



# NEWSREEL WORLD

## 2020-03-28

### Programmanus

*av Alanna Leslie*

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie, and it's time for Newsreel World. Today, we're heading to Canada, Guyana and South Sudan. By the way, if I sound a bit different to normal, it's because I'm recording this episode at home in London instead of at the studio. This is because, due to the coronavirus, we've been advised to stay at home as much as possible to do what we can to stop the virus from spreading. For our first story today, we're heading to Ghana...

#### **Ghana**

**ALANNA LESLIE:** The ironic thing about the invention of the internet is that even though more knowledge and information is available to people than ever before, there's been a huge rise in conspiracy theories, misinformation and fake news. In recent years, more and more steps have been taken to combat fake news worldwide. Ghana in West Africa is the latest country to announce a new initiative. From the city of Accra, Fiifi Anaman can explain more...

**FIIFI ANAMAN:** Earlier this month, someone on a Whatsapp group I belong to shared an image supposed to be a screenshot from a news website. The headline read: Coronavirus – Ghana confirms first case in the University of Ghana. It was fake news. How did I know? The website looked dodgy – it was heavily pixelated, and the story's text was not well-spaced. Of course, not all fake news comes with such glaring red flags, but the phenomenon is widespread in Ghana. In an attempt to stop this menace in its tracks, an independent verification and fact-checking website called DUBAWA was launched in Accra, Ghana's capital, last month. I spoke to some young people in Ghana about their experiences with fake news:

**AKOUSA:** For me I'd say...

**FIIFI ANAMAN:** This is Akosua Kumi. I spoke to her at her workplace a few miles north of the University of Ghana.

**AKOUSA:** Personally, I think fake news surfaces when there is a lot of activities ongoing in the nation. For instance, this coronavirus, we have a lot of fake news going around.

**FIIFI ANAMAN:** So where do you normally find it?

**AKOUSA:** Mostly on Whatsapp and ignorant people post it on their Facebook and Instagram statuses and then sometimes I follow the link to go and verify and, they just don't make sense.

**STANLEY:** I think errr...

**FIIFI ANAMAN:** I also spoke to Stanley Obeng Fils on what could be done to prevent fake news from spreading.



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**STANLEY:** I think there should be sanctions first of all. I think when you publish false news they should arrest you or, maybe jail you or something. So I think the government should take this upon themselves to do that.

**FIIFI ANAMAN:** The arrival of DUBAWA in Ghana presents a positive step towards weeding out false information, but the fight has only just begun. This is Fiifi Anaman reporting for Newsreel World from Accra in Ghana.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thanks Fiifi. Now it's time for a few quick stories from around the world...

#### **Africa**

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Formula E - a racing competition that only uses electric cars – wants to hold more races on the continent of Africa. The competition currently has just one race there, in Morocco's capital Marrakesh. Plans for more races there were announced before the Formula E calendar was postponed due to the coronavirus, or Covid-19, outbreak.

#### **Outer space**

**ALANNA LESLIE:** The first space-grown lettuce, yes that's lettuce grown in space, has been found to be as nutritious, and taste the same; as lettuce grown on Earth. A wide variety of tests were conducted on it to make sure it was safe for humans to eat. Growing food in space could be crucial for astronauts in the future as people are set to spend more time in space on longer missions. Whatever the result, it's clear that this lettuce was... out of this world!

#### **Guyana**

*You Are - Poonam Singh*

This is a record called You Are by Guyanese singer Poonam Singh. Poonam was born in Guyana but her parents are originally from India, so she's a real citizen of the world.

*Guyana - Poonam Singh*

And she wrote this song Guyana to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Guyana's independence from Britain in 2016.

#### **Canada**

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Now Canada... In the world we live in, you need money to buy everything: food, clothes, the roof over your head, everything. For most of you listening to this, that money currently comes from a parent or guardian. They need to have a job to earn money to buy those things. But what happens to those people who can't get a job and therefore can't afford those simple items?



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Some countries have experimented with giving a small amount of money each month to people who need it, regardless of whether they have a job or not. This idea is called a Universal Basic Income, and it's been trialled in places such as Finland and Canada. The new coronavirus has reawakened the debate in Canada about a basic income. From the city of Toronto, Aliya Pabani has this report...

**ALIYA PABANI:** In an effort to stop the spread of Covid-19, public health officials around the world have been calling for people with symptoms to stay home. The crisis has reignited a public conversation around whether governments should be providing all people a basic income: A set amount of money that would be paid to every person that falls within a certain age range, to cover the basic costs of living, regardless of their employment status, or their salary. Supporters of the idea argue that it would raise the standard of living and financial security for all people, which would lower the burden on public services like hospitals and shelters. Critics are concerned that giving people a no-strings-attached payment would weaken their motivation to join the workforce. I spoke to Stefan who has a positive view on basic income.

**STEFAN:** One of the test projects was actually in Brantford, Ontario which is where I went to school. The upcoming Universal Basic Income pilot was going to be another one of those things that I believe would start to change the downtown for the better.

**ALIYA PABANI:** Back in 2017, a team of researchers in Ontario, Canada received government funding to find out how basic income would affect people's lives, in a real-world scenario. But in June 2018, just over a year after the study had begun, Ontario's newly elected Conservative Party cancelled the project, calling it expensive and unsustainable. Recently, the researchers released a report containing some preliminary findings from the cancelled pilot, which raises questions about the government's assessment. The report found that almost 80 percent of respondents reported better overall health during the program. Despite concerns that basic income would discourage work, almost three quarters of the respondents who were working before the pilot began, continued to work through the pilot. I spoke to Elsa about the effects of a Universal Basic Income:

**ELSA:** A lot of people think that basic income is bad because it encourages people to be lazy, but I don't think that's true. I think that if people had financial security they could find where they fit within society better if paying your bills and, like, getting food on the table wasn't such a huge stress.

**ALIYA PABANI:** And Hannah says, people's lives would be more about living than surviving.



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**HANNAH:** There are a lot of people who, like, don't have enough money to survive even. So, like, having a basic income would mean, like, people would be able to survive and, like, have lives that were not just, like, about, surviving.

**ALIYA PABANI:** This is Aliya Pabani reporting for Newsreel World in Toronto, Canada.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thanks Aliya.

#### South Sudan

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Now, South Sudan...

**LUAL MAYEN:** I've been working on a game that actually put a player in the shoes of a refugee.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** This is Lual Mayen speaking at the Game Awards in Los Angeles. He's originally from South Sudan. He's 25 and spent the first 22 years of his life living in a refugee camp in Uganda. He's created a game called Salaam, which means "peace" in Arabic. So, what is Salaam and why did Lual make it?

**LUAL MAYEN:** My mission in creating Salaam is to let the world know what it's like to be a refugee. When you buy medicine and food in the game, it goes to real refugees. Refugees like me.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** The game is free to play on Facebook but the money made from in-app purchases when you buy supplies, such as water and food, goes to real life refugees. The object of the game is to move on from the refugee camp to a peaceful place to live. Back when he was 15, Lual's mother bought him his first computer when they lived in a refugee camp in Uganda. It took her three years to save up the money she made from working as a seamstress to buy it. On that computer, Lual taught himself how to code and created Salaam. The game went viral when he uploaded it to Facebook and now Lual is the boss of his own video game company in Washington D.C. His mission in life is to use his skills to make life better for people who are going through what he endured as a refugee.

**LUAL MAYEN:** We can be able to change the world and help people around the world and see whatever they're going through, through playing video games.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Well, that's it for today. See you next time!