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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

[China donates solar energy kit systems to Rwanda](http://English.news.cn/Editor: yan/Xinhua/2014-01-10)
English.news.cn/Editor: yan/Xinhua/2014-01-10

KIGALI, Jan. 9 (Xinhua) -- The Chinese government on Thursday donated solar energy kit systems to the Rwanda in a bid to enhance the East African nation's energy sector.

The 416 pieces of solar equipment worth 642,304 U.S. dollars will be installed in the country's rural areas of the Southern, Northern and Eastern provinces, where there is no access to the state power grid.

The Solar energy mobile power project will help in rural electricity accessibility, according to Rwanda's Ministry of Infrastructure.

"The kits will boost rural energy accessibility and ultimately improve the well-being of the rural population," said Eng Emma Francoise Isumbingabo, Rwanda's state minister in charge of energy and water in the Ministry of Infrastructure.

She was speaking at a ceremony held in the Rwandan, Capital Kigali.

It is expected that at least 400 households, selected under a the five-year National Electrification Planning, will benefit from the project.

Rwanda set an ambitious energy production target of 563 megawatts (MW) by 2017 in order to reduce the country's electricity deficit.

Lack of access to adequate power remains an obstacle to achieving development targets in the small post-genocide African country.

According to available statistics, only 17 percent of the population in Rwanda has access to electricity.

Shen Yongxiang, the Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda, said that at the request of the Rwandan government under the framework of "Eight New Measures to Strengthen China-Africa Cooperation", China agreed to support Rwanda with a batch of solar equipment, including solar modules, cabinets, batteries, switchboards, Compact Fluorescent Lamps and light wires.

The ministry said a team of Chinese experts has been dispatched to conduct the training of 16 locals on the installation, operation and maintenance of the donated equipment.

This development comes after over 100 homes in Nyagatare district, in Eastern Rwanda were installed with solar energy last November in the first phase of the project that is to be rolled out across the country.

According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Infrastructure, the country needs to invest about 3 billion U.S. dollars to increase access to electricity from 17 percent to 70 percent by 2018.

Rwanda's energy sector strategic plan and roadmap 2013-2017 seeks to increase the country's installed capacity from 110.8 MW to 563 MW by 2017, mainly from hydro, peat, methane, geothermal and solar power.

The current generation capacity for solar energy is 280 kilowatt-peak (KWp) which is generated by two on-grid plants of 250 KWp located at Mont Jali in the city suburbs and a 30 KWp at Nelson Mandela Education Center in Bugesera district in eastern Rwanda.

RDC CONGO :

La RD Congo a remis son nouveau rapport ITIE-2011 en espérant être réintégré à l'Initiative Agence Ecofin/10012014

(Agence Ecofin) - Quelques 128 entreprises minières se sont soumises à l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives (ITIE) en RD Congo, révélant que le pays a en réalité encaissé 948 millions \$ pour le compte de 2011.

C'est l'essentiel du contenu du rapport 2011 ITIE-RDC publié le 31 décembre dernier, soit un retour en force de la RD Congo qui a été suspendue en avril 2012 pour 12 mois. Et pour cause, le rapport 2011 comportait «un défaut d'exhaustivité» avec une qualité insuffisante des données transmises. « On avait exigé à la RDC de publier un autre rapport portant sur l'année 2011 au plus tard au 31 décembre. Nous avons déposé la dernière partie du rapport qui portait sur le secteur des mines le 31 décembre à 18 heures. La partie sur le secteur des hydrocarbures avait été publiée en novembre », a expliqué le coordonnateur de l'ITIE-RDC, Mack Dumba, rapporte la Radio Okapi.

A présent pour M. Dumba, il urge que le conseil d'administration de l'ITIE « lève la suspension et nous déclare pays conforme à l'ITIE ».

Les recettes du nouveau rapport 2011 montrent une amélioration par rapport à 773 millions \$ déclarés par les entreprises minières dans le rapport ITIE controversé publié en 2012.

UGANDA :

Uganda: UPDF - We Have Not Lost Any Soldiers in South Sudan

By Deo Walusimbi & Sadaab Kittata Kaaya/The Observer (Kampala)/9 January 2014

The army has scoffed at claims by MPs that Ugandan soldiers have died in their thousands since UPDF deployed in South Sudan last December.

Opposition MPs Paul Mwiru (Jinja municipality East) and Hassan Kaps Fungaro (Obongi) told a press conference at Parliament on Tuesday that many Ugandan soldiers died on Sunday January 5. Rebels loyal to former Vice-President Riek Machar were reported to have ambushed government forces advancing on Bor, killing SPLA's Gen Abraham Jongroor.

The MPs criticized the deployment of Ugandan soldiers in Sudan without parliamentary approval. "I'm reliably informed that we lost a number of soldiers in the attack on the Sudan government forces by the rebels and we are still losing many," said Mwiru.

Pinned on the numbers, Mwiru said "Actually our sources say the number of soldiers who have died so far in Sudan is 1,000." Mwiru, who declined to reveal his sources, added: "It is up to government now to come out and challenge us by giving us the right figure they know."

Ironically, 1,000 is the official figure quoted internationally as the number of people who have died since fighting broke out in South Sudan. Mwiru said it was the responsibility of the minister of Defence Dr Crispus Kiyonga, to furnish Parliament with a statement regarding the status of the troops which were deployed in South Sudan.

He was flanked by Kaps, who said: "The practice is that they [government] don't tell you the exact number of people [soldiers] who died and if you have the capacity to count them, you will be shocked," Kaps said.

He added: "When we went to Congo, we lost 2,000 soldiers, but up to now, President Museveni has

not accounted for their death. We have been losing soldiers in Somalia but they were deployed without Parliament's approval and I see it is becoming a tendency for President Museveni to undermine the constitutional requirement which we can't allow to go on like this," Mwiru said.

He said he had written to the director for Legal Affairs at Parliament, to notify him that he was collecting signatures for a recall of Parliament.

Evidence:

Aruu County MP Samuel Odonga Otto used a press conference on Thursday at Parliament to read out names of some of the UPDF officers he claims to have died on the frontlines in South Sudan.

"We have started receiving dead bodies from South Sudan of fallen UPDF soldiers, on Tuesday January 7, we buried Sgt Santos Ocen at Onywana village in Omoro, Gulu district but the most interesting thing at that burial, the UPDF could not allow the family to view the body," Odonga said. At the burial, the army was represented by Brig Charles Otema Awany.

Another soldier, Pt Richard Oyaka, Otto says was buried on Wednesday at Ongako Gulu district while another soldier whom he did not identify was brought in today (Thursday).

"They [UPDF] have been deceiving us that these soldiers died in a motor accident in Masaka, but we have cross checked with the police and there is no record of such kind of a fatal accident," he said.

He says, apart from a bag of posho that the army brings with the bodies, there is nothing more. "Unlike those of Somalia where the salaries are enhanced and a package in case of death, for the case of South Sudan, they just drop the body and advise the family to follow up with Bombo [army headquarters]," he said.

However, earlier on Tuesday, army Spokesman Paddy Ankunda told The Observer in an interview:

"We have never lost any soldier, not even one soldier has been injured since we arrived in South Sudan and they are [soldiers] safe," Ankunda said by telephone. "We are at Juba airport to secure the lives of Ugandans and of course safeguard the airport such that there is safe flow and humanitarian help."

SOUTH AFRICA :

Zuma vows ANC will rule South Africa 'forever'

Jan 9, 2014 / Sapa-AFP

South Africa's President Jacob Zuma vowed on Wednesday that his ANC party will rule Africa's wealthiest nation "forever" as the country gears up for elections expected within months, a local newspaper reported.

"We will continue to run this government forever and ever. Whether they (detractors) like it or not," Zuma was quoted as telling ANC supporters in Zulu, one of the local languages.

He was speaking during an impromptu door-to-door campaign in a township in Mbombela, the

capital of northwestern Mpumalanga province where the party will on Friday launch its election manifesto and kick off the polls campaign.

He urged his supporters to vote in numbers to ensure that the African National Congress (ANC) garners 90 percent of votes in the province, already a stronghold.

Observers predict a fall in nationwide support for the ANC this year, to around 60 percent or less.

Repeated corruption scandals, increasing crime levels, poverty, high unemployment levels and internal bickering are hurting the ANC's popularity.

The country's largest labour union, the National Union of Metalworkers' of South Africa, decided last month to ditch the ANC and will not campaign for it nor support it financially in the upcoming polls.

But the ANC leader scoffed at suggestions that support for his party is waning.

"They are dreaming while they are awake. We are going to hammer them," said Zuma in remarks quoted and translated by the City Press. "We are stronger than before".

ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu confirmed to AFP that Zuma had been quoted correctly.

The president's statement infuriated the opposition which accused him of using intimidating tactics.

"The ANC is resorting to scaring and intimidating voters," said James Masango, chairman of the opposition Democratic Alliance in the Mpumalanga province.

"These thinly veiled threats are symptoms of a party and a president that is feeling the heat," added Masango in a statement.

Masango labelled Zuma's statement as "anti-democratic" and "unbecoming" of a president of a republic.

In 2008, Zuma also declared that his party would "rule until Jesus comes back".

Zuma, 71, was first elected to office in 2009. As the party's leader he is almost certain to be its presidential candidate in the polls whose date has yet to be fixed.

Adcock Ingram Plans to Double Africa Sales Outside South Africa

By Janice Kew and Eleni Giokos/bloomberg.com/Jan 9, 2014

Adcock Ingram Holdings Ltd. (AIP), the South African drugmaker that's a \$1.2 billion takeover target, plans to double its sales from African countries outside its home market to 1 billion rand (\$92.5 million) within four years.

The maker of Panado painkillers and Corenza flu medicine wants those businesses to contribute 25 percent to 30 percent of total sales, Kofi Amegashie, Adcock's managing executive for Africa, said in an interview with Bloomberg Africa TV to be broadcast tomorrow.

Adcock is looking to expand across the continent to take advantage of a growing middle class that can afford more formal medication and to improve its competitiveness against larger Johannesburg-

based competitor Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd. (APN)

Nigeria is a “very important” market and Adcock is “keen” to develop its presence there through a combination of business startups and acquisitions, Amegashie said.

“We are being very judicious about who we select,” to buy in Nigeria, Amegashie said. Adcock may also look to build distribution centers in Nigeria and East Africa, he said.

The cost of doing business in Nigeria is as much as 30 percent more than in South Africa because of a lack of reliable power or roads, he said. Overhead costs in Kenya are 10 percent to 15 percent higher.

Adcock received an improved 12.8 billion rand cash and stock proposal last month from Chilean drugmaker CFR Pharmaceuticals SA (CFR), which wants to expand into other emerging markets. Bidvest Group Ltd. (BVT), a Johannesburg-based operator of businesses including catering and car sales, has made an all-cash bid for 34.5 percent of the company.

South Africa to expedite Rwandan ex-official's death probe

IANS | Cape Town /business-standard.com/January 10, 2014

The South African government Thursday directed its officials to expedite the investigation into Rwandan former intelligence chief Patrick Karegyeya's death.

The government will ensure that no stone is left unturned in tracking and bringing to justice those involved in this criminal act, Xinhua quoted the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in a statement.

Patrick Karegyeya, the former director of the Rwandan External Intelligence Service, was found dead Jan 1 in his hotel room in Johannesburg's Sandton city.

The initial investigations indicated that there were signs of a scuffle and a bloody curtain cord and towel which were in a safe in his room.

The Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster of the Government "is saddened by the untimely death of Colonel Patrick Karegyeya and passes condolences to his wife and children," the GCIS said.

Karegeya, an important opposition figure, went into exile in South Africa seven years ago after being sacked as head of President Paul Kagame's external intelligence.

The opposition Rwanda National Congress (RNC) alleged in a statement that Karegeya was assassinated by the Rwandan authorities, but the Rwandan government vehemently denied the allegation.

In 2011, a Rwandan military court sentenced Karegeya and others to 20 years in prison for threatening state security after they were tried in absentia.

Former Rwandan army Chief Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who fled to South Africa with Karegeya, had survived an assassination attempt in 2010 which took place outside his Johannesburg home.

TANZANIA :

Va Tech bags \$40 million order from Tanzania

T E Narasimhan | Chennai/business-standard.com/January 10, 2014

The project is funded by EXIM Bank

Va Tech Wabag (Wabag), a leading Indian MNC in water and waste water management, today said that it has bagged its first ever order in Tanzania. The value of the order is \$40 million.

The company said that the project is funded by EXIM Bank of India under the Indian line of credit. It is a design and build contract from Dar Es Salaam Water & Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) for a value of \$ 40 Million.

The scope of the work comprises building of 130 MLD Upper Ruvu Water Treatment Plant in The United Republic of Tanzania.

Commenting on this development, Rajiv Mittal, Managing Director in a statement said, "We are delighted that our efforts in the Sub-Sahara region have started yielding results. Wabag is already present in North African market and with this order we are further expanding our footprint into newer geographies."

Tanzania: Task Force to Study EFD 'Woes'

By Pius Rugonzibwa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/10 January 2014

THE government has formed a special task force to work on complaints levelled against the application of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFD), that are largely disputed by business persons across the country.

Trade and Industries Minister, Dr Abdallah Kigoda, said while addressing more than 3,500 business persons over the issue in Dar es Salaam that apart from forming the committee, the government has agreed to review the current tax system for more efficient tax collection mechanisms.

The minister explained that the new task force will be formed by several experts and will also accommodate representatives from the Association of Businessmen, which was basically formed to address the issue of application of EFD machines, among other issues.

But as the government pledged to go the extra mile in solving the matter, Dr Kigoda challenged the business community to be patient, pledging that the tug-of-war "will be solved on the basis of economic principle as opposed to political influence."

"We are forming a task force over the EFD issue and other business- related issues as raised in your messages. But I call for calm and patience during the process since this matter is being approached on economic principles and not otherwise," he said.

The minister's caution followed different messages from representatives of the business persons yesterday who, apart from complaining on EFDs, pointed an accusing finger on the government for failure to allocate money from collected taxes to improve social services in the country.

Earlier, the business people converged at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in the city displaying placards that read 'Kodi Bila EFD inawezekana' literally meaning "collecting taxes without fixing EFD machines is possible."

However, Dr Kigoda said while the government was ready to review the application of EFD machines, the business persons should also be ready for any changes in the tax policies and systems, "because taxes must be collected anyway."

On their part, the business persons, through their representative, Mr Jonhson Minja, said they wanted the government to spend at least six months to deal with EFDs, instead of only one month earlier given to pursue the matter.

He said more studies should be instituted on the effectiveness of EFDs because they were poorly designed to be able to accomplish the intended mission; as well as form an independent task force to probe into the matter.

He noted that the machines can only detect sales records instead of other operating costs of the business that must also be calculated before arriving to the actual taxes one has to pay.

"The machines are now designed to collect illegal taxes that are even reaching the Treasury. We have a list of people, including the police, who are collecting a lot of money on excuse of hunting for businessmen who allegedly flout the government directive to use them," he claimed.

Other issues raised included the presence of Chinese nationals who operate retail businesses at Kariakoo in Dar es Salaam.

They accused them of causing 'unfair competition.' Others are what they described as pathetic sewerage system at Kariakoo and allegations that the police were collecting bribe from businessmen and petty traders 'for operating haphazardly.'

A representative of the Inspector- General of Police (IGP), ACP Lazaro Mambosasa, warned police officers who collect money from businessmen, but also wondered how businessmen could dish out money to them without demanding receipts.

"The IGP (Ernest Mangu) has made it clear that he has come to clear all these trashes currently painting bad image of the Police Force and I am going to deliver this message to him as well," he promised.

KENYA

Bungoma Senator Moses Wetangula survives gun attack in Nairobi

Friday, January 10th 2014/ By CYRUS OMBATI/standardmedia.co.ke

Nairobi-Kenya: Bungoma senator-elect Moses Wetangula escaped death narrowly after his car was shot at by unknown gun men Thursday night. The incident occurred at about 10.45pm along Mbagathi Road near City mortuary when the assailants attacked the Cord politician. He was heading to his Karen home. Wetangula survived the attack after a bullet hit the roof of the Toyota Prado car but the driver managed to control the car and steered it to safety before driving to

Kilimani Police Station to record a statement. Police immediately visited the scene and the MP was joined by former Prime Minister and CORD leader Raila Odinga shortly after the accident. A shaken Wetangula said : “ This is an attempt on my life. It appears the assailants wanted the car to roll before they could descend on me.” He however said he would not be cowed by such attacks in his political stands against corruption. Raila called for thorough investigations and termed the incident an assassination attempt aimed at the Opposition to silence their criticism. “The Government should investigate and bring the culprits to book and also exonerate itself if it was not involved.” Wetangula of Ford Kenya recently emerged from a successful by-election just before Christmas in Bungoma Senate race after his March 4 election was annulled after a successful petition. He went on to defend his seat after winning with a landslide margin against closest rival Musikari Kombo. He has been creitiocal about the Railway building project caliming it is steeped in corruption with his fingers pointed at Jubilee Administration.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Central African Republic crisis: Djotodia future in balance

10 January 2014/bbc.co.uk

Central African Republic (CAR) interim leader Michel Djotodia is expected to face pressure to step down at a regional summit under way in Chad.

His failure to quell violence between Christian and Muslim militias has prompted speculation that he may quit.

However, some CAR officials say his resignation is not on the agenda at the summit in neighbouring Chad.

Seleka rebels staged a coup last March, installing Mr Djotodia as the country's first Muslim leader.

The then-President Francois Bozize, from CAR's majority Christian population, was forced into exile and the country has since descended into chaos.

The UN has warned of an impending humanitarian disaster.
'Make way'

Ahmat Allami, Secretary-General of the 10-nation Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), said that members of the Central African Republic's National Transitional Council (CNT) had been flown in at short notice to the Chadian capital N'Djamena to decide the leadership of their nation.

"No-one can speak on behalf of the Central Africans. That's why we have asked the CNT and representatives of political parties to come to N'Djamena to decide on the future of the transitional institutions," Mr Allami was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Mr Allami said earlier that "regime change" was not the goal of the meeting.

A source close to Mr Djotodia quoted by the Reuters said that CAR leaders had run out of patience with him.

"It's finished for him now," said the source.

However, his spokesman told the BBC he would not be stepping down.

The BBC's Paul Wood in Bangui says that if he does resign, the effects would be unpredictable - it could take the steam out of the conflict, or trigger a power struggle engulfing the country in its worst violence yet.

'Paralysed'

French officials said the summit would discuss various options for continuing the transition, including allowing the president of a National Transitional Council to take over or mandating Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye to run the country until elections.

Although Mr Djotodia has officially disbanded the Seleka rebels, he has proved unable to keep them in check.

Their brutal actions have prompted Christians to form vigilante groups, sparking a deadly cycle of revenge attacks.

The AU has some 4,000 peacekeepers in the country and France has deployed 1,600 troops to try to end the violence.

More than 1,000 people have died in the past month alone and the number displaced has more than doubled, to nearly a million.

On Wednesday, the UN warned that measles had broken out at the airport in the capital, Bangui, where about 100,000 people are seeking refuge from clashes.

The UN says about half the population of Bangui - more than 500,000 people - have been driven from their homes and 2.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Japan's Abe Eyes Mozambique's Gas Reserves on First Africa Visit

By Isabel Reynolds and Mike Cohen/bloomberg.com/ Jan 10, 2014

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may seek to secure natural gas supplies from Mozambique during a three-nation African tour this week, the first visit to the continent by a Japanese leader in almost eight years.

Japan, the world's biggest importer of liquefied natural gas, has been seeking new energy sources after the Fukushima nuclear disaster. The world's third-largest economy has been without nuclear power, which accounts for about a quarter of its energy needs, since September as all of the country's 50 reactors have been shut pending safety reviews.

"Since the Fukushima accident, Japan's imports of natural gas for electricity generation have risen enormously, including from Africa," Katsumi Hirano, head researcher at the Institute of Developing Economies, an affiliate of the Japan External Trade Organization in Chiba Prefecture, said in a

phone interview on Jan 8. "The development of natural gas is an extremely important matter for security and the national interest."

Mozambique's offshore fields may hold enough gas to meet global demand for more than two years, according to Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, the national oil company.

The southern African nation, located on the east coast of Africa, plans to build four LNG units with a total capacity of 20 million metric tons a year by 2018, making it the largest LNG export site after Ras Laffan in Qatar. Chiyoda Corp. (6366), based in Yokohama, is among the companies bidding for contracts to build the plants, which may cost \$20 billion.

Countering China

Abe will arrive in Mozambique tomorrow after visiting Ivory Coast today, where he is scheduled to meet President Alassane Ouattara and other West African leaders. The Japanese premier will head to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on Jan. 13 and will give a speech at the headquarters of the African Union the next day.

The last visit by a Japanese leader to Africa took place in 2006, when then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi traveled to Ethiopia and Ghana.

Abe is the first Japanese prime minister to take a business delegation to Africa, reflecting a change in emphasis from aid to trade and investment that was the theme of an African summit in Japan in June. The delegation will include trading, natural resources and construction companies.

"Since 2000 onward, China's engagement with Africa has re-energized everyone else looking at the continent," Martyn Davies, chief executive officer of Johannesburg-based Frontier Advisory, which provides research on emerging markets, said in a Jan. 8 phone interview. "Undoubtedly the Japanese re-energized engagement should be seen in the context of countering the Chinese to an extent."

Tunisie: le Premier ministre démissionne après des mois de crise politique

le 09.01.2014/leparisien.fr

Le Premier ministre tunisien Ali Larayedh a annoncé avoir remis jeudi sa démission, conformément à un accord pour résoudre une longue crise politique, et alors que le pays est une nouvelle fois déstabilisé par des conflits sociaux, émaillés de heurts.

Parallèlement, la Constituante a introduit le concept de parité homme-femme au projet de Constitution, texte exceptionnel dans le monde arabe qui doit être approuvé une seconde fois dans l'après-midi.

"Comme je m'y étais engagé il y a un moment (...) je viens de présenter la démission du gouvernement", a dit Ali Larayedh lors d'une conférence de presse. "Le président m'a chargé de poursuivre la supervision des affaires du pays jusqu'à la formation du nouveau gouvernement". La Constituante ayant formé mercredi une instance électorale et la Constitution étant en cours d'adoption, les conditions fixées dans un accord cosigné par l'essentiel de la classe politique étaient réunies pour sa démission, avait relevé un peu plus tôt M. Larayedh.

Selon ce compromis, le ministre sortant de l'Industrie, Mehdi Jomaâ, sera appelé à former un cabinet d'indépendants devant conduire la Tunisie jusqu'à des législatives et une présidentielle en 2014.

Une fois officiellement désigné, M. Jomaâ aura quinze jours pour constituer son équipe, puis devra obtenir la confiance de l'Assemblée pour devenir le cinquième chef de gouvernement depuis la

révolution de janvier 2011.

Cela entérinera aussi le départ volontaire du pouvoir du parti islamiste Ennahda qui avait remporté l'élection de l'Assemblée nationale constituante en octobre 2011, premier scrutin libre de l'Histoire de la Tunisie.

Des négociations chaotiques ont conduit à cette issue, après de nombreux reports, pour résoudre la profonde crise politique déclenchée en juillet par l'assassinat de l'opposant Mohamed Brahmi.

Vers la parité homme-femme

La Constituante a pour sa part repris jeudi l'examen article par article du projet de Constitution, approuvant à une courte majorité un amendement sans précédent disposant que "l'Etat s'efforce de la réalisation de la parité des hommes et des femmes dans les assemblées élues".

Selon l'observatoire des votes de la Constituante, Al-Bawsala, la moitié des 89 élus Ennahda ont notamment voté ce texte.

La Constituante avait déjà inclus lundi un article d'ordre général reconnaissant que "tous les citoyens et les citoyennes ont les mêmes droits et les mêmes devoirs. Ils sont égaux devant la loi sans discrimination aucune".

La Tunisie, sans consacrer l'égalité des sexes, est depuis 1956 le pays arabe accordant le plus de droits aux femmes. L'homme reste cependant privilégié, notamment concernant l'héritage.

La classe politique s'est engagée à adopter la future Loi fondamentale avant le 14 janvier, 3e anniversaire de la révolution de 2011. En une semaine, un tiers des articles environ ont été passés en revue.

A l'issue de l'examen article par article, l'Assemblée devra adopter à la majorité des deux-tiers le projet de Constitution, faute de quoi un référendum devra être organisé.

Il reviendra cependant au prochain Parlement d'introduire les lois organiques et ordinaires nécessaires à sa mise en œuvre.

Élue en octobre 2011, la Constituante devait achever sa mission en un an, mais le processus a été ralenti par un climat politique délétère, l'essor de groupes jihadistes armés et des conflits sociaux.

Taxes suspendues face aux heurts

Cette journée mouvementée sur le plan politique intervient aussi dans un contexte social tendu, des violences ayant éclaté après l'annonce de nouveaux impôts.

Dans son dernier discours avant sa démission, M. Larayedh a réagi en annonçant la suspension d'une série de nouvelles taxes sur les transports qui ont provoqué les heurts entre manifestants et policiers, essentiellement dans l'intérieur déshérité du pays, berceau de la révolution de 2011 qui avait été nourrie par la pauvreté et les disparités de développement.

"Pour ne pas donner de chance au terrorisme et aux groupes criminels, après concertations avec les ministres, nous avons décidé de suspendre la mise en œuvre des taxes concernant les transports privés, de marchandises, de personnes et pour l'agriculture", a-t-il dit.

Plusieurs bâtiments publics, notamment des commissariats, ont été incendiés ces derniers jours. De nombreuses routes ont aussi été coupées à travers le pays. Les heurts ont été particulièrement graves dans la région de Kasserine (centre-ouest).

L'économie, minée par les conflits politiques, sociaux et l'essor d'une mouvance jihadiste armée, reste anémique. Le taux de croissance, inférieur à 3% en 2013, est largement insuffisant pour endiguer le chômage qui atteint notamment plus de 30% des jeunes diplômés.

Centrafrique : tractations sur le sort du président Djotodia

Le Monde.fr avec AFP/10.01.2014

Les dirigeants d'Afrique centrale ont ordonné dans la nuit du jeudi 9 au vendredi 10 janvier à N'Djamena aux parlementaires centrafricains, emmenés plus tôt par avion de Bangui, de préparer un accord qui s'oriente vers une mise à l'écart du président Michel Djotodia pour faciliter une sortie de crise en Centrafrique.

A l'issue de tractations marathon avec les membres du Conseil national de transition (CNT), de proches de M. Djotodia issus de l'ex-rebellion Séléka qui a pris le pouvoir à Bangui en mars et notamment de représentants de milices anti-balaka, hostiles à M. Djotodia, les chefs d'Etat ou leurs représentants ont suspendu leurs travaux peu avant 4 heures (heure de Paris).

Les dirigeants de la Communauté économique des Etats d'Afrique centrale (CEEAC) ont demandé au CNT de préparer avant 8 heures un accord qui semble s'orienter vers une mise à l'écart de M. Djotodia et de son premier ministre, Nicolas Tiengaye, selon des sources proches des négociations, malgré le refus de proches de M. Djotodia.

NOUVELLE SÉANCE CONVOQUÉE À 9 HEURES

Une nouvelle séance de travail du sommet, ouvert jeudi à la mi-journée, est convoquée vendredi à partir de 9 heures pour sceller le sort du président centrafricain, à qui la communauté internationale reproche de ne pas avoir mis fin aux violences interreligieuses et aux exactions dans son pays. Le vote du Conseil national de transition (CNT) est indispensable à un changement de la Constitution provisoire de Centrafrique pour décider du départ de M. Djotodia et du premier ministre.

Les dirigeants de la CEEAC, réunis à l'initiative de M. Déby – puissant voisin tuteur de la Centrafrique – ont envoyé jeudi en fin de journée un avion à Bangui pour amener dans la capitale tchadienne les 135 membres du CNT et avaient suspendu une première fois leurs travaux en attendant leur arrivée à N'Djamena.

« Personne ne peut parler d'un changement à la place des Centrafricains. La solution ne peut venir que des Centrafricains eux-mêmes (...) Il y a un régime, ses institutions et une charte, des responsables: il appartient à ses responsables de décider du sort de leur pays », avait expliqué à la presse le secrétaire général de la CEEAC, Ahmat Allami à la suspension des travaux.

South Sudan's army advances on rebels in Bentiu and Bor

9 January 2014/bbc.co.uk

South Sudan's army is advancing on the key rebel-held centres of Bentiu and Bor, as rebels strengthen defences in Bentiu.

An army spokesman was quoted as saying that government troops were "next to Bentiu" and some 15km (9 miles) away from Bor. Reports say hundreds have fled violence in Bor.

At least 1,000 people have been killed in fighting since 15 December.

Regionally brokered talks to declare a ceasefire have stalled.

People who escaped the violence told AFP news agency that gunmen shot dead fleeing civilians, torched entire villages and looted crops.

A cattle herder who swam across a river to escape said he was fortunate to survive.

"They [the attackers] had a machine gun raised up on a sandbank, and they fired and fired and fired as we swam," Gabriel Bol told AFP.

"The bullets were hitting the water, but we knew we could not stop or they'd shoot us."

Hundreds of people were fleeing to the town of Minkammen, about 25km (15 miles) south of Bor.

About 80,000 people had already taken refuge there, AFP reports.

Ethnic dimension

Meanwhile, South Sudan's rebels are strengthening their defences in Bentiu in anticipation of a government offensive to recapture it.

The BBC's Alastair Leithead in the city says rebels brought a tank into the city in the oil-rich area, as the front line moves closer.

Heavily armed men looted Bentiu's city centre, while thousands of residents fled to a UN base, a UN official said.

More than 200,000 people have been displaced by the fighting.

The conflict erupted after President Salva Kiir accused his ex-deputy, Riek Machar, of plotting a coup - a charge he strongly denied.

Mr Machar is backed by army deserters, believed to number at least 10,000, and militias from his Nuer ethnic group.

Mr Kiir comes from South Sudan's largest ethnic group, the Dinka.

Although both leaders have influential backers from the other's community, the conflict has often taken an ethnic dimension.

Our reporter says he heard explosions and saw plumes of smoke coming out of a rebel-held military base on the road to Bentiu early on Thursday

It seems the rebels were destroying ammunition as they withdrew from the front line, to prevent it from falling into the hands of advancing government troops, he says.

Mr Kiir's forces are believed to be about 25km from Bentiu, capital of Unity state.

The state is rich in oil, the main foreign exchange earner of South Sudan.

'Civilians killed'

Oil production has dropped by 20% since the conflict started.

Civilians from the Nuer community have been streaming into the UN base in recent days, unlike a few weeks ago when the rebel seizure of Bentiu led to Dinkas taking refuge at the base, our correspondent says.

The base is now split into three, with a section for each of the two groups and a third for foreign nationals, he adds.

The hospital in Bentiu was empty, a doctor who worked there said.

"Even the wounded patients ran away," Dr Hassan Mugne said on Twitter.

The UN's Deputy Special Representative in South Sudan, Toby Lanzer, tweeted that rebel forces had looted and largely destroyed shops in Bentiu's market.

There were "virtually no" civilians in the centre of Bentiu, while armed men had been looting shops, as well as aid agency property, he said.

More than 2,000 people are fleeing into neighbouring Uganda from South Sudan every day, the BBC's Kasim Kayira reports from northern Uganda.

There are not enough medical and sanitation facilities in the area to cope with the number of arrivals, our correspondent reports.

On Wednesday, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the humanitarian situation in South Sudan was dire.

South Sudan is the world's newest state.

It became independent in 2011 after seceding from Sudan.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

US warns both sides in S Sudan over conflict

10 Jan 2014/Al Jazeera and agencies

US call comes as South Sudan government troops try to wrestle back control of the oil producing town of Bentiu.

Government forces pressed with an offensive to wrestle back South Sudan's main oil hub from rebel forces as the White House urged both sides in the deadly conflict to sign an agreement to cease hostilities immediately.

The worst fighting on Friday centred around Bentiu, where forces loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar have been holding off the army of President Salva Kiir, leaving the town ransacked and emptied of its civilian population.

South Sudanese rebels rejected a government plan on Wednesday to end a dispute over detainees and unblock peace talks aimed at halting the conflict that has killed at least 1,000 people.

Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's national security adviser, said in a statement it was the responsibility of both leaders to make sure their country was not marred by more violence.

"Mr. Machar, in particular, must commit to a cessation of hostilities without precondition," Rice said adding that the US was "disappointed" senior politician detainees in government custody have

not yet been released.

"The United States reiterates its call upon President Salva Kiir to release the detainees immediately to the custody of IGAD so that they can participate in the political negotiations."

On Wednesday, the government proposed to shift the peace talks to the United Nations compound in Juba, enabling the 11 detainees to attend the negotiations during the day and return to custody in the evening.

South Sudan's presidential spokesman said the rebels appeared to reject that.

The UN, which shelters more than 8,000 people at its Bentiu compound, said its mission in South Sudan had cut off military links with the government and was ready to fend off any attack.

Displaced by fighting

Farhan Haq, UN deputy spokesman, said the outcome of the battle for Bentiu, capital of Unity state, was "unclear and fluid".

Haq said there are now more than 60,000 people at UN compounds across South Sudan, half of them in Juba and another 9,000 in Bor, the rebel-held capital of Jonglei state.

In total, there are now probably more than a quarter of a million people displaced by the fighting, UN Peacekeeping Chief Herve Ladsous said, after briefing the UN Security Council on the crisis.

No current figures on a death toll were available, Ladsous added, but he estimated it was "very substantially in excess" of the 1,000 deaths the UN reported just after conflict erupted on December 15.

The warring sides met face-to-face for the first time on Tuesday in Addis Ababa in a bid to agree a ceasefire but faced new delays after Kiir refused a rebel demand to release 11 detainees, who were arrested last year over an alleged coup plot.

Source:

Al Jazeera and agencies

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Africa: Strong Leadership Should Take Africa-EU Relations Beyond Aid in 2014

9 January 2014/allafrica.com/European Centre for Development Policy Management (Maastricht)

Maastricht — Africa will start the New Year stronger than ever before both financially and politically, says a new paper from the European Centre for Development and Policy Management (ECDPM).

This comes at an important time as the 4th Africa-EU Summit takes place in April 2014, the first Summit to be held since the start of Arab Spring. Africa's "growing assertiveness" could mean the relationship with Europe can go beyond that of donor-recipient relationship.

However, the biggest challenge for Africa-EU relations is to identify appropriate leadership on both sides to take ownership and provide the joint leadership to make the process work over time, says ECDPM.

At a time when the European economy is stagnating, there is a new opportunity to create better trade links with rising African countries.

However, despite being the largest trade partner with Africa, the influence of the EU is decreasing while emerging economies such as China and India begin to take an interest and build strong commercial links.

This is problematic for Europe as the free trade talks between the two continents, the Economic Partnership Agreements, remain a highly contentious issue and if the negotiations are not finalised soon it could potentially disrupt the Summit.

Africa is also now increasingly in a position where it should be able to finance its' own institutions. Thus for instance with Africa-led initiatives such as the African Peace and Security Architecture, while Africa has certainly provided the soldiers for the APSA peacekeeping operations much of the funding has come from the EU and many Africans would like to see a stronger element of African funding.

During the Summit, the two continents will renegotiate the terms of the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES). The EU has set aside €845 million for a new Pan African Programme to fund this. Ideally it would be good to see co-financing from Africa to avoid sliding back into the donor-recipient relationship, says ECDPM.

The focus of the Summit could potentially be spread too thin and not achieve much, if the agenda does not prioritise key issues. The three priorities of the Summit, according to the paper, should be on:

1. An open discussion about the Arab Spring and its consequences for the relationship,
2. Formulating an EU and AU joint position on the goals and financing of the post-2015 agenda, and
3. Agriculture. 2014 has been named as the African Union Year of Agriculture and Food Security. The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is now also ten years old. Yet it is unlikely to reach its goal of putting 10% of African national budgets into agriculture and raising agricultural productivity by 6%.

Next year will also mark a turning point in the EU's aid relationship with Africa. The EU remains the continent's largest donor, yet the EU's new Agenda for Change policy aims to increase the effectiveness of EU development assistance by focusing on a more limited number of priority

countries and sectors. This "differentiation", means the EU will allocate a greater proportion of funds to certain countries and regions where it believes aid can have the greatest impact, such as least-developed countries (LDCs) and fragile states.

At the same time 2014 will also be the year of the European Parliamentary elections, the new Commission and new leadership at the EU Council and the European External Action Service. The question is therefore what impact will this change in political leadership have on Africa-EU relations. Will it create a new sense of direction, and/or major changes in EU development policy? Will the new EU political leadership pick up smoothly on the commitments made at the Africa-EU Summit?

CHINA/AFRICA :

Ghanaian president meets Chinese FM, hails China inspiration to Africa

01-10-2014/Xinhua

ACCRA, Jan. 9 (Xinhua) -- Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama on Thursday met with visiting China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, hailing China inspiration to Africa and elsewhere in the world.

"China's example of having been able to create the largest movement of people out of poverty is an example to us that we can also replicate it in our country," Mahama said talks with China's top diplomat at the Flagstaff House in Accra, the capital of the West African country.

He said China continues to serve as an inspiration to Africa, the rest of the developing world and, particularly, to Ghana.

President Mahama and Wang discussed issues of mutual interest as part of his two-day official visit to Ghana.

Mahama said China describes itself as a developing country and in international fora had always championed the cause of the developing countries and oppressed people of the world.

"With the economic progress that China has made it continues to extend a hand to the rest of the developing world especially to Africa. At the last forum on China-Africa cooperation, China pledged 20 billion dollars for development in Africa and we want to express appreciation for that," he said.

Wang said the cooperation between China and Ghana is the result of joint efforts of both sides from the leadership down to the people, adding that the new Chinese government attaches a great deal of importance to advancing the friendly relation with Ghana.

He urged the two nations to recognize the two important advantages in their relationship -- the traditional friendship on one hand and practical cooperation on the other.

He said if the two sides could better combine and use these two important advantages, "if we can do so then we can make sure that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Ghana will be long-lasting and more sustainable and deliver more practical benefits to the people in both countries especially the people of Ghana."

Present at the meeting were Paa Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur, Ghana's Vice president, Prosper Douglas Bani, Chief of Staff, Raymond Atuguba, Executive Secretary to the president, Hannah Tetteh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and regional cooperation as well as other ministers of state and government officials.

Earlier in the day, Wang and his entourage toured the mausoleum of Ghana's first president Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah in Accra, where they paid their respect to Ghana's founding president and pan-Africanist.

At the museum were loads of old pictures depicting the visit president Nkrumah made to China back in 1961 and his interactions during that visit with China's then chairman Mao Zedong, prime minister Zhou Enlai and other leaders.

He said the visit reacquainted them with the historical contribution that Nkrumah had made to the independence of Ghana.

Wang is expected to leave for Senegal Thursday night on the final leg of his four-nation African trip, which also took him to Ethiopia and Djibouti.

It has been a tradition since 1991 for Chinese foreign ministers to first visit Africa every new year.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 10 Janvier 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 10/01/2014