

Ghana: Anti-LGBTQ law

Parliament has passed a strict new law that provides for a prison sentence of up to three years for anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. Founding or funding LGBTQ+ groups is also punishable by a maximum of five years in prison. The bill provides for a prison sentence of up to 10 years for anyone involved in LGBTQ+ campaigns aimed at children. It also calls on the public to report members of the LGBTQ+ community to the authorities so that they can take the "necessary measures". The bill, which is supported by Ghana's two major political parties, will come into force when President Nana Akufo-Addo signs it into law. 29.02.2024

Kenya: blessing and curse

Since the start-up company Kuza Freezer was founded by young people, women have been eagerly collecting plastic waste on the beach in Mombasa and selling it to the company, which uses it to mould solar-powered refrigerators. Each unit comes with a battery that is charged via a solar panel. A two-hour charge means up to 7 hours of operation. These freezers are invaluable for fishermen on land and at sea. The portable freezers - 350 since the company was founded - are also supplied to poultry milk and ice cream vendors. In this way, the plastic waste that threatens to choke the environment becomes a blessing for many. 29.02.2024

Malawi: Banana wine instead of selling the fruit

Heatwaves, floods and disease outbreaks have plagued the country since 2010. One crop that has been badly affected by the extreme weather conditions is the banana, Malawi's fourth largest staple food after maize, rice and cassava. On a small farm in the Karonga district in northern Malawi, yields have gradually fallen from half a tonne to just a few buckets per harvest and the extreme heat causes the ripe bananas to rot quickly so that they can no longer be sold. A group of four men and 30 women from the village of Mlare have started to make wine from overripe bananas that they have grown themselves or bought from other farmers. The project is now a livelihood for this community and an example of how communities in Malawi are combating the effects of climate change.

Egypt flies relief supplies

The Egyptian air force has dropped 45 tonnes of aid in the northern and central Gaza Strip, with more supplies to follow. The Egyptian deliveries are crucial as the World Food Programme suspended its deliveries in northern Gaza last week due to the looting of supplies. UN aid organisations report that they are being systematically prevented from carrying out their work in Gaza and that their staff are being attacked. The UN aid organisation Ocha stated that Israeli soldiers had prevented a team from evacuating patients from the Al Amal hospital in Khan Younis on Sunday. 28.02.2024

Migrant spontaneous midwife

Rabah, a firefighter from Algeria with no work or residence permit, noticed a woman writhing in pain on a pavement in the Parisian suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois and immediately rushed to help. He assisted with the birth and when the ambulance arrived, he was able to hold the newborn in his arms. Congratulations and recognition came from all sides. He now hopes to finally

have his life legalised in France. The most emotional moment, however, was when he learnt during his visit to the hospital that the young mother had given her son the name of the determined helper: Rabah. 27.02.2024

Nigeria: Trade unions call for protests

The Nigerian trade unions have called for a two-day strike against the rising cost of living. Inflation in Africa's largest economy is running at almost 30 per cent, while the national currency, the naira, is rapidly losing value. Electricity shortages are exacerbating the plight. 26.02.2024

Kenya: AI- app for diagnosing tuberculosis

Research is underway at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, led by Dr Videlis Nduba, to develop a mobile phone application that uses AI to diagnose tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases. The aim is to develop software and a mobile phone application that can distinguish between coughs of people with respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis and those without a disease. According to the WHO, the application must recognise a tuberculosis infection with an accuracy of at least 90 % and determine whether there is no infection with an accuracy of at least 80 %. Dr Nduba's trials to date have shown an accuracy of 80% in detecting tuberculosis and an accuracy of 70% in determining that tuberculosis is not present. The advantages are a reduction in the time to diagnosis and prevention of the spread of TB. 26.02.2024

Africa's largest mosque Djamaa El Djazair opened

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune opened Africa's largest mosque "Djamaa El Djazair" on Sunday. After the mosques in the Islamic holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, it is also the third largest in the world and can accommodate up to 120,000 worshippers at the same time. Its minaret is 265 metres high. It was designed in Frankfurt and built by a Chinese company. Construction took seven years and cost more than 800 million dollars. The mosque was a project of former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who stepped down in 2019 after his candidacy for a fifth term in office led to massive protests. 26.02.2024

Malawi: "Blatant failure of leadership"

In a 16-page pastoral letter titled "The sad story of Malawi", which was read out in all Catholic churches in the country on Sunday, the church accuses the government of numerous failures, including unfulfilled election promises, nepotism and rampant corruption. Government spokesman Moses Kunkuyu declared that the government has taken note of the pastoral letter and is determined "to make use of the wisdom" it expresses.

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

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