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**Political - Cultural - Social** 

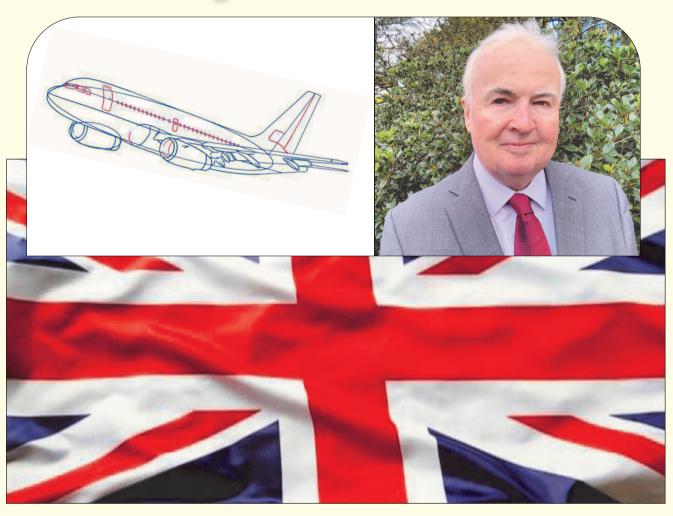
U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania Held Important Meetings in August



September 2021

■ The Price: 100 MRU

# The First Time Ever the UK Visas Directly From Nouakchott



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# **Letter of Gratitude**

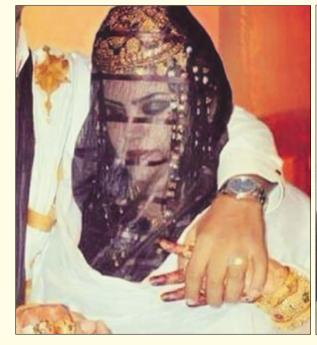
ne of our first preferences, in the Key fourth issue, is to express our gratitude to those who offered an immense practical help to the Key newspaper as the only recognized English medium in Mauritania. At this point, we would like to thank the English Department professors as well as the Higher Institute of English instructors who dedicated their time and energy to support the Key. Their mental assistance means a lot to us since It's the backbone of any professional and successful journalistic work. Hopefully, this psychological boost is going to inspire more academic authors to join us. At the same time, we want to pass along our gratitude to both the United States of America and United Kingdom Embassies for their massive motivation. Furthermore, the feedback of our local and expatriate readers is one of our main interests at the Key. We don't only take our inspiration from them but also our enthusiasm. To close, the Key Publisher is looking forward to living up to the expectations of the Key audience.

> ■ Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Sidi Ely The Key Publisher

# Why Would You Want to Attend a Mauritanian Wedding?

#### Culture

Culture is the identity of a nation i.e. culture is what makes one nation different from the other one. Weddings would be made differently. Thus, it's very pleasing to know how they are made in different ethnicities. The purpose of this article is not to romanticize the Mauritanian culture; however, to expose you to it the way that it is. As a result, there would be some facts that may seem to you odd or peculiar. But,remember everyone is enshrining his values. As a consequence, we need to embrace one another by respecting the values that may be incon-





venient for us and adopt those that come across convenient. To elaborate, the weddings in Mauritania are made in ways that beyond the shadow of a doubt marvelously and that's why you need to attend one.

#### The Engagement

Firstly,the engagement is to be done; some would betroth before the marriage long time whereas some would set a short time. The man needs first to ask for the hand of his future wife from her father. Nonetheless,he is not to do that in person, for it's a sign of disrespect for Mauritanians.

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**■** Tourism

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**Explore Mauritania** 

**■** Education

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Why Learning?

■ By: Dr. Safia Amar



# **U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania Held Important Meetings in August**



.S. Ambassador to Mauritania Cynthia Kierscht held important meetings in the month of August with prominent personalities including the Minister of Health Mr. Sidi Ould Zahaf, the Minister of

Mohamedou Ahmedou M'Haimid, the Minister of Fisheries and the Economy Maritime Mr. Dy Ould Zein, Mrs.

Aissata Lam, Director General the Agency for the Promotion Equipment and Transport, Mr. of Investments and the Resident

Representative of UNICEF Mr. Marc Lucet. These meetings are part of introductory meetings that this great American diplomat has been organizing since she was accredited few months ago.

# NEWSPAPER

Monthly English Newspaper

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## YALI Mandela **Washington for 2021**



CM Tangborn hosted a YALI Mandela Washington Fellows tea for our 2021 alumnae Nana Bowba Jiddou, Aminetou Bilal and Dickel Dia (who could not join in person). They received their certificates, signed by President Biden and Secretary Blinken, and a letter from President Obama, which said "one of my proudest achievements was starting the Young African Leaders Initiative", and "You are making a difference, and I believe that you will reach new heights if you are better connected with one another and with the American people." The fellows discussed their YALI experiences and future plans, and DCM Tangborn told them how proud the Embassy is to partner with them and encourage them in their work. #YALI #USAMauritania60

# **Nouakchott Region Provides Some Medical Supplies**



ouakchott Region is delivering some medical supplies and dietary supplements to the two hospitals: The hospital of the Mother and the Child and the Oncology Hospital

Nouakchott Region has given some gifts to the two hospitals as a part of executing their social program; they distributed

some children dietary supplements, some movable medical chairs, some medicine as well as emergencies equipments. The recipients have acknowledged that they're eternally grateful for Nouakchott Region for this continuous support that shall ease the sufferings of many needy patients.

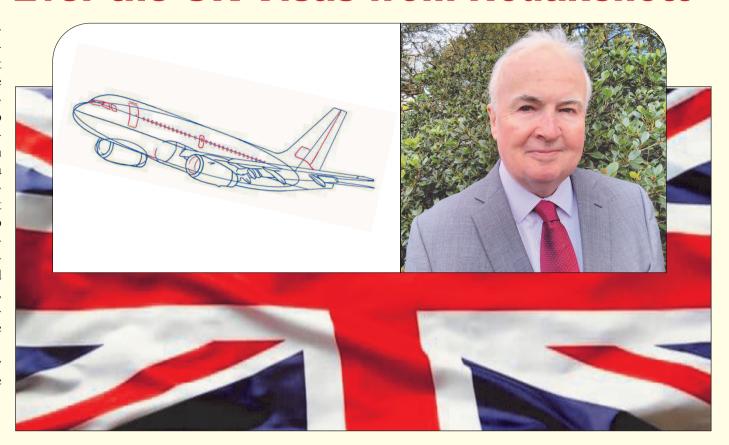
Mrs. President Fatimetou Ab-

del Malick has underscored that Nouakchott Region is going to keep reinforcing all of the hospitals and the health centers so that they can perform their responsibilities in the utmost ways. This shall happen via the coordination and the work with all of the partners of the Region as far as development is concerned.

# The First Time Ever the UK Visas from Nouakchott

The British Ambassador, Colin Wells, has announced that a team from the United Kingdom's Border Agency will visit Nouakchott during the week beginning 20 September to take applications directly from customers. At the moment, Mauritanians must visit Rabat or Dakar to submit their applications. In making the announcement, Ambassador Wells said "When I arrive in Nouakchott, I was determined to make the UK visa service more accessible to Mauritanians. I recognise that going to Dakar or Rabat is inconvenient and expensive. I am bringing a UK Visas Team to Nouakchott during the week beginning 20 September to give Mauritanians an opportunity to submit their applications and biometrics direct – and avoiding regional travel. If this visit is a success, we will do more. I would love to see more Mauritanians visit, study in and do business with, the United Kingdom. It is a fabulous country."

The Ambassador said details of the visit and how to secure an appointment would be posted on the UKinMauritania Facebook page and on Twitter @ UKinMauritainia and @ColinWellsUK.



#### COVID-19

### "Prevention is better than cure" 532,906 are fully vaccinated

"The only way to protect yourself from this contagious pandemic is none other than getting vaccinated." Dr. Sidi Zahaf The Health Ministry



COVID-19 has affected life globally. Everyone was dying to have the vaccine invented. Nonetheless, when it's available now almost everywhere, many people still refuse to take it to this day. Some people have taken it, and it did nothing to them other than protecting them against it. Conversely, some other people took it; however, it was the end of their lives. Hence, many Mauritanians if not the majority are refusing to take it. Thus, the ministry of health launched a third vaccination campaign on Monday, August 30th,2021 in order to inform them about the importance of taking the vaccine. They are aiming to have 330,000 people vaccinated against COVID-19 within a week.

The health Ministry has launched two vaccination campaigns previously where they afforded Sinopharm vaccine, AstraZeneca vaccine and Jonson and

Jonson vaccine that only one dose suffices. During the days of the campaigns, some activists reported that some citizens said that there is a lack regarding finding some vaccines particularly AstraZeneca. The campaign went on, and the government is still calling the citizens to take the vaccine. According to a recent statement by the Health Minister Sidi Ould Zahaf the vaccines are available, yet not many citizens have taken them. Therefore, he called doctors, preachers, journalists.... etc to come and take the vaccine since it's the only way to get protected against this pandemic. Moreover, he said that the elderlies are in danger unless they get vaccinated. Furthermore, every citizen who is above 18 is included. He concluded that Mauritania is among the African countries that have more people vaccinated.



#### The New Received **Doses In Mauritania**

#### 165,600 doses of AstraZeneca and 108,000 doses of Jonson& Jonson.

Mauritania received a new batch of AstraZeneca on Wednesday, September 8th,2021 that's about 213,600 doses given by Germany through COVAX initia-

The Health Ministry stated that the current batch is the fourth batch of AstraZeneca as well as receiving a fifth batch of Jonson & Jonson that's about 108,000 doses.

100,000 vaccine doses from UAE in addition to 15 tons of medical supplies and some scanners.

#### The latest Updates about **COVID-19 in Mauritania**

It was reported that On September

9th,2021 within 24 hours

90 new cases

195 recoveries

0 death

Total cases in the county are 34,594 out of those cases 32,484 have recovered, 743 deaths and 1367 active cases.

Those cases go as what follows: 1294 no symptoms,

31 Serious cases

42 Unserious cases.

#### **Statistics of the Third National** Campaign against COVID-19

It was reported on September 9th,2021

Dose 1

Fully new vaccinated are 3,942 Total fully vaccinated are 292,631

Dose 2

Fully new vaccinated people are 8,258 Total vaccinated are 575,601

# Why Would You Want to Attend a Mauritanian Wedding?

Mr. Abdrrehim Lekh'Deyem **English Instructor** 

#### Culture

Culture is the identity of a nation i.e. it is what makes one nation different from the other one. Weddings would be made differently. Thus, it's very pleasing to know how they are made in different ethnicities. The purpose of this article is not to romanticize the Mauritanian culture; however, to expose you to it the way that it is. As a result, there would be some facts that may seem to you odd or peculiar. But,remember everyone is enshrining his values. As a consequence, we need to embrace one another by respecting the values that may be inconvenient for us and adopt those that come across convenient. To elaborate, the weddings in Mauritania are made in ways that beyond the shadow of a doubt marvelously and that's why you need to attend one.

#### The Engagement

Firstly,the engagement is to be done; some would betroth before the marriage long time whereas some would set a short time. The man needs first to ask for the hand of his future wife from her father. Nonetheless,he is not to do that in person, for it's a sign of disrespect for Mauritanians. Therefore, he would send some representatives of his family led by his mother.

Note: the bridegroom shouldn't come up to his father and tell him that he wants to get married. Alternatively, he would

take that up with his mother, and she would pass that on to the father because by and large the Fathers of both the bridegroom and the bride must approve the marriage. There would be a ceremony to announce the engagement. Thereafter, everyone will be awaiting for the event to take place.

#### The wedding day

Secondly, the wedding Day. On that day, the bride's family will be holding a ceremony to receive all of the guests where the bridegroom and the bride will be married to one another. In addition, by and large the fathers of both the bridegroom and the bride will attend the wedding to legalize it if they happen to be available since it's a must for both the wife and the husband to have representatives because on that day there would be some conditions to be stated in front of everyone. At that time, there is a clergyman to couple them. As soon as they are wedded, women will chant as a sign of happiness; they would clap and dance out of joy. Men will leave to let women do their parts . Subsequently, on that very night, some would start beautifying up the bride commencing with Hena while others would commence only the next night.

Hena is a timeless substance that is used to prettify women through tattooing the hands and feet with geometric figures.

#### (Al Marwah) The



#### **Consummation Night**

Thirdly, on the second day of the wedding at night, the bridegroom and his friends will come too late to take the bride. The bridegroom will assign one of his friends to be his best man to do most of the jobs on his behalf. The bridegroom's friends will be kept by the people of the bride so that they can rejoice altogether more. When it's almost dawn, the bride will be given to the bridegroom wearing a black Malhafa(veil) and some black scarfs will be handed out by the bride's family to distinguish the bridegroom along with his friends as a unique traditional and customary thing. The cars will be lined up heading over altogether horning as a sign of having a wedding. They will head over to an apartment that's booked for two days if not

three days. The marriage will be consummated on that night.

#### The Apartment Ceremony

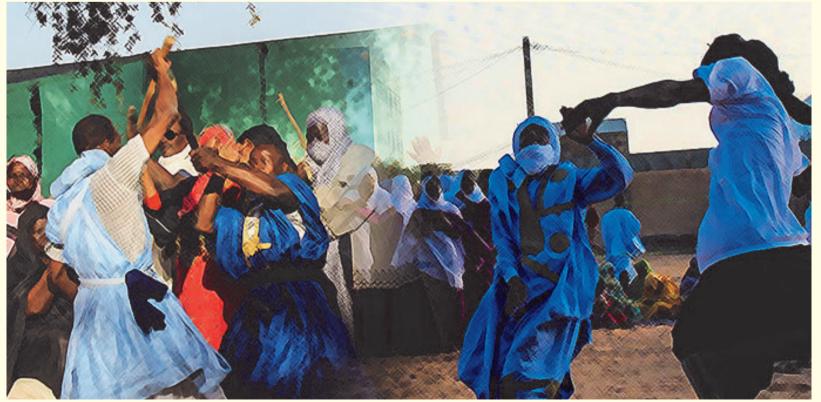
Fourthly, on the third day, a ceremony will be held in the apartment. People will be dancing over traditional music. Either Garmi, Nana, Emneitou, Warda, or Wel Al Meidah .... etc . As soon as dancing is over, eating will be passed out . Afterwards, there would be a cake where the bride will have to have her bridegroom eaten and vice versa. That day will be finalized. Then, everybody leaves till the next day.

#### The Bride's Family Ceremony

On the fourth day, the bride will be driven to her parents so early in the morning. Some of the bridegroom's friends would stay with the bride because some women would try to hide the bride as a part of the wedding. But, why? They would do so in order to make the bridegroom crave for his wife especially on that day. If the bride happens to be hidden, some would not give her back until 24 hours go by while others would have some fun through asking the bridegroom to give an exchange to manifest his love in front of everyone. When it's in the afternoon, the people of the bridegroom will come over being hosted by the bride's people .In the evening the bridegroom will give some gifts as a sign of the virginity of his spouse.

#### The Final Day Of the Wedding

The bridegroom will take his bride at night to his parents. Once they arrive, the people of the bridegroom will be dancing and chanting to welcome the bridegroom and his wife. On the fifth day, the bridegroom's people will make their ceremony where some local singers will come. It will continue until evening. That should be the final day of the wedding. To sum up, this is likely how the weddings are held in Mauritania today. Most of the traditions and customs are still present to this day whereas some are extinguishing due to the different time frames. Did you like the Mauritania wedding? I recommend you to attend one to see it in real, it shall be more fascinating!.



# **Why Learning?**

Dr. Safia Oumelmouminine Amar **Associate Professor of Linguistics Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences** University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya

This serious question has been raised in 1732 by the philosopher Gianbatista Vico in front of a gathering of students and professors at the University of Naples. It has remained a very powerful question ever since. Today, in 2021, it is still a big concern for many individuals and communities in various places of the world. Even more, reflecting, studying, analyzing such an exciting and impassionate theme is seen as a source of not only scientific but also cultural and educational enrichment.

In doing so, one should bear in mind the downright overwhelming answer of Vico himself to the famous question: we study to grow, to evolve, not in income or in capital, but in happiness, in culture, in humanity, what he called de mente heroïca, i.e. the heroism of the mind.

What is it all about? Happiness, Generosity, or Panache, as the case might be, involves in



practice to zoom on a superior dimension... to surpass, to forget what is small and to live to free one's own mind from trivial, poor issues...

Everybody likes watching the moon... but it remains unclear how to go successfully round the world through knowledge. To undertake such a radically life-changing trip, it seems necessary to bring along a kind heart and a competent open mind... because where the wise watches the moon, the idiot watches the finger!

Basically, making humans happy does not seem to be that much difficult. On the contrary, it could even be an easy task, as simple as making the difference between large and small, between a pointless transaction and a fabulous treasure, between balance and

According to Epicurus, "one should not pretend to philosophize but rather genuinely philosophize". Do not scoff it, though, because "mocking philosophy, is truly philosophizing!" In practical terms, how would you respond to Vico's question?

# Do you want to sound like a native English Speaker?

The English language learning is so fun particularly when someone embraces the fact that he is ready to learn its culture. The question arises, why can we learn the grammar of the English language in addition to its vocabulary, yet we struggle to sound like native English Speakers? We believe that this question has dogged you for a longtime, and you were always so inquisitive to get a sensical and reasonable response. Don't worry! As soon as you finish reading the article, you are likely going to overcome the issue of not sounding like native English speakers. Did you guess what the answer could be? I'm so sorry about beating around the bush. I know, you've posed a question about the meaning of "Beating around the bush". To answer the query; it's none other than Idioms. I firmly believe that you as a reader, either way: you know what an Idiom is. Nevertheless, you are not a big fun of them,or you know the word, yet you still need to comprehend it. Before I elucidate this, I'm going to commence with defining what an Idiom is. An Idiom means some words together that signify a different thing from the literal meaning of each word.

By and large Idioms are used in all of the languages. The question arises again, we have known the definition of what an Idiom is. Nonetheless, we are still eager to know how Idioms can help us to sound like native English speakers. You're very smart, for this indicates that you are focusing on what you're reading. Idioms do help you to sound like native English speakers for a number of reasons: First, they improve your conversational skills. When you are communicating with native English speakers, there are some ideas that can only be put across through Idioms. E.g. a native speaker might speak to you and instead of saying you're right; he could say" you can say that again" then you exhaust yourself by repeating what you've said. Where he just confirmed that "you're right"



Idioms are a part of English that we use almost daily. Native speakers and the advanced students of ESL use them not because they want to trouble their interlocutors. But rather, there are some contexts where you have to use them to express your ideas perfectly. Hence, you have to familiarize yourself with Idioms in order not only to comprehend native English speakers but also to get your messages across in perfect ways. Second, Idioms are so fun when you compare them to your mother tongue. For Example, in our Hassaniya dialect when someone wants to say that "Together we perform better" he would say "One hand cannot clap" if someone happens to be talking to someone who speaks Hassaniya as a mother tongue, he would perfectly understand him. However, is it good to just translate the Idioms in your mother tongue word for word to communicate with someone who speaks a different language? Herein lies the problem; you shouldn't do this. You need to look for the equivalent Idioms, for it likely exists. For instance in lieu of saying "One hand cannot clap"to a native English speaker, you should say "One hand washes the other one. Third, it not only makes you eloquent but also fluent. Briefly, you have to learn Idioms in order to sound like native English speakers.

**Instructor: Abdrrehim Lekh'Deyem** Abdrrehim35@gmail.com

#### The ten most used Idioms in English

1- Does it add up? (Does it make sense?) Ex: I cannot understand why she did that. It really doesn't add up to me.

2- To jump for joy. (To be very happy)

Ex: Aichetou is jumping for joy because she's been promoted.

3- To put words in someone's mouth( to say that someone says something that he actually

Ex: John and I are no longer friends ,for he always puts words in my mouth.

4- At first hand(directly)

As a newspaper reporter, I always like to get the news at first hand.

5- To think outside the box ( to come up with ideas that are not constrained by some previous held opinions)

Ex: Every time I discuss a subject with my peers, they drive me to think outside the box. 6- You can say that again (you're right) Jack said that learning Idioms is so fun, and Tom replied "you can say that again"

7- To see eye to eye with each other( to hold the same opinion)

I see eye to eye with the person who said this, "Poverty disgraces everyone"

8- To spend money like water ( to spend money lavishly)

Generosity doesn't mean spending money like water.

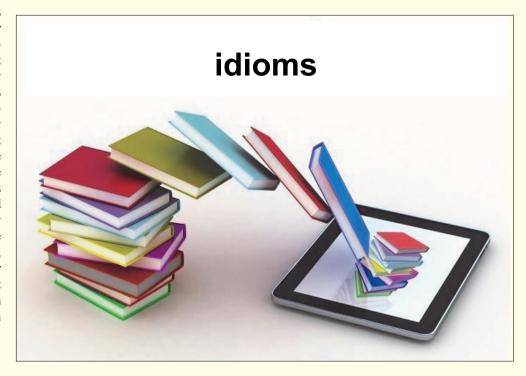
9- To take the words out of someone's mouth( to say exactly what someone was about to say

Ex: Khadija: Hey, Zeinebou why don't you give your opinion on the subject?

Zeinebou: Ahmed has just taken the words out of my mouth.

10- To be like a fish out of water. ( to feel uncomfortable in a place)

Sidi doesn't like parties because they make him like a fish out of water.



# **Explore Mauritania**





**▼** ummer Vacation in Mauritania is one of the most outstanding periods of the year. Many

people like to visit various places to take rest outside the crowded big cities especially the capital Nouakchott. People usually spend the whole academic year in the city due to their children's schooling or the nature of their work. Summer is the time in which schools close and many workers take their annual leave. Summer is also the natural gift of God in which rain falls unlike any other seasons.

There are many places in Mauritania that people like to visit stretching to the four corners of the country. Many people enjoy traveling to Nouadhibou, a city in the northwest of the country, usually called the Economic Capital. It is also a highly rated tourist city that so much so people from other countries visit and enjoy the beach of Cabano. People also visit it for recreation and relaxation. The beach of Nouadhibou is very special. The city itself is surrounded by water almost from every side that makes it a unique beach. The stones submerged in the water

create an eye grabbing view that attracts visitors from everywhere to spend their Summer Vacation. Besides, the city of Nouadhibou, there is the famous Argin Basin "Parc d'Argin" a place

as Taganet, Nema, Aioun, Kiffa, Rosso and other parts of the country. Throughout the three months of the vacation time frame, the Eastern and Sothern parts become places where rain falls on desert. Rainy season is

lic in Nomadic Life and practically brings a great quantity of red meat...Adrar, Tirs Zemour, and Inchiri are also places that people like to go to for relaxation and change of routine from the city. These places are known



where desert and water meet, and very unique types of birds are found.

July, August and September are months in which the rain falls heavily in the eastern and southern parts of Mauritania. Many people from the city pack their luggage and travel to places such a part of the year that is very special in Mauritanian's hearts. Rain brings happiness and joy to life and puts smiles everywhere. It rebirths the almost dead land. Moreover, there is also a huge number of livestock that results in a large amount of milk production. Rain is symboby the famous name of the "stone lands". This name was derived from their geographical location. They are places where many mountains, hills, and lakes are found. These are known for their high heat temperature in some cases surpasses fifty degrees in some parts of the year.



The most famous thing about these areas, especially Adrar, is the "Getna Season" an annual harvest festival of dates that attracts the attention of many Mauritanians and even tourists from Europe and the US. Many people go there and participate in the festival that lasts in some cases for two months.

Furthermore, there are some distinguished historical towns e.g. Chinguitti, Oudane and Oualata that are inducted by UNESCO. These places draw in tourists due to their building shapes and the way they were architected many centuries ago. Additionally,the big Mosque of Chinguitti shaped in a very unique way that could be seen from far and miles out of the town.

In conclusion, summer vacation is the best time frame to explore Mauritania.





# The Key Feedback

### The Key Feedback

Dr. Safia Oumelmouminine Amar **Associate Professor of Linguistics Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences** University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya

I discovered The Key through its 3rd edition. Both its form and content were pleasantly surprising.

The issue in question is well organized with neat sections and subsections thanks to a clear and pertinent signposting. The coverage is appropriate, and that is significant. For example, the cover stories are relevant and inspiring to a wide readership; and the following sections address issues a lot of people care for, such as education, culture, sports, etc. To top it all, the feedback section helps expressing opinions and comments.

However, the overall work is perfectly imperfect, as it were. Some titles could have been well reformulated and typos taken care of, for instance. In my opinion, the articles could have been a little more ambitious, comprehensive, and well-documented; but they remain fine papers.

Given the challenging context of The Key, it is really worth encouraging this brave initiative. I hope it will take advantage of the current freer media environment in Mauritania to thrive very quickly. Congratulations!

#### Mohamed M'haimid Sidi **English Teacher**

I've been always wondering why there is no English-speaking newspaper or magazine in Mauritania. Knowingly, that we have what it requires to have one. We have many literate and knowledgeable young people who can master the profession. But recently, a group of young enthusiastic English teachers, decided to take the move and creat an English-speaking newspaper. I was so happy for this remarkable achievement, and excited to read the next issues to come.

I believe the key newspaper is a promising medium project. It is inclusive, diverse, and well-organized. Now, the English community in Mauritania has finally found someone who speaks their mother tongue. And they also can learn more about Mauritanian culture, customs and society. Which will help them understand the culture, the costums and get to know the society



more closely through this English newspaper.

The key newspaper will also provide for the English learners a platform through which they can practice and improve their Engish-reading skills. Because the newspaper is written in an easy and understandable language.

No matter how much I say about it, I won't be able to give it the credit that it deserves. I would gladly recommend reading this newspaper. It is inclusive and rich in its content. Everyone can find what he/she seeks for in this first of its kind newspaper.

#### **Mohamed Yarba Meissara Professor at the Higher Institute of English**

I had the chance to read the 2nd edition of The Key newspaper, and I was very impressed with level of quality it has reached. I particularly liked The Key's layout and diversity of content. In terms of layout, one can't help but notice how the articles of the newspaper are organized in a way that makes it easy for the reader to navigate the topics and choose what they find interesting to read. This makes it enjoyable to read.

The diversity of content is another characteristic of The Key that stands out. It is an astonishing feature as it presents the reader with a collection of political, cultural, and social topics to choose from. Moreover, The Key plays an important role in implanting the culture of success in the minds of its readers



by highlighting some great stories of success like the one of English Basics Center (EBC).

However, I believe that the most significant aspect of this newspaper is the fact that it can serve as a platform for the English speaking/learning community in Mauritania. On the one hand, it is a source of fresh and local content that the public in general might find interesting. And on the other hand, some of

this content particularly targets English-Learning students; therefore, they can read it in order to polish their language skills.

To conclude, it is obvious that the writers, editors, and publisher of The Key take the process of content creation very seriously. Therefore, I highly recommend this newspaper to the English speaking/learning community in Mauritania.

# Blind Consumption of Technology



echnology is being consumed blindly and inappropriately in our country to the extent that one does not realize real life is no longer authentic for and values. They squarely nudge it. An American activist, Candace them. One of the photographs that themselves on the spot, and they Owens, has said once "we are in the mean era where anyone can boldly be mean, or send mean message because of the social media". This phenomenon is inconceivably

increasing. Namely, when you meet a recipe for lack of self-esteem, esadvocates this fact is a picture of a guy and his mother posted on Facebook with some sensitive words said by the guy, and he is showing that he loves her whereas in real life he does not accompany her and seemingly it is an unambiguous paradoxicality. He or she, therefore, has to know that posting how much our parents are loved by us is good, but to apply that literally is way better. As a result, we have to wake up those hypnotized consumers from the fictional life that towards which they are drawn. Moreover, those teenagers are competitively toxic. they are deliberately seeking high profiles. However, and sadly, it is

a sole figure, you will notice a vast caping from reality, and more imdistinction of he or she because the portantly deviate from the norms don't think about the aftermaths. Subsequently, accounts got confiscated, as well as rumors went vital, and that is an indication of the sheer danger of social media. Last but not least, I would like to externalize these concerns as a citizen who desperately needs to make change, and nonetheless there is a percentage which utilizes the social media as a positive tool, I'm putting the acute emphasis on the other side. Therefore, I highly admonish those who are in the trap to assiduously vanquish its dark side and make use of its light one.

> Yahya Mohamedou Abbe **An English Teacher**



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