

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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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 Wales, Kenya and New Zealand.

But first...

Jamaica is currently experiencing a drought as a result of below-average rainfall during the island's dry season. This has led to the country's water authority limiting the use of water in different locations.

Drought not only limits access to safe drinking water but also has serious implications on menstrual health.

**Shelly-Ann Weeks:** Water affects everything that we do. Every single thing that we do is affected by water.

**Alanna:** Giovanni Dennis spoke to Shelly-Ann Weeks, the executive director of HerFlow Foundation, Jamaica's foremost period poverty charity.

**Giovanni Dennis:** How does water scarcity tie in to period poverty or impact period poverty?

**Shelly-Ann Weeks:** Four gallons of water is great if all you're doing is cooking food and, you know, you need to drink water. However, when period gets involved – now, you have to wash your hands. Now, you have to change your menstrual products. Now, you have to sometimes clean your menstrual products.

You still have to eat, your kids coming home from school, you have to prepare something to eat but you are having a heavy period day and you don't have any products. So it's a direct correlation.

**Alanna:** Giovanni also spoke to various community members in Jamaica to find out how else drought is affecting them:



**Christina:** My name is Christina. There have been times that our tank has run dry and we've had to visit other family members living outside of the home to fill vessels and get water so that we can take back home. It is especially concerning because I am a young mother. I have a small child who will very often need to be washed.

**Julene:** Hi, my name is Julene. When the water finally returns, most times it's dirty. So the water would literally be brown coming out of the pipe. So that was another challenge.

**Sheena:** Hi, so my name is Sheena, I'm a young female farmer. For the crops in the field, like the sweet peppers and hot peppers and stuff like that, it was very hard because we had to source water from a river nearby where we had to have a pump, and it really affected us financially.

**Giovanni:** What, if anything, do global leaders, local leaders have to do now, looking at these other practical ways that climate change is impacting the lives of people, including this very real issue here of period poverty?

**Shelly-Ann Weeks:** Well, you know, I don't profess to be an expert on all things global and in terms of the climate change issues. What I will say is that they can do where period poverty is concerned, is to invest in infrastructure that supports reusable products. What I mean by that is reusable products is really what we're going to have to look at as an option to permanently manage periods and do it in a way where it is good for the environment.

**Alanna:** Thanks Giovanni

**Alanna:**

A study into whether electric chopsticks change the way food tastes and another which explores whether there is an equal number of hairs in each of a person's two nostrils are among the winners at this year's Ig Nobel Prizes.

Established in 1991, the Ig Nobel Prize is a satirical award which celebrates unusual areas of scientific research. It aims to "honour achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think."

The name of the award is a pun on the words Nobel Prize and ignoble, which means dishonourable.

Also included in this year's list of ten winners was a group who used reanimated dead spiders to grip objects and a study which looks at why we find it strange seeing the same word repeated again and again and again and again...

**Alanna:**

A paramedic in New Zealand has been commended for continuing his mission to save an injured hiker even after the helicopter he was travelling in crashed.

The helicopter was carrying the paramedic, the pilot and a crewman when it experienced a "heavy landing" and landed nose-down in between two trees. Luckily, no one on board was injured.

After escaping from the aircraft, the paramedic checked his colleagues were okay before making his way across "steep and hazardous" terrain to reach the injured hiker.

**Alanna:**

That was a short clip of Gan Gwaith by the Welsh artist Dafydd Owain

It's sung in Welsh, the native language spoken by people in Wales, a country on the west coast of Great Britain.

Welsh was in danger of becoming an extinct language in the 20th century, but the number of speakers has increased in recent years.

**Alanna:**

Now, Kenyan stand-up comedian Doug Mutai is on a mission to make Kenyans laugh – and at the same time trying to get his audience to embrace English stand-up comedy in a country that has largely dominated by Swahili comedy.

Michael Kaloki is in Mombasa, Kenya to meet Doug and find out more.

**Michael Kaloki:** I have noticed that over the past two decades stand-up comedy here in Kenya has generally been dominated by comedy done in Swahili. Well, I am heading now from the Kenyan capital Nairobi to the coastal town of Mombasa to meet the comedian Doug Mutai.

Doug is doing a performance in Mombasa, which is considered as being a town that forms part of the heart of Kenya's Swahili culture. I am hoping to chat with Doug about his mission to make people laugh and also promote comedy in English. Ok, I am getting on the train now.

Doug Mutai is seated next to me but you are on a mission to promote English comedy. Tell me more.

**Doug Mutai:** I think it's because of how I started doing comedy when I was studying in Canada is when I started doing comedy there. And of course there is... it goes without saying there was no option for Swahili comedy in Canada.

**Michael Kaloki:** [Laughs] Okay... I imagine if you were to give Swahili jokes there they'd probably be like uh...

**Doug Mutai:** Yeah, who is this? What is this guy talking about? Is that French? Like you know...

Yet I know Kenyans understand English very well. They understand the nuances. They can consume English comedy. In fact, they had been asking for it by that time. I was asking, you know, I could address this. I was just able to plug and play what I had already.

**Michael Kaloki:** How was it when you were starting out here in Kenya, in English, wasn't it challenging to come into a Swahili dominated market?

**Doug Mutai:** I think half the thing with challenges is knowing it's going to be a challenge. You know, knowing it's going to be tough, it's going to be a tough uphill. So you prepare for that tough uphill.

**Michael Kaloki:** Doug, why is laughter important in society?

**Doug Mutai:** Some people say, you know, laughter is the best medicine. I don't think it's medicine, but it helps to self-heal.

**Michael Kaloki:** Has it helped you?

**Doug Mutai:** It makes my life quite nice, honestly.

**Michael Kaloki:** What issues do you find resonate more with a Kenyan audience?

**Doug Mutai:** Interpersonal relationships that includes, you know, conflicts, you know, it includes marriage. It includes, you know, dating.

**Michael Kaloki:** Like, for example, when you are here in Mombasa, what do you focus on?

**Doug Mutai:** Something like crime.

**Michael Kaloki:** Please share, if you don't mind. Just, you know, I'm interested in finding out how a serious issue such as a robbery can end up being funny.

**Doug Mutai:** Somebody broke into my car and they stole a laptop. But we all know what happens when your phone gets stolen in Nairobi. If it happens elsewhere, the first thing you have to do is, first of all, report it. But in Nairobi, the first thing that you do when you get stolen from is accept.

**Michael Kaloki:** [Laughs] Sorry I am laughing, but that's what happened to me!

My phone was stolen in Nairobi and the first thing – I didn't think of going to the police – the first thing I'm like, okay, my phone is gone and I have to just accept the fact that it's gone. I mean it sounds funny but it's this thing where you're like, you know, nothing's going to happen.

**Doug Mutai:** Yeah, yeah you're right. Stop wasting your emotions.

**Michael Kaloki:** I think it's quite interesting the way, you know, you've just talked about a very serious situation, but out of that, you found something to laugh about. What do you find Doug is the general impact of comedy on society?

**Doug Mutai:** It definitely connects.

**Michael Kaloki:** Well, after talking to Doug, I feel that his comedy has been a source of connection for me because I feel that I can relate to what he was talking about and I laughed about it. I guess it will be interesting to see the progress of comedy in Kenya in the years to come, and what Doug and his fellow comedians will have in store for us. For Newsreel World, this is Michael Kaloki.

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