

NEWSREEL WORLD

2023-02-18



Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

Alanna Leslie:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about Nigeria, Canada and Kenya.

But first...

Usain Bolt has lost over \$12 million US dollars after becoming the victim of financial fraud.

The Jamaican sprinter invested money with the company Stocks and Securities Limited for over ten years before he, and 39 other clients, were defrauded by an employee.

The scandal has sparked a conversation about white-collar crime in Jamaica. Here's Giovanni Dennis with more.

Giovanni Dennis:

The biggest financial fraud to hit Jamaica in recent history, making news headlines globally and even making it into this dancehall song by entertainer Gage.

Olympic legend Usain Bolt lost over \$12.7 million with the Jamaican private investment firm Stocks and Securities Limited.

He is one of 40 clients affected by the fraud, which has forced the government of Jamaica to take over the operations of the company.

The FBI has been brought in to help with the probe.

But even as that happens, people like Richard are outraged.

Richard:

I'm really sorry about what happened to Usain. He's like a national hero to us and for his pension to be wiped out in such a way, it shows the underbelly of the financial institution that's going unchecked and unregulated.



Giovanni Dennis:

Dayna is also concerned.

Dayna:

It's somebody that represented our country so well and this is the thanks that you can give someone like that, then what would you do to regular Jamaicans?

Giovanni Dennis:

Despite numerous reports since 2009 saying the company had 'unsafe and unsound practices', customers were never notified.

For international governance consultant, Professor Trevor Munro, this is problematic.

Professor Trevor Munro:

The record is clear. You tell me how many white-collar criminals have been brought before the courts, investigated, prosecuted and convicted or jailed.

Giovanni Dennis:

White collar crimes are crimes like frauds committed by business and government professionals, including public corruption and money laundering, to name a few.

The 2020 annual report of the Chief Justice noted that 2% of cases before the courts were larceny. Of the 692 cases, under 30% of verdicts returned guilty.

For Nadia, this is because white-collar criminals are connected to politicians.

Nadia:

Those white-collar criminals are their friends. So therefore, if you realise that then you might see for a week or two and then there's a big uproar and then it goes quiet and for years to come, you really don't hear anything about it.



Giovanni Dennis:

Nadia is right.

Jamaica's 2014 national security policy states that white-collar crimes like money laundering require collusion from allies inside the political and governmental system.

But the country's chief Prosecutor Paula Llewelyn is defending the justice system.

Paula Llewelyn:

You have persons who will look at you and on paper pretend to be cooperating, when in reality they may appear to be like the cow giving the milk but putting the dirty hoof in it.

Giovanni Dennis:

White-collar crime isn't unique to Jamaica:

In March 2022, the UK-based police organisation, Action Fraud, reported a 36% rise in fraud and related crime in 2021, with more than 420,000 offences recorded in the United Kingdom alone.

The FBI admits the "true" extent and expense of white-collar crime are unknown.

Reporting for Newsreel world in Kingston Jamaica, I'm Giovanni Dennis

Alanna: Thanks Giovanni.

Alanna:

14,000 people from the Ogale and Bille communities in the south of Nigeria are taking the oil giant Shell to court for polluting their water.

They claim the company is responsible for devastating pollution which has destroyed their way of life. Shell claims it's the fault of organised gangs who have been stealing oil from their pipelines and creating spills.

A legal representative for the residents says the case “raises profound questions about the responsibility of fossil fuel companies for legacy and ongoing environmental pollution.”

Alanna:

A teenager has won \$48 million Canadian dollars on her first ever lottery ticket, making her the youngest person in the country’s history to win such a huge amount.

Juliette Lamour, who lives in Ontario, bought the ticket on her 18th birthday at the suggestion of her grandfather, and wants to use the money to fund her studies to become a doctor and travel the world.

Juliette said she’d forgotten about buying the ticket until her co-workers told her the winner lived in their area and she checked the lottery app - but her mother still made her finish her shift before coming home!

Alanna:

That was a short clip of ‘Departure Party’ the new single from the Irish indie band Banríon.

The four-piece met each other while studying at Trinity College in Dublin and their name, Banríon, means “Queen” in Irish.

Their second EP, ‘Dare to Crush’ was released at the start of this month.

Alanna:

If you’re travelling to school or work in Nairobi, chances are you’ll find yourself in a matatu - one of the privately owned minibuses that are ubiquitous in the Kenyan capital.

The brightly-painted matatus first appeared in Kenya in the 1960s and were initially associated with criminality and reckless driving but now they’re providing a rich canvas for one young female artist.

Michael Kaloki went to speak to her to find out more.

Michael Kaloki:

The streets of Nairobi. The most commonly used form of public transport here in the city are matatus. These are public transport vehicles. They would generally either be vans with seats inside, or minibuses. Matatus are known for, among other things, the loud music played inside the matatu – and the colourful graffiti artwork that some of the matatus are adorned with.

The graffiti work is carried out in garages by skilful artists. One of them is Maggie Wangui Kaminja, whose nickname in art circles is ‘Rasta Baby Concept’.

Maggie Wangui Kaminja:

I love art, doing graffiti. I love all about paint and how we apply it as we do the graffiti.

Michael Kaloki:

Ras Baby, as she is commonly referred to, is one of very few women matatu graffiti artists in the country.

Maggie Wangui Kaminja:

I love working with men. They motivate me, they encourage me. But it's kind of difficult sometimes because not every client will give you work. They will consider maybe male.

Michael Kaloki:

When I met Ras Baby she had been commissioned to work on a matatu which plies one of the routes in Nairobi. She explained to me about the project she was working on.

This is it, this is the matatu you're working on.

Maggie Wangui Kaminja:

This is the matatu we are working on.

Michael Kaloki:

Oh, and we're going in. Okay. We're stepping in. So, it's a fairly large minibus.

Maggie Wangui Kaminja:

Yeah. And this is the thing we are doing. The Dynasty. The Dynasty movie, the series.

Michael Kaloki:

Oh! So inside I can see some photos from the TV series Dynasty, which was a very popular series in the eighties here in Kenya and I think it is back.

So, Ras, I see now you've taken the paint - is it called air gun? Or paint?

Maggie Wangui Kaminja:

Airbrush.

Michael Kaloki:

Airbrush. Now you have the airbrush gun in your hand and you are about to paint something here on the matatu. What exactly are you painting?

Maggie Wangui Kaminja:

I'm painting a portrait, a face.

Michael Kaloki:

Okay, I'll let you go ahead.

For Ras Baby, she seems determined to carry on as a matatu graffiti artist. Her art work perhaps can be described as moving canvases. She is one of a group of artists in the country who undertake this unique artform that has become part of Kenya's modern cultural heritage.

For Newsreel World, I'm Michael Kaloki.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Michael. That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!