

NEWSREEL WORLD



2022-04-16

Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World. Today we're talking about New Zealand, Hollywood and Jamaica.

ALANNA LESLIE: But first...

Raila Odinga, who came second in last month's presidential election in Kenya, has launched a legal challenge, questioning the result.

William Ruto was declared the winner with just over half the vote. But four of the seven electoral commissioners who oversaw the election have raised concerns about how the vote was counted.

To hear more, Michael Kaloki has this report.

Wafula Chebukati: Ruto William Samoei

Michael Kaloki: That was Wafula Chebukati, chair of the country's electoral agency announcing William Ruto as the winner of Kenya's 2022 presidential elections.

Mr. Ruto's closest competitor was Raila Odinga. Mr. Odinga has contested the results of this year's elections and has filed a petition at the Supreme Court of Kenya, the country's top court.

Railia Odinga: The figures announced by Mr Chebukati are null and void and must be quashed by a court of law.

Michael Kaloki: As Kenyans await the results of the petition, one of the main talking points among political commentators in the country is why this time around so many young people didn't register to vote.

In the run-up to the election, the country's electoral agency registered only an additional 2.5 million voters against a target of six million.

Well, to try and find out why this time around why so few young people had registered to vote, I decided to speak to Nerima Wako-Ojiwa, Executive Director of Siasa Place, an organisation that educates the youth on governance matters.

Nerima Wako-Ojiwa: A lot of young people didn't register, and that's because a lot of them feel removed from the process. They don't see the point in voting because they don't see the results of their participation. They still feel that the cost of living is too high. There are no opportunities for young people.

Michael Kaloki: Okay, so after having a chat with Nirema, I went out on the streets of the country's capital, Nairobi, to speak to some young people to find out if they had voted or not.

Vox 1: I'm one of those people that are not interested in voting. The system of Kenya is really corrupt. Everyone can see it. There is something that you can't, it can't be hidden.

Vox 2: I voted. I had to do that basically because, number one, I have a duty as a citizen of this republic to make sure that in every election I cast my vote and ensure that the government that I want to see do things for me as an individual and as a youth of this republic. I am hopeful, and I know that even if they overturn the election, the country is still going to remain peaceful.

Michael Kaloki: The Supreme Court's decision is expected soon, but the debate over why the country's youth seem not to want to go out and vote looks set to run for some time. Reporting for Newsreel World, this is Michael Kaloki in Nairobi, Kenya.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Michael.

ALANNA LESLIE: The Spider-Man actor Tom Holland has said he's taking a break from social media for his mental health.

In a video posted on Instagram, Mr. Holland told fans that he often finds looking at social media “overwhelming” and reading comments about him online can send him into a downward spiral.

It comes as reports from around the world are finding that there is a connection between overuse of social media and poor mental health in young people.

ALANNE LESLIE: The Jamaican women's netball team made history at the Commonwealth Games last month when they beat world champions New Zealand and secured a spot in the final.

Although the team who are known as the “Sunshine Girls” weren't able to secure gold in the final with Australia, their joyful celebrations on court after the semi-final have been remembered as a standout moment from the games.

Their win was particularly special as it coincided with the 60th anniversary of Jamaica's independence.

ALANNA LESLIE: That was a short clip of Selema (Po Po) by South African DJ Musa Keys and singer Loui.

It's an example of Amapiano – a style of house music which first emerged in South Africa 10 years ago but is now gaining a global audience. Amapiano means “the pianos” in Zulu – and is a cross between deep house, jazz and lounge music.

It hit the headlines recently when Formula 1 superstar Lewis Hamilton used Musa's hit as the backing to a video he posted on Instagram, which now has nearly 400 thousand likes.

ALANNA LESLIE: Now at this year's Women's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, many of the fans won't be waving flags – they'll be waving poi. Poi are props used in the traditional Māori performance art of the same name.

The poi will be supplied by Georgia Latu, the extraordinary 15 year-old CEO of the world's largest poi company.

Ayana Piper-Healion spoke to Georgia to find out more.

Ayana Piper-Healio: Poi. P. O. I. They look like round balls on the end of a rope and are traditionally used in dance performances by Māori women in New Zealand.

Georgia Latu is the 15 year-old CEO of Pōtiki Poi, which is now the largest Poi manufacturing company in the world. I asked her how she got started.

Georgia Latu: So I started Pōtiki Poi back in early 2019 as a fundraiser. We didn't have the money, we didn't have the pūtea [budget] at the time. So mum suggested that I fundraise through making poi and in three days we had fundraised \$1,000 and realised that this not only has the opportunity to start a business, but is an opportunity to give back to our whanau [family], our harpori [community] and our community.

Ayana Piper-Healio: What's your involvement at the moment with the business?

Georgia Latu: At the moment, I'm actually the spokesperson, you could say, also the CEO, and I'm in charge of media, so I don't actually make poi anymore, which is quite funny. For Pōtiki Poi we have three main ethos and that's revitalising taonga [property] Māori. So honouring te tino rangatiratanga [sovereignty]. And then there's working with people of diverse abilities. That means employing them to work with us. And our third main ethos is eco-friendliness. And so, one part of my job is to make sure that we source everything from second-hand shops and our plastic is biodegradable and we are honouring our three values.

Ayana Piper-Healio: To tell us more about what poi are and how they're significant in the indigenous Māori culture of New Zealand, here's Associate Professor of Māori and Indigenous studies Dr Karyn Paringatai.

Dr Karyn Paringatai: Poi had many, many uses and went through an evolutionary process before finally becoming a part of the Māori performing arts repertoire. In some instances, it was used as a love charm, so a karakia [prayer] was said over a poi and then that was given by a strapping young male chief to the object of his desire. And if he saw her playing with it or using it, then he knew that she had succumbed to his charms. And alternatively, if she had no interest in him, then she would just toss that poi to the side.

I guess for women and for wāhine [women] Māori, the use of poi is a connection to a different place. And when we perform, we always say that what we're doing is embodying the gifts that we've been given from our tīpuna [ancestors], from our ancestors and so poi is just that natural extension of a woman's femininity.

Ayana Piper-Healion: For Georgia at Pōtiki Poi, she's excited to revitalise the cultural treasure of poi on the world stage...

Georgia Latu: Women's Rugby World Cup reached out to Pōtiki Poi to have poi in the stands and so every single person that buys a ticket to go and watch the Women's Rugby World Cup 2022 will also receive a pair of poi. So instead of having a flag in the crowd, everyone will be able to use their poi, which I think is a huge milestone for us. And for me that means that we are revitalising our poi in ways that we never expected our poi to go and that our taonga are being honoured.

Ayana Piper-Healion: I'm Ayana Piper-Helion, reporting for Newsreel World from Tāmaki Makaurau, New Zealand.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Ayana.

That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!