



*My big brother says
#ReduceDataCost*



A digital world we can't access



The world has gone digital. Even our country is part of the digital world. But as citizens, we just don't have full access to it unless we're spending a lot to stay digital.

Seeing the #ReduceDataCost trend, one thought that comes to mind is how much most of us spend on internet, say, per month? Imagine how much we spend in a year. But who's to blame, really?

Telecommunication companies, according to the Minister of Information Gospel Kazako, seem to blame the government taxes – saying their business is affected, thus they're forced to put huge pricing on data. So, basically, their best option is to rip us off as consumers, you'd think.

But then again, if you were conducting a business that was not required to pay tax, you'd definitely give fair prices. If the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) came knocking on your door after every transaction,

however, you'd charge differently, right?

Point is; should we cut our internet providers some slack? The answer is; no. 'Coz they complain about taxes but they're making huge profits regardless.

In an ideal Malawi, a 1 GB bundle would cost 1 grand or 1.5 to be fair – so everybody wins. In that ideal Malawi, that 1GB would also last a month but oh well, you know what they say about wishes.

It will be interesting to see what Hon. Kazako's "look into it," directive to Macra meant. One thing young people are definitely waiting for is action. It will be ideal for the government and the telecommunication companies to come to an agreement whereby everyone wins – we all need access to the digital world; #ReduceDataCost.

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5 Simple Tips for Fitness Success



1. Exercise daily for at least an hour.
2. Eat the right foods & portion each meal.
3. Keep track of calories and food intake per day.
4. Get enough sleep (6-8 hours).
5. Stay motivated.

Best South African Rappers

South African rappers seem to be the ones, collectively, with the most buzz on the content. But who do you rate the most when it comes to consistency, style, lyricism, and knowing how to make a good song? Well, here is my list...

5



Cassper Nyovest

4



Shane Eagle

3



Tumi aka Stogie T

2



Nasty C

1

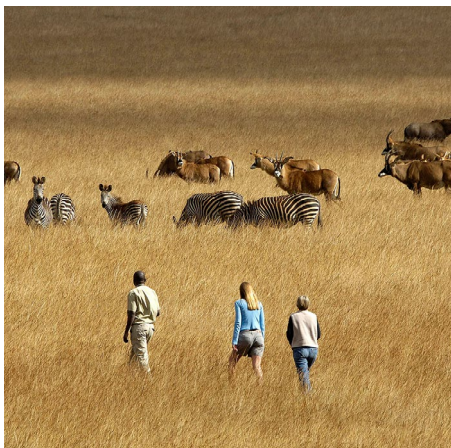


AKA

Send your reactions through our social media pages (@FYIonline) and send us your list.

Editor's social media - @garysamati

Did you know?



Nyika Plateau National Park was ranked #10 on the 30 of Africa's amazing places to visit list (2018) by CNN.

Brief Gossip

It's not "just Twitter"

It's quite concerning that a lot of us take for granted a platform that can easily be used by our future bosses. And hey, in the "screenshots" era, minding what you say is quite important.

This week on Twitter was one scandal after the other. A brief recap before we address the elephant in the room: one twitter user (@mtyankhu) made a rapist and pedophile comment under a



QUIZ!

- 1). A man is looking at a photograph of someone. His friend asks who it is. The man replies, "Brothers and sisters, I have none. But that man's father is my father's son." Who was in the photograph?
 - 2). When young, I am sweet in the sun. When middle-aged, I make you gay. When old, I am valued more than ever. What am I?
 - 3). A boy is walking down the road with a doctor. While the boy is the doctor's son, the doctor is not the boy's father. Then who is the doctor?
 - 4). Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?
- Last week's answers:**
- 1). What stairs, you live in a one-story house.
 - 2). A die (dice).
 - 3). Drop the "S"
 - 4). Water.
- Loncy Sajeni, DHO BT.**



picture of a man with his two daughters. Earlier on, the platform had a shoot your shot day (kufunsila, in other words), whereby Malawians tagged their crushes and told them how they feel about them.

The trend was pioneered by @Mgwerere and everyone (well, almost) applauded her bravery. RE: thus begun the fame for her.

Later on, as the picture shows, she

disrespected an HIV positive female, calling her a prostitute. Well, she has since deleted her account - following all the shade that was thrown at her (also, fighting cyber bullying with cyber bullying? Okay Twitter Malawi...)

Nonetheless, we need to learn the dangers of ruining our reputations through tweets. Because hey, it's not just Twitter.

Creative of the week



Name: **Joel "GrisVer" Nyirongo**

Creative Industry: **Musician**

What strategies do you have in place for your music to take further heights?

"Ironically, in my first few months of producing EDM, I was picked up and signed to a German label called 'Identity Records', under my previous stage name; A duo named 'Haywire & Shrozeeph'.

I released a lot of music under Identity Records, but eventually the sound I was getting at felt too basic and I took time off releasing music for around 4 years, ensuring that the next time I decide to start releasing frequently again, the music I make will be able to compete at a high international level.

Other than quality assurance, I began to be more open to collaborate with vocalists, which I didn't do much of in the past, as EDM often doesn't feature vocals. I've been able to make timeless songs with some local artists such as Luzio, Mungo, YeahIKnow and some international artists that I've never met physically, such as Xtina Jewel and Lemario."

Getting Malawians to fully appreciate talent is a hassle in Malawi. How well do you feel appreciated and/or recognized by Malawians?

"First of all, the talent part was a hassle indeed but I believe it's even harder for me, with the music I make being considered as 'not black people' music, which does hold some truth to it but I personally believe music must not be bound to race.

I've been told thousands of times that my music does not 'belong' in Malawi but I truly want it to! I therefore decided to take the brave step to pioneer the electronic music scene here, and expose the audience to sounds they haven't heard before, and more importantly inspire other musicians to also show off their talents regardless of their music not being 'accepted' by Malawian standards."

As a young creative, what challenge do you face the most?

"Personally, I believe when your talent/passion really drives your existence you begin to live somewhat of a 'double life'. I often find myself at an impasse financially, as sometimes GrisVer would demand money for new gear, whereas Joel would want to use that same money to buy the trendiest shoes.

As I've gotten older, I've gotten better at managing the two. I have strict rules I follow in terms of handling my finances in relation to my desires."

Not grandmother's crochet

by Iradukunda Pacifique – IG @iradukunda_pac



Not so long ago, grandma would slip to her bedroom and come out with a bag full of crocheted items she had made for us as she waited for the holidays, the only time we visited. She would crochet everything, from sweaters to scarfs to car seat covers.

It's 2020, and we are older and grandma can no longer crochet for us.

We have grown bigger and it would take forever to finish. We also want to 'slay' in those crocheted outfits, a language which grandma cannot understand.

As the fashion industry looks for ways to become more sustainable, there's something special about a "trend" that

embraces a slow, handmade technique that can be passed from generation to generation. The style and pieces that result from the process determine which generation you're from.

And in 2020, they're nothing like my grandmother used to make.



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It seems the youth in the country are slowly revolutionizing the merchandise game. I mean hey, as soon as the “itsanana” trend begun, t-shirts of the word emerged, with a creatively designed face of His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera.

This goes on to show the creative minds and hustle-instilled spirits that this generation has. Comes as no surprise, to see a graphic designer by the name Allan Tseka, in a clothing line collaboration with artist Joel “GrisVer” Nyirongo, to create AR Clothing – a lifestyle collection that provides comfortable yet classy trends of modernized fashion.

The aim of the collection, you ask? Well, apart from, obviously, making the world not walk like Adam and Eve before the fruit, the two would like to involve clients as much as possible in terms of customization.

Joel explains that the two are incorporating his art as a musician into the brand, as the artist has an Extended Playlist (EP) dubbed Play Time.

“We have a variety of prices. We have a 10K offer which features the chance to pick out a sketched graphic pattern, of your favourite song or short phrase from the Play Time EP. The client may also choose from the vast selection of cloth patterns we have in stock. The Limited Edition also offers a large print

out of the GrisVer logo on the back of the t-shirts. Lastly, the client shall also receive a free face mask, stylized with the similar cloth pattern to match the t-shirt. However, the cloth pattern is chosen by the graphic designer,” he said.

Expressing his vision for the brand, Allan said that they’d love to be the most successful clothing brand in Malawi and have international recognition.

“We’d also like to provide comfortability and ensure the best quality clothes that match different styles, designs and preferences,” the AR Clothing graphic designer said.

Why Malawians are asking for Affordable Internet

BY Louisa Msiska



The current trending topics on Facebook and Twitter in Malawi are **#ReduceDataCost**, and **#DataMustFall**. This comes after years of hefty internet prices being paid by consumers.

Complaints of high internet charges have always been there. If people are not complaining about the prices, then it is the durability of internet bundles by our biggest mobile operators; Airtel and TNM.

Now, according to the statistics from Data Portal, it shows that Malawi has about 8.6 million mobile connections and 2.8 million internet users. Independent study has shown that at least 700 thousand Malawians are active on social media, while fixed broadband users are just 15 thousand. This is against a population of 19 million, according to Worldometers.

The average price one is expected to pay for a 1GB is \$27. The easiest explanation on my sleeve is this:

Internet is charged at K15/mb and K25/mb by Airtel and TNM respectively. Mind you, this is Pay As You Go (PAYG). Averagely, one is expected to purchase a 1GB at K20,000. This is ridiculously high for a country that has most of its citizens surviving on K700 (\$1) per day. More so,

for a country with a minimum monthly wage of K45,000 (\$70).

But we have data bundles....

Indeed we do. But lowering of the internet PAYG prices would affect the prices of these said bundles. Currently, 1GB/month is K3,500 which is high. In an alternative world, if our PAYG prices were K5/mb, that same 1GB/month could go as low as K600 – K1000.

On top of that, these are bundles which are highly suspicious. We have gotten to question the volume of the said 1GB that we purchase. They are not durable at all. Apart from that, one questions why these said bundles expire?

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (Macra)'s role is to be a watchdog in the industry. Their role is to make sure they create a balance for both consumers and service providers. But lately, it seems they have been very silent in making sure both parties find their relationship beneficial. Which has led us to where we are now.

I have gotten to learn that as a regulator, they are supposed to conduct annual pricing reviews to make sure not much burden is being passed down to

consumers. But how can one believe that happens when just a year ago, Airtel complained about losing a lot of money to their infrastructure due to the many fibre cuts. The same year, customers started crying for their disappearing bundles. This year, Airtel posts over 500% profit. There seems to be foul play.

The two companies (TNM and Airtel) combined have a market share of more than 75%. This means they are the biggest mobile operators in the country. In a way, they two have monopolized the industry, which has led to setting trends which are followed.

Fixed broadband consumers are only about 15,000 nationwide, equating to a 0.53% share in the industry. This means that the likes of Skyband, Afrimax, Globe Internet and more are left to scramble for these customers while still making exorbitant profits.

But like they say, in order to defeat the enemy, you start with the Goliath of the group.

We need to fight more for affordable internet. The world is now forming a village that we are being left out of due to the high internet tariffs.

MALAWIAN URBAN DICTIONARY

WORD OF THE WEEK

Kodokodo

Holding demonstrations. A word specifically common at The Polytechnic, a constituent college of UNIMA.

“Koma school atsegule, kodokodo yamu highway yasowa.”

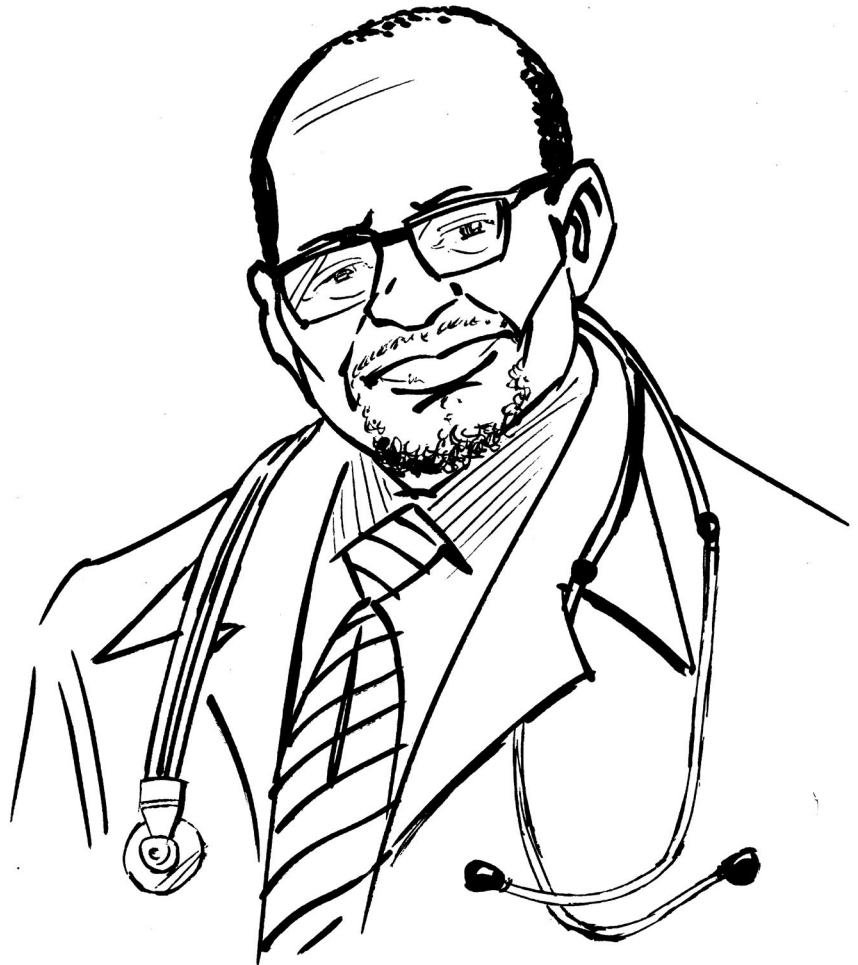
URBAN LANGUAGE MISTAKE

Sorry about vs Sorry for

“I’m sorry about your mother” means “I’m sympathetic about what has happened to your mother.”

“I’m sorry for your mother” means that you pity the mother.

ASK SIBWENI



Think of Sibweni as the uncle you wish you could get advice from. Send us the uncomfortable questions you have through our social media inbox @FYIonline^{mw} or WhatsApp 0881 885 512.

Note:

Your question is published anonymously.

What's happening to Kanye West?



Kanye West has had quite a crazy week from his meltdown at a Presidential rally to the now deleted twitter rant he had. It seems he is not in the right space of mind, with wife Kim Kardashian saying that she's living through the worst nightmare of her life with his bipolar episodes. If you've been wondering, here is the latest Kanye West news:

1. Running for US President: The rapper announced his bid to run as president of the United States of America (hinting that he would love it if Jay-Z would jump in as his running mate). However, it seems that he might postpone his bid to the 2024 presidential race.

2. Outburst at his first campaign event:
At his first campaign event, he began

crying as he told a shocked audience that he and Kim had considered having an abortion when she was pregnant with baby North. The father-of-four declared, "I almost killed my daughter" during the rally in South Carolina.

3. Kanye West – a USA Ras Chikomeni?

Kanye West failed to submit any of the 1,000 petition signatures required for his presidential campaign to be added to the state's ballot. The deadline was on Monday 20 July 2020; just one day after Kanye hosted a rally in South Carolina, USA. No one associated with West's campaign had delivered any signatures to the South Carolina Election Commission by the time the deadline passed at noon, according

to the Post and Courier. Late registration is not permitted.

4. Trying to divorce Kim: Kanye West said that he is trying to divorce Kim Kardashian ever since she apparently "met" with Meek Mill.

5. Beef with mother-in-law: Kanye West shockingly revealed his mother-in-law Kris Jenner is "not allowed" around his four children anymore in an earlier Twitter rant (before the aforementioned).

However, a series of similar events show that Kanye West usually does something wild every time he is about to drop an album. Reports say he is indeed bipolar. But is all this a publicity stunt?

Letter to my unborn daughter part 2

BY Tuto Kalitera

Baby Girl, it is my desire that you come to realize your true worth and value as a woman. So I intend to remind you every single day...

You are a queen, and that the world is your Oyster. You are worth more than diamonds and jewels. Understand that you will be discriminated against and oppressed simply because of your gender. So you must be strong. You must be fearless and bold. You must be independent. With hard work, you can obtain all the material things you desire. I must warn you though; you will encounter great resistance for being unapologetically you. Those who conformed will find you rebellious, however many more will love you for your authenticity.

Of course I look forward to spending time with my grandkids (Tutodinho and Tutolina) someday; however I'm in no hurry for that day. Do not let comparison or the societal pressures of marriage make you anxious to find

your soulmate and settle down. So what if you are unmarried at 30? The opinion of others is irrelevant. I would rather see you single and happy than married and miserable. Trust all will happen in God's time.

Eventually though, you will meet the man who was meant for you. One who will love you and respect you. One who will support your dreams. One who will not be intimidated by your success but rather be inspired by you. One who will have a vision and know his purpose. One who will tell your daughter the things I once told you. One who will protect you and remind you of your worth like I did. Until you meet such a man, find comfort in your solitude. You are whole and complete all by yourself.

There are many girls who for one reason or another were never told the words I am telling you, especially by their fathers. So they've never known their true worth or value, so they lived without ever knowing what they truly

deserved from life. So, you must tell them. Tell them all. Tell them they are beautiful. Tell them they are worth it. Tell them they deserve better for themselves. Stand for them. Fight for them.

Do this, so that they will come to realize their true worth and value. So that they will rise to fight for themselves. So that they will no longer remain silent, but will let their voices be heard across the land. So that they will have the strength to walk away from all that holds them back. So that they will heal. So that their daughters will not live like they once did. Do this, so that the cycle may be broken.

You will change the world. You're just like your Mother. Like your Aunt Mwai, and your Aunt Sue. However don't ever compare yourself to them or anyone else for that matter; no-one can ever duplicate the gift of you.

Forever your biggest fan, Dad.

WEEKLY NEWS RECAP!

Here is a recap of the 5 things that happened this week.

1. VP SKC isn't playing. This week he called for disciplinary action on parastatal organizations that failed to submit Reforms Status Reports on time.
2. Hon. Gospel Kazako, as he ordered the institution to look into data prices and MBC operations, revealed that Macra spends K1 Billion per month.
3. Police arrested alleged perpetrators of the petrol-bombing incident in Lilongwe area 24, in a house at UTM offices, that led to the death of parents and one child of the Tambala family.
4. Young people, fed up with the expensive data charges in the country, spent a good part of the week giving pressure to our telecommunication companies to reduce data costs.
5. As of Wednesday 12hrs33 Corona Virus cases in Malawi were at 3,149 with 24,822 total number of tests conducted (71 deaths and 1,256 recovered).

MEET LAURETTA MTIKE A FASHION DESIGNER

BY Precious Hemah



From a very young age Laurretta Mtiike had a passion in designing. She used to sew her mom's buttons and sew her own clothes. Laurretta did her primary school and secondary school in Kenya, Nairobi, and her tertiary at The Polytechnique, Malawi where she studied Accountancy.

"My friends could come and tell me, 'I like that dress you wore the other day I want it too' so I realized I can charge people with the materials I need and later on I started to charge so it finally became a business"

Laurretta says the journey was very good with a lot of challenges.

"It's very tough to explain what I was doing because by then there were few designers in the country and people found it hard to differentiate between a tailor and a fashion designer. I was also financially challenged because I

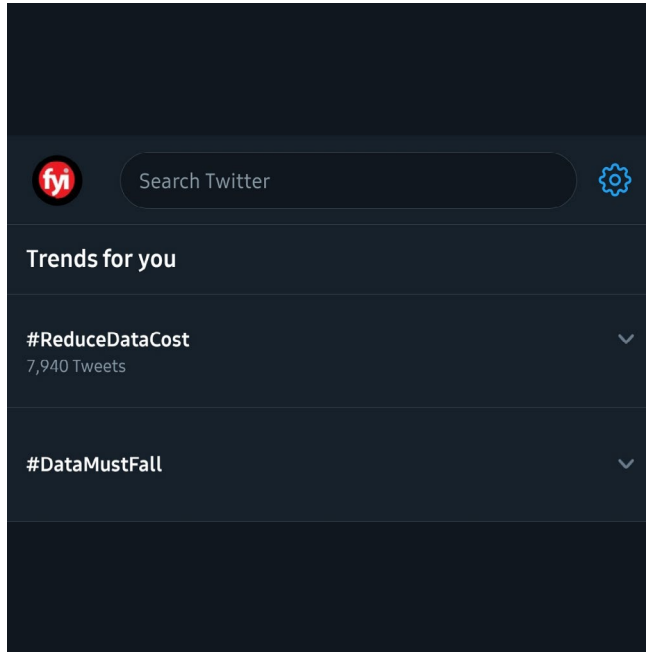
had to put my own money way more than I had already budgeted for in events like modeling."

She says that the progress has been good this far and that the fashion world has introduced her to different people from different nations around the world.

"Apart from Malawi, I have a lot of customers across the world; I have made designs for people in different nations like the USA, UK, Kenya and Philippines as well."

She further encouraged her fellow youths taking the entrepreneurship path, saying they should start with what they have.

"My fellow youths, do what you want. Follow your passion; start with the little you have. Don't wait for a sewing machine or a shop, and it's also very good to take advise from others about your passion."



Reduce Data Costs

It seems the fruits of the unity that was shown by the labour Malawians performed prior to the 2020 Fresh Elections are still being reaped; as, yet again, the Malawian youth are in unison for the common good. On twitter, the youth were calling on all internet providers in the country to reduce data costs. Well, even the Minister of Information Hon. Gospel Kazako called on the Malawi Communications Authority (Macra) to look into data charges.

On the other hand though, telecommunication companies complain that data prices are expensive in the country because of the taxes they pay to the government. It would be ideal for Macra to walk the Minister's talk and not only "look into it" but definitely do something about it.



Like

Comment

Share



KFC OR CHIWAYA?

You'd be surprised how much Malawians love chiwaya. Our Instagram poll alone showed a 74 pro-chiwaya percent against the 26% that opted for KFC (whoever they are, must be ma-ding-dong).

But what makes chiwaya special? You'd think it's the chips (or the chicken - which people claim most sellers fry a "nkhwangwala,") but we think it's the price. So, maybe the chiwaya-kfc preference was based on one's financial situation... or we love chiwaya that much?

Our facebook comments were nothing short of that... nor were the Twitter comments (as 70% of the 319 users that participated in the poll on the platform opted for Chiwaya).

But then again, would you rather go on a Chiwaya or KFC date (if you weren't paying for it)?



Like

Comment

Share

Junior (& Mbulu) chasing big dreams

BY Williams Gondwa



Malawi national football team midfielder Gerald Phiri Jnr and striker Richard Mbulu are hoping to inspire South Africa Premier Soccer League (PSL) side Baroka FC to win the Nedbank Cup to qualify for Caf Confederation Cup.

The Malawian pair will face compatriot John Maduka's side, Bloemfontein Celtic, in the semifinal of the Nedbank Cup. Football is expected to restart in South Africa on August 1 having been on suspension following Covid-19 pandemic. Both Phiri Jnr and Mbulu's are hoping to

help Baroka emulate its 2018 exploits when the side won the Telkom Knockout. Phiri Jnr said he was eager to help his side to reach the final.

"I am so excited that we will play in the semifinal of Nedbank Cup next month. When we came here last year we found that our colleagues won the Telkom Knockout Cup in 2018. It is everyone's dream to lift a trophy so it's important to win this cup because it will motivate players to do better next season. Should we win this cup it is obvious that we will play in Caf," said the former Be Forward Wanderers

midfielder.

On his part, Mbulu said he intends to regain his position in the starting line up.

"Personally my season has been okay. My aim is to play in the remaining games and help the team to save its Premier Soccer League status and also win the Nedbank Cup," he said.

If Baroka defeats Celtic in the semifinal the side will face the winner of Sundowns and Bidvest Wits clash. Baroka reached the semifinal having defeated Malawi's veteran midfielder Robert Ng'ambi's side Black Leopards in the quarterfinals.