

WO KE

5 STORIES TO KEEP AN EYE ON IN 2022 #WOKE

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Census Curaçao 2022



The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) announced the launch of a pilot census that takes place between 11 November 2021 to 23 January 2022. The pilot research that will be held under 5000 households on the island is a preparation of the official census that will take place later in 2022.

The census is held every 10 years on the island of Curaçao and provides important demographic data that will be used for a variety of analyses for the government and relevant entities. The research consists of a questionnaire regarding education, health, working conditions and access to media, transport, water, and electricity.

The questionnaire will be mainly be conducted via online platforms, community centers and by telephone. The CBS shared that a letter will be delivered to all relevant addresses in Curaçao requesting residents to participate in the pilot research and to visit the website (senso.cbs.cw) for additional information and further instructions. In addition, the CBS stated that all collected information will be treated anonymously as indicated in the national statistic ordinance. Selected residents can visit community centers in Wishi/Marchena, Soto and Montaña until January 23rd to participate.

'OMICRON' leads the third year of the pandemic

2.



"Omicron" is the newest addition to the COVID-19 variant list. The aforementioned has been categorized by World Health Organization (WHO) as a variant of concern (COI) since it has several mutations that may have an impact. Thorough information regarding the effects of this new variant is very limited as it has

been recently detected. Researchers all over the world, especially in South Africa where the variant appears to be increasing in almost all provinces, are conducting studies to better understand the many aspects of the virus. Nevertheless, preliminary evidence suggests that people who have previously had COVID-19 could easily become reinfected with Omicron. Moreover, PCR tests remain essential to detecting COVID-19 and its variants. However, ongoing studies have yet to determine if the rapid antigen test is capable of detecting Omicron. Furthermore, with a booster vaccine shot in sight, the WHO is not able to confirm the potential impact of the vaccine. This has increased worldwide debates on the effectiveness of the vaccines. As the pandemic era enters its third year in 2022, many continue awaiting answers and solid information from WHO in order to finally control the wave of COVID-19 and its variants.

3.

Global Great Resignation



The Great resignation, also known as the "Big Quit" is an ongoing phenomenon where employees "voluntarily" leave their jobs as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The trend is touching everyone, from retail to hospitality sectors. New data from the US Labor Department indicates that a record of 4.3 million U.S. workers quit their jobs in August of 2021. The pandemic has been ongoing for so long that it has affected people both mentally and physically. All these experiences helped employees become more aware of their life, career, and jobs. Subsequently, they realize that they can change the narrative and demand - or look for- a better work environment. In addition, China is seeing its own version of the phenomenon as the younger generation of workers are more disenchanted by their prospects and turned off by the relatively low wages in the manufacturing centers that powered China's economic rise. Moreover, the U.N.'s International Labor Organization indicates that 26 million people lost their jobs in Latin America and the Caribbean due to the pandemic era shutdowns. These are jobs that are generally unstable, with low wages and without social protection or rights.



US abortion rights at stake

The future of the reproductive system in America is expected to become a central and defining issue in the next midterm elections. According to the landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), every pregnant woman has the liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. However, there's a Mississippi abortion law that is challenging the mentioned landmark decision. According to the Mississippi abortion law, abortions are illegal after 15 weeks of pregnancy, which is about two months earlier than what is allowed in the country. This law was created in 2018 by the Republican-dominated Mississippi legislature but didn't go into effect because of its conflict with Roe v. Wade and subsequent abortion decisions. In May 2020, the court finally agreed to hear the abortion law known as "Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization". If the court decides to overturn Roe, many Republican-controlled states will put laws into effect that would immediately make abortion unlawful. However, the court has till June 2022 to to make a decision in this case. .



The Future is cashless

5.

Besides accelerating the shift towards digital and contactless payments, the pandemic also led the society to a more mainstreamed acceptance of physical cash alternatives like cryptocurrency. Taking this into consideration, 85% of payments in Europe are made contactless. With this growth of contactless payments, money in physical form will mostly be gone in the next three decades. By then customers will pay with smartwatches, smartphones, and other wearable technologies. The effects of a cashless society can already be felt in countries such as the Netherlands and Australia where the removal of ATM machines by authorities has accelerated. It's known that the financial and tech sector are looking for ways to make payments faster, better and more secure. In addition, it has been predicted that the combination of cryptocurrency and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) will lead to the demise of cash money. The last mentioned is a digital system that records the transaction of assets in which the transactions and their details are saved and kept in multiple places at the same time. The Bahamas is the first island in the world to launch its "CBDC" project titled "Sand dollars".