

World news



JIMMY NELSON

Last chance to see
A group of Maasai tribesmen line up along the parched Serengeti for photographer Jimmy Nelson, who since 1987 has caught some of the world's remotest cultures on camera. An exhibition of his latest project, *Before They Pass Away*, opens at Sotheby's on Friday, and features 35 indigenous communities photographed during a five-year journey across Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the South Pacific. Over a distinguished career, Nelson has previously visited Huli wigmen living in the highlands of Papua New Guinea and spent time with the Nenet reindeer herders, who migrate more than 600 miles a year across the Yamal peninsula.

Mugabe statue 'like Superman in style of The Simpsons'

By Aislinn Laing in Johannesburg

ROBERT MUGABE, Zimbabwe's president, has been ridiculed for unveiling a 3.8-metre tall statue of himself outside his offices while the country suffers its worst economic crisis in years.

The statue, made of local springstone, depicts the 92-year-old president in defiant attitude with one arm raised above his head and fist clenched, wearing his trademark thick-framed glasses hiding large, staring eyes.

It was produced over six months by Dominic Benhura, a local sculptor whose work has been exhibited around the world. Mr Mugabe said the work had been donated as "charity" and that seeing himself reproduced in such a way affected him "deep in my heart".

However, his work was laughed at by Zimbabweans on social media, who

Robert Mugabe beside his statue with his wife, Grace, and sculptor Dominic Benhura (far right)



characterised it as "Superman in the style of *The Simpsons*".

Others suggested that Mr Benhura, who said he wanted to make the statue "as big as possible", had committed "career suicide". "The poor chap is probably at Chikurubi prison by now," another wrote, referencing Zimbabwe's best-known detention centre.

The unveiling came after Zimbabwe's finance minister, Patrick Chinamasa, toured Europe in hope of an International Monetary Fund bail-out. The government has also announced a plan to axe 25,000 public sector jobs.

The economic crisis has prompted a rare strike by teachers, doctors and nurses and even more rare protests against Mr Mugabe's regime by a coalition of opposition parties, which police have put down brutally after the courts overturned a ban on demonstrations.

Bali tourism at risk from Islamic drink law

By Nicola Smith

THE party may soon be over in one of the world's most beer-fuelled tourism spots - the Indonesian paradise island of Bali - under a new law that would ban the drinking of alcohol.

The proposed Bill outlawing the production, sale and consumption of alcohol across all of Indonesia carries a jail term of up to 10 years for violators.

If passed, it would crush the tourism sector, industry chiefs have warned.

"No matter how beautiful the country is, if they can't find alcohol, they

[tourists] won't want to come here," said Hariyadi Sukamdani, of the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association.

A ban would hit the lush resort of Bali, one of Indonesia's 34 provinces, particularly hard. The island's economy depends heavily on the four million annual foreign visitors, including more than 100,000 Britons, who flock to enjoy sunset cocktails and then party through the night.

Australians, the largest group of holidaymakers, have been incensed by the news, some threatening to boycott their favourite holiday resort. Rudolf

Dethu, a Balinese musician, who leads two groups opposing the legislation, agreed that the law would "kill" tourism in Bali.

Even if the island secured an exemption, alcohol prices would become exorbitant, he warned.

But Mr Dethu also believes that the stakes are much higher, fearing like many others that the curb is a sign of creeping Islamisation under a push to impose more extreme forms of Islamic law. The new Bill is being driven by two influential Muslim parties.

With a population of 260 million,

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, but it is also home to several influential religious minorities.

The government is struggling to reconcile Bali, predominantly Hindu and liberal, with conservative Muslim provinces such as Aceh, where alcohol is viewed as a scourge on society, and drinkers even now can be caned.

"My concern has always been about pluralism and civil rights," Mr Dethu told *The Daily Telegraph*. "For me this is not as simple as banning alcohol. There is a hidden agenda behind it. It's a radicalisation. It's about assaulting

civil rights. Don't let the parliament dictate to you what you can drink or the next time they will dictate what time your girlfriend can come to your house, and then what you can wear."

Previous attempts to ban alcohol for religious reasons gained little support from Indonesia's secular government, but now the Muslim parties are pushing it to protect the public from dozens of alcohol-related deaths each year.

But experts point out the deaths were caused by illegally distilled or counterfeit alcohol, which can contain lethal substances.