

Africa Law Tech Festival 2023

We are excited to invite you to the Africa Law Tech Festival 2023, the premier event bringing together policymakers, academia, legal-tech organizations, and law and tech professionals from all over Africa. The Festival began as an idea to scale policy conversations hosted by Lawyers Hub in Kenya. It has grown to become a major event that has garnered international recognition.

In 2020, the inaugural edition of the festival brought together stakeholders from over 20 countries across the African continent, where they curated rapid tech solutions under the Global Legal Hackathon and developed key policy briefs on Artificial Intelligence, Data Privacy & Digital Identity, Tech and Migration, and Taxing the Digital Economy. In 2021, the virtual edition of the festival hosted 7500 law and tech professionals and featured 5 summits on various topics including Data Protection and Digital Identity, Artificial Intelligence, Internet Governance and Moderation, Crypto Regulation and Digital Currencies Summit, and Digital Access and Infrastructure Summit.

This year's festival promises to be even bigger and better. The festival will feature a Policy Hackathon, Innovation summit, Startup Alley, showcases and many more.



Save the Date!

**AFRICA
LAW TECH
FESTIVAL | 2023**

 **11TH & 12TH
July 2023** |  **NAIROBI,
Kenya**

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Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in masterclasses and keynote speeches, panel sessions, and a virtual concert.

The Festival's success over the years has been in convening different stakeholders, including governments, civil society, Lawyers, Technologists, and the public, and in the Policy Publications and tech

innovations arising from the Policy Hackathons that inform policy-making processes. The festival is also a great avenue to communicate digital policy messages to the public.

We hope that you will join us in this year's Africa Law Tech Festival as we continue to shape digital policy and promote economic growth in Africa.



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Startup Policy Conference.

The lawyers Hub hosted the startup Policy conference on 14/2/2023. The title of the conference was "How regulatory barriers are pushing African startups to Silicon Valley." The event converged startup founders, investors and lawyers to discuss how African startups could overcome the hurdles on their journey to success.

Kenya Government Reveals Plans to Boost Digital Adoption with Flagship Projects



ICT CS Eliud Owalo

Image source: <https://twitter.com/EliudOwalo>

During a presentation on February 15, 2023, the ICT CS Eliud Owalo revealed the Kenyan government's plans to accelerate the country's adoption of digital technology. These plans include various flagship projects aimed at improving the country's digital infrastructure, expanding internet access, and promoting technology use in government services.

Among the initiatives, the government plans to develop 100,000 km of fiber optic infrastructure to enhance internet connectivity, particularly in rural areas. The government will also install 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots across the country to enable greater access to the internet for those who cannot afford to pay for their own connection. Additionally, the government is setting up 1,450 innovation hubs to

encourage the growth of the technology industry.

The government is also automating and digitizing core government services to make it easier for citizens to access government services online, such as applying for permits or paying taxes. The implementation of the National Physical Addressing System is expected to enable businesses and individuals to locate and access services more easily and foster e-commerce growth. Finally, the government is offering digital literacy training to its citizens to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to participate fully in the digital economy. These projects are part of the government's efforts to promote digital transformation, foster inclusivity, and establish Kenya as a leader in the technology industry.

West African Car Leasing Company Receives Investment for Expansion

Voltacars Rental Services (VRS), a West African car leasing company, has received a capital increase from Ivorian investor Adiwale Partners and Africa-focused investment group Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P) for further expansion in Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Senegal. The January transaction saw Adiwale purchasing its stake through the Adiwale Fund I, which invests in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) around West Africa. I&P and Adiwale took minority stakes in VRS, which provides and manages leased vehicles for private and commercial clients throughout the region.

In a post on LinkedIn, Adiwale expressed its expectation of "secular growth in Africa" for the car leasing and fleet management market. Adiwale, based in Abidjan, is a private equity investor with experience working across West, Southern, and Central Africa. I&P, an SME-focused

investment group founded in Paris in 2002, has offices in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Madagascar, Niger, and Senegal.

The sale of shares included Adiwale buying some of the shares previously owned by I&P. As part of the deal, both investors received legal advice from Africa-focused law firm Asafo & Co, led by Paris partner Pascal Agboyibor and Casablanca partner Mouna Boubia. The firm recently hired an energy lawyer for its Abidjan office and has worked on a number of deals in recent months.

Adiwale set up its fund in 2021 and has so far taken stakes in drilling and air conditioning businesses. The investment in VRS reflects the growth potential of the car leasing market in West Africa, driven by increased demand from private and commercial clients. VRS aims to use the capital increase to expand its services and

increase its market share in Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Senegal.

The investment by Adiwale and I&P demonstrates the attractiveness of the West African region to investors, particularly those seeking to support the growth of SMEs. With its experience and knowledge of the local market, Adiwale is well positioned to identify and support promising businesses. The legal advice provided by Asafo & Co also underscores the importance of international legal expertise in facilitating cross-border investment deals in Africa.

As the car leasing and fleet management market in Africa continues to grow, VRS is poised to benefit from increased demand and expanded services. The investment by Adiwale and I&P will enable VRS to strengthen its position in the market and support its growth ambitions in West Africa.

Scandinavian DFIs target African growth

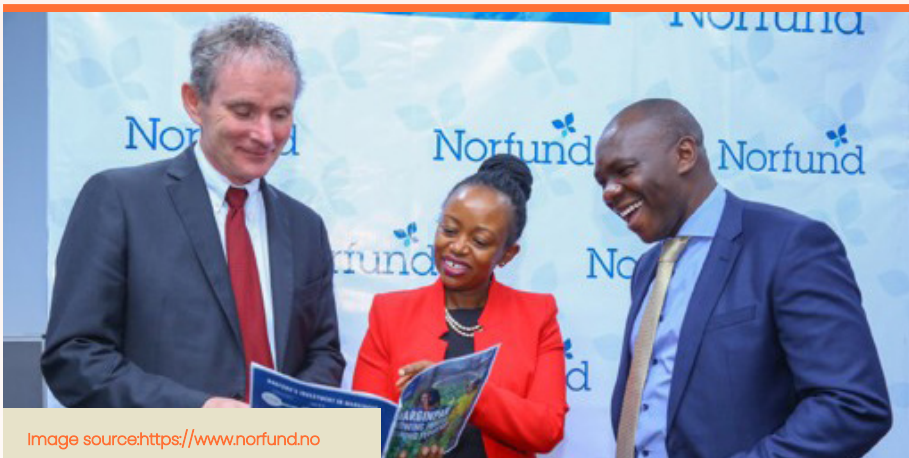


Image source: <https://www.norfund.no>

Norway and Sweden have announced investments to support African expansion, energy transition, improved infrastructure and food security via their respective development finance institutions. Norwegian development finance institution Norfund has revealed its ZAR 80 million (USD 4.7 million) investment in South African food company Synercore Holdings. Synercore is active in the fast-moving consumer goods sector, and it focuses on the formulation, manufacture, and distribution of foodstuffs. The investment will take the form of convertible debt, which Synercore will use to fund company development and skilled-job creation, and reduce its dependence on imports.

The deal also includes Synercore's acquisition of two other companies: Impilo, which provides soy flour to bakery and confectionery industry players, and Sizwe, which processes, blends and packages grain for the baking, cereal, dairy, and meat sectors. The CEO of Synercore, Tertius Cilliers, said, "Through these acquisitions, we will expand capacity and improve efficiencies as far as blending and manufacturing is concerned. It will allow Synercore to backward integrate to improve supply chain sustainability and further diversify and expand on our service offering." The investment manager of Norfund, André Kemp, praised the deal for "creating more highly skilled jobs, while strengthening food security, increasing product shelf life, thereby reducing food waste, and promoting import substitution".

In July last year, Africa-focused law firm

Asafo & Co provided legal advice to Norfund on its USD 40 million joint investment into renewable energy company CrossBoundary Energy. Meanwhile, Sweden's development finance institution, Swedfund, has completed a USD 26 million investment in African Infrastructure Investment Fund 4 (AIIF4) effective 16 December last year, with AIIF4 also receiving monies from other investors including Cape Town-headquartered insurer Old Mutual. Managed by Africa Infrastructure Investment Managers (AIIM), the fund focuses on a range of infrastructure such as renewable energy, technology and communications networks, as well as roads, ports and logistics facilities, helping support creation of jobs, energy transition away from fossil fuels, and enhancing commercial competitiveness in Africa.

The transaction marks Swedfund's first foray outside of the pure renewable energy and climate-related infrastructure sector, and into the wider infrastructure context. Swedfund's CEO, Maria Håkansson, described the deal as a good way to reach out with investments that create jobs and can also contribute to the climate transition and lead to digital development. Headquartered in Cape Town, AIIM has a second site in Johannesburg and offices in Nigeria, Kenya, and Ivory Coast. These investments from Norway and Sweden are expected to play an essential role in promoting Africa's sustainable economic growth by improving local infrastructure, creating jobs, and facilitating the energy transition to reduce carbon emissions.

Google Facing Antitrust Lawsuit for Abusing Ad Technology Monopoly

The US Justice Department and a group of eight states have filed an antitrust lawsuit against Google, accusing the company of illegally abusing its monopoly over the technology that powers online advertising. This marks the first antitrust lawsuit against a tech giant by the Biden administration and adds to the growing legal pressure on one of the world's largest internet companies. The lawsuit asks the court to force Google to sell much of its ad technology products and stop engaging in allegedly anticompetitive practices. Google has faced five antitrust lawsuits by US officials since 2020, and regulators around the world are trying to limit the power of big tech companies in information and commerce online. The new lawsuit adds to the challenges that Google faces as it tries to deal with regulators worldwide.

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Image source: <https://afrikanheroes.com/>

Africa50 Invests in Ivorian Border-Control Solutions Provider

Africa50, an Africa-focused investment bank, has made an equity investment in Scanning Systems, an Ivorian company that focuses on the provision of technology-led infrastructure solutions to facilitate border control. Scanning Systems is active in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) area and is involved in the construction and operation of one-stop joint border posts in several jurisdictions, including administering the Cinkansé JBP bordering Burkina Faso and Togo for a decade. The terms of the deal have not been disclosed.

Africa50 was co-founded in 2012 by the African Development Bank and a raft of African governments. Its aim is to fund the development and growth of infrastructure on the continent. As part of the deal, Tasec and Africa50 will combine their expertise in the development, administration and capitalisation of infrastructure projects to further Scanning Systems' regional profile. Africa50's CEO, Alain Ebobissé, said in a statement that Scanning Systems "has demonstrated a unique ability to deliver one-stop JBPs in complex environments across the continent". He believes that this is critical to driving an efficient and unified market and cross-border trade

and will encourage the development of regional value chains. He added that the deal should encourage the industrialisation and diversification of Africa's economy. Scanning Systems' CEO, Mory Diané, stated that the partnership is critical in supporting the development of the right infrastructure to support intra-African trade and the AfCFTA's objectives of creating a unified market to spur economic development for the continent.

International law firm Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe served as legal counsel to Africa50 in the deal, with a team headed by energy and infrastructure partners Yves Lepage and Foucaud Jaulin. This investment is Africa50's latest move to fund the development and growth of infrastructure on the continent, marking its commitment to supporting the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Africa50 leads consortium to finance natural gas power plant in Senegal

The Malicounda natural gas power plant in Senegal has secured EUR 154 million in financing from a group of international infrastructure investors. The completion of the project has resulted in an 8% increase in

power supply and a decrease in generation costs for the country.

The Casablanca-based infrastructure investor Africa50 headed the consortium that financed and developed the plant, alongside Lebanese project developer MP Energy, on behalf of its parent company Melec PowerGen (MPG), and Senegalese state-owned power company Senelec.

The debt finance was provided by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), with bridge financing from West African banking group Oragroup.

Africa50 CEO Alain Ebobissé said that the financing forms part of the company's "drive to support the continent's just energy transition".

MPG CEO and MP Energy founder Samer Nasr expressed that the project persevered through the pandemic, while Senelec general manager Papa Mademba Bitèye added that the development is another step towards the reliable and equitable distribution of energy throughout the country.

International law firms were also involved in the project, advising participants on all sides. Africa-focused law firm Asafo & Co advised the lenders, while Clifford Chance advised sponsors MPG and Africa50. Asafo & Co has recently been involved in several other deals in the region, including advising a North African education company and expanding its office in Abidjan. Meanwhile, Africa50 has been active in other infrastructure investment projects across the continent.

The successful completion of the Malicounda natural gas power plant is expected to contribute to the country's economic development and support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to create a unified market for trade and economic development across Africa.

The Intersection of Technology and Law: The Growth of Legal Tech in Africa

In the 21st century, technological development has been rapid and has led to the rise of numerous technological revolutions. Law firms in Africa are increasingly turning to technology to solve their clients' problems. The legal tech community is growing and evolving, as more clients demand tech solutions relevant to Africa's business markets. With a phenomenal growth in the ICT sector in the last decade, Africa's business market is on the rise. Internet use statistics indicate that Africa's Internet user population is at 70 percent as of January 2022, with the Covid-19 pandemic being pivotal to this growth. The increased use of technology has created a new client base for the legal profession whose needs must be understood and served with the highest level of efficiency. Lawyers are slowly adopting the use of technology in their legal practice to enable them to serve the needs of the new client more efficiently with optimised workflows. Some of the new fields of law include artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data, brand protection and digital rights management, cloud-based technology, cryptocurrencies, data protection, privacy and cybersecurity, and distributed ledger technology, including Blockchain.

There are over 100 legal tech startups on the continent providing legal tech solutions aimed at enhancing the delivery of legal services for lawyers and access to justice.

Most of the startups offer consumers 'Do-it-Yourself' alternatives for more standard legal tasks like simple contracts and routine advisory work, which is great for start-up businesses that run on very tight budgets in the early phases of their businesses.

The proliferation of technology into law has occurred at an accelerated pace due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has resulted in the churning out of new forms of technology and legal methods that are easy to use, increasing the efficiency of legal professionals. From document and practice management tools to e-signature, e-scan tools and virtual hearing platforms, the market is now flooded with many options to allow the use of technology to efficiently serve clients. Tasks that used to take a long time can now be done much more quickly.

New model law firms have emerged that range from how people find lawyers, to how firms find talent, to how lawyers collaborate and provide legal services. These types of law firms tend to be more specialised and attend to the specific needs of the new client.

Despite the numerous benefits of legal tech in Africa, challenges such as ethical regulations on marketing, ownership regulations which affect building teams, and financing issues have hindered the growth of the industry. There are also challenges relating to consumer protection amidst the use of apps and technology for legal services. The vast majority of data handled by lawyers is sensitive, leading to a reluctance to use certain types of technology such as cloud services due to the fear of data breaches. Data protection law in Africa is still in its infancy, which adds to the security concerns.

In conclusion, the intersection of technology and law is growing and evolving rapidly in Africa, with numerous opportunities and challenges. Legal tech offers immense potential for transforming legal services and access to justice, but it is critical to address the challenges to maximize the benefits. With the right approach and policies, legal tech in Africa can be a game-changer for the legal profession and contribute to the growth of the continent's business market.

Streamlining Contract Negotiations with Data-Driven Approaches.

By utilizing data analytics and process automation, lawyers in Africa and tech professionals can gain a deeper understanding of the negotiation process, identify opportunities for improvement, and make informed decisions. This leads to a more efficient and effective negotiation process that results in better outcomes for all parties involved.

The use of data and process-driven approaches in contract negotiations is becoming increasingly popular and is expected to have a significant impact on the legal and tech industries in Africa. Companies that embrace this approach will have a competitive advantage and be well positioned for success in the future. Enhancing the contract negotiation process by incorporating data and process-driven approaches will result in a more efficient and effective negotiation process, leading to better outcomes for all parties involved.

BasiGo and AVA Partner to Assemble 1,000 Electric Buses in Kenya

Kenyan electric mobility start-up BasiGo has teamed up with Associated Vehicle Assemblers Ltd (AVA) to manufacture over 1,000 electric buses in the next three years, resulting in over 300 jobs in the electric vehicle sector. AVA will assemble 33-seater buses, which will replace the 25-seater buses used in BasiGo's pilot project. The first shipment of 15 partially assembled 25-seater electric buses has been completed by AVA and is set to start operating with Nairobi matatu operators soon. BasiGo has already seen positive results from its pilot project, with two buses covering 120,000 km and transporting over 150,000 passengers. BasiGo also plans to expand its revenue by installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This partnership highlights the growing demand for electric vehicles in Kenya and the potential for job creation and economic growth in the electric mobility sector.

Bank of Tanzania Introduces New Criteria for Establishment of Banks' Branches Abroad

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has announced the publication of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (the 2023 Regulations). These new regulations amend the 2014 Banking and Financial Institutions (Licensing) Regulations and provide detailed criteria to be considered by the BoT when granting approval to banks to establish foreign branches or subsidiaries.

The 2014 Regulations allowed banks with a core capital of not less than 150 Billion to establish branches or subsidiaries abroad with the authorization of BoT. However, the 2023 Regulations introduce specific criteria that must be met prior to the granting of approval. These criteria include a bank's ability to meet minimum capital and liquidity requirements on a solo and consolidated basis, its satisfactory performance record, ability to inject additional capital as needed, and ability to manage risks arising from the established branch or subsidiary.



The Bank of Tanzania
Image source: www.centralbanking.com

By introducing these new amendments, the BoT hopes to bring greater clarity and certainty to the establishment of foreign banks' branches or subsidiaries. This will ensure that only banks with strong financial standing and a proven ability to manage risks are allowed to operate abroad.

The BoT encourages interested parties to review the 2014 Regulations and the new 2023 Amendments for a more

comprehensive understanding of the criteria to be considered for the establishment of foreign banks' branches or subsidiaries. These new amendments provide a clear framework that promotes transparency and accountability, ultimately benefiting the banking industry and the wider Tanzanian economy.

Intellectual Property Rights in Mergers and Acquisitions

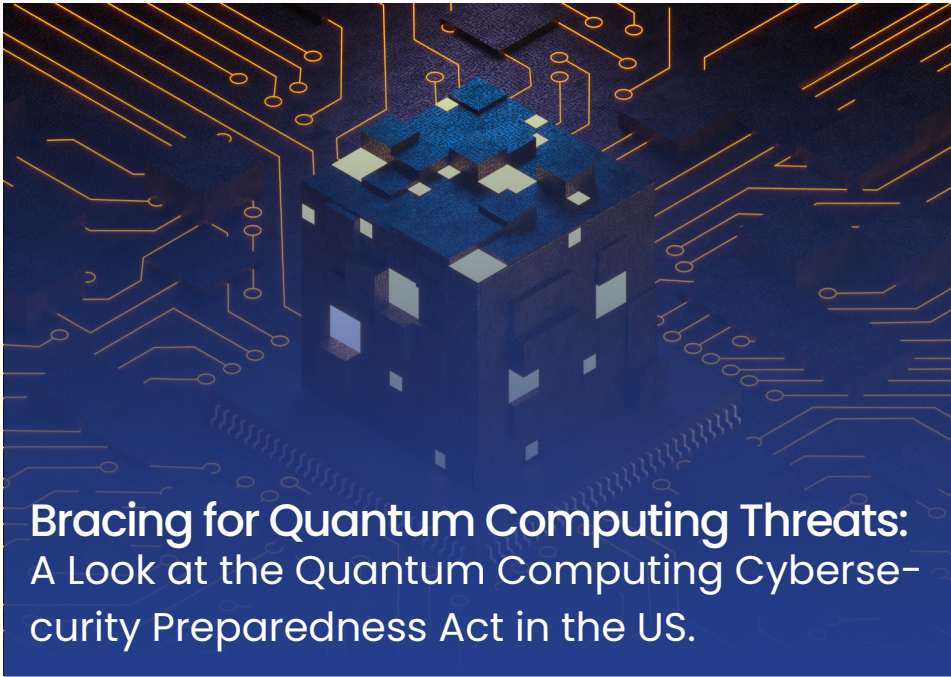
Intellectual property plays a significant role in mergers and acquisitions, as it is an intangible asset that increases the value of a company. It is important to conduct a due diligence process, which is a reasonable investigation into the state of affairs of a business to be acquired, in order to verify the validity of the postulates being made and identify any caveats that may not have been brought to the attention of the buyer. The purpose of a due diligence process in the context of intellectual property is to evaluate the value of the target company's intellectual property, identify and verify the ownership of the intellectual property assets, reveal any litigation or claims made against the intellectual property, and assess the intellectual property infringement risks of the target company. By conducting a comprehensive due diligence, acquirers can identify the risks and adequately detail them

for the benefit of the acquirer, as mergers cater for apportionment of risk.

The importance of conducting a due diligence process is illustrated by the Volkswagen and Rolls Royce acquisition. In this case, Volkswagen acquired Rolls Royce for US\$780 million under the belief that it would acquire the intellectual property, which included the name of the vehicle and the 'spirit of ecstasy' emblem. Volkswagen only realized after the deal had been finalized that the intellectual property was owned by a different entity, Rolls Royce PLC, a British jet engine maker which then sold the intellectual property rights to BMW. Volkswagen failed to conduct a comprehensive due diligence and therefore acquired a company that enabled it to manufacture cars but could not use the name associated with the manufactured cars, resulting in the loss of the value that stemmed from the intellectual property

attached to the company.

In mergers and acquisitions, the intellectual property from the target company will increase the asset portfolio of the acquiring company, resulting in growth. Furthermore, mergers and acquisitions provide for technological transfer where companies can share their technological and trade secrets and business algorithms, which helps companies expand their business and exploit market opportunities. This, in turn, gives the company a competitive edge as technological transfer increases the quality of the product or services it offers. The merger can also pave the way for a dominating position in the market through increased sales. The starting point, however, in the discussion of intellectual property in mergers and acquisitions is the conducting of a due diligence and highlighting its importance in the transaction.



Bracing for Quantum Computing Threats: A Look at the Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act in the US.

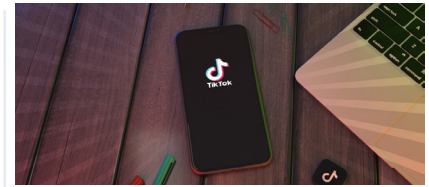
The US government is preparing for the threat of quantum computing to its cybersecurity. The Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act mandates federal agencies to invent their vulnerable cryptography systems and create plans to counter quantum risks. The shift towards more powerful quantum computers could compromise today's encryption methods and expose sensitive information, potentially affecting national security. The private sector is also expected to be affected as the market for federal agencies buying cryptography

solutions has increased, and the transition to quantum-resistant encryption could be a challenging process. Companies in industries that invest heavily in R&D, such as pharmaceuticals and clean energy technology, could face an "existential threat" if their intellectual property is stolen and decrypted by competitors. However, researchers are working on developing quantum-resistant encryption methods, with the US Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology selecting its first set of tools in 2022.

Key Considerations for Implementing Legal Technology

Implementing legal technology can be a complex and challenging process, but it can also bring significant benefits to organizations in terms of cost savings, improved efficiency, and increased accuracy. Organizations should take a strategic approach to legal technology implementation and consider factors such as their specific needs, the availability of internal resources, and the level of

organizational readiness for change. Furthermore, organizations should prioritize data security and privacy, and ensure that their legal technology implementation aligns with existing laws and regulations. Lawyers can benefit from understanding these key considerations when implementing new legal technology and how to effectively integrate technology into their work processes.



TikTok to Introduce Paywall Feature for Creators and Improved Creator Fund 2.0

TikTok is reportedly working on a new feature to allow creators to put their videos behind a paywall, according to a recent report. The Chinese video-sharing platform is seeking to attract older users to its platform and grow its audience in the US with a range of initiatives, including subscriptions of about \$1 or a fee chosen by the creator. This move is similar to the strategy of its rival, Instagram, which enables creators to share exclusive content with subscribers.

In addition, TikTok is developing an improved Creator Fund 2.0 that will offer better payouts to creators with more than 100,000 followers. The fund is a three-year, \$1 billion pool of money that pays creators for popular videos. However, some creators have expressed concerns about the current compensation system, which limits how much they can earn. Currently, under the Creator Fund, TikTokers earn between 2 and 4 cents for every 1,000 views after reaching a million views. The new fund is expected to pay out more to creators by raising the eligibility requirements and giving payouts to users who make longer videos. The new fund is set to be launched as early as March.

TikTok, which was launched in September 2016, has seen tremendous growth compared to its rivals, and its signature short vertical videos influenced Instagram to adopt the same through its Reels feature. Despite its impressive growth, the platform has started to record a slowdown in the growth of its audience in the US, the world's biggest market for online advertising. The number of active monthly US users over 18 years old had declined in December by 3.5% lower than it had been in January, according to Data.ai.



Image source: <https://www.freepik.com/>

Israeli Disinformation Team 'Team Jorge' Exposed for Manipulating Elections Worldwide

An Israeli private intelligence group, known as "Team Jorge", claims to have influenced over 30 elections through cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns, and hacking. The group is run by former Special Forces operative, Tal Hanan, who operates under the pseudonym Jorge. An investigation was carried out by an international consortium of journalists, coordinated by French nonprofit Forbidden Stories, which uncovered Hanan's disinformation operations. The team is said to have offered its services to intelligence agencies, political campaigns, and corporate clients. A key component of Team Jorge's services is a software package known as Advanced Impact Media Solutions (Aims), which controls thousands of fake social media profiles on various platforms. The revelation of such private markets in disinformation aimed at elections poses new challenges for big tech platforms and alarms democracies worldwide.

The investigation reveals the extraordinary details of how disinformation is being weaponized by Team Jorge, which runs a private service offering to covertly meddle in elections without a trace. Their methods raise new challenges for big tech platforms, which have for years struggled to prevent nefarious actors from spreading falsehoods or breaching security on their platforms.

Afrobeats Label Founder Publicly Demands Credit for Nigerian Artist Joeboy on Bad Bunny's Hit Single



Mr. Eazi, founder of emPawa Africa
Image source: <https://cityparksfoundation.org/>

Mr. Eazi, the founder of Afrobeats label emPawa Africa, is publicly demanding that reggaeton superstar Bad Bunny and his record label Rimas Music give proper credit to Nigerian artist Joeboy and his producer on the hit track "Enséñame a Bailar." The song is part of Bad Bunny's 2022 smash LP "Un Verano Sin Ti" and is currently in dispute due to allegations of copyright infringement.

Mr. Eazi accuses Bad Bunny and his record company of both interpolating and sampling Joeboy's "Empty My Pocket," and he claims that despite nine months of lobbying for proper accreditation, his request has been ignored. He has now made his request public, calling for Joeboy and his producer Dëra to receive proper publishing, songwriting, and feature credits on the track.

"The team at emPawa Africa have attempted to sort this issue amicably since May of last year with our mutual legal teams," Mr. Eazi said in a statement. "But the intent of Rimas Music is clearly to blatantly appropriate young African creators' work for their gain without attribution."

Although no lawsuit has been filed, the publishing of "Enséñame a Bailar" has been placed in dispute, which means no

payouts on the track's revenue will be distributed until the issue is resolved.

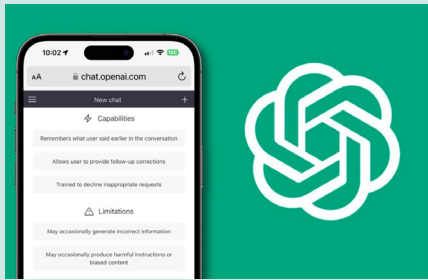
"Unfortunately this is part of a broader pattern we see in how the wider music industry approaches the IP [intellectual property] of African artists," said Mr. Eazi, citing how the late Cameroonian musician and disco pioneer Manu Dibango had claims against Michael Jackson and Rihanna regarding similarities between "Soul Makossa" and "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" and "Don't Stop The Music," respectively.

Bad Bunny has collaborated with Mr. Eazi in the past, and the two previously worked on the track "Como Un Bebé," from J Balvin and Bad Bunny's joint 2019 album Oasis. Mr. Eazi notes that this track is an early example of reggaeton borrowing from Afrobeats.

"We will not accept Bad Bunny and Rimas denying Joeboy and Dëra credits and a share in the ownership of a song they wrote, composed and, in Joeboy's case, even performed on," Mr. Eazi stated.

This dispute highlights the ongoing issue of how African artists' intellectual property is treated in the wider music industry, and it serves as a reminder of the importance of proper accreditation and recognition for all creators.

Microsoft Prepares to Compete with Google in the Future of Search with ChatGPT



Microsoft is expected to bring OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot to Bing, its search engine. This move comes just a day after Google introduced Bard, its own AI chatbot to compete with ChatGPT. Both companies are pursuing a revolutionary future for search, where search results resemble simple answers generated by AI. By integrating ChatGPT into Bing, Microsoft could put pressure on

Google, which has dominated the search engine market. ChatGPT's introduction to Bing could help researchers, coders, and other individuals save time.

Reports suggest that the Bing integration is not only close to being demonstrated, but also close to being available for the public to test. It is rumored to be based on the GPT-4 model, which has sparked speculation within the AI community about its capabilities. This development has caused alarm bells for Google as the success of ChatGPT had initially caused them to move slowly with developing their rival chatbot.

Google's LaMDA technology powers Bard, which they plan to open to more users in the coming weeks. Google also invested

\$300 million in AI firm Anthropic, which has built its own competitor to ChatGPT called Claude. Although the chatbot is not yet available publicly, it will be hosted on Google Cloud, which is the company's preferred cloud provider.

Microsoft has a history of competing with Google, which was characterized by bitter rivalry over privacy concerns, product blocking, and legal battles. The truce between the two companies ended in April 2021, after six years, and Microsoft has since been teasing the importance of its OpenAI partnership. This new development is significant for Microsoft's AI ambitions and could put them in the forefront of the future of search.

Broke to \$200m: The Three Master Traits That Built A Business Empire

If you were starting from scratch with no money, no contacts and no clue which way to turn, what would be your next move? When you have hit rock bottom there is only one way to go from there, but getting out of a bad place takes more than just an intention.

Bedros Keuilian, an immigrant from a communist country, is the founder and CEO of Fit Body Boot Camp, a franchise business that started in 2009 and reportedly has over 600 locations. Keuilian has built companies worth over \$200million and credits his success to three key components: consistency, focus, and discipline.

Keuilian's first business was a supplement company that he started in 1997 when the internet first came into play, but it didn't end well. This pattern appeared again in his second venture, a 2002 online software company, where Keuilian admits, "I was an inconsistent leader and I didn't discuss problems with my business partners, which ultimately led to the business folding." He's learned the hard way that results require a commitment to something and to see it through to success.

Keuilian credits consistency as the backbone of his success, applied to business as well as fitness and relationships. He believes that when you're consistent at something, the universe works with you to multiply the outcome that you're after.

Keuilian knows that if you don't sort out your focus now, the idea fairy will come along again and again. The only option is to deepen your focus in one area and stick with it when new, shiny objects appear. Keuilian's focus is money, which includes generational wealth and financial freedom. He believes that the key to financial freedom and success is singularity of focus. Keuilian doesn't let himself work on more than one business at a time and he extends the simplicity to his entire approach. His family's four pillars are faith, family, fitness, and finances, and they stay focused on these areas.

Keuilian's last master trait is discipline. He believes that discipline is the foundation of all success. "Discipline to me is when you say you're going to do something, and you do it," he says. "It's as simple as that."

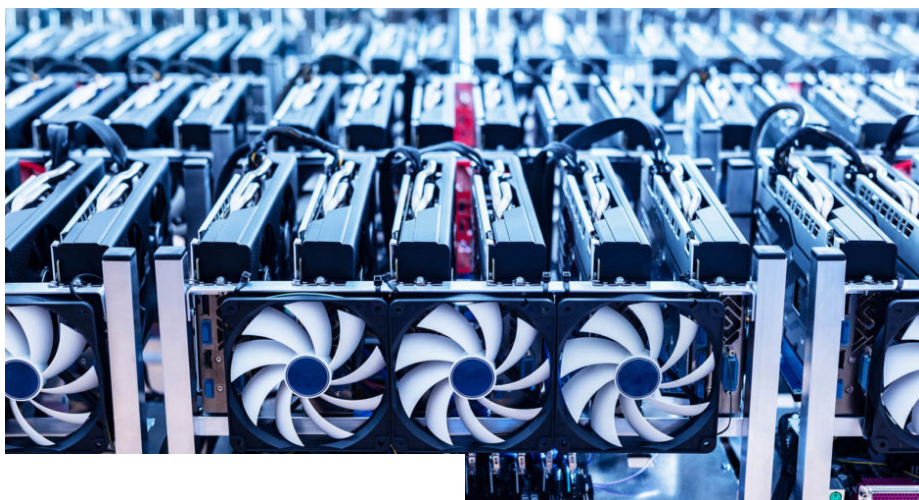
It means setting the alarm for 5 am and getting up to do that workout, even when you don't feel like it.

In conclusion, Bedros Keuilian's three key components are consistency, focus, and discipline. He believes that these three traits are the foundation of all success, whether in business, relationships, or fitness. His approach is simple, but it works, and his success is proof of that. By following his lead, entrepreneurs can create highly profitable and industry dominating brands and businesses.



Bedros Keuilian, CEO of Fit Body Boot Camp
Image source: <https://medium.com/@bedroskeuilian>

Federal Agencies Have Authority to Force Crypto Mining Companies to Disclose Energy Usage and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Democratic lawmakers have pressured federal agencies to require crypto mining companies to report their emissions and energy consumption. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have “clear authority to require emissions and energy-use disclosures by cryptominers,” according to a letter several Democratic Congress members sent to the agencies. The seven biggest crypto mining companies in the US have the capacity to use over 1 gigawatt of electricity, which is almost as much energy as every residence in Houston uses combined.

Last year, Democratic lawmakers asked the biggest crypto mining companies in the US to share numbers on their energy consumption and pollution. Although several companies provided some data, none gave full responses to Democrats’ questions. The DOE and EPA were asked in July to require that crypto companies publicly share information to get a more comprehensive picture of the impact they have on the grid and the environment.

In November, the Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm wrote a letter to Senator Elizabeth Warren saying that the US Energy Information Administration has the authority to require crypto operations to report their energy use as “operating facilities... engaged in... major energy consumption.” The EPA told lawmakers that the Clean Air Act gives it the ability

to collect pollution data from facilities pumping out at least 25,000 tons of planet-heating carbon dioxide a year.

The letter Warren and her colleagues sent asks the EPA to clarify whether it has already listed every crypto operation that meets the 25,000-ton threshold and, if not, when it plans to do so. The Verge reached out to the EPA and DOE, but did not receive comments by the time of publication.

While there aren’t concrete numbers yet on just how dirty or energy-hungry crypto mines are in the US, initial estimates are striking. The crypto industry’s operations in the US likely use roughly as much electricity as all of the nation’s home computers combined, according to a September report from the White House.

The policies would primarily target Bitcoin, still the most popular and most polluting cryptocurrency. Other cryptocurrencies, including Ethereum, have already ditched the energy-intensive code that the Bitcoin network refuses to give up. Bitcoin miners set up data farms filled with specialized hardware used to solve computational puzzles. It’s part of a purposely energy-inefficient process of validating new transactions. The miners are rewarded with new tokens in return. The Bitcoin network is estimated to use nearly as much electricity annually as the Netherlands, according to the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance.

The move toward disclosure by crypto mining companies is a crucial step towards reining in pollution from crypto mines. The transparency will help in developing performance standards that would push crypto companies to transition to clean energy while using less energy overall. If that doesn’t work, the report suggests that the Biden “Administration should explore executive actions, and Congress might consider legislation.”

Allen & Overy break the internet (and new ground) with co-pilot Harvey

Allen & Overy, a law firm, has launched an AI tool called Harvey that is designed to help lawyers conduct research and due diligence using natural language instructions. Harvey has been developed by former O’Melveny & Myers antitrust litigator Winston Weinberg and former DeepMind, Google Brain, and Meta AI research scientist Gabriel Pereyra. It is a virtualized version of GPT-4, trained on the entire corpus of the internet with legal sector-specific data. Harvey has been rolled out across the 43 offices of Allen & Overy, and is designed to automate various aspects of legal work, including contract analysis, due diligence, litigation and regulatory compliance, generating insights, recommendations, and predictions without requiring any immediate training. The tool was created with \$5m in investment from OpenAI and worked with a number of law firms during beta testing. Harvey does not require a lot of work to get it live, and it has been integrated into Allen & Overy’s legal workflows. The tool is designed to be quick, pain-free, and inexpensive to roll-out, as it requires only a short and simple list of parameters and tips. Allen & Overy claims Harvey can unleash the power of generative AI to transform the legal industry.