



[The body of Rwanda's former spy chief has been found, possibly strangled, in a hotel in South Africa, police said Thursday. Rwandan dissidents accused President Paul Kagame of ordering his assassination. The suspicious death of Patrick Karegeya, a former Kagame ally who turned against him, follows a pattern of assassinations ordered by the Rwandan president, said Theogene Rudasingwa of the opposition coalition Rwandan National Congress. Kagame's government vehemently denies it has targeted dissidents.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Air Burundi face à d'énormes difficultés pour faire décoller ses avions

(Xinhua)/03.01.2014

La compagnie Air Burundi éprouve depuis 2009 d'énormes difficultés à faire décoller ses avions pour des raisons commerciales et règlementaires, a affirmé mercredi aux sénateurs burundais, Déogratias Rurimunzu, ministre des Transports, des Travaux Publics et de l'Équipement.

Il a indiqué qu'au niveau des raisons économiques, la compagnie Air Burundi utilisait un avion Beech Kraft 1900 et qu'au moment où l'avion devrait subir une révision, les difficultés financières n'ont pas permis que celui-ci soit envoyé en Afrique du Sud où devrait se faire la révision pour cause du coût élevé d'un milliard de Fbu (plus de 6 millions de dollars).

En ce qui concerne les raisons économiques, il a fait savoir que la compagnie Air Burundi volait sur base d'une ordonnance ministérielle et que cela est contraire à la Convention de Chicago que le Burundi a ratifié. En outre, le code aéronautique de 2001 ne donnait pas le pouvoir à l'ancienne régie des services aéronautiques de certifier un exploitant aérien.

Outre les textes règlementaires, ajoute-t-il, la certification d'une compagnie aérienne suppose la disponibilité du personnel qualifié et reconnu par l'Organisation de l'Aviation Civile Internationale comme ayant des compétences requises pour la certification.

"Le Burundi ne dispose pas de ce personnel qui revêt un caractère de rareté non seulement au Burundi, mais aussi au niveau international", explique Déogratias Rurimunzu.

En outre, explique encore le ministre, les inspecteurs dont dispose le Burundi pour la certification de la Compagnie Air Burundi doivent être qualifiés sur l'avion du type MA60.

"Aujourd'hui, le Burundi a déjà relancé les procédures pour l'acquisition de ces inspecteurs et la procédure de la certification pourra bientôt commencer et cette procédure concerne aussi bien la compagnie que l'avion du type et marque MA60", a tranquilisé le ministre les sénateurs.

Le ministre Déogratias Rurimunzu s'est expliqué au moment où il était devant les sénateurs pour exposer les motifs concernant l'analyse d'un projet de loi portant ratification de l'Accord bilatéral sur les services aériens entre le gouvernement du Burundi et le gouvernement de la République Unie de Tanzanie.

Ce projet de loi a été adopté à l'unanimité.

Burundi : l'association des consommateurs déplore la hausse des prix des denrées lors des fêtes de fin

French.china.org.cn/ le 03-01-2014

L'Association Burundaise des Consommateurs (ABUCO) déplore la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires de première nécessité observée à l'occasion des fêtes de fin 2013, a indiqué jeudi à Xinhua Noël Nkurunziza, président et représentant légal de cette ASBL burundaise.

M. Nkurunziza a précisé que cette pratique a été notamment l'oeuvre de certains commerçants qui se sont adonnés à des manoeuvres spéculatives. La spéculation, a-t-il ajouté, a été relevée spécialement sur le petit pois, le riz, les viandes fraîches et certaines légumes, pour lesquelles on a observé une montée des prix de l'ordre de 10% par rapport à ceux pratiqués auparavant.

"Mais de façon générale, je dirais que les disparités déjà au niveau des couches de l'ensemble des consommateurs burundais sont restées les mêmes. C'est-à-dire que les plus pauvres ont célébré les fêtes dans des conditions déplorables et minables, tandis que les plus nantis ont festoyé comme d'habitude. Par rapport à l'année dernière, on peut affirmer que beaucoup de personnes n'ont pas célébré ces fêtes à cause de la modicité des moyens d'une immense majorité des consommateurs. Cela a fait qu'en dehors d'aller à la messe, de nombreuses personnes ont vu la Noël et le nouvel an comme des jours ordinaires", a affirmé M. Nkurunziza.

Pour réduire ces disparités observées au Burundi, M. Nkurunziza a estimé que la solution durable réside au niveau de la création et de la multiplication des créneaux porteurs pour l'emploi.

Il a plaidé pour la multiplication des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (PME).

M. Nkurunziza a salué les initiatives en cours au sein du ministère burundais de l'Agriculture en faveur de l'encadrement de l'agriculteur depuis la semence, la production et la conservation de la récolte.

"Cela pourrait permettre de rompre le cercle vicieux où l'on observe d'une part des périodes où les produits vivriers sont abondants sur le marché et d'autre part des périodes creuses où on trouve qu'il n'y a rien", a-t-il fait remarquer.

L' ABUCO encourage les autorités du ministère de l'Agriculture à renforcer l'encadrement des producteurs agricoles en leur procurant des moyens techniques et mêmes financiers pour augmenter la production, mais aussi pour leur permettre de bien conserver l' excédent des récoltes au lieu de les vendre à vil prix sur le marché.

Citant les rapports des antennes de l'ABUCO dans les provinces, M. Nkurunziza a indiqué que la situation s'est empirée depuis juin dernier après la réintroduction de la taxe sur une dizaine de produits vivriers.

Suite à l'augmentation des taxes pour les denrées alimentaires de première nécessité, a dit M. Nkurunziza, "cela a fait que les consommateurs ne se bousculaient pas sur les marchés lors des fêtes de fin 2013".

L'ABUCO demande au gouvernement d'alléger les taxes appliquées aux denrées alimentaires de première nécessité, a dit M. Nkurunziza, estimant que la révision des taxes doit être menée dans l'esprit d'éviter que ces dernières ne soient pas perçues comme une façon de "punir le faible consommateur à faible moyen", a-t-il proposé. Fin

RWANDA :

Rwandan leader accused in killing of ex-spy chief

Raul Faure and Michelle Faul , Associated Press/January 2, 2014

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The body of Rwanda's former spy chief has been found, possibly strangled, in a hotel in South Africa, police said Thursday. Rwandan dissidents accused President Paul Kagame of ordering his assassination.

The suspicious death of Patrick Karegeya, a former Kagame ally who turned against him, follows a pattern of assassinations ordered by the Rwandan president, said Theogene Rudasingwa of the opposition coalition Rwandan National Congress. Kagame's government vehemently denies it has targeted dissidents.

Karegeya's body was discovered in a room at Johannesburg's plush Michelangelo Towers hotel on New Year's Day, and many questions remain unanswered in a country with a high crime rate.

"He was found in the hotel room dead on the bed," said a statement from South African police

spokeswoman Lt. Col. Katlego Mogale. "A towel with blood and a rope were found in the hotel room safe. There is a possibility that he might have been strangled." She said a murder investigation has been opened in the death of the 53-year-old who reportedly fled to South Africa in 2007.

Rwandan High Commissioner Vincent Karega told local broadcaster eNCA that talk of assassination is an "emotional reaction and opportunistic way of playing politics." He urged people to wait for a report from the South African police.

Gunmen twice tried to kill Kagame's former chief of army staff, Lt. Gen. Kayumba Nyamwasa, while he was living in exile in Johannesburg in 2010. Nyamwasa told The Associated Press in 2012 that Kagame has hunted him and other dissidents around the world, "using hired killer squads."

Karegeya, the former Rwandan intelligence boss, said in a conversation on Nov. 30 with an AP journalist that he understood that his organizing of opposition to Kagame was risky and could cost him his life. Karegeya said his family was being persecuted: his daughter's Rwandan passport was revoked on Kagame's orders while she was trying to leave Uganda, where she grew up in exile, and his own quest for work with the United Nations had been obstructed by Kagame.

Kagame's spokesman and Rwanda's foreign minister could not be reached by telephone and did not immediately respond to email requests for comment.

Rwandan exiles from the president's Tutsi tribe say British, U.S. and Belgian law enforcers have frequently warned them that their government is plotting to kill them. Two British legislators called for Britain to review its relationship with Rwanda in 2011 when they said a Scotland Yard investigation led to the deportation of an alleged Rwandan assassin trying to enter Britain. Two Rwandan exiles said they received warnings from Scotland Yard that the Rwandan government posed an "imminent threat" to their lives.

Kagame's government issued a statement then saying, "Never does the government of Rwanda threaten the lives of its citizens, nor use violence against its people, wherever they live."

In 2012, Sweden and Belgium both deported Rwandan diplomats, Sweden for spying on Rwandan refugees, and Belgium for activities inconsistent with his diplomatic status.

Kagame has long been accused of extra-territorial killings, including ones committed when Karegeya was the feared boss of Rwanda's external security agency.

In 1996, former Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga and businessman Augustin Bugirimfura were gunned down in Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya detained a Rwandan diplomat briefly then released him under pressure from Kagame. Also in Nairobi, legislator and former government intelligence chief Theoneste Lizinde was assassinated in 1998. In 2000, presidential adviser Assiel Kabera was shot dead in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, reportedly by men in military uniform.

"By killing its opponents, the criminal regime in Kigali seeks to intimidate and silence the Rwandan people into submission," said an opposition statement signed by Rudasingwa, a former Rwandan ambassador to the United States. "The regime is hugely mistaken. Such criminal activities make Rwandan people more emboldened to struggle to remove the dictatorship."

Karegeya and Nyamwasa are among four top former Rwandan army officers, all from Kagame's minority Tutsi tribe, who formed an opposition party in exile in 2010. They had fought with

Kagame in the Ugandan rebel movement that brought Yoweri Museveni to power in 1986 in Uganda, which is next to Rwanda. Kagame was Museveni's intelligence chief and Karegeya was his lieutenant.

Museveni then allowed them bases and training to form their own Tutsi rebel movement. Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front came to power in 1994 when it ended Rwanda's genocide in which some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

Kagame's supporters, including the United States and Britain, point to his development achievements. Today, Rwanda has some of the best health, literacy and education rates on the continent and is a technology hub. But Rudasingwa said the international community has turned a blind eye to the assassinations and other crimes.

Rudasingwa and others have said Kagame ordered the 1994 shooting down of the aircraft carrying the Hutu presidents of Rwanda and neighboring Burundi, an act that ignited the genocide.

A U.N. report published in 2010 noted that Kagame refused to have peace talks as thousands of mainly Tutsi Rwandans were being killed, buying the time that allowed his forces to reach Kigali and take control. The same report, which carries a denial from Kagame's government, accuses the Rwandan-led forces of "a possible genocide" of Rwandan and Congolese Hutus in eastern Congo in the mid-1990s.

Among questions the writers of the report raised is what role may have been played by the U.S. military, which was training Kagame's army. Kagame was trained in U.S. military academies while he was a rebel leader, and his son has been trained in the U.S. since.

Rudasingwa, asked by the AP about the complicity of Kagame's former allies in the mass killings, did not deny responsibility but said: "Look at the human rights abuses he (Kagame) has committed since 1994. Why has he, including myself and Patrick Karegeya and all of us, why ... wouldn't the international community call all of us to account?"

He added that "We don't fear justice."

Rudasingwa said he long has warned the United States, Britain and other Kagame supporters that their efforts to bring peace to eastern Congo will be for naught unless they address the problems in Rwanda. Most recently, Kagame has denied a U.N. report that his government has trained and supplied M23 rebels in eastern Congo.

Rudasingwa said international support for Kagame is helping "to put Rwanda on a course for another bloody conflict but the international community appears to not be interested in preventing another bloodbath in Rwanda."

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzanian finance minister dies in S.A.

Date: Jan 03, 2014/newvision

JOHANNESBURG - Tanzania's finance minister William Mgimwa has died of natural causes at a Pretoria hospital, the South African government said Thursday.

He died on New Year's day after undergoing treatment for an unnamed illness, the treasury said in a statement.

Mgimwa had spearheaded rapidly growing Tanzania's drive to tap global bond markets to fund investment and tackle poverty.

He had masterminded a maiden eurobond worth as much as \$1 billion -- although the project remains unfulfilled as the country waits for a credit rating and battles a weaker-than-expected fiscal position.

Mgimwa would have been 64 this month.

He was a veteran of Tanzania's National Bank of Commerce, where he rose from accountant to director, according to his parliamentary biography.

He was elected to parliament in 2010 and appointed minister of finance in 2012.

In a statement Mgimwa's South African counterpart Pravin Gordhan described him as a someone who "keenly appreciated the importance for African countries to strengthen their economies" in order to ensure stability and attract investment.

The economy of Tanzania, a country of 48 million people, is expected to grow at around 7.2 percent this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Tanzania to Resume Anti-Poaching Operation

2 January 2014/Sabahi (Washington, DC)

Tanzania will resume its suspended controversial anti-poaching operations, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete announced in a televised address Tuesday (December 31st).

The operation was suspended in November after pastoralists said they suffered human rights abuses

at the hands of the anti-poaching forces. Figures released last week indicated that the number of elephants killed spiked after the suspension of the operation.

Kikwete said he would launch a commission to investigate the alleged abuses committed in the first phase of the operation in order to prevent further violence against pastoralists in the renewed campaign, Tanzania's Daily News reported. Four ministers have already been sacked over the abuses.

"It is important to do this so that justice is served," he said. "The tendency of the burden of mistakes committed by junior public officers, to be carried by political leaders personally, with no direct role, is not right."

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Lazaro Nyalandu said the government was preparing a draft legislation to form a wildlife authority, now under parliamentary review, according to Tanzania's The Guardian.

KENYA :

'Terrorist' grenade attack at popular Kenyan nightclub wounds at least 10 people

By Joseph Akwiri and George Obulutsa, Reuters/02012014

MOMBASA, Kenya -- A grenade attack on a popular nightclub outside the coastal Kenyan city of Mombasa wounded at least 10 people early on Thursday, police said.

The incident occurred at 3:30 a.m. (7:30 p.m. ET Wednesday) at a nightclub frequented by tourists in Diani some 15 miles outside Mombasa, they said. It resembled explosions in 2012 and 2013 that were blamed on Somali militants.

"The club was busy with New Year revelers. Three people appeared from the other side of the road and threw a grenade at the nightclub which (the grenade) exploded injuring 10 people. The attackers escaped on a motor bike," Jack Ekakuro, Kwale area police chief told journalists at the scene.

"It cannot be anything else but a terrorist attack. A grenade is a not a (corn) cob that any village boy can handle and throw around at will."

Ekakuro did not say who was behind the attack, but the government has in the past put the blame on Somalia's al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab insurgents, who have demanded the withdrawal of Kenyan troops who have joined African peacekeepers fighting the group in Somalia.

Kenya's coast is dependent on tourism and has been plagued by attacks blamed on Islamist militants and their sympathizers.

In September, al Shabaab gunmen attacked a Nairobi shopping mall, killing at least 67 civilians in the country's worst incident since the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy that killed more than 200 people.

Kenya Airways Limited : Four Kenyans Dead As South Sudan Evacuation Ends

01/03/2014/4-traders.com

The government says that four Kenyans have been killed so far in South Sudan following a coup attempt on December 16, 2013.

The Foreign Affairs and International Trade Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho says three of them who are Muslims have already been buried and only one body will be brought back to the country for interment.

"We have lost four Kenyans three of whom are Muslims and have been buried already and there is one in Bor which is a hot spot at the moment but as soon as we get clearance we will make sure that that body is brought back home for burial," Kibicho assured.

He urged Kenyans in the Diaspora to take responsibility of their own lives pointing out that some of the Kenyans who died went outside camps to look for merchandise to sell to those in the camps.

Kibicho says evacuation operations will be completed on Friday with two Kenya Defence Forces flights evacuating 84 Kenyans willing to return home.

"We have two Kenya Defence Force (KDF) flights tomorrow to airlift the 84 Kenyans who have remained. Thereafter we will close shop. So far about 3,000 Kenyans have been evacuated," he said.

He said a further 7,000 Kenyans still remain in South Sudan, with many unwilling to leave their businesses and a majority in areas with no immediate security threats.

He also says that Kenya Airways has resumed commercial flights and all buses on the Juba-Kampala-Nairobi route are also back in business.

"The Kenyan Embassy in Juba will continue to closely monitor the situation with an eye for ensuring that any small pockets of Kenyans still seeking to leave for safety are assisted," he said.

He says the security situation in Juba is calm though tension is still high in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity States as negotiations are expected to begin to end the conflict.

The negotiations will be spearheaded by IGAD special envoys that include General Lazarus Sumbeiywo and Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin.

"The Kenyan government has also added its resources and four experienced experts to help in ensuring that they are a success," he said.

The violence has killed over a 1,000 civilians and displaced at least 200,000 blocking normal trade and causing shortages of food and medicine to areas with conflict.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Le ministre égyptien de l'Intérieur tient les Frères musulmans et le Hamas pour responsable des récentes violences

(Xinhua)/03.01.2014

Le ministre égyptien de l'Intérieur Mohamed Ibrahim a accusé jeudi les Frères musulmans et le mouvement islamique palestinien du Hamas d'être responsable des récentes attaques terroristes en Egypte.

"Les premières enquêtes ont prouvé l'implication du groupe terroriste des Frères musulmans dans les récents actes de violence," a expliqué Ibrahim lors d'une conférence de presse.

Il a indiqué que le groupe avait établi des liens avec le Hamas, qui lui offre entraînement militaire et soutien logistique. Il a en particulier noté que le Hamas avait offert son soutien aux responsables de la récente attaque contre le quartier général du service de sécurité dans la province de Daqahliya, au nord du Caire, qui a tué 16 personnes et en a blessé plus de 130.

Le ministre a poursuivi en précisant que certains terroristes impliqués dans l'attaque terroriste de Daqahliya avaient été arrêtés.

Il a ajouté que Amer Mosad Abdel-Hamid, membre des Frères musulmans arrêté à Daqahliya avec une mitrailleuse en sa possession, a reconnu qu'il avait reçu un entraînement militaire à Gaza avec certains autres membres du groupe.

Abdel-Hamid a révélé que lui et d'autres membres du groupe étaient responsables d'autres violentes attaques en Egypte.

Ibrahim a appelé les Egyptiens à descendre dans la rue le 25 janvier pour célébrer l'anniversaire du soulèvement de 2011 afin de faire échec aux tentatives des Frères musulmans de gâcher cette occasion.

Le gouvernement a récemment déclaré les Frères musulmans en tant que "groupe terroriste", au lendemain de l'explosion de Daqahliya, arrêtant des centaines de membres et affiliés, en plus des milliers qui ont déjà été arrêtés depuis l'éviction de l'ancien président Mohamed Morsi début juillet.

Mohamed Morsi devant ses juges le 28 janvier

vendredi 03 janvier 2014/lavenir.net

Égypte Le président égyptien Mohamed Morsi destitué par l'armée sera jugé le 28 janvier avec 130 coaccusés, dont des membres du Hamas palestinien et du Hezbollah libanais, pour évasion de prison durant la révolte de 2011, a-t-on appris jeudi de sources judiciaires.

M. Morsi, premier président élu démocratiquement en Égypte en juin 2012 et destitué un an plus tard est actuellement poursuivi dans trois affaires. Outre les attaques contre des prisons et son évasion début 2011, il doit répondre de complicité de meurtres de manifestants lorsqu'il était au pouvoir, et sera aussi jugé pour «espionnage» en vue de mener des «actions terroristes» impliquant

le Hamas et des groupes jihadistes.

UN/AFRICA :

Children beheaded as violence grows in Central African Republic, U.N. says

By Faith Karimi, CNN/January 3, 2014

(CNN) -- Escalating violence in the Central African Republic is posing a threat to children, with at least two beheaded and thousands recruited as soldiers, the United Nations said.

The United Nations says it verified the deaths of 16 children since violence broke out in the capital of Bangui on December 5. Dozens of others have been injured.

"We are witnessing unprecedented levels of violence against children. More and more children are being recruited into armed groups, and they are also being directly targeted in atrocious revenge attacks," said Souleymane Diabate, UNICEF representative in the nation.

Number of child soldiers doubles

Late last year, the U.N. said the number of child soldiers in the nation had doubled to 6,000 as violence escalated.

"Targeted attacks against children are a violation of international humanitarian and human rights law and must stop immediately. Concrete action is needed now to prevent violence against children," Diabate said.

In the capital, 370,000 people -- about half the population -- have been displaced, the United Nations said.

A total of 785,000 people have been internally displaced nationwide since violence erupted in March.

Chaos, violence

The nation plunged into chaos after a coalition of rebels named Seleka ousted President Francois Bozize in March, the latest in a series of coups since the nation gained independence.

They accused him of reneging on a peace deal and demanded that he step down. Months before his ouster, both sides had brokered a deal to form a unity government led by the President.

But that deal fell apart as the rebel coalition pushed its way from the north toward the capital of Bangui, seizing towns along the way.

Rebels infiltrated the capital in March, sending Bozize fleeing to Cameroon.

Fears of genocide

Since then, political turmoil raged and violence became the order of the day. Seleka is a predominantly Muslim coalition, and to counter the attacks, vigilante Christian groups fought back. The country descended into anarchy, and the United Nations has warned that a genocide is brewing.

Aid agencies have warned of a humanitarian crisis as rapes, killings and other horrors grow in the nation. An unknown number of people have been killed in remote rural areas that are too risky to access. Others have fled into forests.

Aid agency Doctors Without Borders said Thursday it will reduce medical activities at the airport in the capital because of insecurity.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

VIDEOS. Cyclone à la Réunion : mort d'une octogénaire, l'alerte rouge levée
le 03.01.2014/LeParisien.fr

Le cyclone tropical Bejisa qui a fait une victime, une octogénaire (86 ans) de Saint-Leu et 15 blessés dont 2 graves, commence à s'éloigner de l'île de la Réunion où l'alerte rouge vient d'être levée ce vendredi matin, selon la préfecture. La victime est une femme du quartier Python-Saint-Leu qui serait sortie trop vite de sa maison et aurait fait une mauvaise chute.

A 7 heures locales (4 heures à Paris) ce vendredi, le cyclone tropical se situait à 125 km du sud de l'île et continuait de s'éloigner vers le sud-est à 11 km/h après avoir longé la côte ouest jeudi où des rafales de vents de plus de 150 km/h ont été enregistrées sur plusieurs communes.

En fin d'après-midi jeudi, ce puissant cyclone a frôlé la côte ouest de l'île où 15 personnes ont été blessées dont deux grièvement l'une en chutant d'un toit et l'autre d'une échelle. Treize autres ont été légèrement touchées. La plupart des victimes n'avaient pas respecté les consignes de l'alerte rouge qui interdit formellement de sortir de son domicile. Le préfet Jean-Luc Marx a regretté une «forme d'imprudence ou d'inconscience».

Des vents à 150 km/h et de très fortes précipitations

L'épisode, qui s'est abattu sur l'île un an quasiment jour pour jour après le cyclone Dumile, a provoqué des dégâts. De nombreuses habitations ont été touchées ainsi que les réseaux routier et électrique, a indiqué la préfecture qui a rappelé que «la situation reste très sensible».

L'oeil du cyclone est passé à proximité immédiate de l'île en fin d'après-midi, longeant la côte ouest, à une quinzaine de kilomètres au large pour se diriger vers le sud, provoquant des pluies abondantes et des rafales de vent extrêmement violentes, qui ont atteint 151 km/h à Petite France (ouest de l'île) selon Météo-France Réunion.

«Le vent a soufflé d'un coup, et en deux secondes, mon toit s'est envolé», a confié une vieille femme, habitant à Saint-André (côte est).

Des dizaines d'habitations en bois sous tôle ont perdu leur toit ou ont été inondées par la montée des eaux. A Cilaos, sur les hauteurs du sud de l'île, 600 mm (600 litres/m²) sont tombés en 24 heures, 800 mm ont été enregistrés au volcan.

175 000 foyers sans électricité

Quelque 175.000 foyers étaient encore privés d'électricité ce vendredi au lever du jour dont 100.000 dans le sud de l'île, selon EDF, suite à des ruptures de lignes. Près du quart de la population de l'île, soit environ 200.000 habitants, a subi des coupures d'eau, selon la préfecture.

Le réseau routier, jonché d'arbres déracinés, de fils électriques, de branchages ou submergé par les eaux, était impraticable dans de nombreuses communes, principalement dans l'ouest.

L'impressionnante houle cyclonique qui a déferlé sur le littoral ouest, faisant craindre le pire pour les habitations situées près de la mer, a entraîné l'évacuation de quelques dizaines de personnes à Saint-Paul (plus de 100.000 habitants). «Soudain, j'ai vu une vague entrer dans la maison. J'ai préféré partir par précaution» a confié un habitant du littoral.

«Près d'une centaine de personnes ont dû être prises en charge en raison de la montée de l'Etang Saint-Paul dans lequel se déversent 14 ravines» a expliqué la députée-maire de Saint-Paul Huguette Bello. Elle a jugé "très importants" les dégâts causés à l'agriculture.

Sur la commune voisine de Saint-Leu, où le député-maire Thierry Robert avait appelé la population à évacuer le littoral, une cinquantaine de personnes ont été hébergées dans les centres de secours. Dans le sud, environ 250 personnes ont été accueillies dans des centres d'hébergement.

Les compagnies Corsair et Air Austral ont annoncé le maintien de leur vol au départ de Paris jeudi soir, pour des arrivées prévues vendredi en fin de matinée sur l'île.

LeParisien.fr

CHINA/AFRICA :

Chinese foreign minister to visit Africa

2014-01-03 / Xinhua /Web Editor: Mo Hong'e

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit Ethiopia, Djibouti, Ghana and Senegal from Jan. 6 to 11, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a daily press briefing on Thursday.

Choosing Africa as the destination of the foreign minister's first visit in the new year shows how China values Africa, said Qin.

He added that it has been a tradition since 1991 for Chinese foreign ministers to first visit Africa every new year.

"It is also the first visit paid by the foreign minister to sub-Saharan Africa since China's new administration took office," Qin said.

China believes the visit will deepen state-to-state friendship, mutual trust and cooperation, and boost Sino-African friendship of cooperation, Qin said.

Wang is invited by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tewodros Adhanom, Djibouti's Foreign Minister Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Ghana's Foreign Minister Hannah Tetteh and Senegal's Foreign Minister Mankeur Ndiaye.

Africa: 2013 Witnessed Fruitful Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Africa With New Bright Spots Keeping Cropping Up

2 January 2014/Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing)/allafrica.com

CRI Online (correspondents: Wang Yu, Xie Yi and Li Chunguang): In 2013, despite continuous global economic sluggishness, China and Africa continued a sound momentum of growth in their economic and trade relations. The two sides now enjoy a more solid foundation and show a stronger will for cooperation, and new bright spots keep emerging in the process.

In 2013, there were frequent exchanges of high-level visits between China and Africa. The Chinese President Xi Jinping chose African continent as one of the destinations in his maiden foreign trip after assuming the presidency in March. When visiting Tanzania, he promised that China would continue to facilitate Africa's development, "China will strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with African countries in the fields such as agriculture and manufacturing, and help African countries to translate their advantages in resources into development advantages so as to achieve internally-driven development and sustainable development."

Apart from President Xi Jinping, Chairman Zhang Dejiang of the National People's Congress, Vice-Premier Liu Yandong and Vice-Premier Wang Yang also paid respective visits to Africa. On the African part, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Zambian President Michael Sata and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn visited China on different occasions. Through the exchange of visits, China and Africa have consolidated their traditional friendship and strengthened political mutual trust, laying the foundation for sustained development of economic and trade cooperation.

Talking about economic and trade cooperation, we have to mention FOCAC, by far the most important multilateral cooperation mechanism between China and Africa. In July, 2012, the fifth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC was held in Beijing, where China proposed three initiatives for its economic and trade cooperation with Africa, including expanding investment and financing cooperation, increasing development assistance to Africa and supporting Africa's integration efforts.

According to Chen Hao, deputy director of the Coordination Division of the Department of West Asian and African Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, these three initiatives have been steadily implemented in 2013.

"On expanding of investment and financing cooperation, the implementation of the US\$20 billion commitment of the Chinese government has been going on smoothly, with loaning agreements focusing on the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and SME development. On increasing development assistance to Africa, China increased its assistance to Africa in 2013, steadily implementing the programmes such as the construction of agriculture demonstration centers, Brightness Action campaigns and African talent development plan. On supporting Africa in its integration efforts, China and Africa have maintained close cooperation and conducted productive and in-depth discussions on helping Africa's trans-border and trans-regional infrastructure construction and facilitating regional trade."Chen said.

Trade is one important part of China-Africa economic cooperation. All the African leaders visiting China in 2013 attached strong importance to bilateral economic and trade cooperation with China. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said in his visit to China in July, "Our two countries have constantly strengthened cooperation in trade and investment, with the two-way trade exceeding US\$13 billion, and China is now Nigeria's largest trading partner.

In August, 2013, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta headed a big delegation of over 100 people to China including nearly ten government ministers such as on foreign affairs and international trade and on finance, leaders of key development departments such as the investment authority, and representatives of leading financial and business companies. He said during the visit, "I come to China to deepen the traditional partnership between our two countries and two peoples. This trip is not only about China-Kenya relations, but also about China-Africa relations. I come here against the backdrop of continuous development of China-Kenya relations and growing bilateral business cooperation. Therefore, I hope that we can work together to seek opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. In this way, our countries, governments, businesses and ordinary people can be better involved in the efforts to pursue sustained and fast development."

At present, China has grown into Kenya's top source of FDI and second largest trading partner. The two-way trade between the two countries exceeded US\$2.8 billion. The increase of trade volume between China and Nigeria as well as Kenya and their growing economic and trade cooperation is only one epitome of the development of China-Africa trade.

Chen Hao said that from January to October, 2013, China-Africa trade reached US\$172.83 billion, up by 5.5% than that of the same period of the previous year, and the figure for the whole year of 2013 is expected to exceed US\$200 billion, which will mark another record high. At the same time, bilateral trade mix has also been improved, with high value-added mechanical and electrical products as well as high-tech products approaching nearly half of China's exports to Africa. African complete industrial products such as steel and copper products have also started to enter China's market. By offering zero-tariff treatment to 95% of the categories of exporting products from least developed African countries such as Ethiopia, Benin and Burundi, China has opened its market wider to African countries, which has given a strong boost to African exports to China.

Apart from trade, investment is also an important part of China-Africa economic cooperation. In recent years, with the acceleration of China's domestic industrial restructuring and African industrialization and urbanization, more and more Chinese businesses have come to Africa for development, relying on their advantages in capital and technology to develop cooperation with

African countries. Chen said that from January to October, 2013, China's non-financial direct investment to Africa totaled US\$2.54 billion, up by 71.6% than that of the same period of the previous year.

"There are now over 2000 Chinese companies having set up investment businesses in Africa, covering the fields such as agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, resources development, finance, trade and real estate. The Chinese businesses also seek localized development and have hired over 80,000 local employees. The Chinese government has also introduced a host of measures to encourage Chinese businesses to invest in Africa such as by setting up the China-Africa Development Fund, creating the special loan for SME development in Africa, and establishing China-Africa economic and trade cooperation zones in African countries, all of which play an important role in facilitating Chinese businesses' investment in Africa."

While increasing investment in Africa, the Chinese businesses have also been actively involved in infrastructure construction on power, energy, transportation and livelihood in recent years, making impressive achievements. In June, 2013, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn spoke highly of the contribution made by Chinese engineering companies to the development of Africa during his visit to China.

He said, "Many African countries including Ethiopia have taken on a new look with the support of the Chinese capital and help of Chinese engineering companies (in infrastructure). This will undoubtedly promote trade among African countries and bring about a bigger integrated market, both internally and externally."

As a matter of fact, China-Africa economic and trade cooperation based on mutual benefit has not only helped to improve the livelihood of the African people and promote African countries' diversified economic development, but also provided strong support to China's economic and social development. Africa has now become the second largest overseas contracting market for Chinese companies. Chen Hao said that from January to October, 2013, the new contractual volume for projects in Africa by Chinese businesses was US\$47.01 billion, up by 22.5% than that of the same period of 2012, with a turnover of US\$32.21 billion, up by 11.4%. While consolidating their traditional advantages, the Chinese businesses are extending to the upper and lower reaches of the contractual projects in Africa. They have now also been involved in the feasibility research, planning and designing for the initial stage and operation and management after the projects are completed. With the growth of China-Africa relations, we can expect the further deepening and expanding of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation and exchanges.

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