

IN BRIEF

**Flooding, Covid-19 pandemic sink South Sudan oil production revenues, affect fiscal budget**

South Sudan's oil production has reduced from the previous 170,000 barrels a day to the current 156,000 bpd amid negative impacts of Covid-19 and heavy flooding since 2020, Finance minister Agak Achuil Lual said Wednesday. Tabling the 2021/22 fiscal budget before the transitional national legislative assembly, Mr Lual said South Sudan earned \$1.4 billion in gross oil revenues of which \$1.1 billion went to direct transfers, \$148 million paid to Sudan as cost for processing, transportation and transit fees. Juba projected to collect \$135 million in non-oil revenues in this fiscal year, an increase of 31.1 percent from \$103 million in 2020/21. "The projected increase is on account of the tax administration reforms at the national revenue authority, including digitisation of collections and broadening the tax base."

■ XINHUA

**Bamburi opts for cheaper and cleaner solar energy**

Bamburi Cement plans to source a portion of its power supply from solar plants to cut costs and reduce the impact of electricity outages. It has signed a power purchase deal with Momnai Energy Ltd to set up two solar plants adjacent to its Mombasa and Nairobi factories targeting to generate 14.5MW at Mombasa and 5MW in Nairobi. This will be 40 percent of Bamburi's total power supply cutting its electricity bill by 10 percent or \$5.24 million per annum.

■ ELIZABETH KIVUVA

**Tanzania businesses' concern over rationing**

The Tanzanian business community is apprehensive of planned power rationing by Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco), saying this would adversely affect their operations. They urged Tanesco to prioritise provision of electricity to manufacturing companies to maintain productivity. Tanesco managing director Maharage Chande announced power rationing to pave the way for the expansion of Dar es Salaam Kinyerezi I power station.

■ CITIZEN

**Kenyan banks gear up to announce record profits**

Kenyan banks earned a cumulative \$1.56 billion in the 11 months to November. This sets them up for record profits for the year as they cut provisioning for bad loans as the economy recovers. The earnings are a 66 percent increase over the \$941.4 million they earned in the 11 months to November 2020, data from Central Bank of Kenya shows. Lenders had already surpassed the previous full-year record gross profit (\$1.39b made in 2019) in October.

■ CHARLES MWANIKI

COMMENTARY

**Life's debt to thinkers who simply didn't quit**

Leadership involves presenting oneself and your convictions to be burnished and grilled at roaring flames keeping the altar of public opinion aloft

WALE AKINYEMI

Where does foresight come from? How come Bill Gates bet on software in 1975 but failed to be ahead with the Cloud? How did Google know that search was going to be big yet there were 17 search engines before them?

The animated cartoon series *The Jetsons* is the best illustration of relevance and the mystery of foresight. In this cartoon built around a family of four living in their creator's description of the future, we see them using flat screen TV sets, treadmills, smart watches, video conferencing, flying cars, microwave ovens, the internet, drones and even a Hyperloop as a mode of transportation.

Now, some of these gadgets and innovations that have come to define our present day world were mere concepts and not yet fully developed in real life. But they existed in *The Jetsons* animation — a series developed in 1962!

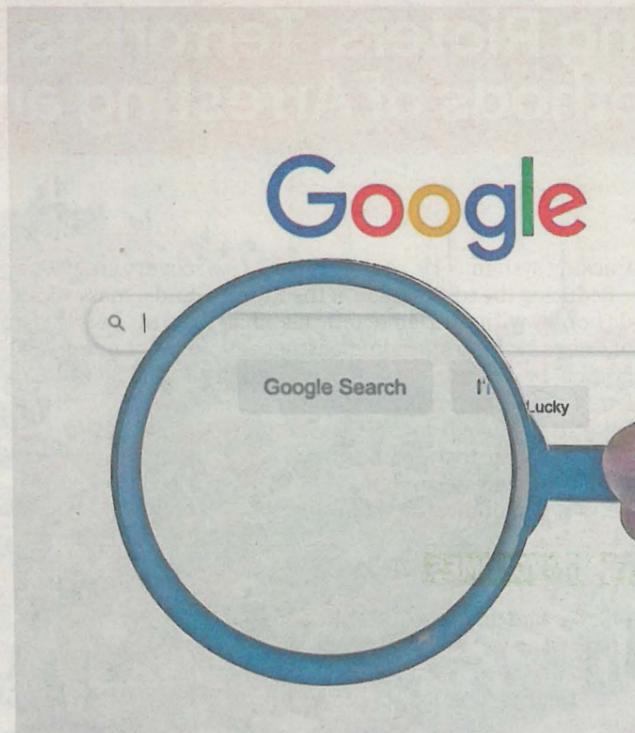
What were the creators of this series smoking? William Hanna and Joseph

Barbera literally dominated the animated space for years and also created hits like the *The Flintstones*. *The Jetsons* was so ahead of its time that it was cancelled because it was in colour at a time less than three percent of American homes had colour TV.

They saw the world in a totally different form from what they were experiencing. This world first existed in their minds. Their imagination picked up this concept of a world and they were not intimidated to create a path for it. They experienced imaginative liberty. What would the world have been if they had not expressed their imaginative liberty?

Why are you robbing the world by not expressing your imaginative liberty? Does your authenticity and/or potential for success scare you?

I started writing not knowing anyone would read my works. I just enjoyed what I was doing and at the age of seven, participated in an essay competition. I topped the class and my teacher uttered words that have since turned prophetic. She said that if I continued writing like that, one day, I would be paid to write. Well, 18 books later, my teachers



Google bet big that searches were going to be big spinners and yet there were 17 search engines in operation before them. Shutterstock

has been proved right.

The fear of criticism blocks the flow of imagination. Without active imagination, there can be no foresight. I used to be so scared of criticism but that changed when one of my mentors revealed that a vital key to success was to develop a thick skin and deaf ears.

Leadership means presenting yourself to be slaughtered at the altar of public opinion. Remember, critics do not have all the facts in your grasp. Conviction that's fact-based and data-driven always wins. Never write off your own thoughts without giving them a fair hearing. History is shaped by authentic-

1962's Hanna and Barbera animation, "The Jetsons", was so ahead of its time and showed non-existent stuff, that it was cancelled.

Wale Akinyemi



ity like Pythagoras' Theorem, Einstein's Law of Relativity, Newton's Law of Motion, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, etc.

All these people were not intimidated by their own authenticity and put their names and reputations on the line.

Most people look for what to copy — or benchmark. They hide behind the boldness of others. However, there are those who benchmark their own imagination. While it is important for us to first consider what already exists so that we do not reinvent the wheel, there is a space where we can take the information available to us as leaders and use it to shape the future we intend to live in.

Sometimes even, your confidence needs to border on the arrogant or the insane. This, however, is validated by the level of study and homework you have done. There is no point in being stubborn over mere assumptions or speculation. If your research leads you to a novel conclusion based on facts that other might have missed, you will have fed your curiosity and added to humanity's vast basket of knowledge.

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**Relief for motorists in Tanzania as fuel prices slashed**

DOROTHY NDALU  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tanzania mainland motorists will enjoy some relief this month after the energy regulator slashed fuel prices.

Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) acting Director General Godfrey Chibulunje, however, said the drop will only last this month, as international Brent crude prices had risen, indicating that the pump prices would rise again in subsequent months.

According to Ewura, the retail prices of petrol and kerosene imported through Dar es Salaam port have reduced by 0.83 percent and 1.90 percent, respectively while the retail price of

diesel increased 0.57 percent.

Mr Chibulunje said petrol in Dar es Salaam will retail at \$1.07 per litre and kerosene at \$0.98 while diesel will sell at \$1.01. In the northern regions — Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara — retail prices of petrol and diesel have decreased by 4.89 percent and 3.90 percent respectively.

At the same time, wholesale prices of petrol and diesel have decreased by 5.12 percent and 4.13 percent respectively.

**Stock replenishing soon**

Tanga retail price for petrol will be \$1.03 per litre and \$0.98 per litre of diesel while kerosene will retail at \$1 per litre. In Kilimanjaro, petrol will retail at \$1.05 per litre and diesel at \$1

per litre while kerosene will sell at \$1.02 per litre.

In Arusha, petrol will retail at \$1.06 per litre, diesel \$1 while kerosene will retail at \$1.02 per litre.

According to Mr Chibulunje, due to depletion of kerosene at Tanga storage terminal, fuel station operators in the Northern regions are advised to source kerosene from Dar es Salaam.

For the southern regions, retail and wholesale prices of petroleum products will remain the same as those announced last month for there was no new consignment of the petroleum products.

Mr Chibulunje explained that the changes in local retail prices of various fuels are mainly attributed to changes in the world oil market prices, BPS premiums and value of the shilling to the dollar.