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The President of Nouakchott Region Visit to Rwanda

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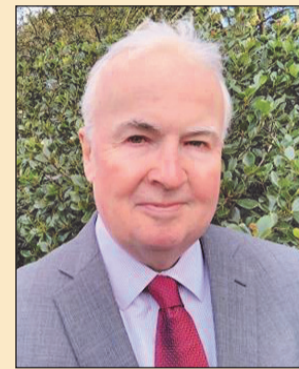


The Key Newspaper INTERVIEW with the U.K Ambassador his Excellency Mr. Colin Wells The Gas Will Come Online in Mauritania at the End of 2023



The Key conducted an interview with the U.K Ambassador on July 26th, 2021 at the British Residence to let its audience know about this Brand new Embassy mission. Read P : 4-5

The New British Ambassador



Colin Wells

Colin Wells became the new British Ambassador to Mauritania in April 2021, presenting his credentials signed by Queen Elizabeth the Second, to President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani on 8th April. By accepting the letters, President Ghazouani gave permission to the Ambassador to start his duties.

Ambassador Wells was born in Zambia and grew up in Sierra Leone and Devon in South-West England. He joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1987 and has experienced 10 overseas postings to Barbados, Geneva, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ascension Island, India, Russia and now, for the first time as Ambassador, here in Mauritania. During his career, he has also enjoyed raising a family – two daughters, Gracie (28 years), Jade (26) and a son, Sam (24). Gracie has already visited him in Nouakchott.

The British Embassy in Nouakchott was opened in 2018. This was an important commitment to Mauritania and to developing stronger diplomatic, commercial, security and developmental links between the two countries. In an interview with The Key, Ambassador Wells said “It is a huge honour to be posted to Mauritania, where I have received the warmest of welcome from everyone I have met. It is clear there is a lot I can do while here. I want to see stronger ties between our two countries and governments, between our business leaders, our military and security forces, and between our peoples. I would like to see more Mauritians visit and study in the UK, and therefore I want to see a more accessible visa service. I hope also to see English language knowledge increase, going hand in hand with Hassaniya and French. Finally, I also want the UK to continue supporting Mauritania’s ambitions for a greener society, its care for refugees, and its campaign for better living, education and health standards for all Mauritians.”

The British Embassy plans to be pro-active in reaching out to the people of Mauritania, through The Key, but also through its social media to say more about the Ambassador’s work.

Facebook: UKinMauritania
Twitter: UKinMauritania
ColinWellsUK

Is the New Bill of the national symbols constraining the freedom of speech?

At the Key, we’ve made a survey concerning the new bill that hasn’t been enacted yet i.e. all of the articles in the potential bill are not yet approved by the parliament. On one hand some say whether it’s going to be enacted or not they are totally against it. To them, it’s going to represent nothing other than the restriction of the freedom of speech.

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Are you planning to study in the United States...?

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Is Mauritania still keeping Covid-19 under control or the other way around?

Mauritania can be considered as one of the countries that has the least cases due to the restrictions of their governments. Mauritania almost managed to publicly announce that they have successfully beaten the so-called Coronavirus Pandemic. It was reported on July 3rd that 50 new cases, 40 recoveries 0 death and 645 active cases. However the case is grave now. It was reported by the ministry of health on August 7th concerning Covid-19 update; 361 new cases, 250 recoveries, 07 deaths and 3880 active cases. This begs us to ask the question, is Covid-19 getting out of control in Mauritania? This question somewhat can be answered ambivalently. We can answer it with yes, it's getting out of control, for the cases are rising similarly it can be answered with No, for it's not going up to the level where the government can do nothing about it. Therefore, The government had to take some new restrictions. They go as what follows: The committee was ordered by the head of the state to always be on. A vaccination campaign that should last for one week as well as It has become mandatory to wear a mask in the public places e.g. in the market or in a taxi. Moreover, all of the officials are obligated to take the vaccine. Furthermore, some new serious measurements as far as the curfew is concerned were taken. The curfew was made first at 12 am and this time lasted for almost four months. On July 19th the curfew time was changed to 10 pm, but that didn't last too long just one week after it was made at 8 pm till

now. Many citizens are complaining about this time because it has made life so complicated to them.

302,400 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine



The Health minister Mr. Sidi Zahaf has received a new batch that contains 302,400 doses from Johnson & Johnson Covax. It was given by the US under the international union in order to get vaccinated against Covid-19. This batch had been preceded by two batches from co-vaccine the first one was 31,200 doses from AstraZeneca and the second one was 74,400 doses from the same vaccine. Many prominent people have witnessed this of them: The DCM at US embassy, the representatives of the WHO etc

The latest updates about the COVID-19 in Mauritania

It was reported that on Saturday, August 7th, 2021

Total cases in the country are 27,957 out of those cases 23,478 have recovered; 599 deaths and 3,880 active cases; those active cases go as what

follows: 3,741 no symptoms; 26 un-serious cases; 53 serious cases.

Statistics of the national vaccination campaign against COVID-19

It was reported on August 6th, 2021

Dose 1
 Fully new vaccinated people are 3,225
 Total fully vaccinated people are 214,672

Dose 2
 Fully new vaccinated people are 541
 Total vaccinated people are 20,566

THE KEY NEWSPAPER

Monthly English Newspaper

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The Higher Institute of English a new monument for English learning



The Higher Institute of English, HIE, (Institut Supérieur d'Anglais) opened in October, 2016. HIE offers a degree in International Communication Studies. This degree is delivered in English and equips our graduates for careers in governmental departments, the Mauritanian Armed Forces and the Police, and national and international companies who need employees to communicate effectively with foreigners from a wide range of countries. Eligible students must have achieved a good score in their Baccalaureate exam. Our students come from all parts of Mauritania. One feature of the degree is the

external speakers' programme. Recent speakers have included an Irish vet, a dog trainer from England, a Canadian aid worker and a British army officer. HIE is expanding fast and to meet this demand, it currently has 20 academic staff. The majority of teachers are British with global experience. Local teachers are internationally qualified. The HIE has a dedicated new building with capacity for 120 students. Classrooms all have whiteboards, projectors and Wifi. A second-phase of building has begun which will increase capacity to 400 students. There will also be a gymnasium, mosque and shop on the campus.

96 students from the English department of the University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya have graduated this year

The Key Newspaper is congratulating BOTH the graduates of 2021 of the University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya English department and the Higher Institute of English.



The President of Nouakchott Region Visit to Rwanda



The President of Nouakchott Region was invited to represent Mauritania in the Republic of Rwanda for the 41st international conference of the Francophone mayors on Monday, July 19th, 2021 as a member of the executive office of the organization that lasted for three sequential days. The conference was held in Kigali the capital of Rwanda. During her participation in the 93rd session for the executive office of the international association of the Francophone mayors; the president was able to interpolate the water project among the projects; that will be funded in order to supply pure water for the pockets of the su-

burbs in the capital Nouakchott as well as some new partnerships with many cities and European organizations of them are: Bordeaux and the European agency for the local development. It will execute some common projects that Nouakchott people will benefit from. The president Fatimetou Abdel Malick met the Kigali Mayor where they took up many things that led to having a partnership between Nouakchott and Kigali. The president of Nouakchott Region is aiming to benefit from the Kigali Experience e.g. the civilian planning, and the social policies in addition to training the young and exchanging the Experience with of-

fering some opportunities of investment in Mauritania. On the same day the president Fatimetou Abdel Malick attended the works of the general assembly that its agenda circled around many important points regarding the international decentralization partnership. On the final day of the conference the president held many meetings where she met the mayor of Paris, Bordeaux Mayor, the staff of the expedition of Grand-Paris-Sud and some international partners where they deliberated how they can cooperate with Nouakchott Region. Moreover, they interacted positively to the most of the motions.

Nouakchott Region is Organizing a Campaign to Afforest the Airport Highway



Mrs. President of Nouakchott Region Fatimetou Abdel Malick supervised over the launch of a campaign to afforest the international Airport Highway of Oumtounsy. The campaign started from the crossroads of the big teapot on Saturday, August 7th, 2021. The afforestation process is a part of Nouakchott Region Platform that is aiming to give not only a better image about the city but also a better environment one.



Is the New Bill of the national symbols constraining the freedom of speech?



At the Key, we've made a survey concerning the new bill that hasn't been enacted yet i.e. all of the articles in the potential bill are not yet approved by the parliament. On one hand some say whether it's going to be enacted or not they are totally against it. To them, it's going to represent nothing other than restriction of the freedom of speech. Mauritania is a county that always embodied the freedom of speech; since we were amongst the countries that believed in the importance of a free press because a free and independent press is essential to any free

society, as is the exchange of ideas and information. On the other hand some other participants said that every country does have some laws and regulations that should be abided by if not have to, yet the citizens' rights should never be touched. They added that every genuine citizen must respect the symbols of his country otherwise there would be a belittlement of the authority or even anarchy. The first article reads anyone who dares to degrade the authority of the country intentionally through media; belittles its symbols, brings about insecurity or disunities the citizens is



going to be penalized. However, the problem arises when the second and the third articles are debated. There is a unanimous consensus about the fact that we should all respect what is considered to be a national symbol like the religion, the national anthem or unity but saying that the president is amongst the national symbols herein lies the controversy. Democracy guarantees that people have the right to criticize the president since he was elected by them. The article number 3 says that when a cap wrongs you, then you make a video of him you'll be penalized for that. The

question that was posed by the opposing side of the new Bill is where are the human rights here? They opined that this takes away their rights as citizens as well as it constrains the Freedom of Speech. According to them, the freedom of speech applies when the minority speaks to the majority. Freedom of speech applies when the truth is spoken to the power. In conclusion, some local political parties in addition to the civil society are demanding the authority to review this new Draft Law or even abolish it.



The Key Newspaper INTERVIEW with the U.K Ambassador his Excellency Mr. Colin Wells

The Gas Will Come Online in



The Key conducted an interview with the U.K Ambassador on July 26th at the British Residence to let its audience know about this Brand new Embassy mission

Before we dive in to the interview, we just want to thank infinitely our guest for welcoming us in the residence with open arms.

The key first thanked Mr. Ambassador Colin Wells for accepting this very significant interview.

The Key Newspaper commenced the interview with the next question, who is Mr. Ambassador Colin Wells?

Ambassador Wells was born in Zambia and grew up in Sierra Leone and Devon in South-West England. He joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1987 and has experienced 10 overseas postings to Barbados, Geneva, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ascension Island, India, Russia and now, for the first time as Ambassador, here in Mauritania. During his career, he has also enjoyed raising a family – two daughters, Gracie (28 years), Jade (26) and a son,

Sam (24). Gracie has already visited him in Nouakchott.

How would the embassy benefit the two countries?

This embassy is a brand new one; it's been opened for three years; we had some political offices before. But, when you have an embassy with an ambassador, more efforts are spared. There are many benefits for the two countries. However, the main ones would be: Our being in Mauritania is going to strengthen the relationships from the president, the government, journalists like you yourselves, and the civil society. In addition to the United Nations and the list goes on. Moreover, it improves the commercial relationships for the both countries i.e. when more British businesses are operated here. And BP Company is a good example as far as generating more incomes are concerned.

How do you see Mauritania within three years regarding the GAS?

This question leads me to give you some tidbit information about BP since the time is very limited. BP stands for British Petroleum. It has

invested massively in its operation in Mauritania and Senegal; this is a significant investment of confidence also in both countries. The Gas will come online at the end of 2023 that's the current date. When this happens the both countries shall benefit from this fruitful result. The question arises, how do we work with Mauritania and Senegal on how to use that money? It's a national responsibility. Nonetheless, we can help the government with some international partners on its priority such as the improvement of the standards of living as well as transforming the country from a carbonized one into one that is cleaner and more climate change funding. Furthermore, we are securing the country from any terrorist acts.

How long will it take to transform the residence into an embassy and how would the Embassy differ from the Residence?

This is a good question that I'm going to answer. This residence is not going to be transformed into an embassy but rather we would have both an embassy and a residence and that will take 2 to 3 years. With regard to the missions; once the embassy comes

online, more British people shall feel welcome to Mauritania. Moreover, we will have staff working more efficiently in order to have good visa service; at the moment we don't have good ones to offer to Mauritians. Slowly but surely we will be able to improve everything from good visa service, and commercial relationships with Mauritanian companies.

Was Mauritania the right country for investment as far as the gas is concerned?

We have come very late, for we had better come early, but the good news is that we are here investing and for the long-term as well. I'm looking forward to making the embassy have a better profile than before; my predecessor did a great job Simon Boyden. Thus, I want to build on his work and I shall make the embassy more active.

What would be the risks when Mauritania starts generating the Gas?

It should be positive, for this is going to generate more incomes for Mauritania and with your stable government should see benefits for Mauritians who need help e.g. better food security, access to electricity as well as access to clean water. With regard to the negatives, there can't be negatives. We have seen them elsewhere not in Mauritania where there have been incomes from the gas and oil but they weren't spent properly and verily the ambition of the Mauritanian government and the international partners is to spend the money in ways that are positive.

What are you hoping to achieve during your time?

Thank you for asking this question. There are many things that I want to achieve but the main ones would be that I want to see better relationship, better commercial and I want more Mauritians to visit the U.K which why I want to better visa service. In a nutshell I want to make this more accessible as well as to better our defense relationships between our forces. Also, I want to make sure more British citizens visit Mauritania.

Mauritania at the End of 2023



Is Mauritania a secure country?

Mauritania is a much more secure country than some of the neighborhood; it is investing properly to fortify its borders since this is the primary role of any government. The Mauritanian government is taking that role very seriously. Furthermore, Mauritania has manifested a good international partnership with the UK, USA and France. I have noticed that from the president, the minister of defense and some other prominent people. The Mauritanian government staff is very open-minded; they want to learn from others.

How can the key help to better the relationship between Mauritania and the UK?

This is a very good question, for we have a common goal. We both would like more people to see Mauritania as a good country where you can make more business. When Mauritania is promoted in English the British community shall be encouraged to come to Mauritania. To be honest, there is very little information on the internet about Mauritania. To me, the Key is supposed to fill this gap.

Is Mauritania a welcoming Country?

I have had an extremely warm welcome since I arrived not only from the president but also from every Mau-

ritanian that I met whether it's you, a Mauritanian business figure or the waiter serving me at the Restaurant. Last week I went out to Chinguitty, and I had nothing but a warm welcome. Everybody was very happy to see me.

Are there any other cooperations besides the Gas?

We do a lot here that is perhaps not known e.g. we help very poor com-

munities particularly in the South and East to get food security. Also, on Covid-19 the first batch of Covax that's a Zeneca i.e a British scientist made it. It was made possible by early investment by the British government. More than 750 million dollars was invested right at the start last year that made it possible to buy these early stuff that was delivered to Mauritania. Furthermore, we hosted a vaccine conference last May by the US, France, European Union, Japan, and

the world agreed to invest heavily in the programs that you are benefitting from. So, these are the ways that we contribute towards the ordinary lives of Mauritanians.

Is it critical to take the vaccine?

The best way to hamper the spread of Covid-19 is to get more people vaccinated. I was a little worried two weeks ago about the rate of vaccination, but it's increased now and this signifies the fact that the government is investing time and efforts for this, yet more people need to get vaccinated because more waves of infections are coming. For instance, in Britain we have the highest vaccination rate in West in Europe. Nevertheless, we still have big levels of infections; the difference is that not many people are dying or going to the hospitals compared to the number before the vaccination. Therefore, vaccination matters.

Any Comment about the key?

I enjoy reading the key. When I first heard about it, I spared some efforts to have some copies. Once I was done with reading it, I was very impressed with the content and the design. Therefore, I just want you to keep doing the great job.





Are you planning to study in the United States...?

When I was asked to write about my experience as a Fulbright Scholar in the United States, I was a bit hesitant. My reluctance stems from personal, if not selfish, reasons. I am aware of the fact that the KEY's audience is presumably quiet diverse. I did not want to run the risk of writing about this topic from a perspective that will only be of interest to a small portion of the Newspaper's wider readership. I didn't want to do this, but I have to do it now, hoping that I will have chances, in future editions of the Newspaper, to elaborate on this article. However, I want this to be directed to all students (not just Fulbrighters) who are planning to study in the United States. Instead of writing generally about my experience, I prefer to focus on some tips that will be helpful to these prospective students.

So, before you pack up here are some issues that you should be aware of:

Culture

You've probably heard the term "melting pot" before. (When a heterogeneous society becomes more homogeneous) It's very common to describe the United States as a melting pot, but this is not very accurate. There are different cultures and sub-



Baba Adou

cultures in the United States, and you should be aware of this before coming to the country. You should also be aware of your

own culture, especially those elements deemed incompatible with some aspects of the American culture(s). I used the word 'aware' intentionally because it's up to you to keep those elements, get rid of them, or adjust to them. But you do need to be aware of their potential incompatibility with the host culture. Think of the culture you bring with you as a suitcase full of inflammable objects (The analogy

is borrowed from a former professor of mine). You SHOULD not add to your suitcase anything that might set it on fire!

The other thing that you should be aware of is culture shock, it's inevitable. How bad is the shock depends largely on the individual. You might experience a mild, moderate, or severe case of culture shock depending on your personality, social position and previous exposure to similar cultures. You will likely go through the four phases of culture shock: honeymoon, negotiation, adjustment, and adaptation. It always starts with a

honeymoon. In this phase, you are very excited about almost all aspects of the new culture. You post pictures of you on Facebook almost every day. You like trying the food, meeting new people, and making lots of friends. Then, after few months, that feeling of excitement will give way to uncertainty and anxiety, leading to some sort of culture shock.

Campus life

Since you were admitted to a U.S. college, I will assume that you have always been a good student. I will also assume that you want to maintain your bright academic record and excel at the U.S. host institution. There is nothing wrong with this. Straight A's and an excellent GPA are undoubtedly great. However, you have to keep in mind that having an excellent GPA does not necessarily make you a good student, by the standards of U.S. educational and professional institutions. Extracurricular activities are equally, if not more, important. In our educational system, we tend to overlook the significance of this extracurricular engagement. We think of participation in campus clubs and student associations as a waste of time. This is unfortunately wrong. Participation in extracurricular activities can be a good chance to prove your leadership potentials and im-

prove your communication and organizational skills. It will also look good on your CV and will likely increase your employability chances. So, before you bury yourself in your studies, think about the advantages of a school-life balance.

Different environment

The United States is completely different. You will notice this the moment you land at the airport. By different I mean everything. There is the American way and then the rest of the world's. The most shocking thing for me was the measurement system. Weight, length, time, area and temperature are all measured differently. It will be helpful to familiarize yourself with these units of measurements in advance. It will also save you time and money to learn about the educational system, housing, safety, health culture etc... If you are a sponsored student, your sponsor will likely provide you with some helpful brochures and fact sheets, but you should be curious enough to go beyond this and learn more about your new environment.

This is not an inclusive list of the issues that you should be aware of before embarking on the journey to the United States, but it is definitely worth looking at. I hope that reading it will make your U.S. experience more useful and enjoyable.





How to Learn any Language in a Twinkling of an Eye

Languages are the main keys to learn any science or knowledge. It's true to say that you cannot learn any science or knowledge without a language. Languages have existed for a long period of time. People would always develop the ways that they wanted to communicate. There are numerous ways to learn any language in a very short period of time since the situation calls for that.

The languages have always been very easy to be learned, yet the effective way to help you to achieve your goal easily has so often been misun-



Mr. Abdrrehim Lekh'Deyem
English Instructor

derstood. The best way to learn any language is to focus on the language in lieu of focusing on grammar i.e. the grammar should not hinder you. Even-

ry time you hear a good structure, just acquire it, and don't question it by saying let me understand this structure grammatically; and if it doesn't go with the accordance of the grammar that I've learned, I'll just forget about it.

It's crucial to learn linguistics of any given language. And once you learn it, you'll come to the conclusion of that what you should be aiming for is to infer the grammatical rules from the native speakers of the language that you're learning or even the good speakers of the targeted language of learning. This shall help you to speak

the language in a blink of an eye as the saying goes.

Learning any language requires someone to understand the real definition of grammar. E.g. Pronunciation is grammar. Imagine, someone wanted to say that he read a book yesterday in the past tense. Then he pronounced verb to read the same way that it's pronounced in the present tense. This would be a grammatical mistake as far as pronunciation is concerned. Hence, grammar is not merely how to form the English tenses or when to use them; but rather it means the six branches of linguistics.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of learning the culture of the language that one happens to want to learn. The language and the culture go hand in hand i.e. you have to learn the culture with the language. Thus, you'll understand the language better. The language without its own culture would be flavorless. Hence, the learner has to be interested in the culture so that he'll appreciate the language more. E.g. learning idioms, proverbs and phrasal verbs will skyrocket the learner's level.

To conclude, thanks to linguistics, we could figure out how to learn any language in a very short period of time. In a nutshell, languages can be learned in a quick time, yet we just have to undertake the right way to achieve that very goal.



The Key Feedback



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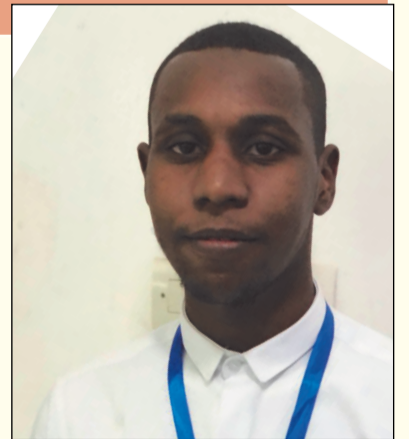
The Key is a new monthly English newspaper making its presence felt in the media landscape of Mauritania. It is well organized and presented with cover stories followed by distinct sections on news, education, culture, sport etc. and a forum for readers to give

their feedback or air their views on matters of interest. Most importantly, there is an interview with prominent people on matters of importance and topical value. This publication is of great and growing interest to locals who are keen to digest their news through the medium of English - and, no doubt, develop their own language skills and widen their vocabulary in the process. Given the ever-increasing numbers of young learners signing up for English courses here in Nouakchott and, where available, in the wider society, the readership for The Key is bound to grow and lead to a steady stream of ideas and subjects for discussion keep up the good work

After having read the KEY newspaper for the first and the second time, I debunked the various myths that we're linguistically and culturally unyielding country. On the contrary, it showed me how change can take place despite the numerous thwarts that will unavoidably be encountered. Furthermore, It's overtly promising, and conspicuously a recipe for cultural development. The K.E.Y Newspaper has manifested the hard work, creativity, and the willingness of its founders to raise the awareness about culture differences, and more importantly to spread the local news. Consequently, they wittingly chose English language because it is predominantly targeted, at the local and global levels. Not surprisingly, English

is spoken worldwide. Therefore, that will give access to almost everyone, of course, including outsiders to read and learn about us as community. To my dismay, as an English learner, I have never had the premonition that something like this will eventually emerge, or at least not those years. However, the KEY newspaper contradicted that assumption. Yet, the opposition did tremendously exceed my conception by making this newspaper cultural, social, and educational.

As a result, English learners are enthusiastically eager and impatiently waiting for the next monthly version. Finally, there is no greater honor than the opportunity to address my gratitude to you for the incredibly unbelievable change that



Yahya Mohamedou Abbe
English Department Student,
and EBC Teacher

you are making. As well as, I would like to take a moment to extend my congratulations for the magnitude of your hard work.

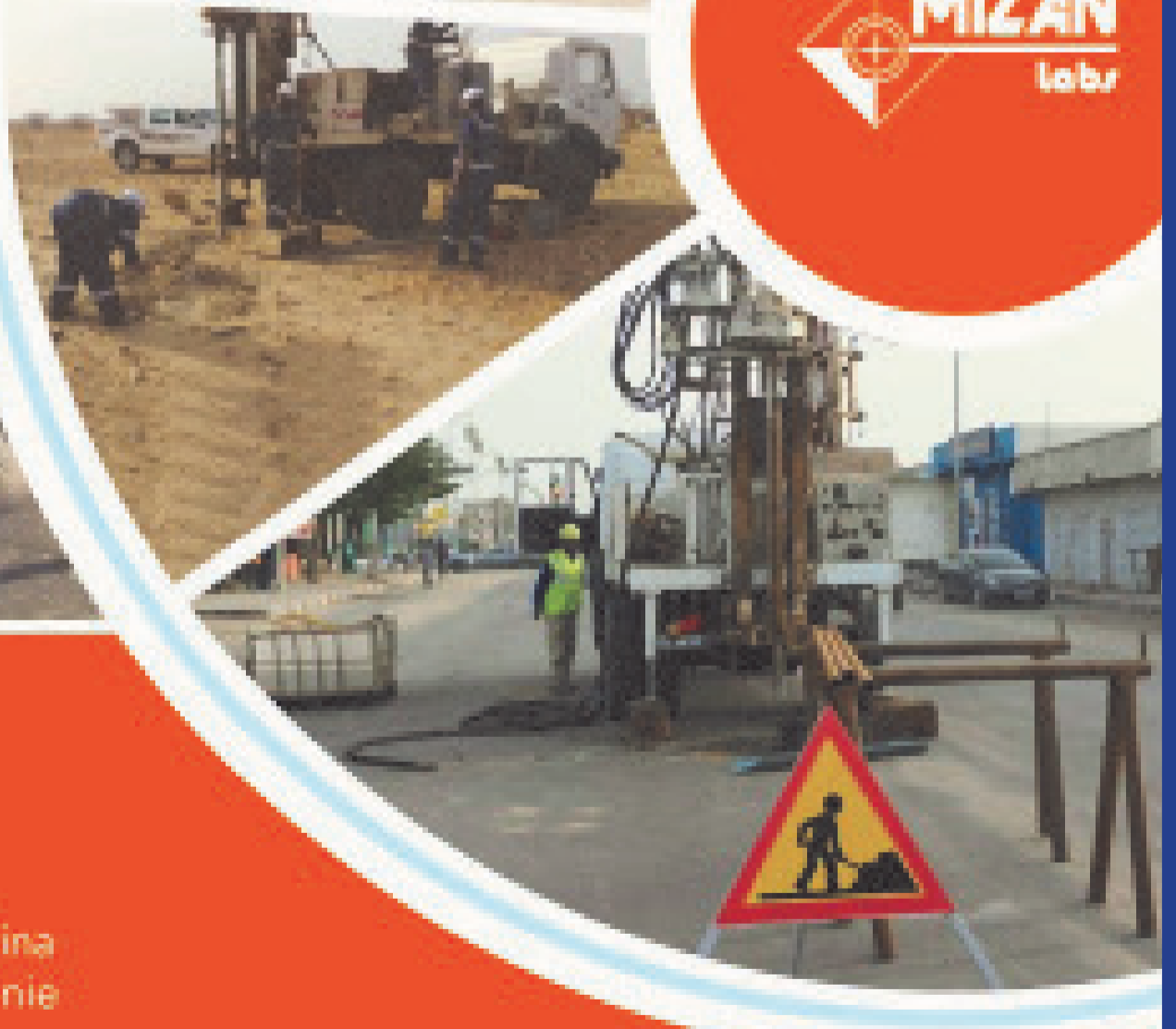
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