

The Sunday Express

January 2026



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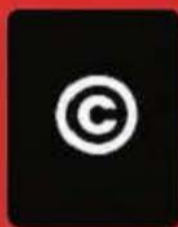


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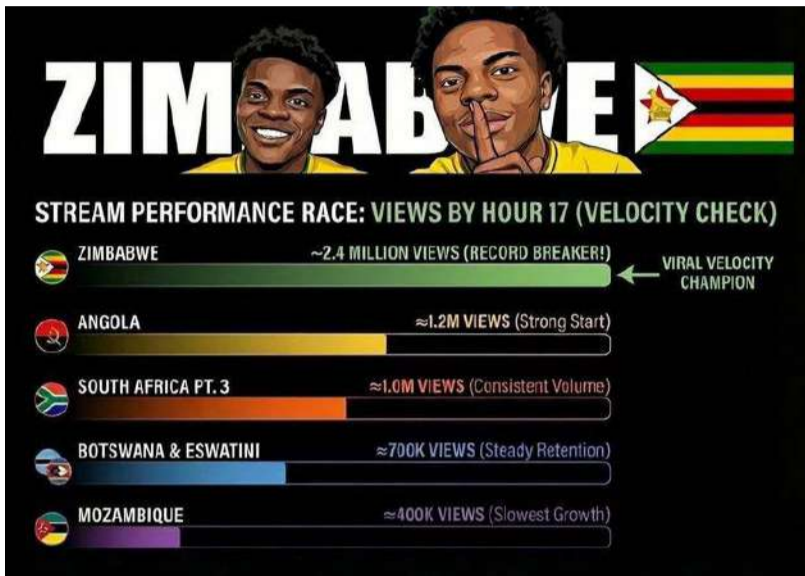
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**Redefining convenience on the
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Thanks **IshowSpeed**: But Who is The Biggest YouTuber In The World...?



DSE News Network

High octane Youtuber IshowSpeed visited Zimbabwe this week as part of his epic "Speed Does Africa" tour—a 28-day livestream marathon across 20 countries. His visit was chaotic, high-energy, and full of viral moments, from massive crowds shutting down Harare to wild cultural encounters.

On The DSE News Network we are never far from the news and here are the 10 standout things he did (or that happened) during his time in Zimbabwe:

IshowSpeed

- Met his Zimbabwean doppelgänger (the "Zimbabwe Speed") (Mudiwa Jani) who mimicked him
- Met Mbuya Nehanda at the statue in Harare and was given a Zimbabwean totem - Shumba (the Lion)
- Raced the most powerful woman in Africa at the Trabas Interchange
- Tried wild local street food (including cow testicles, fried worms, and cow tongue) — and he loved it.
- Visited Victoria Falls and bungee jumped off the iconic bridge - classic Speed stunt!
- Danced with locals and attempted traditional moves

- He stopped at KFC mid-livestream for a quick fast-food run, just like any hungry 20-year-old.
- Questioned (and hilariously rejected) a Scotland FC jersey
- Complimented a local girl's natural beauty ("wakanaka")
- Had an awkward "snub" moment with Miss Universe Zimbabwe 2025 — he unintentionally ignored Lyshanda Moyas (who came to greet him) during the stream—leading to online buzz, but he later realised it post-stream.

Here are the top 20 most-subscribed YouTube channels in the world as of January 2026

- MrBeast (US) — 459 million subscribers
- T-Series (India) — 309 million
- Cocomelon - Nursery Rhymes (US) — 199 million subscribers
- SET India (India) — 188 million
- Vlad and Niki (US) — 148 million
- Kids Diana Show (US/Russia) — 138 million
- Nastya (US/Russia) — 131 million
- Stokes Twins (US) — 135 million
- PewDiePie (Sweden) — 110-111 million
- WWE (US) — 112 million

See News Differently



What Maduro's Capture Means For Criminal Geopolitics

Dr Irene Mia

THE US capture of Nicolás Maduro marks a watershed in hemispheric power politics. Beyond Venezuela's future, regime decapitation risks reshaping transnational criminal networks, accelerating illicit diversification, and regional insecurity – potentially undermining the very war on drugs Washington claims to advance.

The dramatic military-law enforcement operation carried out by the United States in the early hours of January 3 2026, culminating in the capture and forced transfer of Venezuela's then-president Nicolás Maduro and his wife to the US to face charges on narcoterrorism, drug trafficking and weapons offences, marked a new high point in President Donald Trump's vision of US hegemony in the Western Hemisphere – one in which energy and resource security, coercion, and transactional deal-making often take precedence over democratic principles, sovereignty, and international law.

Although the operation is reminiscent of the motivations and modus operandi of the 1989 US invasion of Panama, its repercussions are likely to be significantly more far-reaching, given the complicated backdrop against which it unfolded, marked by intensified great-power rivalry, the re-emergence of spheres-of-influence thinking in US foreign policy, the erosion of the rules-based international order, and the expanding reach of transnational criminal networks.

While much attention will focus on how developments in Venezuela reshape regional geopolitics, US–Latin Ameri-



can relations, and Venezuela's own future, the operation may also have important effects on criminal dynamics both domestically and internationally.

These effects could ultimately threaten regional security and undermine the very 'war on drugs' that the Trump administration cited as the primary justification for the intervention.

A regional insecurity hotspot The massive military build-up in the Caribbean since August 2025 was framed by Washington as an anti-narcotics operation to disrupt drug trafficking to the US, targeting networks allegedly linked to Venezuela and its leader, including the Tren de Aragua and the elusive Cartel of the Suns – a purported drug-trafficking organisation involving members of Venezuela's armed forces.

While Venezuela's role in fentanyl and cocaine trafficking to the US appears limited

and the ties between Maduro and the Tren de Aragua largely transactional rather than institutional, characterising the country as a major criminal hotspot and a source of regional insecurity was accurate.

The country's escalating political and economic instability over the past decade, combined with the pervasive corruption of an increasingly authoritarian government with questionable geopolitical ties, has created fertile ground for organised crime to thrive.

Venezuela has emerged not only as an important transit route for the international cocaine trade but also as a hub for a wide range of illicit (and transnational) activities, including illegal mining and resource exploitation, extortion, arms trafficking and money laundering.

A diverse constellation of domestic and transnational criminal actors operates

within this environment: from multiple urban gangs (megabandas), government-linked paramilitary groups (colectivos) and 'home-grown gone regional' Tren de Aragua to transnational groups such as Colombian guerrilla cum criminal actors (including the National Liberation Army (ELN) and various Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) dissidents) and Iranian proxy non state actor Hizbullah.

While the Tren de Aragua has diversified its criminal portfolio and extended its presence across South America, capitalising on the Venezuelan migration crisis of recent years, Colombian groups have maintained control over border regions for drug trafficking and illegal mining, often with the protection of the Venezuelan Chavista regime.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, has reportedly used Venezuela as a point of financial and logistical activity in the region, in-

teracting with local and transnational networks operating in the country. Underpinning this criminal ecosystem is a loosely structured system of patronage and corruption involving elements of the army, security forces and state apparatus, which also managed to maintain a measure of 'pax mafiosa' over time.

Beyond the complex criminal landscape outlined above, the Chavista regime's long-standing ties with anti-Western geopolitical powers, including Russia and previously mentioned Iran, and US arch-rival China, have posed a major challenge to regional security and US hegemony.

Venezuela has served as an entry point for these powers' intelligence operations in the Western Hemisphere, a platform for expanding their reach across Latin America and a shadow oil exporter to sanctioned countries, among other roles. - IISA (Facts, Analysis and Influence

We Are Sorry **Nkuka...**

DSE Football News Network

Is this still about football...?

Of course it is.

This week Algeria apologised after a player mocked a Congolese superfan dressed as pan-African hero.

While everybody else watched and enjoyed the football in Morocco, Michel Nkuka Mboladinga - dressed as Patrice Lumumba - won the hearts of Afcon fans with his Lumumba statue tribute.

Mboladinga has supported the Democratic Republic of Congo by dressing up as the country's revered first leader Patrice Lumumba and remaining stock-still throughout every match.

He stood on a pedestal with his right arm raised - just like Lumumba's famous statue in DR Congo's capital, Kinshasa - as fans around him cheered.

But after Algeria beat the Leopards, Algerian player Mohamed Amine Amoura faced a backlash for mimicking Mboladinga and falling to the ground as though the statue had been knocked over.

This prompted the 25-year-old forward to post an apology on Instagram, saying his gesture was not intended to disrespect DR Congo.

The Desert Foxes had looked like they were heading to penalties before Adil Boulbina scored in the 119th minute, securing a place in the quarter-finals where they face Nigeria on Saturday.

"At that moment, I wasn't aware of what the person or symbol in the stands repre-



Algeria football federation issues apology after footballer mocks DRC Superfan

sented. I simply wanted to joke around, in a good-natured way, without any ill intent or desire to provoke anyone," said Amoura, who also plays for German team Wolfsburg.

Lumumba is not only seen as a hero in DR Congo, where he was assassinated in 1961

in a plot backed by Belgium, the UK and the US, but is also regarded as one of the most prominent voices in Africa's anti-colonial movement.

After the final whistle on Tuesday at Rabat's Moulay Hassan Stadium, which saw the Leopards knocked out of the tournament, Mboladin-

ga - who with his hairstyle and glasses looks remarkably like Lumumba - was visibly distraught.

He removed his glasses to wipe away some tears, slowly got down from his makeshift plinth and leant against it with his head in his hands.

The Algerian Football Association (Faf) reached out to Mboladinga following Amoura's contrite statement and invited him to the hotel where the North African team are staying in Rabat to meet the players.

The superfan was not able to get to Morocco's capital so Faf's media officer Saïd Fellak travelled to Casablanca's Novotel Hotel to see him and other Congolese supporters on Wednesday evening.

There Fellak presented Mboladinga with his own Desert Foxes jersey with the name "Lumumba" printed on the back.

Videos and photos of the entente cordiale, also attended by Congolese Sports Minister Didier Budimbu, were captured by Congolese fans, showing Mboladinga next to Fellak with his new football shirt.

Accept and continue

It is not clear if the Lumumba superfan and his pedestal will make it to Mexico, where the Leopards are expected to play in March's highly anticipated intercontinental World Cup qualifiers.

Six teams will compete to be allocated the final two places up for grabs for the World Cup, which kicks off in June.

Algeria have already qualified for the tournament that is being jointly hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States - and Amoura hopes that he will get to see the Leopards there too.

"I respect Congo and their team. Honestly, I wish them the best and hope they qualify for the World Cup," he said. - With the BBC

From Exam Hall To Algorithm Age: O, AS & A-Level Graduates At The Dawn Of A New World Of Work



By Jabulani Simplisio Chibaya

Congratulations, Class of the Future.

Hoorah! Happy New Year and heartfelt congratulations to A-Level students on your remarkable results. You have earned this moment. Your discipline, resilience, and determination have paid off—and you deserve every celebration.

But after the applause fades, a bigger question rises quietly and persistently:

Now what?

Welcome to a Job Market That Is Being Rewritten

The world you are stepping into is not the world your parents or even your teachers prepared for. The global economy is undergoing one of the fastest transformations in human history. Artificial Intelligence (AI), data, 5G, automation, platforms, and digital ecosystems are not just changing jobs—they are re-designing the very idea of work.

Many traditional jobs will disappear. Many moreroles we cannot yet name will be created.

The challenge? No one has a complete map of this future. The opportunity? You get to explore it with fresh eyes.

When the Future Has No Job Titles Yet

Here is a truth that may surprise you: The company you will work for may not exist today. The job title you will hold may not yet have been invented.

And the career you build may cross borders, industries, and continents.

We are entering an era defined by:

AI-driven decision-making
Data as the new economic engine
Digital platforms replacing traditional firms
Remote, nomadic, and global work
Rapid disruption of entire industries

Understanding this landscape requires more than career guidance—it demands a masterclass in technology, economics, geopolitics, and disruption.

STEM Still Matters—But Especially the “T”

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) remain powerful foundations. Yet today, Technology sits at the center of everything.

Roles that once sounded exotic—Data Scientist, Data Engineer, Machine Learning Engineer—are no longer fringe. They are fast becoming the norm.

Fields rising in importance include:
Computer Science
Software Engineering
Computer & Electrical Engineering
Data Analytics & Data Science

Information Systems & Infor-

mation Technology

Cybersecurity & Digital Infrastructure

A decade ago, data and AI were “nice to have.” Today, they are core economic infrastructure.

Massive global investments in:
AI systems and agents
Cloud platforms and data centers
Applications, APIs, and digital services are creating entire ecosystems of new jobs, startups, and industries. Why Computer Science Deserves a Seat Beside other Science Subjects like Physics

Professor Bill Buchanan of the University of Edinburgh once posed a powerful question:

Why do we equate Physics and Chemistry with intellectual prestige, yet treat Computer Science as optional—when it has built the most transformative invention of the 21st century?

We celebrate Galileo, Newton, and Einstein, and rightly so. But we speak far less about modern heroes who shaped today’s digital world:

Shafi Goldwasser (cryptography)

Leslie Lamport (distributed systems)
Whitfield Diffie (secure communication)

And visionary leaders like:

Susan Landau
Sheryl Sandberg
Marissa Mayer—whose era at Yahoo was, for many in Sub-Saharan Africa, a first gateway to email, search, news, and the internet itself.

These are the architects of the



world you now inherit.

Coding: The New Literacy of the Global Economy

Coding is no longer just for programmers. It is becoming a foundational skill, much like reading or mathematics.

Even as AI writes code, humans remain essential:
To design systems
To connect platforms through APIs
To understand data, logic, and intent
To guide AI ethically and strategically

Languages shaping the future include:

Python
Java
SQL
R
Go (Golang)
Rust

Equally important are:

Data literacy
AI literacy
Cybersecurity awareness
Mathematics, especially discrete mathematics
Africa’s Reality: Challenge and Opportunity
For Africa, the future carries a unique duality. There is a significant infrastructure and access gap, in connectivity, computing power, and digital inclusion. But within that gap lies opportunity.

Solving these problems will require:

Engineers
Technologists
Data professionals
Policy thinkers
Entrepreneurs

The digital economy is one where geography matters less, and global participation is finally possible.

Beyond Degrees: Skills That Truly Matter

Degrees open doors, but skills keep them open.

Tomorrow’s professionals must balance:
Hard skills: coding, data analysis, system design
Soft skills: communication, adaptability, ethics, curiosity

Practical advice for those entering this path:
Learn to use command-line tools, not just graphical interfaces

Be comfortable with more than one operating system, especially Linux

Understand how hardware and software interact

Go beyond “how to use” and learn “how it works”

And stay curious. Watch documentaries. Follow engineers. Explore “a day in the life” of software developers, data scientists, and frontend engineers.

The world is changing. Make sure you change with it.

Jabulani Simplisio Chibaya holds an MBA I GRC | Fin-Tech | Data Governance | Open Source Software | TMT | Business Intelligence | Analytics, DataOps, PropTech | Distributed Sys | Blockchain I AWS I AI/ML I AML/CFT. Read the full article on www.dseconnect.com



By Kennedy Mapesa Mandaza

FOR decades, the teaching profession in Zimbabwe stood as a beacon of dignity, discipline, and intellectual authority. Before the year 2000, teachers were not merely employees of the state—they were custodians of knowledge, moral compasses, and symbols of aspirations and the heartbeat of their communities. Their presence evoked respect, their conduct inspired emulation, and their influence shaped the aspirations of entire villages and townships. Today, the profession tells a different story, one marked by economic hardship, mass migration, and a painful erosion of status and dignity. Yet, amid the decline, the call to restore the honour of teaching has never been more urgent.

In the years following independence, Zimbabwe built one of Africa's most admired education systems. At the centre of this achievement stood the teacher—an unmistakable figure whose very appearance communicated purpose and pride, commanded respect and whose influence shaped generations. They were well-trained, well-regarded, and deeply embedded in the social fabric of their communities.

“The chalkstained jacket was once a symbol of service, but now an object of ridicule”

To see a teacher walking through the community with chalk dust on their jacket or trousers was to witness a badge of honour. Chalk was not dirt; it was evidence of work done, lessons delivered, of minds shaped and futures moulded. Children would whisper with admiration, “*VaMapesa vakabva kuchikoro,*” simply because the white smudges told a story of

dedication. Parents, too, recognised the symbolism. Chalk dust meant lessons had been delivered, blackboards filled, and knowledge transferred. It was a mark of diligence, a quiet reminder that the teacher had been in the trenches of learning. In many communities, a chalkstained jacket carried the same prestige as a doctor's white coat.

Teachers were seen as the embodiment of integrity. Their word carried weight, their presence commanded respect, and their conduct set the standard for society. In rural villages and urban townships alike, a teacher's arrival was an event.

Teachers of that era had defining features that set them apart. They dressed neatly, spoke with authority, and lived lives that reflected discipline and purpose. They had a calm, measured way of speaking, even outside the classroom, a dignified gait, as though always conscious of the example they set, and a modest but respectable lifestyle, built on integrity and purpose.

These were not just professionals—they were role models. Their homes were centres of advice, mediation, and community leadership. They chaired development committees, mediated disputes, guided youth clubs, and were the first port of call when families faced crises. Parents entrusted them with shaping the future of their children, and learners aspired to emulate them. Becoming a teacher was a dream for many young Zimbabweans—a badge of honour.

Teaching was more than a job—it was a calling. Teachers often worked long hours, often marking books and preparing lessons late in the night by candlelight, running sports teams, coaching debate clubs, and offering extra lessons not for profit but for the love of seeing learners succeed. Many walked long distances to school, taught under trees when classrooms were scarce, and improvised teaching aids from cardboard, bottle tops, and maize stalks.



The Teaching Profession in Zimbabwe: Then and Now

Yet they carried themselves with pride, and their commitment never wavered, knowing the nation's future rested in their hands. To be a teacher before 2000 was to belong to a noble fraternity—one that commanded respect across social classes.

Notwithstanding, the turn of the millennium brought economic turmoil that reshaped every sector of Zimbabwean life. For teachers, the impact was devastating. As salaries collapsed and inflation spiralled, teachers found themselves unable to afford basic necessities to support their families.

The once respected professional was now struggling to buy bread or pay bus fare. Many left the country for the United Kingdom, South Africa, Botswana, and beyond, where their skills were highly valued. Zimbabwean teachers became some of the most sought-after educators abroad, a testament to the strong foundation they had built at home.

But their departure left a vacuum—one that the education system has struggled to fill for more than two decades. The economic decline did more than empty classrooms

of experienced teachers; it stripped the profession of its dignity. Teachers who once walked tall in chalkstained jackets were now mocked for their meagre earnings. Some resorted to side hustles—selling airtime, vegetables, or secondhand clothes to survive. Others abandoned the classroom altogether to join protests, a stark contrast to the disciplined, apolitical image teachers once held. The profession that had once inspired admiration became a symbol of national decline. The teacher's briefcase was replaced by plastic bags. The crisp trousers gave way to worn-out clothing. The aura of authority faded, replaced by frustration and despair. With experienced teachers gone and morale at rock bottom, the quality of education suffered. Schools struggled with shortages of qualified staff, overcrowded classrooms, and chronic shortages of learning materials became the new normal. The ripple effects were felt across generations, contributing to declining pass rates and widening inequalities.

Amid these challenges, the proposal to establish a Teaching Profession Commission

or Council in Zimbabwe offers a pathway to renewal. Such a body—common in countries with strong education systems—could play a transformative role.

A Commission would regulate entry into the profession, enforce ethical conduct, and ensure continuous professional development. It would restore the prestige and integrity once associated with teaching and protect the integrity of the classroom. By serving as an independent body, the Commission could advocate for fair remuneration, improved working conditions, and clear career progression pathways. Teachers would no longer be at the mercy of shifting political or economic winds.

With proper oversight, the Commission could ensure that only qualified, competent, and committed individuals enter the classroom. It could promote research-based teaching practices and strengthen the entire education system.

Perhaps most importantly, a Commission would signal a national commitment to valuing teachers again. It would help restore public confidence and respect in the profession that once made chalkstained jackets a symbol of honour rather than hardship and reaffirm the central role teachers play in shaping Zimbabwe's future.

“Restoring the honour of teaching is a national, societal imperative”

The story of the teaching profession in Zimbabwe is one of remarkable highs and painful lows. From the dignified, respected, community-anchoring and chalkmarked educators of the pre2000 era to the struggling, undervalued teachers of today, the contrast is stark. Yet the resilience of Zimbabwean teachers—those who stayed and those who left—remains a testament to their calling.

Mapesa Mandaza writes to the DSE News Network in his own capacity. Read the full analysis on www.dseconnect.com



Kay-Lyne Wolfenden

The project underscores the country's commitment to long-term digital sovereignty, innovation, and sustainable development.

In line with the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS 2) for 2026–2030, Zimbabwe is advancing its space technology ambitions with the planned launch of ZIMSAT-3, a project positioned as a cornerstone of the country's drive toward a knowledge-based and digitally enabled economy.

The initiative reflects government efforts to leverage satellite connectivity as a strategic enabler of national development.

ZIMSAT-3 forms part of a broader push under NDS 2 to strengthen Zimbabwe's space and ICT capabilities.

Satellite technology is expected to play a critical role in bridging the digital divide by

ZIMSAT-3 To Bridge Digital Divide And Power Zimbabwe's Digital Economy

extending high-speed internet access to rural and underserved communities where conventional infrastructure remains limited.

This approach supports the government's vision of inclusive growth and universal digital access.

The strategy also places satellite systems at the heart of national infrastructure

development. Under NDS 2, resilient ICT infrastructure is identified as a backbone for economic expansion across key sectors such as agriculture, mining, health, and education.

Enhanced satellite capacity will improve data collection, geological mapping, and environmental monitoring, supporting more effective resource management and ev-

idence-based policymaking.

ZIMSAT-3 further aligns with Zimbabwe's Education 5.0 framework, which emphasizes innovation, industrialization, and problem-solving through home-grown solutions.

Improved connectivity is expected to support research, innovation, and skills development, strengthening

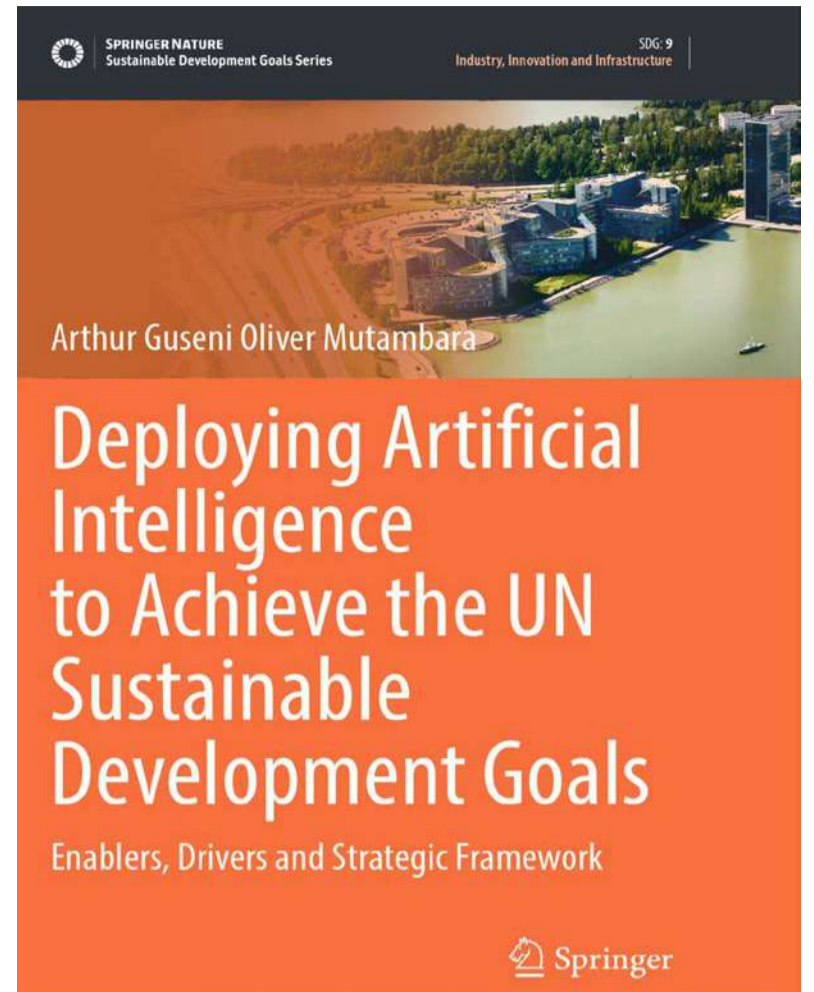
the link between education, technology, and national productivity.

Within the broader digital transformation agenda, satellite connectivity will also underpin the expansion of e-government services, enabling more efficient, transparent, and accessible public service delivery.

In addition, improved broadband access is anticipated to open new economic opportunities, particularly for youth entrepreneurs and the creative industry, by connecting local talent to regional and global markets.

Through investment in ZIMSAT-3, Zimbabwe aims to reduce reliance on external digital infrastructure while positioning itself as a competitive, technology-driven economy within the SADC region and beyond.

The project underscores the country's commitment to long-term digital sovereignty, innovation, and sustainable development. -Tech News Africa



In Pursuit of the Climate Change Agenda and Adequate Global Energy Supply: Is Artificial Intelligence a Friend or Foe?

By Professor Arthur GO Mutambara



Artificial Intelligence's Threat to Energy, Water and the Environment.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems need to be powered. They require compute resources, comprising hardware and infrastructure components – primarily Central Processing Units (CPUs), Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), Neural Processing Units (NPU), memory, storage, and networking – that provide the processing power, data handling, and parallel-computation capabilities required to train, run, and scale AI models and other intensive workloads.

These compute resources reside in energy-hungry data centres and AI factories. A data centre is a physical facility that houses IT infrastructure, such as servers and storage, to manage, process, and store data.

An AI Factory (which leverages data centres) is designed to develop, train, and deploy AI models at scale, focusing on computational resources and AI workflows. The power requirements of data centres and AI factories

“
A model with billions of parameters demands far more computational power than a smaller one, resulting in a significantly larger carbon footprint

are at the gigawatt level. For example, a typical AI factory's energy requirement is 2 GW (2000 MW), equivalent to that of a city like San Francisco or a country like Zimbabwe. Furthermore, there is a demand for large volumes of fresh water for cooling (to prevent hardware overheating), which puts pressure on the available water supply for human consumption, agriculture, and other industrial

uses. Hence, the large carbon footprint of AI systems primarily stems from the significant compute resources required for energy-intensive tasks such as training and deploying Large Language Models (LLMs). These tasks require high-performance hardware, such as GPUs and TPUs, which consume substantial electricity. For example, training a single LLM can emit hundreds of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, comparable to the emissions of several cars over their lifetime.

Furthermore, as explained earlier, these models are trained and run in energy-hungry data centres, which must also be cooled. Larger AI models require exponentially more energy. A model with billions of parameters demands far more computational power than a smaller one, resulting in a significantly larger carbon footprint.

Once trained, AI models continue to consume energy during deployment, particularly for real-time or large-scale applications. Common examples include AI in content recommenda-

tion systems, search engines, and real-time translation, which require continuous processing power. The iterative nature of AI research, where models are trained and retrained to optimise performance, means that significant energy is expended in the development phase before a final model is deployed. Hence, a country's participation in driving the AI revolution (through data centres and AI factories) carries high environmental costs.

According to the International Energy Agency, total global electricity consumption by data centres could reach the level of Japan's energy intake by 2026. Another projection is that, in 2030, if all data centres worldwide were considered as one country, their overall energy demand would rank only fourth, behind China, the United States, and India. AI companies in highly industrialised economies are even exploring the establishment of private nuclear power plants to meet their energy requirements.

Some countries are ramping up their fossil-fuel-driven power supplies to meet AI

energy demands – a direct reversal of clean energy transition commitments. US President Donald Trump revealed on 23 January 2025, while addressing the World Economic Forum, that the United States would have to double its annual electricity production to lead and drive the AI revolution. That is the extent of the enormous energy demand exerted by the technology. President Trump intends to use the Executive Order (which he signed on 20 January 2025) declaring a national energy emergency to address this challenge.

This legal instrument directs US agencies to utilise their statutory emergency powers to speed up the development and authorisation of energy projects. Unfortunately, with his slogan—“drill, baby, drill”—Trump's AI energy plan will be anchored by boosting fossil fuel production to the detriment of global climate policies and regulations.

This is an adapted excerpt from the book “Deploying Artificial Intelligence to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Enablers, Drivers and Strategic Framework”

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Barmlo Construction Partners With More Landowners Throughout Zimbabwe

Barmlo Construction News Reporter

We have partnered with more landowners across various provinces, including Harare, Masvingo, Mberengwa, and Bindura, who have land in both urban and peri-urban areas. Through these partnerships, we are expanding the development of more gated communities.

At Barmlo Construction, our primary focus is on low to middle income earners. Our goal is to work closely with this group and ensure access to decent housing at affordable prices, supported by flexible payment conditions. To further support inclusivity, we are designing smaller and more affordable housing plans to accommodate individuals and families with very low incomes.

We also run the Kumu-sha Development Scheme (K.D.S), which focuses on developing rural homes, as demonstrated in projects such as Tobius Wekwa (Gutu) and the Nyathi family home. In addition, we offer: Pay-As-You-Go Building Facility, allowing clients to pay progressively as construction advances.

Easy Build Option, where clients make a deposit and settle the remaining balance through installments until completion.

While we remain fully capable of delivering projects for the upmarket, we will never lose sight of our core mission: uplifting the marginalized population, particularly the low to middle income earners who have long been neglected.

Barmlo Construction
Your Happiness Is Our Pride



Strategic Mortgages for Diaspora Investors

Barmlo Construction has Partnered with Local Financial Institutions to Offer Strategic Mortgages for Diaspora Investors

In an era where economic opportunities transcend borders, Zimbabweans living abroad are increasingly looking homeward to invest in real estate and housing.

However, the path to building or acquiring property in Zimbabwe has long been fraught with challenges, particularly the soaring costs of construction materials and financing hurdles.

Barmlo Construction is a forward-thinking Zimbabwean company that is revolutionizing the landscape by partnering with local financial institutions to provide tailored mortgage solutions for the diaspora community.

Addressing the Construc-

tion Conundrum

Building a home or investing in real estate in Zimbabwe has never been straightforward. The country's economic fluctuations, coupled with global supply chain disruptions, have driven up the prices of essential building materials like cement, steel, and bricks.

For many in the diaspora—Zimbabweans residing in countries such as the UK, South Africa, Australia, and the US—the dream of owning property back home often stalls due to these financial barriers.

Traditional loans from local banks can be inaccessible or come with stringent requirements that don't account for the unique circumstances of overseas earners.

Recognizing this gap, Barmlo Construction has stepped up as a key player in easing the construction process. Specializing in residential and commercial building projects, the

company has built a reputation for quality workmanship and innovative solutions.

Now, through strategic alliances with prominent local banks, Barmlo is making it easier for diaspora Zimbabweans to turn their investment aspirations into reality.

The Partnership: A Game-Changer for Diaspora Mortgages

At the heart of this initiative is Barmlo Construction's collaboration with select financial institutions in Zimbabwe. These partnerships enable the offering of specialized "diaspora mortgages"—loans designed specifically for non-resident Zimbabweans who wish to invest in property development. Unlike standard mortgages, these products consider foreign income sources, offer flexible repayment terms in foreign currencies, and integrate seamlessly with construction timelines.

One key partner is a leading Zimbabwean bank renowned for its diaspora-focused financial services. This bank provides mortgages that cover not just land acquisition but also the full spectrum of construction costs, from materials procurement to labor.

Barmlo Construction acts as the bridge, handling the on-ground execution while ensuring that funds are disbursed efficiently to avoid delays. This integrated approach minimizes the risks associated with remote project management, a common pain point for diaspora investors who can't oversee developments in person.

For instance, the diaspora mortgage through this partnership might feature:

- Competitive Interest Rates: Adjusted for international earners to make repayments manageable.
- Phased Funding: Disbursements tied to construction milestones, ensuring accountability and progress.



Inside The Costs Of Constructing Your Own House: It's All In **The Plan**

DSE News Network and Barmlo Investments News Reporter

THERE has been a lot of debate regarding construction project costs. Many people do not fully understand the factors that determine the cost of building a house.

The cost of construction is mainly influenced by the type of materials used and the level of detail in the house plan.

These two factors play a major role in determining the final budget.

There are various types of bricks, each with different prices:

- Farm bricks are the lowest-priced option, costing approximately \$30 per 1,000 bricks.

- Hollow blocks are larger blocks costing between \$0.60 and \$0.80 each. One hollow block covers an area equivalent to eight standard stock bricks, making them efficient in terms of coverage.

- Common stock bricks cost between \$0.11 and \$0.14 per

brick. These are mainly used in double-course brickwork for maximum strength.

Although some people use them in a single course, this is not recommended for external walls that carry the roof load.

- Face bricks range from \$0.27 to \$0.50 per brick, depending on quality. They are mainly used for external walls.

While face bricks are more expensive, they offer significant advantages: after construction, they do not require

plastering or painting, which reduces costs on cement, pit sand, and labour.

Another major cost driver is finishing materials. For example, a shower or bathtub can cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000, which can be equivalent to the total cost of brickwork.

Ceiling designs and tile choices can also cost an amount equivalent to roofing the entire house.

For these reasons, it is difficult to give a fixed price for

any house plan.

Many potential clients ask, "How much does it cost to build a 3-roomed house?"

Unfortunately, construction costing does not work that way. The most effective approach is to first produce a desired house plan, then calculate a Bill of Materials (BOM). The BOM accurately determines the construction budget based on materials, labour, and finishes.

Barmlo Construction

Your Happiness Is Our Pride



More **Jobs** Created At Barmlo Construction: Our Other Happiness, Is Our Workers

Barmlo Construction News Reporter

In 2025, we managed to offer employment to 113 Builders, 148 Builder Assistants, 15 Carpenters, 9 Floor Tile Installers, 4 Plumbers, 6 Painters, 2 Special Machine Operators, 10 Drivers, 32 Administrative Officers (including Project Management, Accounts, HR, and Procurement), and 12 Security Guards, 48 Brick production team.

In addition, we invested in skills development and

promoted growth within our workforce. We trained:
13 Assistants to become Builders
4 Assistants to Floor Tile Fitters
2 Assistants to Electricians
2 Assistants to Plumbers
1 Assistant to Painter

As a company, we take on-site training seriously. We also encourage our employees to further their studies and improve their academic qualifications.

Our dedication to empowering employees is evident

wherever they work, whether they are still part of our organization or have moved on to join other organizations.

We instill professionalism and discipline in the workplace, which helps produce skilled individuals with strong character and great personalities. Barmlo Construction, Your Happiness Is Our Pride



While the happiness of our customers, homeowners and investors is our pride - our other pride is our workers.

Since the formation of our organisation in 2011, we have made it a tradition to host an end-of-year party for our employees, during which we recognize and reward outstanding performance throughout the year. (see next page highlights)

Our awards include Employee of the Year, Most Disciplined, Most Punctual, Hardworking, Most Dedicated, among others.

This day is dedicated to our employees, to relax, enjoy, and celebrate their achieve-

ments. We would like to congratulate all Barmlo Construction employees who received awards in 2025. Your hard work and commitment do not go unnoticed.

To those who did not receive an award this year, we encourage you to keep working hard and remain committed.

We believe that with continued dedication, your efforts will be recognised and rewarded for distinguished performance in the future. Barmlo Workers Happiness Is Our Pride.





Our Workers Are Also Our Pride: All The Festive Season Highlights From Barmlo Construction





Barmlo Construction News Reporter

When we talk about capacity, we refer to the assets and equipment that a company has to successfully carry out a job.

In 2025, Barmlo Construction invested heavily in the purchase of equipment to strengthen our capacity to handle projects of any size. Our self-loading concrete mixer has a capacity of mixing 2 cubic metres every 15 minutes, meaning that work which previously took days can now be completed within hours.

We also have a 26-metre con-

crete boom pump, capable of pumping up to 5 cubic metres per hour, allowing us to efficiently handle high-rise and large-scale concrete works. Additionally, we are equipped with a backhoe machine for excavation and loading, a forklift, trucks, and other service vehicles to ensure smooth movement of materials and staff, guaranteeing timely project delivery.

To ensure uninterrupted supply, we also operate a 50,000-brick production machine, making brick availability consistent and reliable. This is our capacity — and in 2026, we are ready.



Barmlo Construction: Plant And Equipment





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Semenyo Steals The Show At City Debut

BBC

Having signed off at Bournemouth in fairytale fashion, Antoine Semenyo started life at Manchester City in a similarly dreamy manner just four days later by stealing the show in a record-equalling win for the club.

The forward completed a transfer from the Cherries on Friday and, although it was Exeter City in front of him for his debut, the 26-year-old duly impressed in a 10-1 FA Cup third-round mauling of the League One side.

Semenyo showed early signs of why City decided to spend £65m to bring him to Etihad Stadium.

He became a fans' favourite during his three years on the south coast and a goal and assist on his first start will go a long way to ensuring supporters at his new club take to him in the same way.

The Ghanaian was named man of the match in a contest where City racked up double figures for the first time under Pep Guardiola.

It was City's biggest victory since a 10-1 Second Division thrashing of Huddersfield in 1987, and biggest in the FA Cup since a 12-0 qualifying round win over Liverpool Stanley while playing as Ardwick in 1890-91.

It was also the biggest FA Cup win from a top-flight side since Tottenham Hotspur beat Crewe 13-2 in a fourth-round replay in 1960.

With boss Guardiola serving a one-game touchline ban for receiving three yellow cards, assistant Pep Lijnders stood in for duties during the game and post-match.

"I think a lot of good performances today," said Lijnders.



"A lot of good individual performances. I think when the team plays like that it becomes easier for the individual, but Antoine is settling well.

"He is a humble guy and we have followed him for a long time, but he brings something to the frontline - what we really want and what we need.

"He can attack quick, he wants to chase, he is a guy

who doesn't stop. I think you see today that he can adapt quite quickly to our style. It's nice to have him with us."

'We want to reach finals this year'

Semenyo became the first player to both score and assist a goal on his Manchester City debut since Sergio Aguero against Swansea in August 2011

Semenyo's beaming smile at full-time was as bright as the stadium floodlights after playing a major part in his side's rampant and ruthless success.

Star striker Erling Haaland played only the first 45 minutes, missing Semenyo's goal contributions, but will be licking his lips at the service he may well receive from City's new recruit.

"It's not a surprise for us because everyone has seen how good of a player he is in the Premier League," said Lewis.

"Everybody wanted him, there's a reason for that and he's shown that today. It feels like a seamless transition into the team.

"He's a really good person as well which is another positive."

Dominant Nigeria Dispatch Algeria To Reach Africa Cup Of Nations **Semi Finals**

By Fentuo Tahiru Fentuo

Nigeria entered their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations quarter-final encounter with Algeria on Saturday (10 January) with many questions, and they left with emphatic answers. Under the bright lights of the cloudy Marrakech sky, the Super Eagles turned a heavyweight contest into a demonstration of authority.

Second-half goals from Victor Osimhen and Akor Adams sealed a 2-0 victory for the three-time champions, but the scoreline barely hinted at the scale of Nigeria's dominance. This was a performance shaped by clarity, purpose and conviction.

At full time, the celebrations were tellingly restrained. Eric Chelle shared quiet embraces with his coaching staff, while Osimhen, who finished the match as captain, moved through the group offering handshakes and shoulder hugs.

This is a team acutely aware that the job is far from complete, their focus fixed firmly on the ultimate prize.

"I'm very happy for the win, for the performance. Now we are in the semi finals, we will go back and prepare and try to qualify for the final on Wednesday (14 January)," Osimhen said in the post-game interview.

Nigeria started as the brighter of the two sides, pressing aggressively. The clearest signs came down the left, where Ademola Lookman was repeatedly given space to run at the defence.

After the Super Eagles pounced on a poor Algerian



pass from a free kick deep in their own half, Lookman drove into the box, shifted the ball onto his right foot and aimed for the near post, but it went straight into the armsn of Luca Zidane.

Moments later, the Atalanta man was involved again, this time with a clever pass into the right channel for Osimhen, who looked set to burst through on goal before Rayan Aït-Nouri intervened with an impeccably timed tackle.

Only days earlier, the pair had been caught in a visible

disagreement over a missed opportunity, but here there was no trace of friction as Nigeria continued to pile on the pressure, with their next threat coming from a set piece.

Lookman curled a free-kick towards the far post where Calvin Bassey stretched to keep the ball alive and attempted to square it across the face of goal.

The ball appeared to have crossed the line before a timely goal-line clearance from Ramy Bensebaini kept it out.

It was so close VAR had to step in to check whether the ball had crossed the line. After a tense delay, the clearance was deemed just sufficient; Algeria's blushes spared.

The clearest chance of the half came the 37th minute when Alex Iwobi snuffed out an Algerian attack and slipped the ball invitingly for Akor Adams in space.

With Zidane rushing off his line, the Seville forward opted for audacity, lifting a delicate chip that drifted just too

high and over the bar. It was another chance squandered, another reminder that Nigeria could easily have been two goals clear by the interval.

Back from the break, the three-time champions wasted no time turning first-half superiority into something tangible. Within minutes of the restart, they found the opening goal, which quite frankly, had been building all evening.

Bruno Onyemaechi threaded an inviting, inch-perfect diagonal towards the far post, and Osimhen did the rest, rising above a flat-footed Algerian defence to drive his header down into the turf and beyond Zidane.

As Osimhen sprinted away in celebration, arms pumping, the reaction behind him told its own story. Algerian players with arms flung open in visible frustration, but perhaps a subtle admission that the moment had been coming.

Nigeria, who could reasonably have been two goals clear by the interval, finally had the breakthrough their dominance deserved. - Source: Olympics.com



Only days earlier the pair of Osimhen and Lookman had been caught in a visible disagreement over a missed opportunity

Mohamed Salah On Course For **Elusive** Africa Cup Of Nations Glory

BBC

Mohamed Salah was once again on the scoresheet as Egypt beat holders Ivory Coast in an enthralling and action-packed quarter-final at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon).

After Omar Marmoush slotted the Pharaohs ahead after just four minutes, the North Africans were never behind in the game.

But Emerse Fae's Elephants are known for their resilience and refused to let their opponents blow them away despite Ramy Rabia's header giving Egypt a 2-0 lead just after the half hour.

Ahmed Fatouh's own goal gave the Ivorians hope before half-time, but Salah quickly restored a two-goal cushion for the record seven-time winners.

Guela Doue's backheeled effort after 73 minutes set up a grandstand finish but there was to be no fairytale comeback for Ivory Coast this time around. The result means Salah's bid for a first continental crown with his country is still on course.

He will now take his team to Tangier to face Senegal, who beat Egypt in the 2021 final, on Wednesday.

Manchester City forward Omar Marmoush slotted Egypt into an early lead, but there was plenty of drama to follow in Agadir

As well as losing the 2021 final to Senegal on penalties, Salah was also an Afcon runner-up in 2017 against Cameroon.

Now 33, he will have to do it the hard way from here if he is to finally lift the trophy,



with either Nigeria or Morocco waiting in any potential final on Sunday, 18 January.

But he now has four goals at this tournament - his best total at an Afcon - and 11 overall, drawing him level with his coach Hossam Hassan and putting him one behind Hassan El-Shazly, who holds the record for the Pharaohs. Heading into this game, the

weight of history was certainly with Egypt, who had a dominant record against their opponents. After this victory, the North Africans have now played Ivory Coast 12 times at Afcon and lost just once.

Marmoush looked sharp from the off and robbed a dawdling Odilon Kossounou of the ball just outside the penalty area before speeding through and

finishing confidently past Yahia Fofana for the opener.

Hossam Abdelmaguid then gave the West Africans a warning, heading over an empty net after Fofana came out to punch a free-kick but got nowhere near the ball.

Ivory Coast, however, did not learn their lesson as Rabia's far-post header from Salah's

corner doubled the advantage not long after, with the ball taking a slight touch off Ibrahim Sangare before looping over the despairing Fofana.

While the Elephants looked all over the place at the back, they were a danger going forward, with Aston Villa forward Evann Guessand's physical presence causing problems.