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Political - Cultural - Social



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Has the freedom of speech become at stake?

After the enactment of the protection of the National Symbols law; the freedom of speech in Mauritania has become at stake as some folks believe

auritania has recently enacted a new law called the protection of the national symbols. Some people say that it's totally going against the freedom of speech since the head of the state and many officials can no longer be reminded of their responsibilities. They say that it restricts the freedom of speech as if moving backward, and having a governmental dictatorship while others have a different perspective. They say that this new law has become mandatory since media in Mauritania has become used negatively regarding the authority of the state as well as violating the privacy of people notably (the head of the state) and the members of military forces and maligning the citizens.

Here is a full translation of it. As a Key Reader, you can hold your stance.

To be continued in P2



What makes Higher Institute of English (HIE) a Special Institute?

Read P 4-5

A special Congratulations

ello, good afternoon. It is my pleasure to wish a glorious independence day celebration to all Mauritanians! While Mauritanians celebrate 61 years of independence, together, we are also celebrating 61 years of our diplomatic relationship. In my eight months here, I have experienced the warmth of Mauritanian hospitality and met Mauritanians from all walks of life. I continue to be struck by Mauritanians



nia's potential for progress on inclusion and human rights, increased prosperity through bilateral trade and investment, and as a regional leader in security. The United States will continue to hold Mauritania as an important partner and ally. Again, happy independence day.

President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, PM Boris Johnson and António Guterres at #COP26 in Glasgow for the World Leaders Summit



During his speech, President Ghazouani

- Stated that global warming is a major challenge that humanity must address
- -Called on COP26 to make the Great Green Wall initiative an international priority
- Remained convinced that climate action had become a social, environmental, economic and security priority
- Said Mauritania will remain fully committed to advancing international climate cooperation and accelerating the ecological transition that is now more necessary than ever
- Stated Mauritania's plan to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 11% from 2018 levels by 2030. @UKinMauritania is proud to support Mauritania's climate change vision. **Read P3**



Has the freedom of speech become at stake?

After the enactment of the protection of the National Symbols law; the freedom of speech in Mauritania has become at stake as some folks believe



Part II of P1

First Article

This new law aims to coincide with the previous decreed laws; it criminalizes and condemns some committed acts intentionally such as undermining the authority of the state, degrading its symbols, disrespecting its national security, causing a civil peace biker, bringing about a social bond disunity ,threatening the personal life or disparaging the honor of the citizen through media techniques, digital communication or social media.

Second Article

Mocking the sacred Islamic rituals, the National unity, the territory, debasing the flag or the national anthem through media, the digital communication or social media are considered to be intentionally belittlement of the state authority.

The one who has committed such acts is penalized with no violation of the serious panalties that are legislated in some other laws: The penalty is Imprisonment from 2 years to 4 years and a financial fine from 20,000 to 50,000 MRU.

Third Article

All recorded voices and the taken photos intentionally without the cognizance of the targeted people are deemed to be violating the people privacy such as publishing or spreading such things through any medium or any social platform with the intention of smearing those people.

Every smear, insult or condemn are considered to be a personal defamation starting with the head of the state or any official that his acts or decisions have been transcended; his personal life or divulging a secret without a clear consent from the targeted person. Every publication or spread in order to slander, smear, condemn or casting some false accusations to that person, He is penalized due to those acts with ending up in jail from 1 Year to 2 years and a fine from 8,000 to 20,000 MRU.

Fourth Article

Every spread through media ,the digital communication or the social media that are believed to be going against the civil peace and the social bonds as well as spreading some recorded messages, text messages or some footages that contain some slander, smearing or cursing that are directed to one of the Mauritania ethnicities that promote hatred or portray bigotry between them.

The one who has committed such acts is penalized with the utmost punishment with no violation of the other decreed laws through an imprisonment form two years to five years and a fine that's about 20,000 to 40,000 MRU.

Fifth Article

Every dissemination of recorded/ written content or footage content through media, the digital communication or social media are considered to be undermining the national security that targets trumping the great spirit of the military forces members or doubts their loyalty to the head of the state.

The one who has committed such acts is penalized by being put in jail From 1 year to 3 years and a fine from 20,000 or 40,000 MRU.

And every footage, spread or dissemination of photos, of the military forces members during performing their responsibilities without their green light is considered to be undermining the national security. The one who has committed such acts is penalized via an imprisonment from one year to two years and a fine that's around 10,000 to 15,000 MRU

The decrees of the previous paragraph are not applied if the photos were taken during the public performances, the published photos on Platforms or the digital official windows for the military and security services.

Sixth Article

The penalties that have been decreed in this law are multiplied In case someone commits the same mistake.

Seventh Article

The public prosecution has full authority to issue a public accusation in order to automatically proceed the legislated acts regarding the law. As well as, they can implement it according to how the subjected person has been harmed.

Eighth Article

All of the previous terms are nullified in case they go against this

The Source is: Tawatur

The Nouakchott Region President was designated as a reporter of villages forum and regions for the international partnership



he president of Nouakchott Region Fatimetou Mint Abdul Malick participated in the seventh edition of cities and regions for international partnerships that was held on 29th and 30th November 2021 through a Conference Call as a reporter of the forum. This event takes place every two years since 2019. It was held by the European commission and the European committee of regions. The Nouakchott Region President was selected as a forum reporter. Her efforts and great role representing Mauritania in the best fashion and manner were internationally admitted as a local selectee. The forum gave an opportunity for her to overemphasize the importance of the boost green economics. The forum was also an opportunity for the president to shed light on some projects that the Region is working on that aims to develop the urban agriculture as well as some other fields. In the end, the president expressed her gratitude for the EU for their support and keeping track on the different programs of the development region regarding the climate and the sustainable development.

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News

UK calls for world to be 'climate resilient' by 2030 as COP26 delivers billions for most vulnerable



he UK will call for urgent action to support countries on the frontline of climate change at COP26 Adaptation Loss and Damage Day.

£290 million in new UK funding to be announced, including support for countries in the Asia Pacific to deal with the impact of global warming

Billions in additional international funding has already been committed under the UK's COP6 presidency for adaption and resilience, as climate-linked disasters become more frequent The UK will today (Monday 8 November) convene ministers from across the globe to urge action within the next decade to make our world resilient to the impacts of climate change, at COP26 Adaptation Loss and Damage Day.

UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency Anne-Marie Trevelyan will lead the meeting, as the world faces increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather and natural disasters.

In 2021 alone, climate change is believed to have contributed to devastating drought in southern Madagascar, flash flooding in Germany and China, and wildfires in Greece and the US, leading to loss of life and livelihoods. Developing countries and small island states are the most acutely at risk.

Even if we get on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, we will still need to deal with increasing impacts like these. More investment and faster action to help vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and minimise and address loss and damage is needed well before 2030 to prevent further catastrophe and suffering.

To support global efforts to tackle the impacts of climate change, today the UK will announce new funding totalling £290 million, including:

£274 million to help countries across Asia and the Pacific better plan and invest in climate action, improve conservation and deliver low carbon development;

£15 million for the Adaptation Fund which backs developing countries to lead action where they most need it;

£1 million to support delivery of faster and more effective global humanitarian action, including in response to climate-related disasters.

This comes in addition to al-

most £50 million in new UK support announced in the first week of COP26 to help small island states develop resilient infrastructure to withstand climate shocks and support capacity-building for their access to funding and technical solutions. Speaking ahead of today's event, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency, said:

We must act now to stop climate change from pushing more people into poverty. We know that climate impacts disproportionately affect those already most vulnerable.

We are aiming for significant change that will ultimately contribute to sustainable development and a climate resilient future for all, with no one left behind.

CDC, the UK's development finance institution, will also announce plans today to join a group of donors in committing to substantially increase investments in climate adaptation and resilience to support vulnerable developing and emerging coun-

This builds on the launch last week of a new 'Clean Green Initiative' by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to help developing countries take advantage of green technology and grow their economies sustainably. To support this, the UK will deliver over £3 billion in climate financing over the next five years, including £200 million for a new Climate Innovation Facility to scale-up technologies to help deal with the impacts of climate change, such as drought-resistant agriculture and sustainable forestry, in markets where private investors have been reluctant to take on the risk alone.

Today's UK announcements build on new pledges amounting to billions of pounds in support for vulnerable countries from other developed nations, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the US. Further pledges are expected today.

Alongside new state commitments, today's event will also see representatives from frontline communities given a platform to share their experiences of climate impacts and showcase solutions being implemented on the ground.

Emily Bohobo N'Dombaxe Dola, facilitator of the Adaptation Working Group of the

official youth constituency to the UNFCCC, YOUNGO, will speak at today's event. She said: I was drawn to climate action after seeing first-hand the impacts of climate change on local coastal communities in Senegal, both impacts already there and those yet to come.

It is the socially marginalised and geographically vulnerable across both Northern and Southern societies that already suffer the most due to natural disasters and shifting weather patterns, from working-class and refugee communities, through to people with disabilities, the elderly, women and young girls.

Yet, I have encountered countless displays of resilience by these communities and local actors. Now it is time for governments and donors to level up on equitable finance and plans for loss and damage and for adaptation.

Building on existing collaboration as co-chairs of the Adaptation Action Coalition, the UK and Egypt are expected to confirm plans to work together to drive further action on adaptation ahead of the next UN climate change conference in 2022.

What makes Higher Institute of

A Recent Report on (HIE)

About HIE

The Higher Institute Of English (HIE) was founded by decree 2016-30 dated 18th Feb 2016.

HIE is a public Institution under the authority of both the Ministry Of Defense and the Ministry Of Higher Education. It is located near the University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya

Since HIE is a well-known Institute in Mauritania for teaching English at an Academic Level, The KEY decided to get the ins and outs of it for the sake of its audience.

The Key has met many distinguished members of HIE staff in order to know what has intrigued so many English Students to this very Institute. The tour went as what follows:

The Key with the Head of In-Service Department Mr. William Curry

The Key: Is it mandatory to have a certain diploma in order to join in HIE?

The head of In-Service Department: To answer your question, the other department requires you to have passed Baccalaureate, but this department



doesn't. We want to give a chance to the other people who have the urge to study English, yet they don't have some certain degrees.

Can you give us a snapshot about the In-Service Department?

We offer a language training for those already in employment with the government, the private sector and other entities; especially those for whom higher levels of English language competence is a growing need. This training lasts for several months. In addition, the In-Service is also extended to teachers in the first phase of training to become qualified to serve in government schools. Moreover, we train the military according to what they want .Furthermore, we have had individuals interested in all of the levels. And, we do test people

when they come here.

Do they have to pay?

Yes, they need to, yet it depends on the individual.

The Key with the Academic Advisor: Dr. Jiddou

Based on what criteria do you select students?

The student should have the minimum 10 as an average. Moreover, if you choose HIE as first choice, you get one additional half point. We encourage people to come to us, for excellency requires you to do so.

What if the students have zero levels in English?

Every student will have to go through a placement test so that we can know their English levels. If they turn out to be in need of more English courses , more intensive classes are offered.!

Are there any challenges?

We have the LMD System; if there could be challenges, it should only be the attendance since the attendance is 70%. Therefore, it's important. The students are very disciplined; I would say some trivial challenges.

Do the Bac Students have scholarships?

Normally, if you are here, you are





English (HIE) a Special Institute?





already granted a scholarship.

Does the Institute grant some funded scholarships to study abroad?

We are still awaiting for finance. 5 students were granted the scholarship, but that hasn't been enacted yet.

Is there a good harmony between the military and the civilians?

There is a good one, and most of the people here are civilians.

The Degree Program Department

The Key with Ade Lindsay **Deputy Head of the Degree** Program

Can you tell us about the Degree **Program**

First and foremost, let acknowledge that this is an excellent initiative since English is taking an important place in Mauritania society.

To respond to your query, the Degree Department offers a degree in international Communication Studies; you have to have a Bac diploma option (A) in order to be qualified to this department. This degree is delivered in English and will equip our graduates for international communication across the English Speaking world.

How many students would you have per year?

In 2016 we had 60 students, in the 2nd year less than that and regarding this year we have 40 students.

How many students would be in a classroom?

The number that we receive per year would be divided into groups since the classroom should be only made of 12 students so that the students can focus.

Tell us about the Staff

The majority of our teachers are British with global experience in universities, oil and gas, and other public and private sectors.

Local teachers are internationally qualified.

In this institute we want to make a difference. Quality of teaching, the staff, the program and the classrooms are well-equipped.

The student will graduate with BA License in International Communica-

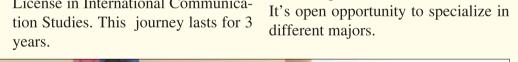
Any challenges concerning the Degree Program?

We have had some challenges in the beginning;

We overcame things gradually. It has been solid ,but now it's stable. We make sure that things are up to standards for the department.

What majors will the students pursue their post- graduation studies in

Marketing, IR, PR, or HR.





N° Authorization 028/201

History of Soninke People

The Soninke people known as Sarakulle or Maraka are west African Mande-speaking ethnic group. They are aboriginal of Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Gambia and Guinea. They are also found in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Niger or Burkina Faso. Today, their population worldwide is about 5 million individuals. They own their language as Soninke (Maraka or Sarakulle). According to historic records, Soninke people were founders of the city of Assouan (in Egypt) before coming down to West Africa to found Wagadu Empire (or Ghana Empire) in the mid of the Seventh Century. Wagadu Empire was located in Mauritania (modern-day Hod El Charghi and Hod El Gharbi) and Western Mali, basically first-dwellers of Kumbi Saleh, Oualata and Tichit known as top of the oldest cities of Mauritania.

According to the legend, Wagadu Empire, known as Ghana Empire or Land of Gold used to have a python as "protector" with which the first King Kaya Maghan Cissé would have signed a pact: "Prosperity against Sacrifice of virgins". This means, rainfall, stability, gold and powerful army were guaranteed in the whole kingdom by the Python (dwelling in a cherry well) but in return, it (python) was inflicting the blood of the prettiest virgin girl of the empire each year.

From the facts shared by many scholars, due to gold, Wagadu Empire became militarily powerful and economically prosperous. Indeed, this Soninke Empire grew rich from the increased trans-Saharan trade in gold, salt, livestock, wool and commodities. Reason why it was wealthier than many of neighboring empires.

Politically, the kingdom was ruling under the matriarchal regime (i.e., first son of the sister was too considered crownprince), that policy was to allow all lineages to reign in rotation but also it was about controlling subjects from rebelling easily. The majority of the population embraced Islam from parents who



were already Muslims in Egypt, some converted into it thanks to their interaction with Arab tribes of Tekrur, Sanhajja or the spiritual movement of the Almoravids. But few were still animists even in the first rank of the army without any shadow of worry. But the society was deeply hierarchicalized.

At Wagadu, no one was allowed to override the King decrees. There was such a solid social cohesion in the kingdom. Until the myth of the kingdom was swept with the killing of the Seven-head-python by the reckless Mamadou Sacko who refused to sacrifice his fiancée (Sia Yatabare, chosen virgin of that year), rebelled against this secular pact and decided to slaughter this so-called "Spirit protector of Soninke empire". He succeeded in executing his operation against the will of many highly leaders of the kingdom. He dressed up womanly in White and waited for the python and cut off its seven heads one after the other in the heart of a dark rainy night. That's how griots and storytellers keep on describing the Wagadu bîda (Wagadu python) legend to younger generation.

Probably after the killing of the python, the Empire started declining drastically: the myth was off, and political organization began to break off. In the reality, Sundiata Keita became the "Mansa" (King of the kings) in 1240 and destroyed the city of Kumbi Saleh and made Wadagu incorporated into his new empire of Mali. According to Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily (Senegalese historian, Writer and former Minister), Wagadu Empire crumbled following droughts, civil wars and the rise of Sosso Kingdom (1180-1235) and the Mali Empire (1240-1645).

In Mauritania, Soninke are mainly originated from the regions of Guidimakha, Gorgol, the two Hods or Assaba. As livelihood activity, Soninke (males and females) are both paysans and breeders in rural areas. During rainfall season, farming cereals is a must to all members for heavy harvests to ensure food security as commodities. In every household there is a food bank against hunger. Soninke people never accept being in scarcity of food provision; three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are taken daily by all family members. A Soninke family-father, prefers death to shame in case of not being able to meet the needs of his family or breaking a jot of the customary law. The Soninke is inherently pasted to the social roots; they even prefer to be buried at home than elsewhere!



As a reminder, Soninke diaspora is namely located in France, Spain, Germany, USA, Canada, UAE, Angola, Congo, UK, Switzerland, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Qatar or Japan. Abroad, they earn out of their sweat to invest in the home country as in transportation, building bridges, schools, mosques, health centers, real estate, village food banks, dams, development projects, community cooperatives and other small businesses. Consequently, Success is more related to social stuffs than personal deeds; fulfilling family needs is more impacting to enhance livelihoods.

Finally, they are labelled by many as "peaceful, ambitious, conservative, social and honest". From womb to tomb, any child must incarnate the social core values to prevent any mass shame: even any ignominy (such as theft, scamming, lie or disrespect) can cause psychosis within the group. Yikes! It isn't effortless to understand Soninke people even though they seem to be easy-going and friendly.

Makha Korera

(Sociologist, Consultant, interpreter) Former University lecturer at Lebanese **International University of Mauritania** Founder and Executive Director of Intensive English Center of Mauritania Coordinator of English Access Microscho-

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The opportunities to invest in Mauritania



t goes without saying that, the opportunity of investment in Mauritania has attractive assets that stems from its economy widely liberalized and its booming oil market and geographic position which make Mauritania's economy therefore very favorable expanding areas to investment, both foreign and domestic. Mauritania's wealth comes almost from a strong mining potential initially based on the exploitation of iron and its richest coast in seafood around the world, which still represents a promising niche. Although there are many other raw materials resources remain to be exploited like: gold, diamonds, copper, gypsum and hydrocarbons. For this, deep offshore oil exploration has already attracted major foreign companies. Also one of Mauritania's notable assets stems from its strategic geographical posi-

tion, at the crossroads of North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Mauritania is also the closest tropical destination to Europe, a factor that has benefited some foreign investors, particularly in the fruit and vegetable sector. Nevertheless, the average of the investment in the country from now on remains under the normal required level of margins of the foreign investment flows. The country is trying to develop its strategic of economic policies by developing new infrastructures and spread more liberalism in the economy's country to attract new investors. It is rich in mineral and fisheries resources and has great energy potential (gas, renewable energies). In February 2016, the World Bank granted USD 10 million in assistance to the country to support the development of the Nouadhibou Free Zone, which aims to attract foreign investors. According to UNCTAD's Wor-



ld Investment Report 2021, FDI flows to Mauritania increased by 10% in 2020, to USD 1.0 billion, due to investment from China, despite the global economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic. The total stock of FDI reached USD 10 billion in 2020.

Cheikh babe Eziz Maazouz **Position: Principal Inspector** of the Treasury Ministry of **Finance**

Endorsement of Peace in Mauritanian Culture

n fact, the Mauritanian culture is extremely foreign to many parts of the world! However, those who had the chance to know Mauritanians closely would definitely be surprised at the extent to which the latter are very calm and peaceful. It is even truism to assert that one of the reasons why Mauritania is not "well-known" is its peacefulness, in the sense that it hardly ever makes the headlines! There has always been this deeply rooted tranquility in the country, at least for the most part of its history. Often time, diplomats, tourists, and other foreigners would ask Mauritanians why the country has been so far spared from uprisings and unrests like the ones that swept other parts of the Continent relatively recently. When asked such a question, Mauritanians are usually unable to put into words why they are as cool as cucumber! Yet, if we take a look at the culture, particularly sayings and proverbs, we will definitely notice how huge is the emphasis placed on the notion of peace. For instance, a famous Mauritanian proverb goes "Peace invests; war destructs". This unequivocally suggests that peace is beneficial, easier to make, and has no alternative, other than war. The latter is undoubtedly costly, harder to make, and always absolutely atrocious. Another proverb translates to "Your camel must not kneel, unless where there is peace". What this signifies is that people must always be "peace agents," and do all they can to achieve reconciliation, whenever needed. Working hard to achieve reconciliation between adversaries is regarded as an enormously huge virtue. It definitely needs neutrality and fairness from the mediator, but also the readiness to forgive,



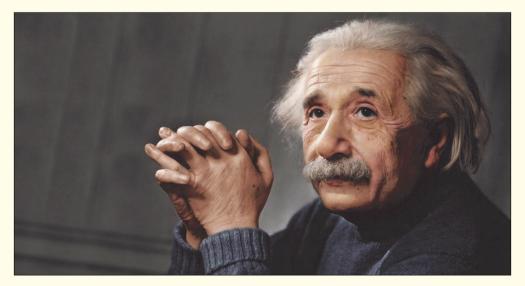
from all opposing parties. Hence, conflicting parties need to let bygones be bygones. This is the reason why another Mauritanian proverb goes "In reconciliation, you need to bury, not dig up!" Notice how close is this from the saying "bury the hatchet". It refers to the necessity of flipping out all the pages of hatred, and turning on a new leaf in the relationship between any antagonists. This is because the only alternative to not forgiving is retaliation and revenge. The latter are regarded as extremely appalling vices. According to the Mauritanian proverb, "Regret is the [sole] ultimate outcome of retaliation"! To sum up, one can fairly state that the Mauritanian culture is vastly pro-peace. This endorsement of peace is best expressed in the country's folktales and proverbs. In cultural expressions, peace and reconciliation are always portrayed as of as prerequisite to humane life; whereas, war and revenge are viewed as downright immoral and

Isselmou Ghaly

- * Fulbrighter Master, SJSU, California, USA.
- * ER Officer, Kinross Tasiast.

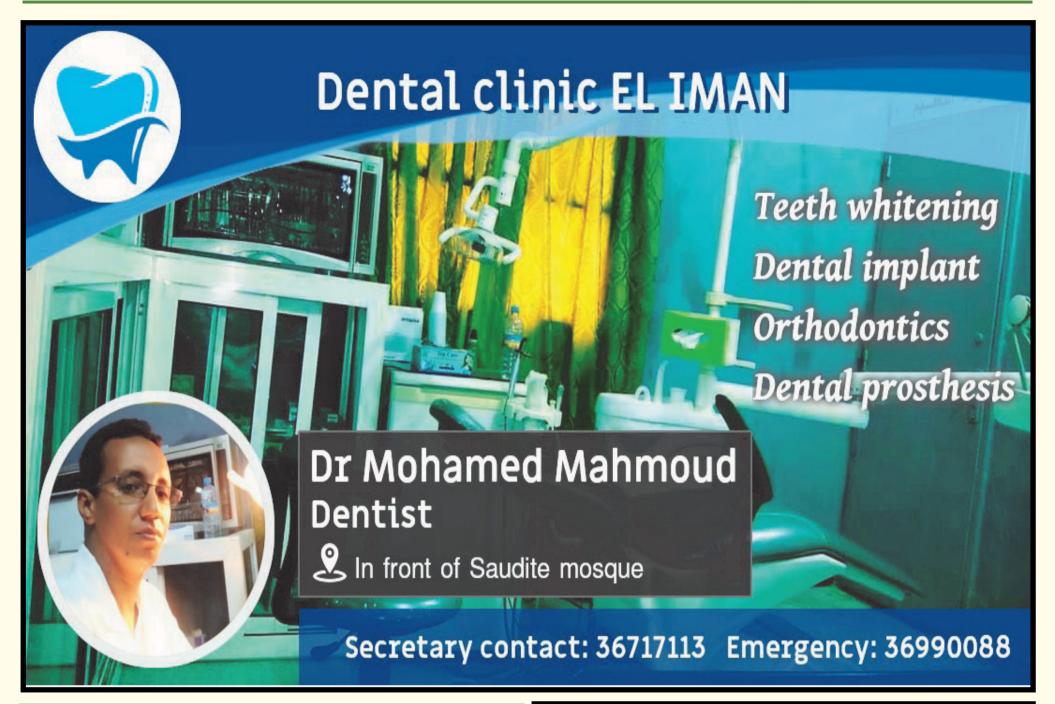
How did Albert Einstein react when his teacher told him, "You would never amount to anything?"

lbert Einstein, (born March 14, 1879, Ulm, Württemberg, Germany-died April 18, 1955, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.), German-born physicist who developed the special and general theories of relativity and won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 for his explanation of the photoelectric effect. Einstein is generally considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century. Einstein would write that two "wonders" deeply affected his early years. The first was his encounter with a compass at age five. He was mystified that invisible forces could deflect the needle. This would lead to a lifelong fascination with invisible forces. The second wonder came at age 12 when he discovered a book of geometry, which he devoured, calling it his "sacred little geometry book." Einstein became deeply religious at age 12, even composing several songs in praise of God and chanting religious songs on the



way to school. This began to change, however, after he read science books that contradicted his religious beliefs. This challenge to established authority left a deep and lasting impression. At the Luitpold Gymnasium, Einstein often felt out of place and victimized by a Prussian-style educational system that seemed to stifle originality and creativity. One teacher even told him that he would never amount to anything

Einstein's education was disrupted by his father's repeated failures at business. In 1894, after his company failed to get an important contract to electrify the city of Munich, Hermann Einstein moved to Milan to work with a relative. Einstein was left at a boardinghouse in Munich and expected to finish his education. Alone, miserable, and repelled by the looming prospect of military duty when he turned 16, Einstein ran away six months later and landed on the doorstep of his surprised parents. His parents realized the enormous problems that he faced as a school dropout and draft dodger with no employable skills. His prospects did not look promising. The lesson that we can extract from Albert Einstein's life: People can never decide our **Political - Cultural - Social**







At BP we build relationships that last generations...

BP and our partners will make significant investment to bring the Tortue project on-stream. It contains an estimated 15 Tcf of gas – which has the potential to turn the Greater Tortue area into a world-class oil and gas basin. Over the next three decades, we hope to see Mauritania and Senegal become global LNG players, creating prosperity and development at a local and national level. The Tortue floating liquefied natural gas project will generate substantial revenues for Mauritania and Senegal over its lifetime as well as enabling domestic gas to be supplied to Mauritania and Senegal. It will also bring jobs that will be required to support a growing oil and gas industry. Local content is a balance between three areas: people and skills; local supply chain; and social development. With long-term focus on capability development in all areas, the activities that can be done locally will increase over time. Protecting and building on these advantages can help achieve a stronger economy, with oil and gas playing a part. BP is honoured to be able to play a role in helping Mauritania achieve a bright energy future.