

10 MOST REPUTABLE AIRLINES

Reputation Poll International (RPI) compared 10 airlines of repute in Africa to determine which of them is best based on certain criteria and a survey of travellers.

[More on Page 18](#)



London Fashion Week

The London Spectacular—every fashion lover's look-forward-to, happened last month. Here are the highlights of the event.

Why Africa Must Set The Terms, Time Frame Of Its Energy Transition.

[More on page 14](#)



COULD AI REPLACE POLITICIANS?

The idea of AI-driven governance may sound intriguing, but it raises complex ethical, practical, and societal concerns that must be carefully examined before reaching any conclusions. It is essential to understand the roles politicians play in society before delving into the possibilities of AI replacing politicians.

[Continue Reading on Page 3](#)



How AFC's US\$300m loan from Export-Import Bank of China will boost trade finance in Africa.

The loan will provide critical financing to support trade finance and investment in Africa, further facilitating the flow of goods and services between Africa and China

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A World-Class Slice of Pascarella's

The Age of the Droids draws near, with its pluses and demerits. Much to the ignorance of mankind, every innovation and upgrade we embrace is by each step a move towards the advancement of humanity, especially the realisation of an age of tech dependence.

Albeit with its argued string of limitations, the embedding of Artificial Intelligence into our everyday aspect of technological utility by the tiny steps in every upgrade has only so far encouraged the advancement of the tech life of humankind as we field its growing presence in our societies.

As if to prove its belonging in the place of life's evolution, technological innovations seem to have also drawn a thread from the weave of nature, following Man's adaptability to the revolutions of the Earth and the dynamics of time, also tapping into the parlance "nature finds its balance" with other aspects of our societies that adapted to life post-COVID.

The effects of the pandemic would long be linked to several advancements in the future. Changes to finances, mobility, relationships, economies, culture and trends, technology and most of all, the daily work-life routine remain continuous as affairs continue to adapt to the after-effects of COVID-19. Consequently, the ever-consistent progress in our tech lives forces us to beg the curious question: Could AI Replace Politicians?

Inevitably so, this question will continually be raised in coming years and with the rate of development of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives, we can be sure we will get our answers sooner in years than later in decades.

Meanwhile, we must get on with our routines in the bits and details that feature in the passing moments of Earth time. We would find out much about that in our Reputation Poll tech page; for the tech innovations every office needs from 2023.

Our Fashion page speaks volumes about the trends with the just concluded London Fashion Week which is nothing short of glamour. From fabulous fashion designs and of course some of your biggest names in the fashion industry with some of its major highlighted brands or designers being BFC NEWGEN designers, 16Arlington, Burberry, JW Anderson, KNWLS, Molly Goddard, Richard Quinn, ROKSANDA and Simone Rocha.

Check out Cuisine with the trending Pizza Chef. This speaks much to the theming undertones of this issue: 'development'. Everything new and advanced today didn't just emerge from thin air. Even as much as with inventions, development is inspired one way or the other from life occurrences such as pressing issues, past trends, foreseen becomings and the ever need of Man to want some more.

EDITOR'S NOTE

By O. Richards



Heralds of the Droidan Age

NEWS

COULD AI REPLACE POLITICIANS?



The idea of AI-driven governance may sound intriguing, but it raises complex ethical, practical, and societal concerns that must be carefully examined before reaching any conclusions. It is essential to understand the roles politicians play in society before delving into the possibilities of AI replacing politicians.

While the election or appointment of Politicians poise them as representatives responsible for making decisions, crafting policies, and governing a nation or region, their duties encompass understanding and addressing the diverse needs and interests of their constituents, maintaining law and order, and addressing complex societal challenges.

Meanwhile, AI has made significant strides in various fields, including healthcare, finance, and transportation. AI systems can analyze vast datasets, automate tasks, and make predictions with remarkable accuracy.

In politics, AI is already used for tasks such as analyzing public sentiment, predicting election outcomes, and assisting in policy research. However, does this mean AI can fully replace politicians?

The multifaceted field of politics involves intricate decision-making processes and politicians must weigh various factors, including economic, social, environmental, and ethical considerations when making decisions.

This means they must navigate the nuances of diplomacy, negotiate with other nations, and respond to dynamic and unpredictable events.

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While AI has the potential to assist politicians in decision-making and improve the efficiency of governance, the idea of completely replacing politicians with AI remains a complex and ethically challenging proposition.

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COULD AI REPLACE POLITICIANS?



While AI can assist in data analysis and decision support it invariably lacks the capacity for empathy, ethical judgment and understanding of human values that are crucial in political leadership. Therefore replacing politicians with AI raises significant ethical concerns.

While AI can assist in data analysis and decision support, it invariably lacks the capacity for empathy, ethical judgment, and understanding of human values that are crucial in political leadership. Therefore, replacing politicians with AI raises significant ethical concerns.

Who would design and program the AI systems? What values and biases would be embedded in their algorithms? How would AI account for the diverse needs and beliefs of a population? Moreover, the accountability of AI in governance would be challenging to establish, as machines lack moral agency and responsibility.

Because politics is inherently tied to the human experience, Politicians must be able to connect with citizens, build trust, and engage in debates that shape society.

With this, they could represent the will of the people and must be responsive to changing public sentiments. AI cannot replicate the charisma, emotional intelligence, and adaptability that are integral to effective political leadership.

While AI has the potential to assist politicians in decision-making and improve the efficiency of governance, the idea of completely replacing politicians with AI remains a complex and ethically challenging proposition.

Politics is a uniquely human endeavor that involves empathy, ethical judgment, and a deep understanding of societal values. While AI can be a tool to aid in the political process, it cannot replace the essence of political leadership that hinges on human interaction, empathy, and accountability.

The notion, therefore, of AI fully replacing politicians in the near future remains a speculative and contentious topic, requiring careful consideration of its societal implications.

NEWS ANALYSIS

AI FOR DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC VS PRIVATE SECTOR

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful technology with many potential applications, but there are stronger arguments for the unlikelihood that it will replace the government in its entirety.

While AI may be able to assist with some tasks, such as analyzing data and making predictions, it indeed lacks the human judgment, values, and empathy required for governance.

In addition, the government performs many functions beyond data analysis, such as setting policy, making decisions about resource allocation, and providing services to citizens, which are unlikely to be fully automated by AI.

Therefore, it is more likely that AI will be used to augment government functions rather than replace them entirely.

As Silicon Valley’s Tim O’Reilly suggested, augmenting government through AI is critical to modernizing the public sector. AI-based applications could potentially reduce backlogs and free workers from mundane tasks while cutting costs.

According to Deloitte, documenting and recording information alone consumes a half-billion staff hours each year, at a cost of more than \$16 billion in wages.

Add to this an additional \$15 billion in the procuring and processing of information and the value of AI in transforming government bureaucracy becomes clear.

Advancing democracies into the era of Big Data could go a long way towards reducing systemic dysfunction within the public sector.



Using sensor technologies and machine learning systems to reinforce government oversight could begin to reduce regulation while actually increasing the amount of oversight.

Coining the term “algorithmic regulation” for example, O’Reilly suggests that government regulations should be regarded as algorithms (i.e. a set of rules) that can be adjusted based on fresh data.

What we do know is that we are leaving the era of centralized systems and top-down decision-making. As Beth Noveck, former head of President Obama’s Open Government Initiative explains, representative democracy itself now faces a crisis of legitimacy.

“The rationale for closed systems of decision-making in which citizen participation is confined to voting or interest group activism belongs to a different era”

CONTINUED...

AI FOR DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC VS PRIVATE SECTOR

In an era of networks, we now need tools that bridge algorithms with new forms of collaborative decision-making. Simply put, we need digital democracies that build on the capabilities of AI and Big Data.

In fact, McKinsey listed some 400 use cases representing \$6 trillion in value across 19 industries in which AI will augment human work.

Drawing on a McKinsey Global Institute research and the applied experience with AI of McKinsey Analytics, we assess both the practical applications and the economic potential of advanced AI techniques across industries and business functions.

What has really changed about AI in recent years? The technical ideas have, for the most part, been around for many decades, but we have only recently brought enough computation power and data to this form of AI to make it work really well. And this type of A-to-B mapping, the technical term is supervised learning. This one idea by itself is enough to transform multiple industries.

Technically, much advancement is towards the impact of AI on automation. Until recently, there were some things that could be automated with computers. Thanks to the recent rise of AI, especially supervised learning, machine learning, the set of things we know how to automate is much bigger.



Even as artificial intelligence is forecast to exceed human capabilities across a range of industries it is also predicted to augment human labor.

In medicine, AI diagnostics systems have proven to be far more accurate than doctors in diagnosing heart disease and cancerous growths.

In finance, AI is already helping financial advisors augment financial planning while enhancing investment strategy.

Growing investments in infrastructure planning, legal adjudication, fraud detection and citizen response systems represent the first phase in the ongoing digitization of government.

Notwithstanding these investments, however, government remains far behind the private sector in deploying and integrating AI.

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NEWS

AFFIRMING MINERALS ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA

The announcement of the R20 Million pledge of the United Kingdom, during the Critical Minerals Africa 2023 summit is a strategic initiative aimed at focusing on promoting mineral exploration, processing and generating value-added activities and creating local jobs.

The event held alongside the African Energy Week 2023 conference in October 2023 targets positioning Africa as the primary investment destination for critical minerals. The pledge by the UK to help African countries expand their critical mineral supply chains will take the form of an initial R20-million contribution and comes on the back of growing cooperation between the UK and Africa in the critical minerals arena.

Last November, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conducted a state visit to the UK seeking to leverage British capital and technology toward building South Africa's industrial capacity. The UK already represents the largest international investor in South Africa, which is home to 80% of global platinum group metal reserves, 70% of global manganese reserves, and substantial reserves of vanadium and magnesium.

The UK is also set to host the second edition of its African Investment Summit in London next April, which aims to promote bilateral trade and investment and strengthen UK-African partnerships. Early in September, the U.S. announced that it would provide technical and financial support, in partnership with the European Union (EU), for the development of the Lobito Corridor, a transregional infrastructure project linking the copper and cobalt mining regions of the DRC and Zambia to Angola's Port of Lobito.



U.S. said its involvement in the project supports its national agenda to secure “the minerals of the future” and diversify mineral supply chains away from China and Russia. The U.S. is one of several Western allies seeking to strengthen its commercial and diplomatic relations with Africa's leading mineral producers.

Recently, the British government signed a clean energy and green investment partnership to generate over three billion dollars of private sector investment in Zambia's mining and renewable energy industries.

Africa holds considerable critical minerals trade and investment opportunities for the U.S., not only in new mining exploration, but also in the expansion of mineral refining capacity and value-added activities. The Minerals Security Partnership – a collaboration among 13 countries and the EU to catalyze investment in sustainable critical minerals value chains – represents another potential pathway for heightened cooperation between U.S. and African mining players.

NEWS

How AFC's US\$300M Loan from Export-Import Bank of China Will Boost Trade Finance in Africa.

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt //



In what Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) called the first deal of its kind with Beijing, it secured a \$300 million loan from the Export-Import Bank of China (CEXIM) in September to foster economic growth and development and drive increased trade finance and investment across the African continent.

The successful signing of the 3-year loan facility is a significant development in AFC's long-standing relationship with CEXIM. Both institutions have collaborated since 2018, with AFC receiving US\$400 million in bilateral loans from CEXIM to date.

China had in the past helped fund individual AFC projects but this was the first time it had handed over cash with an open remit for the AFC to spend as it finds appropriate. Most of the investments will go into manufacturing. Samalia Zubairu, president of the AFC, said: "Having China as one of the investors we can work with is a very good addition for us."

"It is important to see the evolution in the Chinese way of doing business on the continent," Mr Zubairu said, defending Beijing from criticism that it had funded too many expensive and corruption-prone projects. They've typically done investment on a government-to-government basis, but now they're becoming far more sophisticated, looking at projects, looking at partners and looking at the private sector," he said.

The landmark agreement, signed on the sidelines of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Annual meetings in Egypt will provide critical financing to support trade finance and investment in Africa, further facilitating the flow of goods and services between Africa and China.

Board Member and Head of Financial Services for Africa Finance Corporation, Sanjeev Gupta said the partnership with CEXIM is a significant milestone for AFC as the AFC continues to expand its footprint in the Asian capital markets. "It significantly increases our capacity to provide trade finance solutions on the continent, promoting international trade and economic diversification while reinforcing the strong economic ties between Africa and China", Gupta said.

Wencai Zhang, Vice President of CEXIM also commented, saying: "CEXIM attaches great importance to the China-Africa financial cooperation and AFC is an important partner for us. Over the past few years, CEXIM has provided loans to AFC to enhance the bilateral trade and investment between China and Africa.

"This new project has elevated our bilateral cooperation to a new level and will further enhance China-Africa trade and economic cooperation through the financial support of our two institutions."

CONTINUED...

THE LOAN WILL PROVIDE CRITICAL FINANCING TO SUPPORT TRADE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT IN AFRICA, FURTHER FACILITATING THE FLOW OF GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN AFRICA AND CHINA



Tough the partnership between AFC and CEXIM, Africa's infrastructure challenges can be addressed more efficiently. The need for regional institutions to collaborate and bring transparency, answerability, and focus is critical to ensure that global standards of governance and sustainability are met.

The agreement represents a contribution to meeting the various challenges in the continent, particularly in terms of infrastructure. According to the World Bank, this limits Africa's share in world trade to 3%. The institution believes that "the continent needs to go beyond the trade in raw materials and connect its production and trade to the global economy to leverage unlimited demand and innovation throughout the supply chain."

CEXIM believes the partnership with AFC is another concrete measure taken in fulfilling its responsibilities in line with its position and functions in implementing the BRI and the nine programs under the FOCAC framework. "The agreement not only enhances and

deepens China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, but also serves as a good example of third-party market cooperation carried out by the Export-Import Bank of China", CEXIM stated on its website.

To stimulate the economic transformation of the continent, regional and international integration initiatives have been implemented, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which presents significant opportunities to boost intra-African trade.

According to Chinese authorities, China is Africa's biggest trade partner, with trade reaching \$282 billion in 2022. Furthermore, China's "Belt and Road Initiative" has led to increased Chinese investments in areas such as manufacturing, mining, and agriculture, making Beijing the primary infrastructure financier in Africa.

Founded in 2007 and headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria, AFC has 42 member countries and has invested US\$12.7 billion across Africa since inception.

NEWS

AFDB, AMEA POWER, IFC, SEFA'S LARGE-SCALE PRIVATELY-FINANCED SOLAR PROJECT.

TUNIS, Tunisia //



The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and UAE's AMEA Power, heralds Tunisia's first privately-financed solar project. This initiative is aimed at revolutionizing the nation's energy scene by cutting power generation costs, significantly trimming greenhouse gas emissions by over 90,000 tons annually, and bolstering Tunisia's green transition.

The partners signed project launch papers on Tuesday 26 September, at the government headquarters in Al Qasba, Tunis. This initiative stands as one of Tunisia's most impactful infrastructure projects in over a decade.

The 100-megawatt, \$86 million solar plant located in Tunisia's Kairouan governorate will benefit from up to \$26 million in debt financing from the African Development Bank, including \$13 million sourced from SEFA, a multi-donor fund that provides finance to unlock private sector investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The financing scheme is designed to ensure the holistic development, financing, operation, and maintenance of the plant, located roughly 150 km south of Tunis, in El Metbassta.

The plant is central to Tunisia's strategy to reduce its reliance on natural gas. It aims to bolster the nation's renewable energy share to an ambitious 35% by 2030, thus the Kairouan Solar project is not just about power generation; it is about regional transformation.

Hela Cheikhrouhou, IFC's Regional Vice President, Middle East, Central Asia, Türkiye, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, emphasized the venture's broader impact: "This project represents a positive stride towards Tunisia's green transition. South-South investments such as this one underscore the essential role that private sector partners can play in the energy transition. This project is in line with our strategy to enable South-South investments, including from Gulf Cooperation Council countries to emerging markets," she said.

CONTINUED...

THE INITIATIVE STANDS AS ONE OF TUNISIA'S MOST IMPACTFUL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN OVER A DECADE.

Sérgio Pimenta, IFC's Vice President for Africa, further added, "This ambitious, renewable energy project will not only bring more affordable, clean energy to the people of Tunisia, but it will help Tunisia achieve its energy goals and attract more private investments into future green projects. Through the project, we're proud to build on our partnership with AMEA Power to expand their operations across North Africa, helping address the effects of climate change in the region."

Reflecting on the landmark agreement, Dr. Kevin Kariuki, Vice President of Power, Energy, Climate, and Green Growth at the African Development Bank, stated, "We are thrilled to achieve this pivotal moment as we sign the first solar IPP project in Tunisia. This achievement results from AfDB's unwavering commitment to fostering sustainable energy solutions on the continent. Today's success is the result of a strong partnership between the Government of Tunisia, AMEA Power, the Bank, SEFA and the IFC. It embodies our joint commitment to help move the country close to its 35% clean energy target."

AMEA Power's Chairman, Hussain Al Nowais, said: "We are delighted to reach financial close on this 120MW solar power plant in Tunisia, our first project in the country. This is a significant milestone for AMEA Power and for Tunisia, as it represents the largest solar project fully developed in the country to date.

Despite all the challenges that the market has been experiencing since the COVID pandemic, we are proud that we are delivering this project and honouring our commitment to supporting Tunisia's transition to clean energy. We are grateful for the strong support of our lenders and the Tunisian government in making this project a reality."

Malinne Blomberg, African Development Bank deputy Director General for North Africa said: "The Kairouan solar project symbolises much more than a renewable energy milestone for Tunisia; it's a testament to the power of collaboration. As the inaugural transaction of its kind, it faced unique challenges, but the AfDB is committed to such transformative ventures. Today's success and established partnerships will pave the way for future collaborations, driving a sustainable, prosperous and more just energy transition to Tunisia and Africa at large."

SEFA's participation is highlighted by the project's inclusion as a vital component of its COVID-19 IPP relief programme, designed to cushion late-stage renewable energy projects from the economic tremors of the pandemic. The programme seeks to neutralise any associated cost surges due to the pandemic, preserving the project's feasibility. This will ensure the Kairouan Solar PV project's unique position as Tunisia's pioneering utility-scale solar Independent Power Producer or IPP.

Wale Shonibare, African Development Bank Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy & Regulation noted that the project resonated with the Bank's unwavering dedication to catalysing sustainable energy solutions across Africa.

"This monumental stride was possible due to the formidable collaboration between the Government of Tunisia, AfDB, SEFA, IFC, and AMEA Power. This venture exemplifies our collective effort to bolster Tunisia's energy independence and fortify its green transition," Shonibare said.

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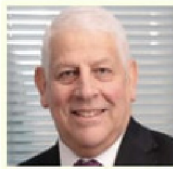
8th and 9th
DECEMBER
TWENTY, TWENTY THREE



Lord JD Waverley
Member of the House of Lords, he serves also as the Co-Chair: Trade & Investment All Party Parliamentary Group and the Founder and Chairman of the GoGlobal Trade.



Dr. Yvonne Thompson
CBE DLGL
Founder President of WellTrade Glob at Network & Deputy Lieutenant for Great London.



Dr. Graham Bright.
Head of compliance and operations at Euro-Exam Bank. Driving financial security, market penetration, in regional sales, SME for Banking & Investment Services at CxO level.



Baroness Verma
Member of the House of Lords, UK. She was Spokesperson for Cabinet Office, International Development, Women and Equalities and Business Innovation and Skills.



Franklin Olakunle Amoo
Member of the United States' President's Advisory Council on the Ease of Doing Business in Africa & Managing Partner: Stanley Emerging Markets & Head-African Private Equity.

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NEWS

WHY AFRICA MUST SET THE TERMS, TIME FRAME OF ITS ENERGY TRANSITION

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa //

Africa must set the terms and the time frames of its own energy transition. This was the message of South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile as he delivered the keynote speech at the African energy event dubbed Africa Oil Week. "We recognise the need to reduce carbon emissions, but we are also committed to economic development," said Mashatile on the opening day on October 13, 2023.

"Often, we get given resources or money, and we are told we need to transition within a certain period. We must say no to that," he said.

Deputy President Mashatile's attendance at the continental showpiece came at a time when energy is a primary concern of national policymaking in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent

Representatives of more than 25 African governments converged with energy policymakers, financiers and dealmakers in a gathering of Africa's major event in the upstream oil-and-gas energy space to share insights and to map a sustainable roadmap for the development of Africa's natural resources.

Deputy President Mashatile's attendance at the continental showpiece came at a time when energy is a primary concern of national policymaking in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent.



Announcing Deputy President Mashatile's participation, Yemi Ibidunni, Event Director of event organiser Hyve Events said that the presence of a government representative as senior as Mr Mashatile confirmed the importance the South Africa's government attached to oil and gas planning.

"There have been exciting offshore discoveries in South African territorial waters, which may herald a new dawn for the country's oil and gas sector," says Ibidunni.

"At the same time, there have been significant discoveries in Namibia and elsewhere in Africa. This emphasizes the importance of Africa's government and business leaders coming together to discuss partnerships for energy security while enhancing regional economic development."

Ibidunni said AOW provides the ideal platform to facilitate such discussions, as well as enabling deals, and positioning the continent as a stable destination for international investment.

This year's AOW took place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre 2 in Cape Town, from October 9 – 13, with the theme "Maximizing Africa's Natural Resources".

AOW provided a platform for more than 50 ministers and government leaders, 125 expert speakers, and 1500 senior delegates across five days of industry-leading insight and elite networking opportunities, designed to drive deals and investments for the betterment of the continent.

FASHION

THE LONDON SPECTACULAR - LONDON FASHION WEEK

By *Jacqueline Thoiss Mvula*

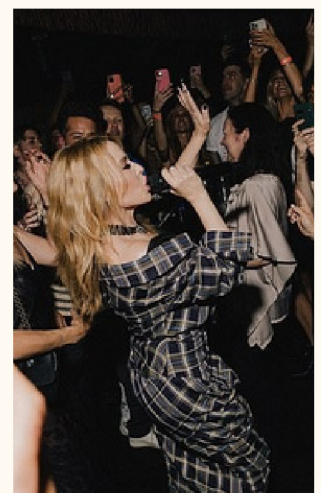
The London fashion week is a captivating event that show cases impeccably styled individuals that present their creativity in the most unique ways. Most pieces during Fashion week have a life of their own and a unique story to tell. It is hard to be a part of such an event and not want to clad yourself in somewhat piece of fashion that brings out your personality- even for a regular individual. This year's London fashion week was held from the 15th September to the 19th September, 2023.

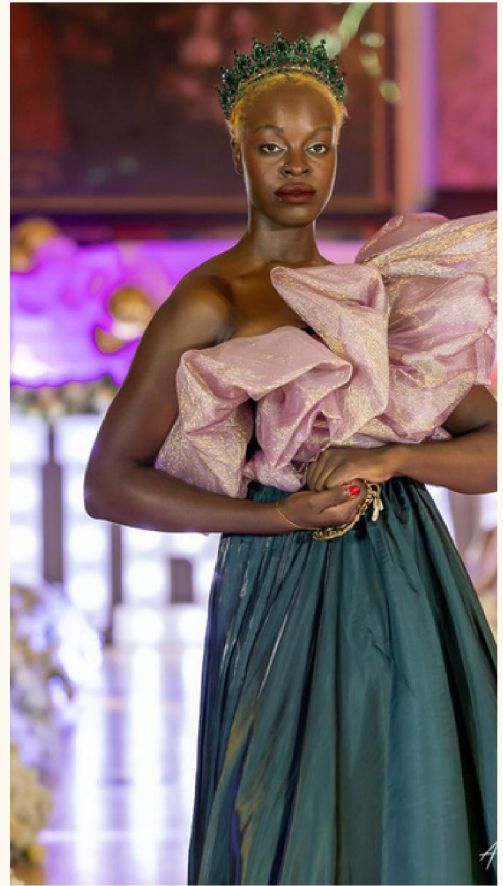


As always, the London Fashion Week is nothing short of glamour, fabulous fashion designs and of course some of your biggest names in the fashion industry with some of its major highlighted brands or designers being BFC NEWGEN designers, 16Arlington, Burberry, JW Anderson, KNWLS, Molly Goddard, Richard Quinn, ROKSANDA and Simone Rocha.

Amongst the A list attendees at the just concluded London fashion week included Gabriella Union who was spotted in several photos looking stunning as always, Maisie Williams, Chloe Cherry, Hannah Diamond, Jordyn Woods, Anna Wintour, Lily James, Nicole Coughlan, Taylor Zakhar Perez to mention but a few yet not limited to the above stated.

Surprisingly, Burberry temporarily took over Bond Street tube station and renamed it Burberry Street as part of their sponsorship deal with transport for London. What a way to start of fashion week as it left most Londoner's confused for a split second. We must however say what a beautiful way to stand out and market the brand during such a period.





This year's London fashion week was definitely an all-inclusive event where we saw a representation of all body types and people from across the world on the runways. It was beautiful to see photographs of the stunning Beth Mathews a 23 years old atypical model, with Down Syndrome circulate the internet. The young lady from Wales who has proven to us that beauty is diverse and the only thing standing between us and our dreams is our inability to push through and believe in ourselves was featured on BBC News – thanks to Christina Busca who captured the moment. We definitely hope to see more inclusivity across the world on runways!

London Fashion Week was opened by Kylie Minogue who gave a preview to her new album 'Tension' whilst wearing a beautiful checked piece with beachy wavy hair. The 55-year-old star gave an outstanding and very energetic performance as LFW kicked off. She was accompanied by guests who included Jodie Harsh, Rina Lipa, and Kyle De Volle amongst others.

One of the captivating brands that should be highlighted at this year's London Fashion Week was The Hermosa brand, we felt it necessary to highlight this brand because of the brand's choice of high-powered, influential women who embody a character that is both expressive and inspirational in action and interactions with others.

Hermosa provides a stylish modest alternative to the racy girlfriend womenswear that has become almost inescapable in modern female fashion. This collection is called the Ethereal Collection.

Overall, the typical Hermosa woman projects a high-powered sophistication both inside and out. She embodies a strong sense of self and inner purpose, knows what she wants and is not afraid to go after it, this is a woman who is truly expressive at heart, warm in spirit and deeply committed to inspiring and helping others.

On the downside, some brands chose not to showcase their designs at this year's London Fashion Week. Such designers included S.S Daley, Nensi Dojaka and Dilara Findikoglu who many expected to see showcase their collections but to our disappointment chose not to do so.

It was quite noticeable that a number of designers showcased their style with very polished styles in neutral colors such as white, brown, black, dark green and baby blue to mention but a few that were observed on the runways.



We also saw some floral but yet neutral collections for instance on Paul Costelloes and Junyangs runways This year's London fashion was elegant even with some of the colourful pieces observed on other runways where we observed colours such as red blue and the shimmers Should this be taken as a hint as to what colours we should all be looking out for as we prepare to style ourselves come 2024? Possibly! Well all that can be said is that London is definitely a place to be when it comes to setting style trends and direction. We definitely enjoyed what we saw!

10 MOST REPUTABLE AIRLINES IN AFRICA

REPUTATION POLL INTERNATIONAL (RPI) COMPARED 10 AIRLINES OF REPUTE IN AFRICA TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THEM IS BEST BASED ON CERTAIN CRITERIA AND A SURVEY OF TRAVELLERS.

Are you planning to visit and explore African destinations? A vast and diverse continent features a wide range of natural, cultural and historical attractions that awaits your discovery. Let Reputation Poll's list of top airlines be your guide. These airlines offer a comfortable and dependable flying experience, within and outside Africa. Similarly, they all strive to improve their services to ensure passengers have seamless travel worldwide.

Reputation Poll International compared 10 airlines of repute in Africa to determine which of them is best based on certain criteria and a survey of travellers. The ranking is based on data collected over a period of 23 months, from September 2021 to May 2023.

Ethiopian Airlines earned top place voted 2023 best airline, taking the prestigious title with Royal Air Maroc in second place. The distinctive service of Royal Air Maroc though is not undermined, neither is the outstanding South African Airways, which comes in third place in Africa's Aviation Superbowl.

Below are the 10 Most Reputable Airlines in Africa, compiled by Reputation Poll International (RPI).

10. Air Peace

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 3/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Strength:

- Low cost air travel
- In flight meal is valued and of fair quality.
- Reasonable service organization for check in and arrival.

Weaknesses:

- Delay handling is weak.
- Customer service standards are inconsistent on-board and in the airport.

Ratings:

- Food & Beverages- 2/5
- In-flight Entertainment- 1/5
- Seat comfort- 3/5
- Staff Service- 1/5
- Value for money- 2/5

9. Air Seychelles

Air Seychelles is the national airline of Seychelles and is head quartered on the island of Mahe. The airline flies to several destinations across multiple countries in Africa and central/eastern Asia. Air Seychelles was established in 1978, initially flying only domestic flights, until 1983 when the airline launched its first international flights to, serving both Frankfurt and London. Over the years, the airline built and adapted its international route network out and now flies to several countries outside of Seychelles.

Frequent travellers give this airline an average rating of 2/10.

10 MOST REPUTABLE AIRLINES IN AFRICA



CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Strength:

- In-flight meals is valued.
- Entertainment / WiFi is particularly valued.

Weaknesses:

- Cabin crew is below compared to competing carriers.

Ratings:

- Value for money 3/5
- Staff Service 2/5
- Food & Beverages 1/5
- In-flight Entertainment 1/5
- Seat comfort 1/5

8. Air Safair

This is an airline based in South Africa. The airline began operating in October 2014, although the company behind Air Safair has been operating for 50 years. Air Safair has its hubs based in Cape Town International Airport (CPT), or Tambo International Airport (JNB) and King Shaka International Airport (DUR).

Air Safair flies to 7 domestic destinations within South Africa, including Cape Town, Durban, East London, George, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg using its fleet of 16 Boeing aircraft.

Frequent travelers give the airline an average rating of 4/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Food & Beverages 2/5
- Inflight Entertainment 1/5
- Seat comfort 3/5
- Staff Service 3/5
- Value for money 3/5

7. Rwanda Air

Rwanda Air, the national carrier of Rwanda, currently flies to over 30 destinations in Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. With Kigali International Airport (KGL) as its hub, the airline is one of the fastest-growing airlines and has one of the youngest, state of the art fleets in all of Africa.

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 5/10

10 MOST REPUTABLE AIRLINES IN AFRICA

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Food & Beverages 3/5
- In-flight Entertainment 2/5
- Seat comfort 3/5
- Staff Service 3/5
- Value for money 3/5

6. Egypt Air

The national carrier of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egypt Air is based at Cairo International Airport. The airline's network includes extensive domestic and regional scheduled passenger and freight services within Egypt and Africa as well as international services to Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North America. This airline reaches about 70 direct destinations around the world, including 19 in Africa, and more than 40 others with code share flights.

Egypt Air is among the largest carriers on the African continent and became a member of the Star Alliance in Jul-2008.

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 6/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Strengths:

- Entertainment / WiFi is valued.

Weaknesses:

- Cabin crew and in-flight meals are slightly below compared to competing carriers.

Ratings:

- Food & Beverages 3/5
- In-flight Entertainment 3/5
- Seat comfort 3.5 / 5
- Staff Service 3.5 / 5
- Value for money 3.5 / 5

5. Air Mauritius

Air Mauritius is the national flag carrier of Mauritius, based at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, Port Louis, Mauritius. The flag carrier is the fourth largest carrier in sub-Saharan Africa and commenced operations in 1972 under the company name of Air Mauritius Ltd. Passengers can fly direct to 23 destinations, and to over 100 destinations with the airline's partners.

Travellers give the airline an average rating of 6.9/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Value for money 3.5 / 5
- Staff Service 3.5 / 5
- Seat comfort 3.5 / 5
- In-flight Entertainment 3/5
- Food & Beverages 3/5

4. Kenya Airways

Kenya Airways is one of the largest airlines in Africa, and flies all across the world to top destinations. Boasting a crew of friendly and helpful staff, it's no wonder Kenya Airways holds the 2016 and 2017 World Travel Award for Africa's Leading Airline!

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 7/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Value for money 4/5
- Staff Service 4/5
- Seat comfort 3.5 / 5
- In-flight Entertainment 3/5
- Food & Beverages 3/5

10 MOST REPUTABLE AIRLINES IN AFRICA

3. South African airways

With hubs at Johannesburg and Cape Town, South African Airways (SAA) is the flag carrier of South Africa and ranks among the largest airlines on the African continent. The carrier is wholly-owned by the South African government and operates an extensive network of services throughout Africa and international services to North America, South America, Asia, Australia and Europe. SAA became a member of the Star Alliance in 2006

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 8/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Value for money 3/5
- Staff Service 4/5
- Seat comfort 4/5
- In-flight Entertainment 3/5
- Food & Beverages 5/5

2. Royal Air Maroc

Royal Air Maroc, which is commonly known as 'RAM', is the largest airline in Morocco. The airline was founded in July 1953, as a result of a merger of Air Maroc and Air Atlas. The airline is head quartered at Casablanca-Anfa Airport, near the Moroccan city of Casablanca, but its primary hub airport is Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport. RAM operates both medium-haul and long-haul flights and flies to over 100 destinations worldwide, including countries in Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East.

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 9/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Value for money 4/5
- Staff Service 4/5
- Seat comfort 4/5
- In-flight Entertainment. 4/5
- Food & Beverages 4/5

1. Ethiopian Airlines

Ethiopian Airlines is the national airline of Ethiopia, based in Addis Ababa. One of the leading airlines on the African continent, Ethiopian Airlines serves more than 60 international destinations across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America, as well as operating an extensive domestic and international cargo network. Ethiopian Airlines became a member of Star Alliance in Dec-2011. Hardly surprising this airline came in at number 1, given its history of premium airline services, Ethiopian Airlines ranked number 1 again for the second time in two years and is completely owned by the Ethiopian government.

Frequent travellers give the airline an average rating of 10/10

CUSTOMER REVIEWS AND RATINGS.

Ratings:

- Value for money 5/5
- Staff Service 5/5
- Seat comfort 5/5
- In-flight Entertainment 5/5
- Food & Beverages 4/5

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A WORLD-CLASS SLICE OF PASCARELLA'S



It is universally acknowledged that a good slice of pizza is a global favourite.

So, in the pizza world, things simply don't get much bigger than being crowned the best pizza chef in the world. And that's exactly what happened with Michele Pascarella in Chiswick, who emerged best after a global selection of chefs competed to be named the best in the World 50 Top Pizza Awards.

Be it a crappy supermarket pizza that you fling in your oven at the end of a busy work day, a hangover deep dish dripping in grease, or a carefully crafted gastronomical delight in Naples itself, there's something about the combination of dough, tomatoes and mozzarella that is hard to say no to.

So what if you had the opportunity to try an award-winning slice of pizza? You'd probably run to it.

That is exactly what I did, at least when I found out that Michele Pascarella, who runs Napoli On The Road in Chiswick, west London, was named the best pizza maker in the world by the "Michelin Guide for pizzas".

I opted for the humble parmigiana, a pizza with aubergines, fior di latte, parmesan and basil. It arrives, looking majestic, and I slice it and get to work.

The dough is lighter and bouncier than any other pizza dough I've had before. It is almost fluffy and it feels like an integral part of the pizza itself, rather than a vehicle for the toppings but doesn't overshadow the toppings either.

The tomato and cheese both taste fresh and light and the ratios are spot on, dancing together and giving each other ample time in the limelight.

And the aubergine is next level. Caramelized, melting in my mouth like wagyu-grade beef, it laughs in the face of people who think of vegetables as an afterthought in meals.

This is a great pizza, whether it is the best pizza in the world though? Who knows. I've had a lot of great pizzas and to me, this is on the same ranking of my favourites in London, like Theo's in Camberwell or the chain Rudy's.

Nevertheless, I leave Napoli On The Road satisfied and excited to return. It is clear why Pascarella is so well-respected in the restaurant industry. After all, everyone loves a good slice of pizza.



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