**AC English examples of non-partisan fact-checks IFCN renewal (2022)**

1. South Africa’s Covid grant reached 9.5 million and lifted 5 million from poverty? President Ramaphosa’s numbers don’t quite add up

In a commemorative address held on 8 January 2022 President Cyril Ramaphosa said: “The social relief of distress grant has provided vital support for the unemployed during the pandemic, reaching 9.5 million people and lifting 5 million above the food poverty line.”

This social relief of distress (SRD) grant was introduced as temporary relief for low- and no-income households who experienced financial hardship because of the COVID-19 national lockdown.

However, data from the most recent report by the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) shows that of the 9,537,077 SRD grant applications that were received only 6,449,916 were approved.

The state agency Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes an annual National Poverty Lines report. The latest Stats SA data on the number of people living below the food poverty line is from 2015. It estimates that 13.8 million people were living in extreme poverty that year. We thus rated his first claim unproven, and his second claim exaggerated.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/south-africas-covid-grant-reached-95-million-and-lifted-5-million-poverty>

2. Kenyan newspaper right that tax revenue rose ‘fastest’ under president Kenyatta, but context is key

In January 2022, Kenya’s Business Daily newspaper said that the amount of tax collected in the six months to 31 December 2021 had increased from KSh673.6 billion to KSh868.8 billion and this was a 28.98% increase compared to the same period in 2020, with the rise being at the “fastest pace” since president Uhuru Kenyatta took office in 2013.

Business Daily attributed the data to the country’s finance minister, Ukur Yatani. Africa check checked the data and the statements for all the first halves of the financial years from 2013/14 to 2021/22. We found that the data shows a steady rise in revenue. Only in 2020/21 was there a drop, which is attributed to the slump in economic activity due to Covid-19 lockdowns, and tax relief granted to soften the blow. We rated the claim correct.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/kenyan-newspaper-right-tax-revenue-rose-fastest-under-president-kenyatta>

3. Foreign nationals’ kids born in South Africa can be denied citizenship, but foreigners may work in government

While on an interview on Radio 702 in late January 2022. Dr Aaron Motsoaledi minister of home affairs claimed that South Africa is not obliged to grant citizenship to children born to foreign nationals in South Africa.

Radio 702 posted his comments in a tweet that was then quote-tweeted by another user. That user claimed that “the law says for anyone to serve at any gov spheres, they must be born in SA & both parents must be South African”.

According to the 1995 South African Citizenship Act, citizenship can be granted by birth, descent and naturalisation. People are automatically given citizenship at birth if they are born in South Africa and at least one of their parents is a South African citizen or if they were adopted by a South African citizen.

According to the Bill of Rights, chapter 2 of South Africa’s constitution, all citizens have the right to be elected for public office. Section 19 says: “Every adult citizen has the right … to stand for public office and, if elected, to hold office.”

After going through the documents and speaking to experts we rated the first claim as mostly correct and the second as incorrect.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/foreign-nationals-kids-born-south-africa-can-be-denied-citizenship-foreigners>

4. Verifying Nigeria ICT head’s claims about sector’s contribution to Nigeria’s economy before and during president Buhari’s term

For Nigeria to succeed in a digital 21st century it must adopt fifth generation - or 5G - network technology, according to Kashifu Abdullahi, the director general of the National Information Technology Development Agency (Nitda). Nitda is charged with developing the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in Africa’s largest and most populous economy.

Abdullahi was speaking to journalists in the northern city of Kano in January 2022. While highlighting the contribution of the ICT sector to the economy, he made a number of claims.

We looked at four claims and upon investigating these claims we rated one correct, one mostly correct and two incorrect.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/verifying-nigeria-ict-heads-claims-about-sectors-contribution-nigerias-economy>

5. Nigeria's education system 'dire'? Grading claims in Business Day editorial

To mark this year’s International Day of Education, Nigeria’s Business Day newspaper turned the spotlight on learning in the country.

In a largely scathing February 2022 editorial, the publication, which circulates in Nigeria and Ghana, made several claims, including claims about funding, attendances and the number of out-of-school children.

We fact-checked six of the claims and rated one correct, three mostly correct and two incorrect.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/nigerias-education-system-dire-grading-claims-business-day-editorial>

6. South Africa not Africa’s ‘most obese country’ – but comes close

In a 5 March 2022 interview on talk radio station 702, host Refiloe Mpakanyane discussed obesity in South Africa with Dr Fundile Nyati, chief executive of health advisory service Proactive Health Solutions. The headline quote from the interview was Nyati’s claim that South Africa is “the most obese country in Africa”.

We weighed the evidence and reached out to Nyati who told Africa Check he had made a “slip of the tongue, which sometimes happens in live radio communication”. He had meant to say that “South Africa is the most obese country in sub-Saharan Africa with Egypt and Morocco the only two ahead of it when we look at Africa as a whole.”Nyati told us his data was from the World Population Review’s ranking of the most obese countries in 2022.

Experts have previously told us that the WHO has the most reliable data on obesity across the world. So we asked the global health agency about the accuracy of the claim. We also consulted the Global Obesity. Based on this evidence, we rated the claim as incorrect.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/south-africa-not-africas-most-obese-country-comes-close>

7. Checking three claims by pro-Buhari group about outgoing Nigerian president’s record

Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari is set to step down in February 2023 after two four-year terms in office. His supporters have recently been at pains to play up his record.

One is the Buhari Media Organisation (BMO), which regularly publicises Buhari’s achievements and has had an audience with the president.

In April 2022 the group claimed during Buhari’s ruling All Progressives Congress had done more, with less time and money, than the previous administration. We examined three claims made by the BMO, about social protection and rice production under Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari’s government

Upon investigating these claims a range of ratings were made with one being mostly correct, one misleading, one exaggerated.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/checking-three-claims-pro-buhari-group-about-outgoing-nigerian-presidents>

8. Are South African IDs ‘no longer considered secure because of Nigerian smugglers’? We asked embassies

A Twitter account with more than 19,000 followers linked to Operation Dudula recently made a claim about the ability of South Africans to travel internationally.

“Our South African IDs are no longer considered Secure by Visa issuing authorities across the world due to many reports of Nigerian smugglers being arrested having used the RSA system to get that Visa,” the 28 March 2022 tweet read.

Africa check contacted the French, New Zealand and Australian embassies who all refuted the claim. We thus rated the claim as incorrect.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/are-south-african-ids-no-longer-considered-secure-because-nigerian-smugglers-we>

9. The last hurrah: Kenya’s president mangles the numbers in his final national day address – again

Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta gave his final address on a national holiday as the country marked 59 years of self-rule after colonialism on 1 June 2022.

In his speech, he made claims about county funding, diaspora remittances, internet and cellular penetration, education, the economy and revenue collection, and more.

We examine 13 of his claims and contacted Kanze Dena-Mararo, the president's spokesperson, and Andrew Wakahiu, who heads the president’s delivery unit, for the data used in the claims.

After fact-checking the claims, we rated One correct, one mostly correct, two understated, two misleading, one unproven, four incorrect and two exaggerated.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/last-hurrah-kenyas-president-mangles-numbers-his-final-national-day-address>

10. Ganjanomics: Fact-checking Kenyan presidential candidate George Wajackoyah’s marijuana agenda

In a June 2022 interview on Citizen TV, Kenya’s most watched broadcaster, residential candidate, George Wajackoyah outlined how marijuana revenue would pay off public debt. We fact-checked Nine claims he made that ranged from marijuana prices and production to its legality in different countries. We rated Four incorrect and five misleading.

<https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/ganjanomics-fact-checking-kenyan-presidential-candidate-george-wajackoyahs>