



# PROGRAMMANUS

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PRODUCENT: MADELEINE NILSSON/STEVE HANKEY  
PROJEKTLEDARE: RALF PERSSON  
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## NEWSREEL WORLD Saturday 23 November 2019

**Alanna Leslie:** Hi, I'm Alana Leslie, and it's time for the final Newsreel World of this year, bringing you news from English speaking countries all over the world, for the last time in 2019. For this episode, we're going to look back at some of the biggest stories of this year. Remember people not wanting to vote in South Africa? How about the plastic ban in Jamaica? We're going to hear what happened with those stories, as well as hearing about a few big things that have happened this year that we've not spoken about before. But first, we're going back to Liberia...

### Liberia

**Alanna Leslie:** Earlier in the year, we heard about how students in Liberia were protesting about the government removing funding from their University. This was just one example of many areas of life in Liberia, where the people are fed up with the politicians they elected into power. So much so, that some of the most famous musicians in Liberia are now apparently protesting in their music. We're heading to Monrovia to hear from Harriette Gaye.

**Takun J (singing):** *"I pose for the photo, but I can't see myself in the photo. Pose!"*

**Harriette Gaye:** It's the song of the moment in Liberia, playing in every bar, market and street corner and features one of Liberia's biggest Hipco stars. Takun J, in collaboration with Colorful and the comedian Kpokolo. Liberia's music scene is dominated by Hipco, a type of hip-hop featuring Liberia's unique form of English. But why can't Takun see himself in the photo? We went to his bar in central Monrovia to find out...

**Takun J:** Yo yo yo what's up it's your boy Takun J... I'm here locking it down man... I was basically, you know, basing all my musical career saying that Liberian artists don't have no priority, you know. They take foreign artists and bring them down in Liberia and then pay them exorbitantly and give us little or nothing. So all these things... happens to be that we are not in the photo.

**Harriette:** But Takun's fans have their own interpretations.

**Market Trader James:** This song is also about politicians. Yeah the music is all about politics.

**Harriette:** But Takun J denies that the song is political.



**Takun J:** The “Pose for a Photo” song... absolutely, it's not a political concept that I do have for that song. It was about a social life. I even met a girl in the street who was like “oh Takun can you imagine that song you singing... me and my boyfriend we were together but since he got a job he left me so now I'm not in the photo. That is not political!”

**Harriette:** But Takun J is known for criticizing the government in his music, including the hit called They Lied To Us, where he talks about corruption.

## South Africa

**Alanna:** Thanks, Harriette. Now, South Africa. In May, South Africa held its sixth election since the end of apartheid in 1994. Before it happened. Carissa Cupido told us about how young voters in South Africa were apathetic about voting. So, what happened? Well, the African National Congress, known as the ANC, remain in power. And Cyril Ramaphosa is president. But what do young South Africans think about another five years of the ANC? Carissa is back to let us know.

**Carissa Cupido:** There was collective apathy among the youth about voting, most expressing that their vote won't make an impact. The ruling party, the ANC, claimed fifty-seven-point five percent of the count, reflecting the worst performance in any national election.

**Fantasia:** I feel like he's trying to make changes, but I feel like he's more of a businessman, more than he is a humanitarian.

**Vusi:** Well, I like the president, but I think he has too much pressure based on the past. So, yes, so many things to fix.

## New Zealand

**Alanna:** Now, New Zealand... This year, one of the hardest stories we chose to tell you about was the senseless murder of 51 people in Christchurch, New Zealand. After this tragedy, there was an outpouring of love from the wider community. To tell us more, Radio New Zealand journalist Logan Church, has this report.

**Logan Church:** The March 15<sup>th</sup> terror attacks in Christchurch are burned into the memory of all New Zealanders. The country's worst ever act of terrorism saw 51 people die at two mosques in Christchurch, dozens more injured. Many are still figuring out how to live with life-changing bullet wounds. Brenton Tarrant of Australia is accused of terrorism and the murder of 51 people who were praying in two mosques in Christchurch on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He's also accused of attempting to murder 40 others. His trial is expected to take place next year. Among the dead were two students of Cashmere High School, Hamza Mustafa, who was 16 years old, and Sayaad Milne, who was 14. Fellow students and Cashmere head boy, 17-year-old Okirano Tilaia was in the central city when the attacks took place. He was attending a student-led climate protest when the shooting happened.

**Okirano Tilaia:** My friends and I were in the city, in the square, protesting with thousands of other students as well. And, suddenly we had police officers telling us to go home and, you know we didn't know what was going on. We rushed straight back to school because, you know, that was only the only safe place that we knew of.



**Logan Church:** Amira, Okirano and Thomas all agree Christchurch has changed, but they also believe that more change is needed.

**Amira:** I think people become much more cautious and, in my opinion, caution's a good thing in the means of, how you speak, treat and respect others. I think it should really be a huge wakeup call that every individual actually has an effect on how this world's going to turn out and how our communities act.

**Thomas:** A lot of people in Christchurch are starting to wake up to the fact that the culture that has led to this kind of stuff has always been there in Christchurch and has always been there in New Zealand. And, we can sometimes be very good at sweeping it under the rug.

**Okirano:** You know, the students we lost they had amazing stories. One of the students was an amazing footballer and I think wanted to be a vet. And just hearing those kinds of stories and realizing that those young people don't get to wake up again and chase their dreams, it just... encourages me to wake up every day and then go out and, you know, do the best that I can positively and, you know, go change the world for the better.

## **Jamaica**

**Alanna:** Thanks, Logan. Now, Jamaica... At the start of this year, Jamaica banned the vast majority of single use plastics, specifically straws, bags and Styrofoam. It was a huge law change to help improve the environment; and a big transition for people to get used to. How has the law change settled in? From Kingston, Giovanni Dennis tells us more.

**Giovanni Dennis:** I was away when the Jamaican ban on single use plastic took effect in January. When I returned in July, it felt unusual. No more free plastic bags to store groceries in the supermarket. Instead, I had to pay for a permanent bag. So, it is taking some adjusting to. But it has created a niche for entrepreneurs. Businesses now produce a variety of specialized bags in different sizes at different prices. The plastic ban also affects straws. Stainless steel straws are growing in popularity.

## **Australia**

**Alanna:** Now, Australia... Globally, people are starting to wonder whether having access to our smartphones, at all times, is actually good for us. Some schools in Western Australia were so convinced that less time with phones would be positive for their students, that they banned them. This trial has led to schools across the state deciding to ban them too, starting next year. From Perth, a city on the west coast of Australia, Kate Leaver has this report.

**Kate Leaver:** The "off and away all day" phone prohibition policy was a reaction to reports students were too distracted during school hours. But what do West Aussie high school students have to say about it?



**Australian school student 1:** Sometimes the phone is useful for us because we can check more information or we can share our ideas or opinion with our friends. But maybe if the school banned our phones, we can focus more on our lessons.

**Kate Leaver:** Some private schools had taken matters into their own hands and implemented full bans back in 2017.

**Australian school student 2:** Oh yeah. I think it's really great because a lot more things are happening like, during lunchtime there are a lot more things going on and the Principal comes out and chats to us and chats about us and how our day's been. And, yeah no, it's really positive because everyone is not busy focused on their screens and yet just having like proper interactions with each other.

**Kate Leaver:** Do you think it's a good idea that kids aren't allowed their phones in school?

**Australian school student 3:** Yeah, I think it's a good idea.

**Kate Leaver:** And why is that?

**Australian school student 3:** It would be really distracting and it would just make you less productive in class.

**Kate Leaver:** The government believe the ban would give kids a much needed break from social media. But some students remain skeptical, saying the ban will be very difficult to enforce.

**Australian school student 4:** Kids will do whatever they can to find a way around stuff. Like there's so many ways you can use a laptop to do exactly the same things that you would do on your phone.

**Kate Leaver:** Only time will tell if students will switch off or simply smuggle their phones into class regardless.

**Alanna:** Thanks, Kate. That's it for today, and for this year! Thanks for listening to us in 2019. I hope you've learnt a lot. I know I have. This is Newsreel World. I'm Alana Leslie. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll speak to you in 2020. See you real soon.