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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

UN Great Lakes Envoy to Address Rwanda Role in DRC Crisis

Gabe Joselow/voanews.com/September 02, 2013

GOMA, DRC — The United Nations envoy to the Great Lakes region says she will be direct with Kigali about evidence of Rwandan support for the M23 rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Mary Robinson also hopes the recent military advances against the rebels will create a window for a political solution to the crisis

Robinson arrived Monday in Goma, the economic hub of eastern DRC, as part of a diplomatic tour of the region. Her visit follows nearly two weeks of fighting between Congolese armed forces and the M23 rebels on the outskirts of the city. She is due to attend a September 5 summit in Kampala of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region [ICGLR], which will bring together regional leaders to discuss the conflict.

Rwanda, a member of the conference, has been accused of supporting the M23 rebels, a group made

up of former rebel soldiers who defected from the Congolese army last year.

Direct talks

Speaking to reporters in Goma, Robinson said she is prepared to address the issue directly with Rwanda. "I do not say one thing in Goma and another thing in Rwanda. I say tough things, especially to people who need to hear those tough things directly. And I am prepared to speak very truthfully, but also to continue to engage with Rwanda, because that is my role and my responsibility," she said.

The U.N. Group of Experts has published evidence linking Rwanda to the rebels, and the United States has called on Kigali to end its support. Rwanda has repeatedly denied any ties to M23.

Other foreign envoys, including Boubacar Diarra of the African Union and Russ Feingold from the United States, are due to join Robinson on her tour of the region, which includes a stop in Rwanda.

MONUSCO muscle

A new U.N. intervention brigade, part of the U.N. peacekeeping force MONUSCO, was seen as being instrumental in helping the Congolese army push the rebels to beyond striking distance from Goma.

Robinson said she supports MONUSCO's aggressive operations, which she sees as having opened up a chance for dialogue.

"What I see as being valuable is that there is now potentially a window for the political discussions," she said.

Robinson also said she would like to see the renewal of the Kampala talks between the Congolese government and M23. Those talks fell apart as fighting intensified during the past few months.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Congo-Kinshasa: Uganda Convenes Meeting to Discuss Congo Crisis

By Moses Odokonyero/SudanTribune/2 September 2013

Kampala — Uganda has called an emergency meeting of the extraordinary summit of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to discuss the deteriorating security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The meeting scheduled for 5 September in Uganda's capital, Kampala, is expected to be attended by the 11 members of the ICGLR.

"Following the deteriorating situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in

the recent days resulting in the death and injury of peace keepers from the Force Intervention Brigade, Uganda, as chair of the ICGLR felt it was very urgent to convene an extraordinary summit on 5 September 2013 composed of 11 member states", read a statement released on Saturday by Uganda's ministry of foreign affairs.

The statement said the ICGLR meeting is an attempt by member states to bring parties in the conflict to the round table for a lasting peace in not only the DRC but also the Great Lakes region as a whole.

Last week witnessed fierce fighting between the M23 rebels and the DRC army supported by a UN brigade mandated to use force.

The United Nations and the DRC accuse Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebels. Rwanda denies the charge, saying lawless eastern Congo is used as a haven for rebels fighting the Kigali government.

Uganda on the other hand is fearful of a further influx of Congolese refugees putting its already strained public facilities under even more pressure. In July, 67,000 Congolese fled into Uganda following outbreak of violence in eastern Congo prompting Uganda's foreign ministry to say it was "alarmed by the influx".

Despite the rebels announcing a ceasefire on Friday last week, media reports say there was renewed fighting in eastern Congo over the weekend.

A UN brigade, which has been fighting alongside the Congolese army, says it was not involved in the weekend fighting.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South African miners to stage walkouts over layoffs, living conditions

Tue Sep 3, 2013/presstv.ir

The General-Secretary of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) says members of the group are set to stage walkouts over layoffs and living conditions.

On Monday, Frans Baleni said that the industrial action will begin on Tuesday.

"The strike ignited because the employers failed to respond to the reasonable demands submitted by the National Union of Mineworkers on behalf of its workers, among others, it is the recognition of the difficult underground environment, it cannot be compared with the hospitality industry," he said.

"What the employers are offering is six percent and 6.5 percent, which is below the inflation in some instances. Our members are saying even if we do not strike, we are still going to be laid-off, so there is no point in not fighting for a living wage rather than say let us give in," Baleni added.

Baleni made the remarks after the world's biggest platinum producer, Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), announced that it would cut thousands of jobs in South Africa to save approximately USD 400 million annually.

South Africa's mining sector has been paralyzed by a series of wildcat strikes over miners' low pay

since August, 2012. Dozens of people have so far been killed in the strike-related violence.

In February 2013, South African security guards shot dead mineworkers outside Amplats Siphumelele mine in the northwestern city of Rustenburg following a clash between rival union factions.

In June, South African President Jacob Zuma called for dialogue among all stakeholders in the mining sector, saying, "All stakeholders, government, management in the mining sector, trade union movement in particular, should talk and find a way to deal with this matter."

The South African president went on to say that the stakeholders have the capacity to discuss and agree about the problems, including strikes and deadly clashes faced by the mining industry.

MAM/AB/MHB

TANZANIA :

Thousands deported from Tanzania to Rwanda

2 September 2013/bbc.co.uk

Thousands of Rwandans who have been living in Tanzania for most, if not all their lives, are being forced to flee their homes.

A month ago Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete ordered the expulsion of "illegal immigrants" and "criminals", amid heightening diplomatic tension with the Rwandan government over the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Many are now living in camps and say they were unfairly targeted because of a diplomatic row between the neighbouring countries.

Catherine Byaruhanga reports.

Tanzania: Rwanda Stifles Dar Port More

By Alvar Mwakyusa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/3 September 2013

IN an apparent move to stifle the port of Dar es Salaam and central transport corridor as a whole in favour of northern route through Mombasa port in Kenya, the government of Rwanda has increased road toll for Tanzanian trucks from USD 152 to USD 500.

At first, Rwanda used to charge a road toll (or otherwise known as user transit charge) of USD 16 per 100km before it introduced a flat rate of USD 152 and eventually the new rate which became effective on September 1, this year. The 228 per cent increment has been slapped on Tanzanian trucks transporting goods from Dar es Salaam through the Rusumo border post to Kigali in Rwanda. Kigali is just 139-km from Rusumo.

In reality, Tanzania is the shortest and affordable transport corridor for Kigali at a distance of just 1,350km compared to over 2,700km when goods are transported through Mombasa. "As we speak there are about 200 trucks which are stuck at the Rusumo border post and we expect the number to

increase," the Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATAO)'s Treasurer and Publicist Zachariah Hans Poppe told the 'Daily News' in a telephone interview yesterday.

Mr Poppe complained that the truck owners were unable to pay the new rates as they were just informed of the increment last week. "The new rates are unjustifiable. Whether they like it or not Dar es Salaam will always remain the shortest and affordable route. We are now communicating with our government on the way forward," Mr Poppe said.

Former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of East African Cooperation, Dr Stergomena Tax, said the new rates are just a ploy of undermining the port of Dar es Salaam. "Dar es Salaam port has of late been doing very well compared to Mombasa. The new development is just meant to weaken the central corridor," Dr Tax, who is now Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said.

In a telephone interview from Gaborone, Botswana, Dr Tax said since Rwanda joined the East African Community (EAC), it has been raising many issues to suggest that the central corridor is expensive and yet the reverse is true.

Tanzania charges USD 16 for 100km for trucks (axle load 4 and above) while smaller vehicles (axle load 2-3) have been attracting a road toll of just USD 6 for 100km. At present, there is no uniform road toll in the whole of East African region. Reached for comments, Deputy Minister for Transport, Dr Charles Tizeba, said the government of Tanzania was yet to be informed officially of the new development.

"Nevertheless, we have received complaints from truck owners regarding the new development. An assessment on impact of the increment along the transport corridor is underway," Dr Tizeba said.

He admitted, however, that the new rates would render the Dar es Salaam port and the central corridor uncompetitive as compared to its northern counterpart of Mombasa. The Deputy Minister hinted also that the officials from Rwanda had during the recent Ministerial Council of the EAC complained of what they described as higher charges in Tanzania.

"I elaborated to them of criteria we use to charge the trucks and also the fact that we are the one supposed to maintain the roads on which the goods are transported," Dr Tizeba said.

It is believed, however, that harmonizing axle load in the region to 56 tonnes will eventually lead to harmonized road toll among member states of the regional bloc. As Rwanda increases the road toll, sources within the government of Tanzania have hinted that the country may lower the rates to USD 8 per 100km as it has been proposed by SADC.

KENYA :

Kenya: Uhuru to Raila - Help Solve Problems or Shut Up
By Kazungu Chai/Capital FM (Nairobi)/2 September 2013

Kwale — President Uhuru Kenyatta has told former Prime Minister Raila Odinga to join him in solving the land problem in the country or shut up.

He said if issuing title deeds and resolving the age-old land problem in the country was tantamount

to doing a clerical job, he was ready to continue doing it until the problem is solved permanently.

"Those who are not ready to serve Kenyans should shut up and allow us to improve the lives of Kenyans," President Kenyatta said.

The President spoke on Monday in Kwale town when he issued title deeds to land owners in the county.

President Kenyatta said the Jubilee Coalition pledged to find a lasting solution to the land problem and no amount of disruption will derail those efforts.

"We are here to fulfil the promise of ensuring Kenyans get title deeds for their land. Our determination to serve all the 40 million Kenyans without discrimination will not be disrupted," the President told Kwale residents.

Echoing the President's sentiments, Deputy President William Ruto asked the former Prime Minister to stop politicizing the land issue and instead support the Government in the noble initiative of issuing title deeds.

The Deputy President said issuing title deeds to enable Kenyans benefit from their land is part of the Jubilee Manifesto and the Government will continue with the exercise until it achieves its target of issuing three million title deeds.

He regretted that people who were not willing to resolve the land problem when they were in office were now criticizing the exercise.

"These are people who are trying to salvage their diminishing political fortunes," the Deputy President said.

On youth empowerment, President Kenyatta said issuance of title deeds was part of Government's effort to empower the youth. He cautioned them against associating with outlawed groups, saying those who will not stop illegal activities will meet the full force of the law.

"We are issuing these title deeds because we know they will unleash our country's potential. The title deeds can be used to get loans from banks to initiate income generating activities that will empower people," the President said.

He said his Government is also set to address challenges facing Kwale County, including the human-wildlife conflict and improvement of roads and the Ukunda airstrip.

Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya assured the President and Deputy President Ruto of Kwale leaders' support, saying elections are over and unity will ensure Kenyans receive good services.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Sénégal: le nouveau gouvernement est en place

2013-09-03/cri/Radio Chine Internationale

Le nouveau Premier ministre du Sénégal, Aminata Touré, a déterminé mardi 2 septembre la liste des nouveaux membres du gouvernement, selon une annonce officielle.

Le nouveau gouvernement est composé de 31 ministres et d'un représentant au niveau ministériel, dont cinq femmes. La plupart des membres du précédent gouvernement sont présents au sein de la nouvelle équipe. Le président sénégalais Macky Sall a destitué le 1er septembre dernier l'ancien Premier ministre Abdoul Mbaya et a dissous son gouvernement.

L'ancien ministre de la Justice, Aminata Touré, a ensuite été nommée Premier ministre et était chargée de la formation du nouveau gouvernement.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA /AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF , CE 03 Septembre 2013 ... AGNEWS/DAM , NY , 03/09/2013