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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World. Today we're talking about Tanzania, the United States and India. But first...

ALANNA: New Zealand has become the first country in the world to pass a law which bans smoking for the next generation by steadily increasing the legal smoking age.

The hope is that this will prevent anyone aged 14 or under from ever being legally allowed to smoke. It's just one part of the country's plan to become smoke-free by 2025. Daniel Teunissen is in Auckland to find out more.

DANIEL TEUNISSEN: The New Zealand government is looking to end the tobacco epidemic and reduce health inequalities between Maori and Non-maori people.

To do this, the government formulated the Aotearoa Smokefree 2025 plan. The goal is that by 2025, fewer than 5% of New Zealanders will be smokers.

***VOICE 1:** I think it's a good plan. I think that's a good step towards, like, the health of future generations definitely. The level of, like, addictiveness and, like, the amount of people I know that smoke is, like, very high, so and it's only going to get higher if we don't do something about it.*

DANIEL TEUNISSEN: The plan features three radical interventions. One, to make it illegal to ever sell tobacco products to those born in 2009 or later. Two, to reduce nicotine content in tobacco to below addictive levels, and three, to limit the number of outlets selling tobacco.

I spoke with Andrew Waa. He's a Maori public health researcher at the University of Otago.



ANDREW WAA: *I really support it. A lot of the measures in this bill is what's needed to address inequities. So, rather than leave it up to the individual to decide or not and be, you know, subject to the whims of markets and addiction and all that, the government takes responsibility for that. So I think it's really, really important.*

DANIEL TEUNISSEN: Research shows that almost all young people strongly support the plan of a smoke free generation. There's lots of arguments put out by tobacco companies saying that the smoke free generation is depriving young people from rights and freedoms.

But the research shows that young people don't agree with the tobacco companies. They support the long term vision of a smoke free generation.

The young people I spoke with also agreed with the plan. But there is one problem. Right now the government's plan only concerns tobacco. It doesn't consider another nicotine-based habit lots of young people are taking up, vaping.

VOICE 2: *I don't smoke, I vape.*

DANIEL TEUNISSEN: *And why do you vape?*

VOICE 2: *Um, sometimes I just vape like just when I stress out, if I'm stressed out or something.*

VOICE 3: *You can see it anywhere, any group you see, there's always that one person sharing a vape or not.*

VOICE 4: *Obviously, there's not enough restrictions around vaping, especially like you can buy vapes these days online. You don't even need to walk into the store, you know? I feel like no matter what people do in this world, to like try to get people to stop, even like people are still going to be like smoking stuff. There are like little kids sucking on their little rip sticks and nic sticks, and hitting their vapes and doing dumb stuff like that like. And I feel like younger kids, they're pulling themselves because they look cool.*



ANDREW WAA: *We are concerned about the rise of vaping, especially among our Maori youth, we need to really get a handle on it because I guess smoking is an issue for our generation and we're dealing with it. But what we're going to leave is a legacy of nicotine addiction through vaping and we've got to address that. So for young Maori, the vaping rate is up around 20% daily. So that sort of level of addiction we haven't seen since the early to mid 2000s and they're really the targets of these products. So we've got to get on top of that.*

DANIEL TEUNISSEN: *What's your opinion about a smoke free generation?*

VOICE 5: *Very good. It's a big step because They've been talking about it for so long and if they finally do it, I think it'll show that they're making moves.*

DANIEL TEUNISSEN: This is Daniel Teunissen reporting from Auckland, New Zealand for Newsreel World.

ALANNA: Thanks Daniel.

ALANNA: Five women are suing the U.S state of Texas after they nearly lost their lives as a result of the region's stringent abortion laws.

As of August last year, it is illegal for a woman in Texas to seek an abortion unless her life is at risk.

One plaintiff, Amanda Zurawski, became pregnant after 18 months of fertility treatment, only to be told by her doctors that her foetus wouldn't survive:

AMANDA ZURAWSKI: *My doctor could not intervene as long as her heart was beating, or until I was sick enough for the ethics board at the hospital to consider my life at risk and permit the standard health care I needed at that point, an abortion.*



ALANNA: Texas is the first state in the U.S to enforce a near-total abortion ban after the Supreme Court overturned the landmark ruling, Roe v. Wade, last summer which had protected a woman's right to abortion since 1973.

ALANNA: In a historic international agreement, over 200 countries have agreed to the UN High Seas Treaty which will class 30% of the world's international waters as "protected areas" by 2030. Currently only 1% of the world's oceans are protected.

The legally binding treaty has been two decades in the making and aims to prevent overfishing, pollution, and damage to underwater habitats.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

ALANNA: That was a short clip of "Shut Up" by the Ghanaian singer-songwriter KiDi and Indian singer Tulsi Kumar.

The song fuses the two artist's cultures by using Hindi and English lyrics and borrowing from the musical genre Afrobeats in its rhythm and sound.

The music video, which has gained 25 million views on YouTube since it was released in January, is set in Kerala and features kathakali dancers. Kathakali is an ancient performance art that originated in north India.

ALANNA: Tanzania's government is going to allocate 160,000 acres to over 40,000 young people as part of a plan to tap the unexploited potential of the country's agriculture - and boost youth employment. It comes as the African Development Bank Group has promised \$10 billion over the next five years to improve the continent's food security and make it less dependent on foreign imports.

Charles Kombe has the report from Dar es Salaam.



CHARLES KOMBE: A 29-year-old farmer Magreth Jackson is weeding maize on her farm located on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. She has been selected in the first phase along with 802 youths for this government initiative aimed at boosting agricultural productivity.

Magreth who has been struggling with low production due to a lack of adequate land and training is optimistic about the future.

***MAGRETH:** We have been assured that we'll be given good training and facilities will be provided. Also we have been assured markets. So, I hope from the scheme I'll be able to improve my production and also being able to help my family.*

CHARLES KOMBE: Officials say the allocation of land will be done through a fair and transparent process, with applications open to all eligible young people across the country.

Applicants must be Tanzanian citizens between the ages of 18-40 with a keen interest in engaging in agribusiness and actively participating in agricultural activities. The selected applicants will undergo three months of training at government facilities.

Hussein Bashe is the Minister for Agriculture.

***HUSSEIN BASHE:** They'll be taught crop and enterprise side of agriculture. We are collaborating with financial institutions that will come to teach them financial literacy and provide them with the education that they deserve. After the training, the ministry is going to hand over to them farms that have already been cleared.*

CHARLES KOMBE: Tanzania's agriculture sector has long been recognised as having great potential, but has yet to reach its full potential due to a lack of investment and engagement from young people.

Some youths are not interested in farming, mostly due to their perception of farming being antiquated and unprofitable.



Many young people in Tanzania have welcomed this initiative. Riziki Abdallah is a Dar es Salaam resident.

***RIZIKI ABDALLAH:** Through this scheme I will be able to produce more because they are, they are going to provide for us a land. Then they, they will find a market for our product and they already applied. I think this thing is going to change my life.*

CHARLES KOMBE: Meanwhile, Magreth is due to travel to the centre where she'll be assigned. She hopes this initiative will not only create new jobs for youths like her but also lead to increased food security and a more sustainable future for Tanzania.

Charles Kombe, Newsreel World, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

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