and industrialisation.

"You have never heard President Hage Geingob speaking about vision 2030 because he knows that it is not going to be a reality, now he has gone into the Harambee Prosperity Plan, and now it's green hydrogen. We are being sold dreams—one dream after another. Green hydrogen will not be implemented in the time of Hage Geingob. The government has failed to put up these things that will not be attainable."

He also narrated that Namibian people had lost hope in the vision, and the hope was never there at the start.

"People knew it was a lie and a mirage," he lauded.

STUDENTS LEADERS

Furthermore, student leaders say that graduates cannot be blamed for Vision 2030 not being attained.

Student leader George Kambala says there is a lack of cohesion in the government and commitment toward the citizenry.

He states that for the past 30 years, the government has been failing to produce proper graduates.

With 2030 just around the corner, Kambala said: "Seeing now that vision 2030 is only a few years away, they are trying to get an excuse why they can't attain the particular goals."

He also questioned what happened to Harambee Prosperity Plan II.

"One question that now, if we are not able to attain vision 2030 because of lack of education, what happened to Harambee II? Are we still saying the same thing?" he questioned.

Kambala said it is shocking that people who have been master's degree holders and doctorates from the same university are calling them pathetic.

"Is disappointing of this coming from Swapo Think Tank."

Students Union of Namibia (SUN)'s acting secretary-general Oscar Shikongo told The Villager that the Think Tank is confused and is losing focus.

"So far, we have a good education system, but as long as the government of Swapo just wants students that are doing medicine, engineering, teachers and nurses but are neglecting those who are in the arts industry," he said.

Shikongo expressed that they are diverting Vision 2030 and are now trying to blame the education system.

"Now they are trying to blame graduates, but they are not pointing fingers at the line ministries. Swapo Think Tank should blame their cabinet instead of the graduates," he stressed.

He claims that Swapo caused a lot of mess in the education sector.

"Now they are pointing fingers at us; that is a big insult, trying to insult innocent graduates instead of solving their problems with cabinet and line ministry."

The ruling party's Think Tank has proposed a complete revamp of the current education system. According to them, this is to bring about meaningful education, eliminate excessive dependency and instil a sense of self-reliance in graduates.

Think Tank member Professor Frednard Gideon's paper presented to the party central committee shows that the basic education system has failed to produce graduates capable of realising Vision 2030.

He also had said existing policies indirectly or deliberately hinder qualified Namibians from participating in the country's development as

they are shut out from specific sectors captured by sister countries.

Gideon recommended a programme to attract talented Namibians and non-Namibians from overseas who can take up research and development careers.

Gideon observed that the existing state and parastatal policies make it structurally awkward for Namibians to establish private educational institutions.

“It was obvious from the start that Vision 2030 is just a popularised prime, but almost nobody dared to say so out of respect for Tatekulu Sam Nujoma.”

Oil

by the middle of the century, following Cop26.

"We were fortunate to have discovered light oil, which is lower carbon emissions, but we definitely not going to get onto the net-zero situation. We are looking at green solutions to power those productions," she said.

She added that the new oil discoveries in Namibia have been a game-changer for the country.

"Our first discovery after independence, so it has really been more than 30 years of exploration and finally, we hit the jackpot," she said.

While promoting the oil discoveries at the economic Forum, she also stated that all partners in these projects are aligned on the issue that Namibia needs to get to production as soon as possible.

"Actually, we are starting to look at designs to get to market as soon as possible," she adds.

Comalie said Namibia needs to find alternative sources, especially in the green energy space.

"There is still a lot of technology that needs to advance, cost of that technology that needs to come down before putting solutions in place."

Moreover, she said the country can still play a critical role in developing resources for Namibia's benefit. According to her, this has a massive opportunity for us to do the right thing.

She touched on the green hydrogen project and added that Namibia is looking at it as a future project for Namibia but also getting involved now.

Quizzed about how real green hydrogen is a solution to global problems and how soon it can be delivered practically, Comalie said Namibia has invested a lot of energy into it and thought of it as a massive opportunity for the country.

"We are one of the global leaders in terms of wind and solar resources. We can compare ourselves very well to Chile and Saudi Arabia when we produce green hydrogen," she explained.

She also said Namibia wants to be part of shaping that future.

"We are talking long-term here. We are talking 2030 and 2040, but in the interim, there are some things that we can do to speed

up that process and pilot studies. We want to be part of that."

At the same Forum, President Hage Geingob held bilateral talks with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the Royal Palace, Amiri Diwan.

Geingob informed the Emir that fighting poverty was a vital goal of the Namibian government.

Hence, he said Namibia seeks more investments from friendly countries like Qatar to grow the economy and create jobs. He also emphasised that Qatar-Namibia commercial relations were growing at a fast pace.

The Emir lauded Namibia for its record of good governance and peace under the leadership of President Geingob.

With Qatar Airways resuming flights to Namibia on 25 June 2022, the two leaders agreed that the tourism sector held tremendous potential for growth.

In that vein, the Qatari government had shown interest in working closely with the Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) to scale up cooperation in the hospitality sector.

The two leaders also agreed that investments in energy, the hospitality sector and mining were showing positive results that could benefit the partnership.

The Emir also said Qatar was ready to share its experience in domains that could interest the Namibian government.

"In that vein, attracting investment through deeper economic partnerships with countries such as Qatar is a key priority of the Geingob Presidency," a statement issued by the presidency read.

The Qatar Economic Forum concludes on 22 June 2022. On the last day, Geingob will address the Forum on inequality and the emergence of Namibia as a new green energy superpower in Africa.

Geingob will also hold meetings with key investors in the domains of agriculture, energy and other sectors.

The Qatar Economic Forum, in its second edition, brings together world leaders and entrepreneurs worldwide. This year's second Forum is hosted under the theme "Equalising the Global Recovery" in 2022 with various heads of state, including more than 500 business leaders and more than 75 keynote speakers, who will discuss economic trends, challenges, and post-pandemic recovery.

Local Authority Retirement Fund Members Reject 75 per cent Preservation

■ **Ludorf Iyambo**



90 per cent of members of the retirement fund for local authorities and utility services (RFLAUN) strongly disagree with the 75 per cent preservation of pension funds.

This is according to a recent consultation survey conducted by the retirement fund before the implementation of the Financial Institutions and Markets Act (FIMA), which is still scheduled for 1 October 2022 as promulgated.

According to the survey, five per cent disagree, one per cent is indifferent, another one per cent agree, while three per cent of local authority retirement fund members strongly concur in favour of the current drafted regulations.

The retirement fund has, in the meantime, cautioned its members not to implement any compulsory preservation provisions whilst the decision to be referred to parliament is being prepared and while, at the same time, allowing proper consultations through the parliamentary system.

"It is our hope that the results of the survey conducted and with the outcome as indicated above will further guide the policymakers in terms of the members' sentiments regarding preservation," RFLAUN's Julianus Rukamba said.

He further stated that the results of the survey, which were submitted to FIMA regulator, NAMFISA, will also be made as part of the consultation process with finance

people and allow the public to follow the debates and decisions transparently.

The fund further conducted a survey on members' opinions regarding the proposed compulsory preservation regulation, and the preliminary outcome of the survey shows that among those who think it is a good idea to preserve retirement benefits when exiting a retirement fund, only 16 per cent are positive about it. Meanwhile, 84 per cent are against it.

The survey shows the opinion on preservation in percentage as 38 per cent for no preservation, one per cent for the proposed 75 per cent preservation, three per cent in favour of 50 per cent preservation, five per cent for 33 per cent preservation, while 53 per cent opted for voluntary preservation. Previously, the Secretary-General of the Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA), Mahongora Kavihuha, said the government should not dictate how people spend or invest their money.

"We cannot dictate on the foreign investments. We cannot dictate the market or how to conduct it. So equally, workers cannot dictate how to spend their money, how they want to invest it," said Kavihuha. According to him, people cannot make decisions that affect other people on their personal feelings on how best they can facilitate the "looting processes."

"The money you are talking about is workers' money, and there is no one under this free market that can debate someone's investments," he said.

Local Producers Came Through For Potatoes In June



Nghinomenwa Erastus

In one of the rare moments in the country's horticulture production patterns, the local farmers have planted and will wash enough potatoes for June for the domestic market.

The Namibia Agronomic Board (NAB) has announced its monthly notice to importers and traders, which was revised on 16 June 2022.

The information from the Board has also indicated that the small and medium producers are contributing significantly to the potato supply.

"Border closed for the importation of all types, size groups, and container sizes fresh, chilled, whole, or cut potato," the Board wrote.

One of the horticultural products that Namibian producers stubbornly struggle to supply adequately are potatoes, more specifically washed potatoes.

The country's average monthly potato demand from June to September is estimated to be around 2 989 tons.

For June, it is not only potatoes that local producers have planted sufficiently to meet local demand. There are other 12 products out of 18 controlled products which will be supplied fully by local producers.

These are beetroot, butternut, cabbage, carrots, English cucumber, coloured pepper, green pepper, onions, pumpkin, round tomato, jam tomato and lettuce (iceberg).

As for sweet potatoes, the local producers will only be able to produce/supply 80 per cent of the formal market requirement. The remaining 20 per cent will be sourced outside.

The country border will be, however, open

wide (without restriction) for the importation of five horticulture products; gem squash, watermelon, sweet melon, sweetcorn and spinach.

However, those producing the five products can notify the Board as the 47 per cent Market Share Promotion rule still applies.

It is also noted that certain products can grow well in winter, while some do in summer. But given the country's different climatic conditions, production can be spread according to seasons around the country.

The data submitted shows that producers of butternuts, cabbage, onions and pumpkins will produce more than what the formal requires, able to supply the informal markets and sufficiently to export if there are markets. Butternuts and cabbages producers are expected to have a production surplus of around 410 tons and 462 tons, respectively, for the month of June.

Planting and harvesting data received by the Board for onions and pumpkins production for the month indicates that there will be a surplus of around 116 tons and 115 tons for the two products, respectively.

Since May, onions harvest data have been quite promising, exceeding local demand, and it is also forecasted that more-than-adequate production levels will continue till September this year.

The import restrictions are subjected to changes. However, the changes heavily depend on the updated production data from the producers.

Thus, producers are encouraged to immediately notify NAB in case of deviations from their cropping program or in the event of crop failures as a result of factors beyond producers' control.

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na

“
The country's average monthly potato demand from June to September is estimated to be around 2 989 tons.
 ”

Trouble in banking paradise: Bank BIC's zero profits since 2015



Kelvin Chiringa

Trouble has reared its head in the local banking sector paradise as a latest report has disclosed that Bank BIC is the only banking institution that has failed to make a profit in the past five years.

The bank is making N\$147 000 losses every day it is operating.

This comes as the Angolan-connected bank survived the firing line when the freezing of the assets of controversial Angolan business mogul Isabella Dos Santos failed to affect its operations in Namibia.

But the bank's woes are far from over, as the latest financial report shows that it has been massively bailed out by its shareholders while running cumulative losses since 2015. With a mere five branches in Namibia so far, Bank BIC is operating at the back of a N\$218 million loss, which has piled up through the years.

Available statistics show a bloody trail which started with a N\$6 million loss in 2015 before it ballooned to N\$23 million in the 2017 financial year—further spiralling to a staggering N\$26 million by the following year.

By 2019, Bank BIC's losses had peaked at a massive N\$45 million, and currently, it is limping with a N\$53.9 million loss for the 2021 financial year.

Bank BIC is the odd one out in a sector where Standard Bank Namibia Holdings made a profit of N\$371 million for the 2021 financial year, with FNB pre-provision profits growing 6.6 per cent to N\$957 million by the 31st of December 2021.

Overall, the banking sector remained profitable.

The fall at SME bank and the falling dominoes in the Dos Santos empire saw Bank BIC turning out to be a candle flickering in the wind, and concerns are how long will shareholders continue pumping in money before the cards come tumbling down.

A report of two years ago indicated that a court in Angola had issued an order to freeze the bank accounts of Dos Santos on the 31st of December 2019, and by then, she had 42,5 per cent shareholding in Bank BIC.

Then Bank of Namibia governor, Iipumbu Shiimi, said to journalists, "It should be kept in mind that Bank BIC Namibia Limited is owned by multiple shareholders and the Bank of Namibia is not aware of any development that could threaten the stability of BIC Namibia at the moment."

"The Bank of Namibia is aware of developments in Angola pertaining to an indirect shareholder in a locally licensed bank, Bank BIC Namibia Limited. The Angolan authority has not reached out to the Bank of Namibia in relation to Bank BIC Namibia Limited."

Now with rolling year-after-year losses, business reporter and analyst Lazarus Amukeshe said it is a matter of time before the regulator knocks on its door.

The Bank of Namibia is the headmaster of the local banking sector and ensures stability in the system by weeding out bad apples.

"It's definitely going to raise the eyes of the regulator in terms of you would want a bank ideally, if it's keeping people's deposits, to be able to retain a certain level of income not only to pay interest for people that have saved their money but also just to allow for sustainability in the future," he said.

Ya Ndakolo Says Unfit Underground Water Should Not Stop Oshikoto Agriculture



Eba Kandovazu

The governor of the Oshikoto region Penda ya Ndakolo says he is aware of water issues in the region.

He also said there are areas in the region that contain underground water unfit for human, crop or animal consumption and that there is a lack of resources with the region prone to drought.

He, however, says it should not limit or stop inhabitants from making the region an agricultural hub.

He says this would not only boost the local economy but further address the issue of unemployment in the region, particularly amongst the youth.

The former defence minister made the remarks while launching the Ondera School and Community project, which he says aims to address food shortages.

He said last year, the Oshikoto Regional Council and the United Nations' World Food Programme entered into a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at identifying projects

and other areas of investments in the region, viable for implementation through the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

According to him, the Ondera School and Community Project were identified and considered one of the region's projects to be implemented under the said programme.

The launch occurred at Ondera Resettlement Farm, which is home to about 500 marginalised families.

"We have seen various development partners, such as Namibia's Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA-Fund), Project of Hope and World Food Programme, among others coming on board to assist government and the region in particular to implement the concept of this project. Hunger affects hundreds of millions of people around the globe. It undermines economic growth, causes human suffering, stunts our children's growth, and impacts human dignity in general," ya Ndakolo said.

He stressed that although government has made progress in working towards

attaining various national goals, such goals, including the provision of drought relief aid to feed more than 744 000, a myriad of challenges persist. He says these span from the Covid-19, climatic edaphic such as drought and other socio-economic factors constraint Namibia's agricultural production and productivity.

"This exacerbated shocks to the production and value chain system of both commercial and communal farming sectors in the country. We have seen, for example, how our food systems as a nation were tested during the closing of borders as a preventative measure for Covid-19 in 2020. Though that was not permanent, it magnified the vulnerabilities present in our food systems, which deny our people access to nutritional food and a healthy balanced diet."

He said it is essential that strong and empowered coordination mechanisms, including a wide range of producers and stakeholders, are put in place.

This, he said, is "to ensure that policies and programs of government and development

partners are aligned with the national and regional priorities to address hunger and poverty, as well as to build a strong and healthy food system for our country."

He added that in Oshikoto, agriculture production is mainly based on crops and livestock, which support the livelihood of nearly 80 per cent of the region's population. The governor said that the Ondera project is inclusive and of regional development. He urged the Ondera Community to capitalise on the project and modernise food production by adopting a climate-resilient, cost-effective and technology-led approach associated with high yield to contribute to national food security.

He pleaded with the project beneficiaries to utilise and treat the "cherished support" as a gateway to attract more investments, not only in the Ondera Farm community but in the region as a whole.

"Your commitments and willingness to utilise this support in good faith is relied upon by the whole region in an effort to attract more support and investments of this magnitude in the Region," Ya Ndakolo maintained.

Meanwhile, the Oshikoto Regional Council chairperson Samuel Shivute said the global crisis triggered increased food and fuel prices, making living costs very expensive, and that it further crippled the efforts of many governments around the world in fighting poverty and hunger.

He said the council and the World Food Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021, aimed at partnering and collaborating in the implementation of projects that are ideal to be executed through the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

The partnership aims to address key driving factors of food and nutrition insecurity, the long-term trends of rising hunger, emergency preparedness and access to the market by local farmers and producers, and the whole value chain, from food production to consumption in the region.

"It also aims to create livelihood opportunities and building resilience through the implementation of new solutions and strategies to transform food systems in the region," Shivute added.





Frequencies

Download Your App Eagle FM Nam on Android or Apple Store

www.eaglefm.com.na

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

JULIA	:	Cel: +264 81 848 4264	Email: julia@eaglefm.com.na
SALLY	:	Cel: +264 81 475 5281	Email: sally@eaglefm.com.na
DWIGHT:		Cel: +264 81 676 8042	Email: dwight@eaglefm.com.na

Ghana's Pan African Heritage Museum seeks to reclaim Africa's history



A new migration of Africans is about to happen.

The Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania, the Himba of Namibia, the Somali of the Horn of Africa, the Zulu of southern Africa and the Mbenga of the West Congo Basin - among many other communities - could soon be on the move to a new home in Ghana.

The most significant mass movement of peoples within Africa started more than 4,000 years ago, when huge populations of Bantu-speakers left their original dwellings in southern West Africa, to settle in other parts of the continent.

The new migrants will be travelling in the opposite direction.

Like their predecessors, they will not require visas or travel documents.

Their relocation is not physical but cultural and spiritual. It is their history, their philosophy, their beliefs and their story that is about to find a new home.

The new dwelling is located at Pomadze Hills in Winneba. The 10-acre site in Ghana's Central Region is about 60km (40 miles) west of the capital Accra.

It's a site to behold, with rolling terrain, covered in greenery.

If all goes according to plan, by August next year this location will give rise to an

impressive six-storey structure - the Pan African Heritage Museum.

The location in Winneba, through which the "migrants" will enter their new home in Ghana, is just over an hour's drive to the Door of No Return at Cape Coast Castle, from which millions of Africans were forced to leave the continent and into slavery.

The museum, which is under construction, has one key goal - to curate and tell the story of Africa using African voices, tools and culture.

The great minds behind the project say this is necessary because for a long time the African story has been told by others.

They argue that when someone else tells your story, they tell it from their perspective so that they look good.

The museum therefore seeks to own the African narrative by bridging what the founders say is a gap that has widened among people of African descent for over 400 years. It's a museum that seeks to teach, heal, and inspire.

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo says the museum will "provide a natural residence and resting place for all the looted cultural artefacts of our continent, which are housed in foreign museums and which will be returned to us".

This is the latest museum to be built on the continent, following those in Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, and comes at a time when there's a growing acceptance in Europe that the items seized from Africa during the colonial era should be returned.

Judging by the digital version that was recently launched, the museum will be a stunning structure that will stand tall and be visible from far away - a monument of Pan-Africanism.

As a passionate Pan-Africanist myself, I went on a tour of the virtual museum.

As you enter, your eyes are treated to beautiful contemporary works of art produced by great artists of African descent.

Soothing saxophone sounds, accompanied by gentle piano notes, put you at ease.

As if on cue, I'm immediately grabbed by this wonderful painting by Nigerian artist Doba Afolabi.

The work, titled Nite Voltron, depicts a passionate musician joyfully emptying the contents of his lungs into his saxophone.

A few virtual steps on and I'm staring at Tangled Trickster - an intriguing work by American visual artist, Aisha Tandiwe Bell, who is famous for using mixed media to create myth and ritual.

According to her, the woman portrayed as a trickster "sums up our modern fragmented, hyphenated identities and multiple consciousnesses".

The idea of targeting our collective African identity and history by harnessing, celebrating and curating African culture in a unique Pan-African museum came about in 1994.

The man behind it is Kojo Acquah Yankah, a former editor of Ghana's Daily Graphic newspaper and who previously served as an MP and cabinet minister in the government of the late President Jerry Rawlings.

He tells me the inspiration came to him as he attended the 375th anniversary commemoration of the forced arrival of the first 20 Africans on the coast of Jamestown, Virginia, in the US - the birthplace of American slavery.

"The event was attended by over 5,000 people of African descent from all over the world, celebrating their historical memoir," says Mr Yankah.

"This inspired me to create the Pan African Heritage Museum to unite Africans and people of African descent and raise the self-confidence of Africans as a people with a rich history and heritage."

But why this museum when there are many

others in Africa?

"There are less than 2,000 museums on the continent as opposed to over 30,000 in Europe and in the US," says the man who also founded the African University College of Communications in Ghana.

"The museum is special because it's the only one bringing all African heritage together under one roof."

The principal architect for the project is James Inedu-George, a Nigerian famous for capturing the spirit of African cultures and infusing it into his designs.

The symbol chosen for the museum is a horn, a communication tool announcing Africa's renaissance.

The project is funded through donations and is estimated to cost about \$50m (£40m).

But its key supporters, including President Akufo-Addo, believe it will be worth the bill.

"It will not only benefit all the peoples of the world, but it will also imbibe in all of us a deep consciousness and understanding of the goals and ideal of Pan-Africanism".

Apart from the artefacts and research materials, the museum will also have a garden of sculptures, a herbal garden and space for festivals, concerts, film shows and exhibitions from across the Pan-African world.

The innovation and creativity hub of the museum will be a space for young people to build on new ideas for the future after touring the facility.

The museum will set aside a two-acre plot where it will replicate a selected number of African kingdoms, ancient and modern.

It will showcase their history, their art, their culture and learn from their skills, craftsmanship and indigenous knowledge, which has sustained Africans until today.

This is where the big stream of African "migrants" will find a home.

Mr Yankah hopes his vision will redress our distorted heritage.

"Our legacy was stolen, and our confidence dimmed by paralyzing accounts of our past and even our present, hence we disregard the wise sayings and indigenous knowledge of our own people and quote eloquently from sources alien to us for our daily living."

Indeed, as the late Nigerian literary giant Chinua Achebe observed: "Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."

Well, we Africans now have the pen, a paint brush and a large canvas - it's time to tell our story.

-BBC





Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services



VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

**Children above 12 years can now be vaccinated
against COVID-19.**

#GetVaccinated | #KickCovid19OutofNamibia | #VaxUpNamibia

Toll-free Number: 0800 100 100

NATIONHOOD AND NATIONAL PRIDE PROGRAMME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





Big Lips

In Qatar, Namibia Has a New All-Weather Friend

Maybe it is too early to ask about President Hage Geingob's globetrotting results in search of chickens that will lay the golden eggs in Namibia.

In 2015, President Hage Geingob covered 70 000 kilometres on overseas trips. The trips cost the taxpayer N\$2,4 billion in travel allowances and N\$3,5 million in jet fuel.

One such trip President Hage Geingob took to Cuba and the United States in September 2015 ate up N\$6 million of taxpayers' money. Geingob's entourage had about 50 people.

In 2016, President Hage Geingob had the Americas in his sights. At one time, he spent 24 days in the United States. The visit started with the attendance at the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

President Hage Geingob attended the Clinton Global Initiative 2016 meeting themed Partnering for Global Prosperity.

Geingob also attended the roundtable discussion, where he addressed the African Policy Forum the next day. In addition, Geingob hosted the Namibia Business Forum, which was said to be a harbinger of the investment conference set for Windhoek later in 2016.

The Invest in Namibia conference happened in November 2016, and more than 1 700 participants, among them about 400 elsewhere in Africa and other parts of the world.

They came from Australia, Japan, Germany, France, Ireland, Belarus, Spain, the UK, China, Finland, Brazil, Sweden, Israel, Canada, Hungary, Portugal, USA and Korea.

The Invest in Namibia conference had four components - Made in Namibia Expo, the Conference, Project centre and the Business to Business meeting platform.

It was at this Conference that the nation was told about the German Polycare company said to develop an innovative, low-cost, robust, durable and environmentally friendly building system.

We were told that Polycare could build a house in two days, and the company said it would set up a production facility in Okahandja.

Do we have any Polycare facility at Okahandja today?

All in all, President Hage Geingob travelled to 12 countries in 2016.

In 2018, President Hage Geingob travelled to 16 countries and spent 64 days away from home. President Hage Geingob himself received N\$850 000 in travel allowance.

President Hage Geingob has been to China, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mauritania, Canada, the United States of America, Indonesia, Guinea, Kenya, Switzerland, Angola, Malawi, South Africa, Botswana and the United Kingdom.

Most of the trips President Hage Geingob takes are for investments and trade.

When he went to China in 2018, President Hage Geingob wanted to ask for loans for the Hosea Kutako International Airport, among many other projects.

Geingob has also been to Indonesia for a business forum and later participated in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

In Kenya, President Hage Geingob discussed trade, investment and business exchanges.

Qatar seems to have become the new all-weather friend, especially after that country was linked to the discovery of oil in Namibia.

Qatar has also been showing massive interest in Namibia with the acquisition of a hotel in Windhoek and talks about Qatar's wishes to invest in NWR. A Qatar-backed fund has bought the Safari Hotel.

This year alone, President Hage Geingob has been to Qatar two or three times. All the trips are said to be for business.

These trips are important only if Namibia can realise benefits from them. In any case, if all the trips President Hage Geingob has taken were essential, Namibia could be swimming in investments.

The situation right now suggests that Namibia will not get anything from these trips. Government ministers are on record saying that Namibia does not have money. The ministers have used the absence of money as a reason for not increasing civil servants' salaries.

One would want to know then how President Hage Geingob can fly out as frequently as he does if the government is broke? President Hage Geingob himself has complained that Hifikepunye Pohamba left the coffers empty.

Yet President Hage Geingob employed many advisors and has travelled more than Hifikepunye Pohamba. How does one explain that?

What it'll take for the Guptas to face corruption charges in South Africa



Now that Rajesh and Atul Gupta have been arrested in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), there is a great deal of speculation as to when the brothers may ultimately set foot on South African soil to face charges of money laundering and other financial crimes.

The brothers are the alleged kingpins behind state capture in South Africa – the massive corruption and repurposing of state organs for private gain during the ruinous reign of their friend, former president Jacob Zuma. They fled South Africa for Dubai in April 2016.

The judicial commission into state capture and corruption – Zondo Commission – found that the Gupta family had considerable access to Zuma, influencing political decisions, such as ministerial appointments and staffing at the various state-owned enterprises, and rearrangement of the revenue service to advance their financial interests.

The evidence outlined in the Zondo Commission reports offers substantive, chronological and narrative detail. That'll assist prosecutors in building cases of fraud, money-laundering and a host of other financial crimes against named individuals, including Rajesh and Atul Gupta.

This means that South Africans are now aware, having been provided with considerable information and in great detail, about the financial malfeasance that had been carried out for over a decade or more.

Despite this, there have only been a few arrests, and even a smaller number of prosecutions. Having the Guptas in court will send a strong signal that the days of impunity are over. The likelihood of the brothers ultimately being forced to face their alleged crimes depends on how strong the case against them is, and how adroit the prosecutors are. So far, it's clear that there is a very strong case against the brothers. But the jury is still out on the ability of the country's prosecutors to do a good job.

Nevertheless, it's important to understand bringing the Guptas to account might take a while.

A drawn out process

Arresting a suspect in pursuance of an extradition order usually signals a preliminary legal victory for the requesting country. Once the fugitive is in police custody, formal proceedings may start to have the suspect brought to trial. But the victory is usually short-lived. This is because the process of extradition is lengthy, often proceeding in fits and starts. It may in fact take years to bring the suspect to justice. A recent international example is the case of Julian Assange's extradition from the United Kingdom to the United States to face espionage charges, which has been in the works for over a decade. Assange has used court challenges and extra-legal measures (refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London) to halt his extradition.

One closer to home is the case of Mozambique's former finance minister Manuel Chang, who is wanted in both Mozambique and the United States for corruption involving \$2 billion. The High Court in Johannesburg has ruled that Chang, who has been in jail in South Africa since 2018, be extradited to the US for trial.

It is probable that the Guptas will use the court systems in both the UAE and South Africa to delay their day of legal reckoning. They are also likely to seek political or diplomatic alternatives to facing trial in South Africa.

These could include, for example, seeking intervention from the Indian or UAE governments to pursue a legal settlement that might involve returning their allegedly ill-gained revenue in exchange for withdrawing the charges.

Strong case

The first precondition for securing the brothers' presence in court would be a bulletproof case by South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority. This must withstand both South African and UAE judicial scrutiny. Such a case would have

to be built on an incontrovertible body of evidence including sworn documents, financial records, witness testimony, and an irreproachable timeline of misdeeds.

Such a bulletproof case is mapped out in voluminous detail in the reports of the Zondo Commission. The reports outlined how Zuma's friends and associates diverted billions of rand from parastatals to offshore accounts, mostly at the behest of the Gupta family.

A searing example is the purchase by Transnet, the transport parastatal, of unsuitable locomotives, in violation of state procurement laws and policies, and with allegedly huge kickbacks to the Guptas. Another example is the slew of criminal activities at Eskom, the power utility, that were allegedly devised entirely to profit the Gupta family and their enablers in the governing party.

These financial crimes have had several deleterious effects on South Africa. They robbed South Africans of basic social and economic resources (electricity, transport) they need to live a decent life. Even with prosecutions, it may take years (if at all) to recoup the stolen money.

In short, the Gupta footprint is all over the thousands of pages of the Zondo Commission Report. The task is now up to the NPA to develop an unimpeachable case against Rajesh and Atul Gupta.

Prosecutors

The second precondition to ensuring the Guptas return to South Africa to face charges is the adroit handling and ultimate success of the prosecutors in prevailing over the many legal challenges that are certain to be raised by the Gupta brothers.

It helps that the brothers have lost their enormous influence and access to South Africa's presidency, and other senior ANC politicians with the election of Cyril Ramaphosa as party leader in 2017, and national president in 2018.

The jury is still out as to whether the National Prosecuting Authority, which was hollowed out as part of the state capture project, has the capability to successfully prosecute those implicated in the Zondo Commission reports.

Despite the appointment of new leadership three years ago, and formal support from President Ramaphosa, the agency continues to be underfunded. The record so far does not inspire confidence.

The prosecution of those named in the Zondo Commission reports remain lacklustre. This is so despite the public commitment made by the prosecutors in the wake of the Zondo Commission reports.

Yet the expectations of South Africans that the state will succeed in prosecuting those who have committed atrocious financial crimes remain high. Despite its disappointing record, the prosecuting authority has been giving a vital legal lifeline by the Zondo Commission reports, with their detailed listing and description of the crimes committed.

The prosecuting authority has also enlisted some of the country's leading legal minds from the private sector in efforts to extradite the Guptas, and to prosecute state capture cases. This bodes well for ensuring that the Gupta brothers will face charges in a South African court.

Conclusion

South Africa's prosecutors should seize the lifeline provided by the Zondo Commission, and the addition of capable legal talent, to reinvigorate a distressed institution.

Successful prosecution of the Guptas and others implicated in state capture will be good for the prosecutors' reputation. It'll also be good for the country – in economic and political terms. Their success will be appreciated not just locally, but could serve as a model for prosecuting corruption in Africa – and globally.

Penelope Andrews

Professor of Law, New York Law School

Pay less.
Enjoy more.

YOU'VE GOT IT

MOBILE-LTE
BYO
N\$100

once-off incl. VAT
Includes **only SIM Card** and
5 GB of data

MOBILE-LTE
GERONIMO
N\$999

once-off incl. VAT
Includes free Wi-Fi Wingle,
or Pocket Wi-Fi device,
SIM Card and 20 GB of data

We have a Top-Up bundle that suits
your every need.

Supply of telecommunications services to residential accounts (i.e. a natural person) are zero-rated supplies. Services are only available where Paratus has network coverage. T's & C's Apply.

Visit paratus.africa/na for more information or call any of our offices:
Head Office: +264 83 300 1000 | Grove Mall: +264 83 300 1002
Swakopmund: +264 83 300 1960 | Walvis Bay: +264 83 300 1850
Ongwediva: +264 83 300 1950



The woman who could end Roe v Wade



Holly Honderich

In September 2021, Mississippi's chief legal officer sat down for an interview with Pro-Life Weekly, a Catholic television programme featuring anti-abortion activists.

Lynn Fitch looked how she almost always does during public appearances: dyed-blond hair blow-dried straight and neat, tasteful jewellery and a monochrome suit, this time in powder blue.

The attorney general was there to celebrate. The United States Supreme Court had just announced the date it would hear her state's challenge to Roe v Wade, the 1973 ruling that has, for the nearly 50 years since, served as a nationwide guarantee to abortion access.

The case, *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, centres on a Mississippi law that would ban abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, even in cases of rape or incest. Under Ms Fitch's direction, the state asked the Supreme Court to uphold the law and slash the landmark Roe v Wade decision in the process. A ruling is expected this month. A leaked draft suggests it is likely that Mississippi's ban will be upheld, paving the way for other states to also outlaw abortion.

Ms Fitch - who declined to be interviewed - had argued that overturning Roe v Wade would be "game-changing", "uplifting" women by eliminating what she described as a false choice between family and career.

"Fifty years ago, for professional women, they wanted you to make a choice. Now you don't have to," she said on Pro-Life Weekly. "You have the option in life to really achieve your dreams, your goals, and you can have those beautiful children as well."

If she wins the case, and Roe v Wade falls, some 40 million women may lose access to abortion, pro-choice advocates warn. It

could also make Ms Fitch, a single working parent of three, a Republican superstar and poster-child for her own argument: modern women don't need abortion to have it all. Abortion was not always an animating theme of Ms Fitch's political career. When she first took public office, as Mississippi state treasurer in 2011, she pushed for legislation that would guarantee men and women were paid equally.

Her convictions were shaped in many ways by her upbringing, and her experiences as a single mother, says Hayes Dent, a long-time friend and colleague, who ran her first political campaign.

When Mr Dent first met Ms Fitch, she had just been named executive director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board, a state agency, by then-governor Haley Barbour. Mr Dent was immediately impressed.

"Having been around every major political figure in Mississippi for 40 years, I could just tell: she's going to run," Mr Dent said. "And when she pulls that trigger, she's going to be successful."

It wasn't for another couple of years that she did, launching a campaign for state treasurer.

When he launched her first political campaign, for state treasurer in 2011, "she was an underdog," said Austin Barbour, a national GOP strategist and the nephew of former Governor Barbour.

Mr Dent, who had kept tabs on Ms Fitch, reached out to her in the middle of that 2011 cycle and asked to come on board her campaign.

"I said 'Look, I think you can win this race,'" he recalled.

She accepted. The two would drive the length of the state in a day, making a handful of different stops and placing fundraiser calls in the hours between.

"Her attitude was 'what is the task at hand,'" Mr Dent said. "It'd be like 'Look, we've gotta go to the tobacco spitting festival.' And she'd do great! She wouldn't

spit tobacco, but she was great."

The only reason Ms Fitch would turn down a campaign event was her kids, cutting out early to make a school basketball game or parent-teacher conference.

She was a natural campaigner, but fundraising lagged. Mr Dent drove to northern Mississippi to ask her father for a personal donation.

Bill Fitch still lived in Holly Springs, the small, rural town near the state's northern edge where Ms Fitch spent most of her childhood.

Her father had inherited land on the historic Galena Plantation and used the sprawling 8,000-acre property to restore the family farm, turning it into a premier quail hunting destination. The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, and Mississippi governors Barbour and Phil Bryant, became frequent guests.

Visitors of Fitch Farms could elect to stay in the former home of Confederate general and first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, Nathan Bedford Forrest, which Mr Fitch had bought and transported onto the property.

Ms Fitch has told local media of "special" childhood memories at her father's farm, riding horses and hunting quail.

As a teenager, she was the "prototypical popular girl", Mr Dent said. "Leader, cheerleader, athletic, the whole nine yards," he said.

She went to the University of Mississippi, joined a sorority and graduated with a degree in business administration and later in law.

When Mr Dent drove to her father's farm to make his pitch for a campaign donation, he said it painedly: "I told him if I left there with a big cheque, she was going to win".

She won, and then won again four years later, securing a second term as state treasurer.

In this office, she targeted state debt, expanded access to financial education in

the state, and advocated for equal pay laws (Mississippi remains the only state that does not ensure equal pay for equal work between men and women).

And she developed her knack for connecting to voters, leaning on both her Holly Springs upbringing and an apparent ease in the public eye.

In interviews and campaign videos, Ms Fitch looks preternaturally poised. She makes easy eye contact, her speech slow and relaxed, often thanking God and her family for the opportunity to serve her state.

"Rural roots matter to voters in this state," said Mr Barbour, the Republican strategist. "And she's very likeable, she just is."

Ms Fitch also helped bolster her conservative credentials with her support for then-presidential candidate Donald Trump, leading Mississippi's Women for Trump coalition in 2016. When Mr Trump was in Jackson for a campaign rally, she sat in the front row.

Two years later, Ms Fitch announced she would make a bid for Mississippi Attorney General - an office that had never been held by a woman.

But she wasn't the underdog this time, gliding to victory in November 2019 with nearly 60% of the vote on a promise to uphold "conservative values and principles".

As a devoted Republican in a solidly Republican state, where Ms Fitch stood on abortion was taken as given, even if she didn't run on it.

Across the country, about 60% of Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, according to data from the Pew Research Centre. But among Mississippi Republicans, nearly 70% believe abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.

"You don't run in Mississippi, you don't run in rural conservative states and not want to see Roe v Wade overturned," said Mr Barbour, the Republican strategist. "It's just ingrained".

The abortion ban before the Supreme Court was passed by Mississippi's state legislature in 2018, two years before Ms Fitch took office as Attorney General. The law, which bans abortions outright after 15 weeks, was immediately challenged in court on behalf of Jackson Women's Health Organization, Mississippi's last remaining abortion clinic.

A federal district court struck down the ban, saying it was unconstitutional. In 2019, an appeals court upheld this decision.

But in June 2020, five months into the job, Attorney General Fitch petitioned the US Supreme Court to review the 15-week ban. The court, with its 6-3 conservative majority, accepted and heard the case in December of last year.

Now, she's known nationally as the lawyer expected to topple Roe v Wade.

At times, Ms Fitch has said her state is merely making an argument for the rule of law: asking the Supreme Court to turn

over abortion policymaking to the states. But more often, she says the case is about women's empowerment.

Roe v Wade, she has said, made women believe they had to pick: family or career, not both.

"The court in Roe pitted women against our children, and woman against woman," she wrote in a Washington Post op-ed.

The choice is misleading and paternalistic, argued Ms Fitch. It's a position seemingly drawn from her own life: a single mother who has ascended to the highest levels of state office, while remaining devoted to her children and grandchildren.

"Being a single mom has sort of dominated her thought process, and her life experience," Mr Dent said. "I think that's one of the reasons she feels so strongly about this".

In a world without Roe v Wade, Ms Fitch said during a television interview last year, "babies will be saved" and mothers "get a chance to really redirect their lives. They have all these new and different opportunities that they didn't have 50 years ago".

Pro-choice activists have accused Ms Fitch of using feminist language to cover over an inherently anti-feminist policy.

Her arguments lean "heavily into false claims that they are 'empowering women'", said Dina Montemarano, research director for NARAL Pro-Choice America. This tactic, Ms Montemarano said, is often used by anti-abortion activists to assert control over women's bodies and violate their fundamental freedoms.

In an opening brief submitted to the Supreme Court, Ms Fitch wrote of "sweeping policy advancements [which] now promote women's full pursuit of both career and family".

But in a counter-argument submitted to the Supreme Court, 154 economists warned that this optimism was "premature and false".

"Mississippi's celebration of parental leave policies is particularly bizarre, as the United States is one of only two countries without a national paid maternity leave policy," the economists wrote.

Mississippi, specifically, has no state laws mandating paid family leave. It is the poorest state in the nation and has the highest rates of both infant mortality and child poverty.

But if Roe is indeed thrown out, Ms Fitch will return to Mississippi a conservative hero.

"I'm 99% sure she will run for attorney general again," Mr Dent said. "And based on how the last three years have gone, it's hard for me to imagine she'll have any Republican opposition this time".

There are also early rumblings that she may one day run for governor. She has not yet commented on this speculation.

If she wins, Ms Fitch would be the first female governor in Mississippi's history. -BBC



We're about you

NHP Medical Aid Fund, providing you with access to a wide range of medical aid options with unsurpassed benefits.

Contact Devano Beukes at tel 081 2317 650 or email beukesd@medscheme.com.na today to become a member of NHP, Namibia's leading medical aid fund.

tel 061 285 5400
website www.nhp.com.na



Diamond Arrow Award
Highest rated medical aid in Namibia: 2010 - 2021
Highest rated institution demonstrating exceptional managerial and corporate governance in Namibia



EasyJet Spain cabin crew set to strike in July

Unions have called for EasyJet cabin crew based in Spain to strike for nine days in July as part of a dispute over pay. The walk-out would add to passenger woes as airlines struggle to cope with demand after Covid restrictions lifted.

EasyJet has already had to cancel thousands of flights this summer because of staff shortages at Gatwick.

Meanwhile, Heathrow Airport is still clearing piles of baggage which led to 5,000 flight cancellations on Monday. EasyJet and Spanish union USO have been holding talks on cabin crew pay since February, but are now in a "deadlock situation", the union said. It has called a series of 24 hour strikes throughout July which could affect British holidaymakers.

Union members working from El Prat, Malaga and Palma de Mallorca will walk out from 1-3 July, on 15-17 July and on 29-31, the union said. Miguel Galan, USO general secretary for EasyJet Malaga, said flight attendants want a 40% increase in their basic salaries. He said that Spanish cabin crew pay is not on a par with their French or German counterparts.

EasyJet's Spanish crew get basic pay of €950 per month (£816), the union said, which excludes bonuses and extra pay.

But the union, which says it represents 80% of the 450 EasyJet staff based in Spain, still hopes an agreement can be reached to avoid the strikes during a meeting with management on Tuesday, Mr Galan said.

EasyJet has been contacted for comment. According to the European Trade Union Institute, striking is a fundamental right in Spain, and strikes affecting one company can be called by unions, worker representatives or workers themselves. UK holidaymakers have faced disruption to their flights in recent months as airlines and airports struggle to cope with increased demand after cutting workers during Covid lockdowns.

On Monday EasyJet said it would cancel flights between July and September after Gatwick Airport said it will reduce the number of flights during the peak summer period due to staff shortages. Also on Monday around 30 flights carrying up to 5,000 passengers were cancelled at Heathrow Airport due to baggage-handling problems.

On Tuesday Heathrow said the backlog, which the BBC understands numbers thousands of bags, was "clearing up". The baggage system has been "back up and working" since the weekend, a spokeswoman said, adding that "bags are being sent to their destinations". -BBC



GLOBAL REACH FOR BEST LOCAL ADVICE AND PRICES

**SELLING HIGH QUALITY AFTERMARKET PARTS FOR
BMW, VOLKSWAGEN, AUDI, MERCEDES BENZ & TOYOTA.**

TEL: 061 307 073

EMAIL: SALES@GLOBALPARTSNAMIBIA.COM

WHATSAPP: 081 852 9296

ADDRESS: 3 NASMITH STREET, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

US ban on imports from China's Xinjiang region takes effect



■ **Annabelle Liang**

Tough new US regulations on the import of goods from the Xinjiang region of China have come into effect.

Under the rules, firms have to prove imports from the region are not produced using forced labour.

US officials have said members of the minority Uyghur community in the region, who are predominantly Muslim, have been detained and made to work.

China has repeatedly rejected accusations that it is holding Uyghurs in internment camps in Xinjiang.

Several imports from the resource-rich region, including cotton and tomatoes, have already been banned from the US.

The restrictions will be extended to all imports under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), which took effect on Tuesday.

In a statement late last week, US lawmakers said the law sends "a clear message that we will no longer remain complicit in the Chinese Communist Party's use of slave labour and egregious crimes against humanity".

"Congress stands ready to work with President Biden and his administration

to ensure this historic law is fully and rigorously implemented," US Republican Senator Marco Rubio, Democrat Senator Jeff Merkley and two other lawmakers said.

According to the US Congress, China has detained more than a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang since April 2017.

It believes tens of thousands of detainees have worked "at a fraction of minimum wage or without any compensation" in Xinjiang and other provinces "under the guise of poverty alleviation and industrial aid programmes".

It said China also "interferes with audits and traditional due diligence efforts to vet goods and supply chains in Xinjiang... including by intimidating potential witnesses and concealing relevant information".

China has denied the use of forced labour and said the camps in Xinjiang were "re-education" facilities used to combat terrorism.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin recently called forced labour accusations "an out-and-out preposterous lie concocted by certain external forces".

But leaked files and first-hand accounts

from inside the camps, which were obtained by the BBC, have detailed an organised system of mass rape, sexual abuse and torture of ethnic minorities.

Human rights groups have also accused the Chinese government of gradually stripping away the religious and other freedoms of Uyghurs through mass surveillance, detention, indoctrination and even forced sterilisation.

What does it mean for brands?

Scott Nova, executive director of the independent Workers Rights Consortium in Washington DC, said the UFLPA "will likely substantially reduce the practice of forced labour in Xinjiang" by "eliminating a large part of the market" for its goods.

"A crucial question is whether brands selling goods in the US will try to take advantage of the weaker protections in other consumer markets by directing goods with content from Xinjiang to those markets," Mr Nova said.

"Our coalition will be working to identify and publicly expose any brands and retailers that engage in this practice," he added.

Laura Murphy, a human rights professor at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK, said the European Union (EU) should

impose a similar import ban on goods from Xinjiang.

"I think that citizens of the EU would be shocked to know that a ban on products known to be made with forced labour does not already exist," Prof Murphy said.

"But the EU also needs to be a leader in passing mandatory human rights due diligence. Both these tools are necessary to ensure that companies address the forced labour and other abuses in their supply chains," she added.

Japanese retailers Uniqlo and Muji are among brands that have been scrutinised over materials from Xinjiang.

In January last year, the US blocked a shipment of Uniqlo men's shirts over concerns that it violated a ban on cotton products from the region.

Responding to a query from the BBC last week, a Uniqlo spokesperson did not state whether or not the brand uses cotton from Xinjiang. "We continue to work with [US officials] to implement measures for the smooth importation of our products, and are awaiting new guidelines scheduled for release on 21 June," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Japanese retailer Muji has been criticised for launching a collection of Oxford shirts "made of organic cotton delicately and wholly handpicked in

Xinjiang" in 2019.

A spokesperson at Ryohin Keikaku, which operates the Muji brand, told the BBC it was not currently exporting products from Xinjiang to the US. However, the company declined to comment on whether it was selling products from Xinjiang in other countries.

"In our business activities, we comply with the laws and regulations of each country and region, and we are taking all necessary steps to respect human rights and labour standards," the spokesperson said.

Early last year, the administration of former US President Donald Trump announced a ban on cotton and tomato products from Xinjiang.

The wider-reaching UFLPA was approved by the Senate last July, and Congress in December. It was subsequently signed into law by current US President Joe Biden.

From Tuesday, US Customs and Border Protection officials will stop all shipments from Xinjiang that arrive at American ports. Cargo will be stopped from entering the country unless the importer can "prove by clear and convincing evidence that the goods were not produced with forced labour," the US Department of Homeland Security said.

-BBC





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



**EAGLE FM
 PROGRAMMES**

MONDAY

Morning Scoops with Kelvin
 05h00-07h00
Unpacking the Day with Wonder
 07h00-09h00
Free Your Mind
 09h00-11h00
Tech Eagle with Frans
 11h00-12h00
Brand Conversation with Dwight
 12h00-13h00
On the Radar with Justicia
 13h00-14h30

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

TO ADVERTISE, CONTACT

JULIA : Cel: +264 81 848 4264 Email: julia@eaglefm.com.na
SALLY : Cel: +264 81 475 5281 Email: sally@eaglefm.com.na
DWIGHT: Cel: +264 81 676 8042 Email: dwight@eaglefm.com.na

Saudi Crown Prince MBS visits Egypt at start of regional tour

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has arrived in Cairo on the first leg of a Middle East tour that comes ahead of United States President Joe Biden's trip to the region next month. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi received MBS at the airport on Monday evening, a courtesy to the de facto Saudi leader, who is a steady financial backer of the Egyptian government. Both leaders are scheduled to hold talks in the country's presidential palace in Cairo on Tuesday. They will discuss "regional and wider international political affairs", said Bassam Radi, a spokesman for el-Sisi. The Saudi crown prince will then depart to Jordan for talks with its monarch, King Abdullah II, also a close ally of Saudi Arabia. MBS is then scheduled to travel to Turkey to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who visited Saudi Arabia in April for the first time in five years as the two countries repair ties. Saudi-Turkey relations frayed following the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate. The crown prince's talks in Cairo and Amman are aimed at coordinating their positions on key issues, Saudi officials have said, ahead of a joint summit with President Joe Biden in Jeddah next month. The summit will also include Iraq's

prime minister and other Gulf leaders. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the tour. Biden is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia at the tail end of his July 13-16 Middle East trip that includes stops in Israel and the occupied West Bank. He will hold talks with the crown prince as part of an effort to reset US-Saudi ties. The Biden administration could use help from the kingdom, which is one of the world's biggest oil producers, to alleviate soaring prices at the pump for motorists at home and around the globe. Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and Saudi Arabia one of the wealthiest. They tightened their longstanding alliance after el-Sisi, then the defence minister, led a military coup against President Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Since then, Riyadh has provided tens of billions of dollars in aid and investment which have helped keep the Egyptian economy afloat. Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates pledged a total of \$22bn in the form of deposits and direct investments in Egypt in a bid to stabilise its battered economy after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The war in Europe has rattled the global economy and caused oil prices to soar, affecting countries around the world. -Al Jazeera



LELA PAY USER MANUAL

What is LELA PAY?

LELA PAY is an easy to use payment and booking mobile app that allows you to send out classified adverts/messages and have them published in real time.

What can I do on LELA PAY?


- Placing Classified Adverts/Messages on Eagle FM App, Imba App, Lela Pay App and placing Adverts in The Villager & many more Vendors.
- Make Payments.
- One can place Messages of any events including (Promotion, Invitations, Birthday wishes, Funeral Notices) and any announcement you wish to Announce on a national level starting from N\$3.50 per message.




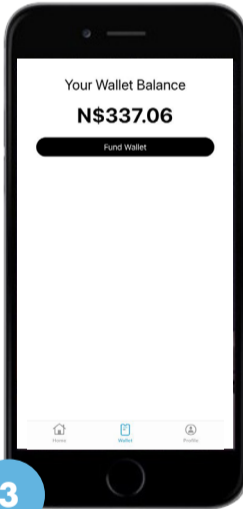
Click icon to download

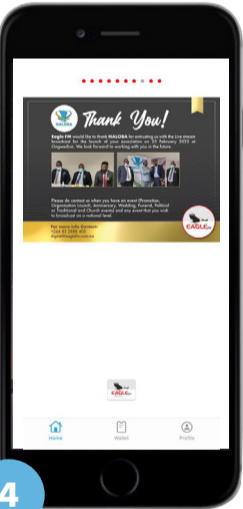


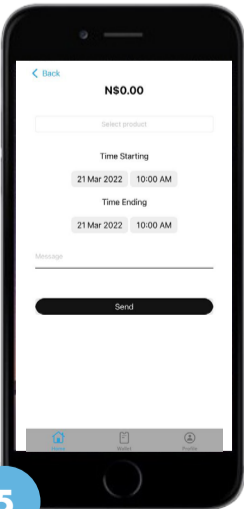
Learn how to LELA your messages & payments.

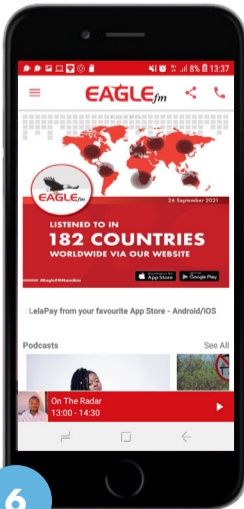
- 

Download and open your Lela Pay Application.
- 

Register an account for free and login to your account.
- 

Go to your Wallet Balance and Fund your account by filling in the required details.
- 

Go to Vendor and Select a Vendor (Eagle FM or The Villager).
- 

Schedule your message and type out your message/Advert details and send.
- 

Your message/Advert will shortly get published on Eagle FM App, Imba App, Lela Pay or The Villager Newspaper.

ARTWORK SUBMISSIONS

Users also have an option of submitting Artworks for their adverts which should be sent to digital@omalaeti.com for approval and they will be published shortly.

Contact us to be added on the vendor list
digital@omalaeti.com
 Cell: +264 81 203 9633

Zimbabwe healthcare workers strike over wages, inflation crisis



■ **Chris Muronzi**

Zimbabwean healthcare workers have gone on strike to compel the government to pay salaries in US dollars as spiralling inflation has eroded the purchasing power of their take-home pay.

The country's nurses, doctors, pharmacists, radiologists and other medical professionals did not turn up for work on Monday in an action that strike organisers described as a huge "success".

Striking workers held placards and danced outside Zimbabwe's main hospitals, such as Parirenyatwa in the capital Harare, which is one of the country's largest referral hospitals, and Sally Mugabe Central Hospital, also in the capital, demanding better salaries.

Dr Tapiwanashe Kusotera, the leader of Health Apex, a body representing all unions in the healthcare sector, described the strike as a "good first day", which was marked by strong support for the strike across the country.

"Our first goal has been achieved already," Kusotera told Al Jazeera in a telephone interview.

"We have been invited for a meeting by the Health Services Board and the ministry. This had not happened in the last 14 months," he said.

Zimbabwe is in the grips of an economic crisis characterised by hyperinflation, a rapidly devaluing local currency, 90 percent unemployment, and declining manufacturing output.

With the purchasing power of their salaries decimated by an inflation rate upwards of 132 percent, the striking public health workers and other civil servants are demanding that their salaries be paid in US dollars, which they see as a more stable currency.

'Cushion the workers'
Kusotera said the government must "cushion the workers" from the vagaries of inflation, and "address specific issues such as cost of living adjustment and working conditions".

The expected talks between the government and Health Apex union officials comes just days after a union representing civil servants turned down a government offer of 100 percent salary increases.

"The offer of 100 percent was not made to

us but to other civil servants. We feel that the decision to turn it down was reasonable as this was below the reigning inflation rate in the country at 132 percent," Kusotera told Al Jazeera.

"No offer has been made to us."

Kusotera did not indicate how much his union is demanding, but the troubled government seems headed for a round of tough negotiations with healthcare workers. Zimbabwe's leader Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took over from Robert Mugabe in a November 2017 military coup, has struggled to end the economic crisis that started under his predecessor.

Zimbabwe Nurses Association Secretary-General Enock Dongo warned lives would be lost if the labour dispute was not resolved quickly.

Health professionals have decided to strike until they are paid US\$540 a month, the earnings they used to receive in 2018 before the local currency collapsed, he said.

"Nurses got only ZWL\$20,000 last week as salaries. This is around US\$50 at the official auction rate and only US\$30 at the black market," Dongo told Al Jazeera in a

telephone interview.

"There is just no way any employee can survive on that. The nurses are saying that they can't survive on that."

Hyperinflation Zimbabwe adopted the use of US dollars in 2009 after its local currency was decimated by hyperinflation. It re-introduced its own currency again in 2019, which is also now failing to hold its value against the US dollar. Before introducing the Zimbabwe dollar, the central bank first launched a bond note, a surrogate currency it claimed had the same value to the US dollar.

Introduced in December 2016, the bond note failed to hold its value and traded at a discount to the dollar. As the bond note's value fell further from 2016 onwards, workers who had been earning salaries in US dollars saw their salaries losing value and purchasing power dwindle.

Salaries since then have become a fraction of what they used to be when the country was dollarised, triggering consternation among workers.

The Zimbabwean dollar trades at US\$1 to ZWL\$500 on the black market.

Gift Mugano, visiting professor of

economics at the University of Zimbabwe Business School, warned that Monday's industrial action was the beginning of more strikes in the country.

"This is the beginning of such strikes. I must say that the people have been very patient," Mugano said.

"[The] government has raised salaries by 100 percent. But when you raise that from nothing, it's still nothing. For instance, if one was earning around ZWL\$18,000 – it's only \$20 – and gets a 100 percent increase, it's still nothing," Mugano told Al Jazeera.

Even with pay increases, the majority of workers will still earn salaries below what is required to live. Once salaries are paid, Mugano sees the exchange rate weakening yet again as more people rush to purchase US dollars to preserve value.

"The crisis will increase," Mugano said.

"Retailers will also increase prices as well. These combined factors will leave workers in a far worse position and clamouring for more." The solution, he believes, is to award salaries in US dollars.

-Al Jazeera



Can crumbling cookies sweeten UK data-protection plans?

■ Zoe Kleinman

Would you like a cookie - or are you absolutely fed up of being asked? When the government published its proposals for striking new data-protection plans in the UK, all eyes were on cookie consents - those annoying pop-ups that appear in the foreground on many websites, asking whether you will accept cookies, tiny bits of text that can be used to track things about you, including:

- what you do on the site
- whereabouts in the world you are
- what device you are using
- where you go online afterwards

The companies behind the sites use this information for a number of reasons - ad targeting being a huge one. But it also, they say, gives you a more bespoke version of the site. If it knows you look at lots of technology news, it can serve you up more - and less about gardening, for example.

If you choose not to enable cookies, it can mean the site has no other way of storing this choice, leaving you to opt out every visit.

But now, the government wants to limit these cookie consents - suggesting instead a one-stop data-privacy setting applied at browser level.

Advertising revenue

Google tried something similar years ago, a "Do not track," header - but it was not legally enforceable, users could not check

to see whether sites were respecting it and it has largely been dropped. A note on the Mozilla developer pages advises against using it.

The more privacy-focused technology giant Apple gives owners of its products regular reports about how many sites and apps are trying to track them.

But like it or loathe it, tracking and data gathering has become the way in which a "free-to-use" internet is funded - by content providers who can turn it into advertising revenue.

Even for those who fundamentally disagree with cookies, it has become a wearying war of attrition. "Yes, you can have my damn cookie!" tweeted a despairing Elon Musk.

Many critics say the pop-ups in their current form are pointless. A 2019 study found most cookies were "not compliant with EU privacy law".

But the TechUK trade association says there are "outstanding questions" around exactly how the UK's alternative would work, suggesting more consultation is needed.

And privacy campaigners the Open Rights Group are outraged it might involve opting out of tracking, rather than opting in, saying this wrongly places the onus on individuals preventing, rather than permitting, their online lives being monitored.

The Data Reform Bill is an attempt to move away from what the government calls the "red tape" of Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation - most of which has been adopted into British law.

The GDPR puts enormous weight on protecting the privacy and data of individuals, with steep penalties for non-compliance, but cookie consent is not covered.

The Data Reform Bill also proposes:

- removing the requirement for small and medium-sized businesses to employ data-protection officers and conduct thorough impact assessments of data-gathering activities
- allowing the Information Commissioner's Office, which currently has to investigate every data-protection complaint it receives, to, according to commissioner John Edwards, "be more flexible and target our action in response to the greatest harms"
- widening data access for public services and research - currently, if you consent to your health data being used in a particular Covid 19 study, for example, similar future studies have to ask again for your permission

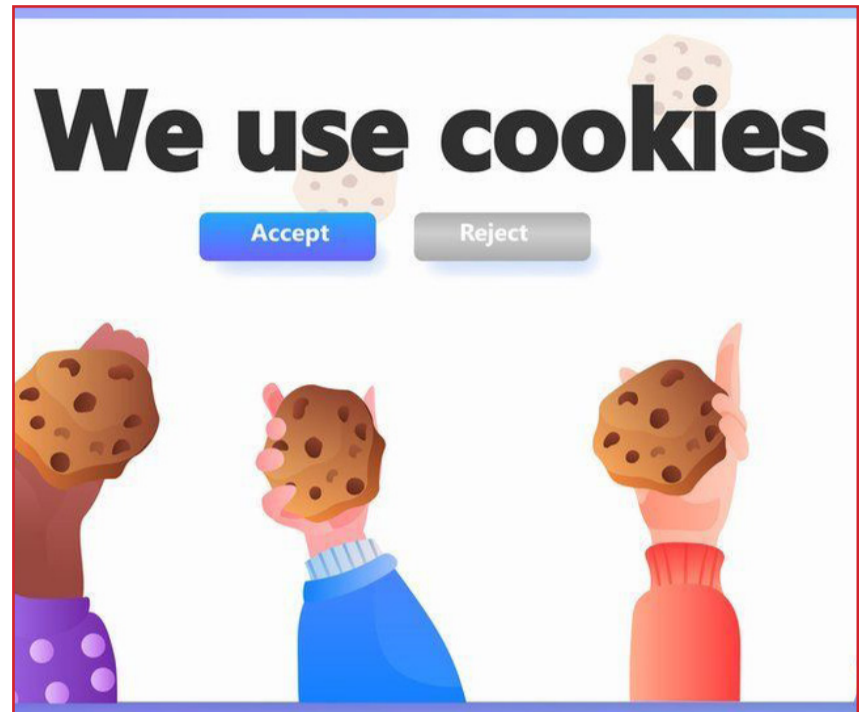
All this can be done without reducing Britain's data-protection "gold standard", the government says. It could save businesses £1bn over 10 years and remove "box-ticking" exercises.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries calls it "cementing post-Brexit Britain's position as a science and tech superpower".

'Welcome package'

But so far, reaction has been mixed, with industry broadly more supportive than privacy campaigners.

TechUK - which worked with the government on the proposals - calls them "a welcome package".



"The reforms... find a good balance between making the UK's data-protection system clearer, more flexible, and more user friendly to researchers, innovators, and smaller companies," chief executive Julian David says.

But the Open Rights Group calls the bill a "bonfire" of rights.

"At a time when personal data can be leveraged to do all sort of wrong things, depicting data protection as a burden is wrong, irresponsible and negligent," it said.

Meanwhile, the lawyers are looking at

how the proposals may affect the passage of data between the UK and the EU.

Vinod Bange, of law firm Taylor Wessing, says his initial response was "relief" there was no entire rewrite of existing policy.

But he adds: "The most impactful changes for UK organisations will be the unintended consequences, so changes that could derail the current data-flow adequacy with the EU will be the ones to watch."

Nothing is likely to change overnight - the bill first has to trundle its way through Parliament - but expect much more debate in the coming months.

-BBC

The world's first PlayStation 5 'Slim' now exists thanks to a YouTuber

■ Tom Warren

The PS5 is a giant console, the biggest in modern history, and a DIY YouTuber has now created a PS5 "Slim" model that's a fraction more than the thickness of the plastic cases that house PS5 games. Matt Perks, known as DIY Perks on YouTube, has spent a considerable amount of time and effort to create a PS5 "Slim" that brings the size down from nearly four inches to just under an inch.

The result is a slim copper console that contains the key PS5 components, and a rather giant external power supply and cooling solution that can be hidden away. Most of the thickness of the PS5 comes from its cooling heatsink and power supply, so DIY Perks relocated those into a long external unit to make the actual console far more attractive on top of a TV stand.

A custom water cooling system replaces the PS5's existing cooling solution, and makes use of copper sheeting to channel water over the CPU. This sheeting also includes several thermal bridges to help cool components like the SSD and power circuitry that are attached to the PS5's motherboard.

While Sony has lowered the power

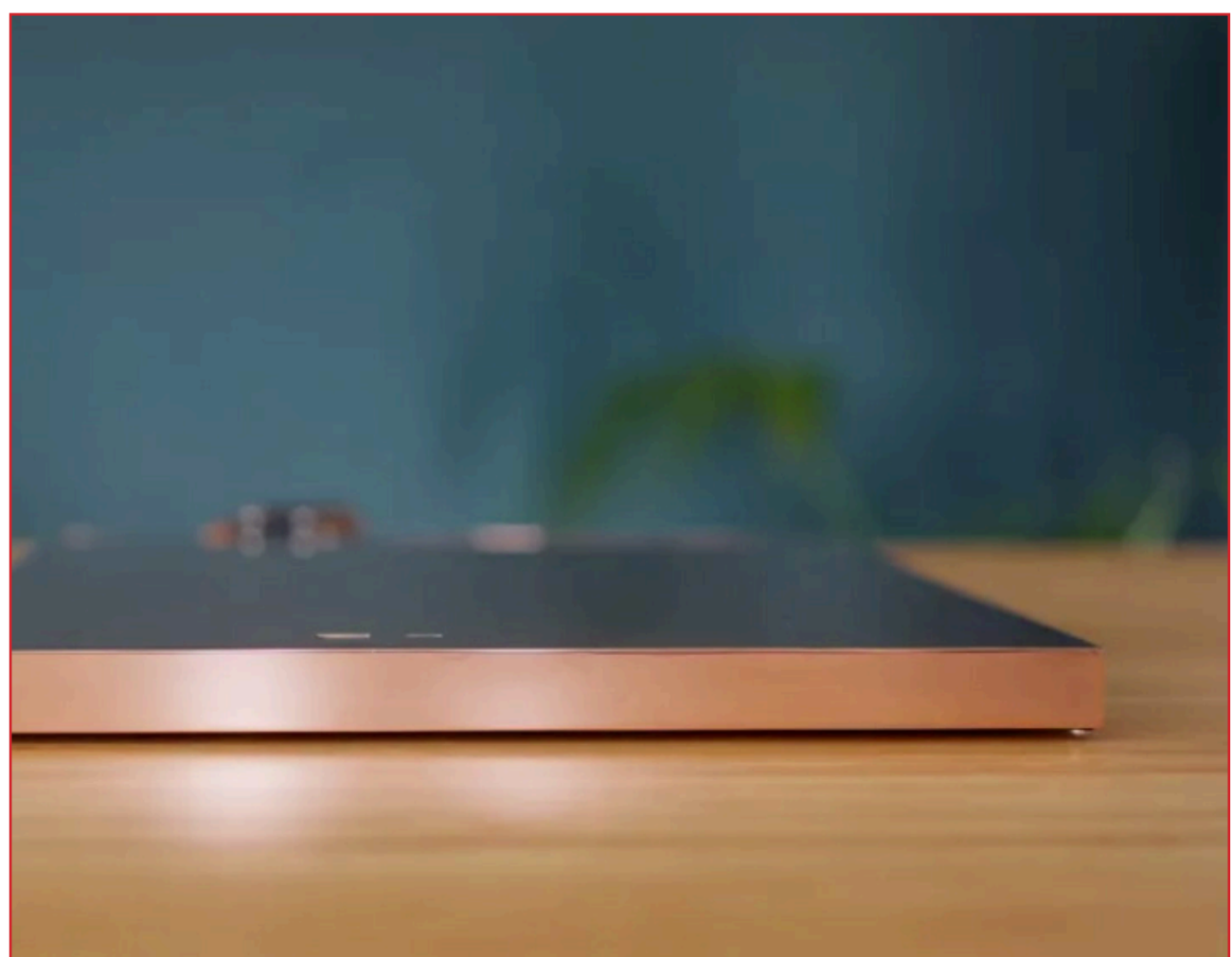
consumption of some previous PlayStation models to create slim versions, that's a little out of reach for DIY and modding. Instead, DIY Perks went the route of the PS2 or PS One slim models by creating an external power supply.

This external power and cooling unit resulted in disaster at first, frying the motherboard of the PS5 because the unit fell over and blocked air-flow to effectively cool the console. After swapping the motherboard out, the PS5 "Slim" successfully boots and plays games as you'd expect.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this custom cooling solution also results in some temperature improvements for the PS5. DIY Perks measured big improvements in RAM and VRM temperatures, and notes that temperatures could be further lowered with an even bigger external cooling unit.

While some will call the enormous power and cooling unit cheating, the entire project is still a fascinating 30-minute journey into the trial and error of modding consoles. The custom copper water block is impressive in how simple DIY Perks makes it seem, built using a jigsaw and regular tools. Thankfully, scalpers probably won't put nearly as much effort into making the PS5 "Slim" a reality on eBay any time soon.

-The Verge





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



**EAGLE FM
 PROGRAMMES**

MONDAY

Morning Scoops with Kelvin
 05h00-07h00
Unpacking the Day with Wonder
 07h00-09h00
Free Your Mind
 09h00-11h00
Tech Eagle with Frans
 11h00-12h00
Brand Conversation with Dwight
 12h00-13h00
On the Radar with Justica
 13h00-14h30

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

TO ADVERTISE, CONTACT

JULIA : Cel: +264 81 848 4264 Email: julia@eaglefm.com.na
SALLY : Cel: +264 81 475 5281 Email: sally@eaglefm.com.na
DWIGHT: Cel: +264 81 676 8042 Email: dwight@eaglefm.com.na

NATO summit 'not deadline' for Finland, Sweden talks: Turkey

Discussions between Turkey, Finland and Sweden about the Nordic countries' application to join NATO will continue, and an alliance summit in Madrid next week is not a deadline, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin says.

Finland and Sweden applied for NATO membership after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine four months ago. But the bids have faced opposition from Turkey, which has accused the Nordic neighbours of providing a safe haven for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), listed as a "terrorist" group by Turkey and its Western allies, as well as other Kurdish groups in Syria.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met representatives from the three countries on Monday to try to make progress on the Nordic nations' membership applications. He described the talks as "constructive", but Turkey made it clear there was still work to be done.

Speaking to reporters in Brussels after talks within NATO on the issue on Monday, Kalin said Ankara was expecting Sweden, especially, to take immediate steps regarding the PKK armed group in its country.

He added that any progress on the Nordic membership bids "now depends on the direction and speed at which these countries will take steps".

"The Madrid NATO summit is not the deadline, so our negotiations will continue," Kalin told reporters after the talks.

Ankara has accused Finland and Sweden of providing a safe haven for the PKK, listed as a "terrorist" group by Turkey and

its Western allies.

Ankara has also demanded that the two countries lift their weapons freezes on Turkey.

Quick deal not expected

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin recently expressed fears that unless the issues are resolved before the NATO summit in Madrid, "there is a risk that the situation will freeze".

Germany also dampened hopes of a deal being reached this month.

"I think this is about expectations management and to place this in its historical context," said a high-ranking German government source on Monday, while stressing a solution was still in sight, the AFP news agency reported.

Speaking in Luxembourg on Monday, Sweden's Foreign Minister Ann Linde told Swedish media that "we should be prepared for this to take some time".

Ankara's ire has primarily been directed at Sweden.

Sweden has repeatedly, however, expressed support for the People's Protection Units (YPG), a United States-backed Syrian Kurdish group, and its political arm, the Democratic Union Party (PYD).

Ankara views the YPG, which fought against ISIL (ISIS) in Syria with Western support, as the PKK's Syria offshoot.

In a bid to ease Ankara's concerns, Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson has stressed that Sweden has been beefing up its "anti-terrorism" laws in recent years, with new stricter legislation coming into force on July 1.

-Al Jazeera



Macron to meet rival parties after losing majority

French President Emmanuel Macron will meet political opponents on Tuesday after his coalition failed to win a majority in parliamentary elections.

Mr Macron is now under pressure to secure support from rivals to fulfil his government's reform agenda.

But neither Marine Le Pen's far-right nor Jean-Luc Mélenchon's left-green alliance are keen to work with him.

Minority governments are a rarity in France, and Mr Macron's Ensemble alliance is 44 seats shy of a majority.

This means he will need to find support from mainstream MPs from both the left and right side of politics to help build a working majority.

Party representatives will visit the Élysée Palace separately for the high-level talks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Analysts say the president may be eyeing a deal with the right-wing Republicans, and the party confirmed that its leader, Christian Jacob, would attend the talks.

Ms Le Pen will take part but Mr Mélenchon will not, the AFP news agency reports.

Socialist Party leader Olivier Faure and Communist Party boss Fabien Roussel, members of the Nupes left-wing alliance,

will also meet Mr Macron.

France's centrist government is desperately trying to avoid political paralysis after losing its majority, with some commentators warning of France becoming ungovernable.

Mr Macron will also have to replace three ministers who lost their seats in Sunday's vote, and Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne's future looks increasingly under threat.

The election on Sunday saw a low-turnout, with an abstention rate of 53%.

President Macron has laid out a series of plans to tackle the spiralling cost of living, including food vouchers and enhanced benefits. Another big reform is gradually raising the retirement age from 62 to 65, which has proved unpopular with much of the electorate.

The aim is to "build solutions to serve the French" at a time when there is no "alternative majority" to that of Macron's ruling alliance, a presidential official, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

Opponents from the right and left aim to resist the president's programme of reforms, although Ms Le Pen's National Rally has said it may back measures to alleviate the cost of living crisis if their own proposals are adopted.

-BBC



UN whistleblowing complaints 'dismissed too early'



Sarah Bell & Sima Kotecha

The treatment of whistleblowers at the United Nations should be examined by an external panel, its former spokeswoman on sexual harassment has said.

Purna Sen's comments follow a BBC investigation which revealed the sackings of a number of UN staff who tried to expose alleged wrongdoing.

Ms Sen said the UN should "step up" and adopt any suggestions made by a panel.

The UN has said it is committed to protecting "bona fide whistleblowers" and holding staff accountable.

The BBC documentary, *The Whistleblowers: Inside the UN*, features accounts from staff members who tried to report allegations - including fraud and sexual abuse. All said they had been penalised after speaking out - and some were sacked.

In the film, Ms Sen - who was appointed spokeswoman on harassment, assault and discrimination in 2018 - said there were women at the UN who had been "approached, accosted and raped". The more men were allowed to get away with it, she said, "the more they will keep doing it". She has told BBC Newsnight that she is not surprised by the "deeply-upsetting" testimonies.

"It suggests that sometimes the protection of the senior folk within each organisation matters more than the absence of harm to those who aren't powerful.

"It means there is a real tension within an organisation which not only upholds and advocates for human rights, but is actually the birthplace of most of these human rights - yet it hasn't learned to bring them home to the people who work for that organisation."

Ms Sen said she wanted UN Secretary General António Guterres to appoint a diverse external panel to consider staff experiences and recommend a focused set of actions.

In a statement, Mr Guterres' office said it remained open to any external review of its efforts "to combat misconduct of any kind".

Diplomatic immunity

The United Nations has a protected legal status and senior staff have diplomatic immunity from all national laws.

This is granted to the organisation to protect it from interference when doing its work. But the UN says it not granted for the personal benefit of staff, so does not protect those who commit crimes such as sexual assault.

All staff complaints have to be addressed internally. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) handles the most serious allegations, including claims of criminality, but has no legal authority.

The BBC was handed a secret recording which suggests the OIOS is not always effective. It features Ben Swanson, director of the investigations division, addressing a staff meeting. He says a senior UN female member of staff had come to him in tears, describing how an assistant secretary general had put his hand down her trousers. The UN has a number of assistant secretary generals. In the recording, Mr Swanson states that he told the secretary general and other senior officials of the sexual assault allegation - but was quickly shut down.

"So I tried to tell this story and I got... I was cut dead," he can be heard saying. He added that the woman was discouraged from reporting her alleged assault and told it wouldn't do any good to speak up since the man in question was a "favoured son". Peter Gallo - the whistleblower who shared the audio recording - told the documentary: "I spent four years as an investigator in the UN headquarters in New York. And as a result of that experience, I believe the organisation is riddled with corruption from bottom to top."

After hearing his account, Ms Sen said: "Why is the secretary general not saying, 'This is outrageous, what do we do about it?' My zero-tolerance policy means we have to act.' Instead we get an account of 'No, we're not going there.'"

The office of the UN Secretary General says it remains committed to "sanctioning any staff, junior or senior, found to have engaged in sexual harassment".

'Sleazy'

Martina Bostrom, a former senior advisor for UNAIDS, told the BBC she was also a victim of sexual harassment at work.

"Sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment in the UN happens in headquarters, it happens Monday to Friday. It happens during regular work hours, it happens everywhere," she said.

She said she was targeted by Luiz Loures, UNAIDS deputy executive director and an assistant secretary general, who she described as being "sleazy" and known for his inappropriate behaviour. During a work event in Bangkok in 2015, she said he forcibly kissed and groped her in a lift as they left a meeting, before trying to drag her towards his room.

"I pleaded with him to stop, let me go. I had to block myself with the elevator door to be able to stay in because I was afraid I was seeing that long corridor," she said. "My brain was obviously working very, very, quickly and dreading what could happen." Martina launched a formal complaint and spoke to UN investigators. The UN and UNAIDS "retaliated in very mean and hurtful ways," she said.

"That's very painful because it's almost like being violated all over again. It's like they don't give you a chance to breathe."

In 2018, Luiz Loures retired from the UN and was thanked for "his 22 years of dedicated service". He told the BBC: "I have never harassed nor assaulted anyone. The accusations made are unfounded."

The UN said: "Allegations of harassment against Dr Loures were investigated," but at this time it was "not in a position to comment on the veracity of these claims".

In August 2021 Martina received a letter from the UN that accepted that she was "sexually harassed over a protracted period of time" but, in regard to the allegation she was sexually assaulted in 2015, they concluded "something traumatic happened to you consistent with your account of the situation", but the findings "did not meet the evidentiary standards".

Zero-tolerance

Ms Sen said Martina's case was symptomatic of a wider problem at the UN.

She told the documentary that an "astonishing" third of UN staff said they had experienced sexual harassment while working, but that the vast majority of cases had not been reported.

"What we do know about cases is just the tip of the iceberg and, this is a really important point, people feel there will be adverse consequences for reporting, they will be retaliated against.

"If I had been attacked or sexually assaulted, I would likely not have reported

it. I would not put myself through that process."

In a statement, the office of UN Secretary General, António Guterres, said there had been "major improvements to fighting the scourge of sexual harassment, from which no organization is immune". It said measures included hiring female investigators to look into allegations, a hotline for staff to report misconduct and better training of senior management.

But, speaking to BBC Newsnight, Ms Sen said accounts in the documentary suggested the UN had not fulfilled its promises of zero-tolerance and had "a lot

further to go".

"Whether it's corruption, fraud, sexual harassment, [UN staff] feel they can't progress even to making a report, that the complaints are initially dismissed far too early. They're not given alternative procedures and appeals access," she said.

"The UN has certainly addressed some of the big failures it had before, but it hasn't gone far enough. I have seen things that are very troubling - that can and should be addressed as a matter of urgency, not just in words, but in deeds."

-BBC

22-23 July 2022
FINANCIAL GAMES

SOCCER / VOLLEYBALL / NETBALL
 DARTS / TOUCH RUGBY / GOLF
 AND TUG OF WAR

AT: UNAM STADIUM

TO REGISTER:
info@kevagroup.com CONTACT US **0812347879**

DEEVINCI

2023 Honda HR-V First Drive: Civic Minded

■ Scott Evans

We rather liked the old Honda Fit-based HR-V, even if it was pretty poky. More power, a bit more space in the back, and a richer-feeling interior were all the little SUV really needed. On paper, the all-new Civic-based 2023 Honda HR-V resolves all those issues. But do the improvements elevate the experience overall? Step Inside

As much as there is to like about the new HR-V small SUV, most folks will appreciate the interior upgrade most of all. Basically an adaptation of the wonderful Civic interior, it looks far more upscale than before and brings a great deal more functionality. The hidden vents in the decorative honeycomb trim are classy, the infotainment system is massively improved, and the center console's been rearranged for far greater functionality.

We really want to drill down on the center console and armrest, because it was one of the least-liked aspects of the old model. Honda moved the cupholders from under your elbow to forward of the shifter, making them easier to reach and increasing the real estate for elbows. The passthrough shelf that was by your knees has been moved behind the shifter by your thighs, where it's easier to reach. The USB ports, which were a massive pain to access, have been relocated to much more ergonomic positions. Pity there still isn't a single USB port in the rear seat, and even the 12-volt outlet is gone.

We're equally disappointed to report the folks in the back still don't get air vents, either, but they're not totally left out of the cabin updates. Legroom was never a problem, but the new platform and body opened up more hip-, shoulder-, and headroom in the back row, so it's a more comfortable space to be. And although the trick-folding "Magic Seats" are gone, Honda makes up for the deletion with a larger cargo area behind the second row.

Go for a Drive

Honda's decision to switch to the new global platform pioneered by the latest Civic sedan and hatchback was a smart move. We like the Civic an awful lot, and the HR-V compact SUV benefits mightily from the association. One turn of the wheel, and you immediately appreciate how good the chassis is. The HR-V rides nicer than most cars at this price point and handles better than most of them, too. The excellent body control resists pitch and dive and lean, and it handles bumps quickly and neatly, even when the suspension is already loaded up in a corner. Few people go looking at inexpensive compact SUVs for good driving dynamics, but the HR-V delivers anyway and is genuinely pleasant to drive.

Life in the Slow Lane

For as much as Honda got right on the new HR-V, the engine choice is all wrong. This 2.0-liter four-cylinder is a little more powerful on paper, but it's pulling a larger, heavier vehicle. It should

be no surprise, then, that the acceleration is abysmal. An unscientific stopwatch test showed we needed more than 11 agonizing seconds to reach 60 mph from a stop; if that result holds when we get to strap in our official timing equipment, the new HR-V would be at least 1.5 seconds slower than the old—and already slow—HR-V. Getting to 60 requires the CVT to run the engine up to nearly redline and stay there, which is a noisy place to be. People who live at altitude will spend a lot of time with their foot on the floor and the engine screaming like a giant blender.

The only good news here is that you don't really notice the dearth of power as much when you're moving. Our same unofficial stopwatch said the new HR-V is about as quick to execute a 45-65-mph passing maneuver as the old one, so the difference is in the launch. Getting around town and driving on the highway, the CVT reacts very quickly when you ask for more speed. Some people like to bag on CVTs, but this one is a hero. It gets every last bit of performance out of this underperforming engine.

It's worth noting we were only able to drive loaded HR-Vs with all-wheel drive. A base front-drive model will accelerate differently, although it's impossible to say if it'll be quicker or slower until we test one, as it will depend on how much the all-wheel-drive system contributes to the initial launch from a stop.

More Fuel to the Fire

Being a bigger and heavier vehicle (by 100 to 300 pounds) with a larger engine means the HR-V's fuel economy wasn't going to go up, but it didn't go down an awful lot on the EPA test, either, losing 2 mpg pretty much across the board. In the real world, though, you'll be lucky to hit the official 26/32/28 mpg ratings given the heavy pedal required to keep pace with traffic from a stop.

For its part, Honda says it knowingly sacrificed a bit of fuel economy for more power and space, but given the performance we'll call it a bad deal. The company refuses to say if there will be another engine option in the future, but we're hoping like hell for the Civic's 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder or a hybrid powertrain.

The Road Less Traveled

As this is ostensibly an SUV and it does have all-wheel drive, we felt compelled to test whether it can actually leave the pavement, and the result was a surprising yes. None of the HR-V's off-road stats are impressive, but take it somewhere its ground clearance can handle, and the all-wheel-drive system will get you back. Honda has reprogrammed the setup to send more power to the rear wheels sooner, and combined with solid traction control programming, we couldn't get the new HR-V stuck on miles of muddy forest service roads. Sure, we scraped the bottom splashing in and out of some of the biggest mud puddles, but the SUV never struggled for grip in the slippery stuff.

The Tech Stuff

The AWD system isn't the only piece of technology Honda upgraded. Now, all versions of the HR-V get the Honda Sensing package of active and passive safety technologies as standard equipment. In addition to collision avoidance features, you also get fancy convenience items such as adaptive cruise control and lane keeping assistance that does a very good job of keeping the car in the center of the lane.

Inside, there's now a half-digital instrument cluster that can be configured to show nearly a dozen different information screens. The other screen—the main infotainment display—has attendant knobs for volume and tuning, and they're connected to a much-improved onscreen experience. It isn't the best user interface on the market, but take some time to learn the system, and you'll find an appreciable level of customizability.

Let's Talk Money

All the extra stuff you get in this new model ain't free. The base price has gone up, and with fuel economy going down, running costs will also increase a little. That's a bit of a bummer, but the silver lining is you get a much nicer vehicle than before. It drives better, it has more space, it has a better interior, and it has a lot more tech. Inflation being what it is right now, it's hard to get excited about an affordable car getting more expensive, but the 2023 HR-V delivers more than enough value to make up for the price increase.

—Motor Trend



What can Gunners fans expect after agreeing deal for Porto midfielder?

■ **Marcus Alves**

Whenever Porto win a trophy, there is only one place to go in the city: the Avenida dos Aliados, in the downtown area.

That is where fans gather to wait for players and coaching staff to celebrate triumphs together. It was no different in May after the northern giants were crowned Portuguese champions again.

For a second, though, one of the team's breakout stars, Fabio Vieira, feared he would not be able to join his colleagues on the big stage. A security officer had not recognised him and asked for his identification.

Vieira could not believe it. He had just finished the league campaign with six goals and 14 assists to his name and yet was being stopped at the party's entrance.

"Ma'am, that's me," he insisted, smiling, while being helped by a reporter from the club's TV channel with cries of "he's a player, he's a player".

The episode is telling of how fast things have happened for Vieira.

Last season was the first in which he enjoyed regular senior football and while it may not have been enough to establish him as an undisputed starter - or even for his face to become hugely recognisable in town - it was enough to convince Arsenal to secure a 40m euros (£34.2m) deal for the 22-year-old attacking midfielder.

"Players like Fabio are worth a lot of money, so if you can grab them before they fully break out, why not? That's smart business," Manuel Tulipa, a former Porto

youth coach, told BBC Sport.

"He's that kind of creative midfielder who comes with the solution when you're struggling during a game. He can see what's going on around him and anticipate what will happen. That's the dream for any manager and the sort of footballer that clubs are always after."

With a left foot that oozes class, the boy from Argoncilhe, a suburb south of Porto, has been described as a rebel on the pitch.

He has self-confidence and, no matter the situation, refuses to play the obvious ball and pass backwards or sideways. It may sound risky, but the ball often ends up in the back of the net as a result.

"Fabio has the intelligence of the wise old men," Porto's assistant coach Vitor Bruno summarised.

It will now be up to Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta to harness that footballing intelligence and make sure he fulfils his potential.

"I have it all figured out"

Having arrived aged eight, the stylish midfielder spent all his formative years at Porto and yet his ride to the top was far from smooth.

His cousin and football coach Mara Vieira joined the club at the same time and even got to work by his side for a while, witnessing his journey through the ranks.

"We are talking here about a 12-year process to break into the senior squad and realise his dream of playing for his boyhood club," explained Mara, who is also an executive director at the School of Tactical Periodization. "Despite his quality,

there were moments when he didn't play much and wasn't really appreciated by a coach or two.

"For instance, he only made it to the national setup at the under-18 level. He had to watch his friends being called up while he was left behind but he never doubted himself. He used to say he had it all figured out."

It may have taken longer for Vieira to flourish than might have been expected, but once he did breakthrough he did not look back.

He was a key member of the Porto team that won the 2019 Uefa Youth League, beating a Chelsea side including the likes of Conor Gallagher, Billy Gilmour and Tariq Lamptey. Two years later, he was named best player at the Under-21 European Championship.

More aggressive than Odegaard With Porto manager Sergio Conceicao's reluctance to embrace youth, Vieira had to wait for his chance to shine.

He finally became a regular after Luis Diaz's departure to Liverpool last winter, contributing to 11 goals in his final 12 league games. While it has been argued that he would have benefited from another season at the Dragao stadium, the club's never-ending financial crisis meant he left for less than his 50m euros (£43m) release clause.

A versatile player with an eye for a killer pass, Arsenal will be able to use him in a number of different ways.

He has featured across all positions in midfield, but mainly operated from the



right flank, cutting infield. He is incisive in the attacking third and will provide fierce competition for Martin Odegaard.

"He has all the tools - he can dribble, combine, slow down the tempo, break into the box, score. Players like this have to be close to goal," said Tulipa.

"One thing he needed to improve, however, were his actions without the ball, but he did so over the past months. He has grown into

a more collective athlete under Conceicao and found the right balance between the different moments of the game."

Adjusting to life in north London should be no problem for him, according to his cousin. "It's a huge change, but, for everything he has gone through, his reading capacity and intelligence, he can overcome this, too," Mara concluded.

-BBC

World Aquatics Championships: Thomas Ceccon breaks 100m backstroke world record

Italy's Thomas Ceccon smashed the world record to win gold in the men's 100m backstroke at the World Championships in Budapest.

The 21-year-old took victory in 51.60 seconds - 0.25secs better than Ryan Murphy's previous mark set in 2016.

America's four-time Olympic gold medallist Murphy claimed silver, while compatriot Hunter Armstrong was third. Meanwhile, Britain's Olympic champion Tom Dean took bronze in the men's 200m freestyle.

Romania teenager David Popovici, 17, took gold to break the world junior record he set in qualifying, while South Korean Hwang Sun-woo, 19, took silver.

But Ceccon enjoyed centre stage with his stunning effort.

"I have no words, there was an Olympic champion in 2016 (Murphy) and other strong people in the field, I'm pretty happy," he said.

"I didn't think of any record or time before the start, I just swam my own race. For me, it's simply unbelievable."

More Italian success followed as 17-year-old Benedetta Pilato won gold in the women's 100m breaststroke.

She pipped Germany's Anna Elendt by just 0.05secs to become the youngest Italian to win a world title and Lithuania's 2012 Olympic champion Ruta Meilutyte was third.

"I'm super happy, it was my dream and it came true tonight," said an emotional Pilato as she broke down in tears, unable to finish her post-race interview.

American Katie Ledecky, 25, dominated the women's 1,500m freestyle to claim her

second gold of the championships.

Ledecky, who won the women's 400m freestyle on the opening day, cruised to victory in 15 minutes and 30.15 seconds.

Britain's Freya Anderson, 21, swam a personal best of 1:56.05 seconds to qualify fastest for the women's 200m freestyle final on Tuesday.

She said: "It's a big confidence boost, I've been struggling to get down to a 1:56-low, so I'll take it - but there's always ways to do better."

-BBC

"I didn't think of any record or time before the start, I just swam my own race. For me, it's simply unbelievable."



Gareth Southgate has FA's confidence, says Debbie Hewitt



■ Dan Roan

The Football Association has confidence in England manager Gareth Southgate, says its chairwoman Debbie Hewitt.

England face relegation in the Nations League following last week's humiliating 4-0 defeat against Hungary.

But in her first public comments since becoming FA chair last year, Hewitt praised Southgate's "resilience and accountability".

"Based on any facts on the pitch, he is the most successful England manager we've had for 55 years," she said.

"But the bit people don't see is the culture he's created.

"Prior to Gareth being the manager there was not the pride of wearing the England shirt. There was a club rivalry we would read about, players not getting on.

"He's changed that beyond recognition and I've seen that for myself.

"I've worked in business and Gareth's skills, his high IQ, would make him a chief executive in any sphere.

"That resilience and accountability. There's no sloped shoulders, and that's what you want in an England manager."

Since taking charge in 2016, Southgate has led England to the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup and then a first European Championship final last year.

Hewitt said she had spoken to Southgate to reassure him after the poor recent results and backed the FA's decision last year to extend the 51-year-old's contract extension to 2024, rather than waiting until after this winter's World Cup in Qatar.

"I think that's a bit of a red herring, in a sense, because I don't think we would be discussing it had we not had the recent series of games," she said.

"Clearly we did that with proper discussion and thought. The fact there's been a stumble does not make us automatically say 'should we have given him a contract?' "We have confidence in Gareth for all the reasons I described and I think that's the important thing. And it's particularly important going into the biggest tournament.

"Gareth's reaction (to her call), as in everything with that sort of conversation, was that it is his accountability, that there's always something to learn.

"That's why it's refreshing working with somebody like that because that openness to learn is quite remarkable and quite unusual in any sphere."

'Migrant workers said they want us to shine a light'

Hewitt also addressed the pressure the England team is coming under from campaigners in terms of deciding how to help safeguard the rights of migrant workers in Qatar.

Accusations of human rights abuses have plagued the hosts since they were awarded the tournament in 2010.

England captain Harry Kane has said he is talking to his international team-mates about whether they can make some form of protest, and the FA is known to be considering backing calls for a migrant worker centre in Doha as well as more compensation for bereaved families.

"The context is not straightforward," Hewitt said. "I've been to Qatar three times and I would say there's a positive to come from a World Cup being held there.

"It's an opportunity to give the migrant workers there a voice, that's the way they see it. Having seen where they work and live, and heard some experiences they've had, we asked the question outright; 'would you rather we boycott, or come and shine a light?'

"A number I spoke to said 'we want you to shine a light'. I do think it's important to unite with other federations.

"As far as the team is concerned, they are playing in Qatar and it's inevitable they will be asked questions about human rights.

"In fact, they are curious and want to learn and want to think about the best way that they can make a difference - they shine a light, they are role models and they want to be informed.

"So we are spending our time educating them in the issues and educating ourselves in the issues. And ultimately we will discuss with the team and with Gareth what

we feel is the best statement we can make, particularly about leaving behind a legacy with the rest of our football colleagues internationally."

Mark Bullingham, the FA's chief executive, added: "We have a Uefa working group on that exact topic. We're flying out to Qatar this Sunday to work on that with all the countries that have qualified.

"We are looking at two things: first, what is the legacy programme, and second, what is any symbolic gesture that we collectively would like to make.

"We would hope to be able to give an update on that after we've spoken to the players in the wake of that workshop."

Speaking on the day International Rugby League announced transgender players have at least temporarily been banned from women's internationals, Hewitt said the debate over the inclusion of transgender athletes in women's sport is "a really tricky subject".

On Sunday it was announced Fina, swimming's world governing body,

voted to stop transgender athletes from competing in women's elite races and Fifa, football's world governing body, has now confirmed it is reviewing its gender eligibility regulations.

"We talk about inclusion but it has to be inclusive for everybody and it has to be fair," said Hewitt. "That's the line that any sports administrator has to think about.

"Is the competition fair and are we making sure it is inclusive on both sides?"

Bullingham added: "We have our own policy with grassroots that we are working on at the moment and Fifa is doing a consultation for the elite of the game. There might be a slightly different approach to grassroots than you would have for elite." Clubs want 'complete alignment' on fan sanctions

England failed to win any of their four Nations League games over the last fortnight and the 0-0 draw with Italy at Molineux on 11 June was played behind closed doors as punishment for crowd unrest at Wembley Stadium during last

summer's Euro 2020 final.

There were also a number of pitch invasions following games in England towards the end of the domestic season, with incidents of supporters attacking players, and Hewitt said it was a "worrying and ugly trend".

"The pitch is sacred and players, match officials and coaches have to be able to play in a safe environment," she added.

"If you look at some of the footage at the end of last season, it was disturbing and anything but safe for those players and indeed for some of those fans that invaded the pitch. "It's a huge concern and we are working in the FA to put in place the toughest possible sanctions that we can.

"I was at a session with all of the Premier League clubs a week or so ago and every club in that room was [saying] 'we have to put in place tougher sanctions'. There was absolutely no resistance. It was complete and utter alignment on what we need to do."

-BBC

