



[Un taux de participation record au référendum sur la nouvelle Constitution qui se tient aujourd'hui et demain en Égypte pourrait légitimer la feuille de route dessinée par l'armée. Sauf surprise, c'est le «oui» qui devrait l'emporter lors du référendum sur la nouvelle Constitution qui se tient ces mardi et mercredi en Égypte. Mais le général el-Sissi, architecte en chef de l'éviction de Mohammad Morsi, obtiendra-t-il le plébiscite tant rêvé qui lui permettra de briguer la présidentielle? Ce mardi matin, alors que les bureaux de vote venaient d'ouvrir à travers le pays, l'espoir d'un taux de participation record - qui légitimerait la feuille de route dessinée par l'armée - n'était pas complètement acquis.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame warns traitors
Tuesday, January 14th 2014/standardmedia.co.ke

Rwanda President Paul Kagame has warned that those who betray the country will face "consequences". He was speaking less than two weeks after the body of former intelligence chief Patrick Karegeya was found, apparently murdered, in South Africa. Mr Karegeya had fallen out with the Rwandan leadership and set up an opposition party. His allies said he had been killed by government agents - a charge denied by the high commissioner to South Africa. Without mentioning any names, Mr Kagame told a national prayer breakfast meeting: "You cannot betray Rwanda and get away with it. There are consequences for betraying your country." "I cannot be apologetic about that if you know the grenades that have been thrown on our streets killing

Rwandan children," he said. Mr Karegeya had been convicted in absentia of threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions, in connection with a series of grenade attacks in the capital, Kigali. "Anyone who betrays our cause or wishes our people ill will fall victim. What remains to be seen is how you fall victim," Mr Kagame said. South African police say Mr Karegeya, 53, might have been strangled. A rope and bloodied towel were found in the safe of the hotel room where his body was discovered, they said. Mr Karegeya's co-founder of the Rwanda National Congress, Lt Gen Kayumba Nyamwasa, has survived two assassination attempts, also in South Africa. Both men were part of Mr Kagame's rebel forces which came to power in 1994, ending the genocide of their fellow ethnic Tutsis. Rwandan dissidents in several Western countries including the UK and US say local security agents have warned them of plots to kill them. The Rwandan government has denied trying to kill its opponents. Mr Kagame has been accused of not tolerating opposition. He maintains that Rwanda needs a strong government to prevent a return to ethnic conflict. BBC

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

In Uganda Camp, South Sudan Refugees Dream of Peace

Phillip Thon Aleu/voanews.com/January 13, 2014

NIMULE, SOUTH SUDAN — Diing Kon has a wish: to be able to fall asleep at night without feeling the fear that grips her gut when she hears gunfire nearby.

The mother of eight has spent her entire life in Bor, the only town in South Sudan still under rebel control after government forces recaptured Bentiu, the capital of oil-producing Unity state, last week, after a bloody battle.

The next target of South Sudanese troops would be Bor, a spokesman for the army said, presaging heavy fighting in the capital of Jonglei state.

But Kon left her hometown weeks ago, when rebels overran Bor. She and her children came under fire as they crossed the Nile River by boat, leaving behind everything but each other.

They eventually ended up at the Dzaipi transit camp in northern Uganda, with "no luggage, no shoes for the children, no utensils," Kon told VOA.

The camp is around an hour's drive from the South Sudanese border town of Nimule, and around 390 kilometers from Bor.

"We are looking for a place to stay because I have never been in exile before. I don't know where my husband is... He ran away," Kon said.

At least 32,000 South Sudanese have fled to neighboring countries to escape deadly clashes that erupted in the world's newest nation four weeks ago, the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR) has said.

The bulk of the refugees -- more than 23,000 -- have gone to Uganda and continue to cross into the country at the rate of around 3,000 a day.

Once in Uganda, the refugees have to be registered by the U.N. refugee agency before they can be moved to settlement camps where they can build homes, grow their own food, sell the surplus and become self-sufficient.

Philip Mabior, a school teacher from Bor, who fled the town nearly a month ago, has already been registered as a refugee.

But at the beginning of this week, Mabior, his mother and sisters were still at the transit camp, where he described sanitary services as "very limited."

"For example, you have to line up at a four-door latrine to ease yourself. There is limited water supply. Sometimes people take a day or two without bathing," Mabior said, adding that he was

Officials from the UN refugee agency, the UNHCR, are being very methodical about registering the South Sudanese who are crossing into Uganda at a rate of around 3,000 a day.

UNHCR officials told VOA they want to make sure they don't register the same refugee multiple times -- but the refugees themselves say the process is too slow, especially given the conditions at transit camps like Dzaipi.

Six days without food

Tabitha Ayen and her seven children have been at Dzaipi for six days, waiting to be registered as refugees so that they can move to a settlement camp.

Ayen said that, for the entire time she's been at the transit camp, she hasn't been given any food or water by aid agencies and she and her family have been sleeping outdoors.

Thousands of South Sudanese who have fled the violence that broke out on Dec.15 in Juba and quickly spread around the country, staged a protest in a transit camp in northern Uganda at the weekend, demanding that the registration process be speeded up so that they can be moved to settlement camps.

In response, the Ugandan authorities set up a new transit camp, which within a day of being opened had taken in around 1,000 South Sudanese running from the violence in the world's newest nation that the United Nations said has likely claimed some 10,000 lives in four weeks, and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

People continued to flee the country in their droves, even as representatives for the two main protagonists in the fighting -- President Salva Kiir and his former Vice President Riek Machar -- met in Addis Ababa to try to resolve the conflict.

Uganda Parliament to Debate Additional Troops to South Sudan

Peter Clotey/voanews.com/January 13, 2014

Uganda's parliament plans to begin debate Tuesday about President Yoweri Museveni's request seeking approval to deploy additional troops to South Sudan, to help stabilize the security situation

there, according to legislator Muwanga Kivumbi Muhammed.

Muhammed, a leading member of the parliamentary committee on Defense and Internal Affairs says lawmakers will demand answers from the government on how long troops from the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) will stay in South Sudan, as well as the role they will play in the ongoing conflict.

Some parliamentarians accused President Yoweri Museveni of contravening the constitution by failing to seek parliamentary approval before deploying troops to South Sudan to evacuate Ugandan citizens trapped there due to the conflict.

"We want to know the level of involvement of Uganda in South Sudan and we are there on whose invitation? Which organ? Is it IGAD [regional bloc] is it the African Union? Which arrangement are we in South Sudan? Or are we there as a mercenary to help Salva Kiir. These details we need to know," said Muhammed.

Muhammed says the government has refused to provide legislators with the exact number of UPDF troops that have so far been deployed to South Sudan citing security concerns.

"[A minister] observed that the question of where our troops could be and how many should be deployed in South Sudan, is an operational detail which can jeopardize the lives of our troops and he was reluctant to give us the details," said Muhammed.

South Sudan's former vice president Riek Machar accused the UPDF of supporting troops loyal to President Salva Kiir in the conflict. Kampala denies the charge.

Some parliamentarians like Muhammed contend that the UPDF's alleged support for Mr. Kiir could endanger the lives of more Ugandans in South Sudan, since Uganda could be seen as taking sides in the conflict.

"Uganda should not be seen to be partisan, in a conflict [of] a sovereign country. We also believe that troops and boots and guns cannot have a lasting solution to South Sudan," said Muhammed. "We think this is squarely a political issue, which must have a political answer and therefore third party arbiters need to have clean hands and to be seen to be credible so that they can reinforce and earn the trust of both sides."

Muhammed says the administration appears not to have an official request from South Sudan to deploy troops to that country.

"[We asked] do you have an official invitation by the government of South Sudan, requesting the intervention of Ugandan troops? The Defense Minister said it was only the office of the president [that] can answer that question," said Muhammed.

He says some lawmakers will pressure the administration to provide more answers about Ugandans in South Sudan.

"As of now they don't know how many [citizens] have been killed in South Sudan [and] they don't have exact figures of how many Ugandans are in South Sudan. No one has the figures," said Muhammed. "We even don't know which areas exactly are all Ugandans located."

Uganda foreign ministry spokesman Fred Opolot told VOA that the UPDF troops are in South Sudan to protect and evacuate citizens.

“Our major concern is to ensure that [our citizens] are safe, and if not they are evacuated so that process is ongoing,” said Opolot. “Uganda People’s Defense Forces [are] in Juba to secure the airport, in order to ensure that the evacuation process goes very smoothly.”

Officials say over 20,000 Ugandans have been evacuated from South Sudan due to the South Sudan conflict.

Uganda Inches Towards Oil Sales

13 January 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Kampala — With China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the only holder of an oil production license for the Kingfisher Discovery Area, expectations are that 2014 will likely be the year for the government to issue more production licenses to other firms.

Last week, all the three oil exploration firms Tullow, CNOOC and Total had tendered in bids for production licenses for 10 of the 21 oil prospected areas.

This is a sign that government will speed up the process. Uganda's first oil drop is not expected until 2018.

"The licensed oil companies in the country, in-line with the provisions of the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act 2013, have submitted applications together with their respective Field Development Plans (FDP) and Petroleum Reservoir Reports (PRR)," Ernest Rubondo, the Commissioner for Petroleum Exploration and Production Department said in a statement.

Tullow Uganda Operations Pty Limited (Tullow), the operator of Exploration Area 2 (EA 2), had by last week submitted their field development plans and petroleum reservoir reports for eight discoveries.

The discovery areas are Mputa, Nzizi, Kigogole, Nsoga, Ngara, Ngege, Kasamene and Wahrindi after completion of appraisal work on these discoveries. This shows Tullow's readiness for production.

Rubondo said: "We have reviewed their submissions and now in discussion with them regarding to content of their submissions."

On September 16, 2013, Uganda lifted the condition on the Petroleum Production License for the Kingfisher Discovery, operated by CNOOC Uganda Limited following agreement on the Field Development Plan and Petroleum Reservoir Reports for this field.

The Kingfisher Production License is the first petroleum production license to be issued in the country and marked the country's entry into the development phase.

"Development of the Kingfisher field is expected to be complete within four years before production can commence," Rubondo said.

Also, Total E&P Uganda B.V (Total) submitted an application for a production license over the Ngiri discovery in Exploration Area 1.

This was the first application for a production license submitted by Total since they took over the

operatorship of Exploration Area 1 from Tullow oil during February 2012.

The application for the Production Licence was submitted to the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development during December, 2013.

Rubondo says following receipt of the applications for production licenses, Government engages the respective company in technical discussions over the FDP's and PRR's which are submitted along with the application and when consensus is achieved, a production license is granted.

"These technical discussions are important because they bring out the pros and cons of the proposed development and align the understanding of the nature and characteristics of the specific petroleum reservoir by both Government and the oil company," he stressed.

The discussions contribute to ensuring good and efficient management of the petroleum reservoir during production.

"The review process and discussions are based on analysis of the data which the companies acquire during appraisal of the discoveries", said Rubondo.

Total the operator of Exploration Area 1 and 1A, in September last year applied for extension of the appraisal period for the Jobi, Rii, Gunya, Jobi-East and Mpyo discoveries in EA 1.

The period of appraisal for the Jobi and Rii discoveries was subsequently extended until June 2014 while the period of appraisal for Jobi-East, Gunya and Mpyo discoveries was extended to December 2014. According to Rubondo, applications for production licenses for these five discoveries in EA 1 together with that of the Lyeo Discovery in EA 1A are expected to be submitted during 2014.

"Tullow is also continuing to appraise the Waraga Discovery in EA 2, whose period of appraisal expires at the end of April 2014. Tullow is currently drilling Waraga -3 the second appraisal well on the discovery.

"Three discoveries (Karuka, Taitai and Turaco) were considered sub commercial by the companies and therefore relinquished. These discoveries are expected to be made available for re-licensing through open competitive bidding," notes Rubondo.

Rubondo said the appraisal process enables a more detailed understanding of the size of the reservoir and its characteristics, hence providing for more efficient recovery of the resources therein.

"It is critical to undertake thorough appraisal to ensure that adequate information is acquired to enable a good understanding of the field hence facilitating the choice of sustainable production techniques."

He said the work carried out during appraisal of a discovery usually involves more workload than that carried during exploration.

"For example out of the 114 wells drilled in Uganda to date, 84 are appraisal wells. Development of the different discoveries should also be optimized, through aspects like sharing of the facilities, so as to ensure minimal environment foot print and improved economics. These are some of the issues which inform the preparation of an appropriate FDPs and PRRs," he said.

Rubondo said the time taken to undertake appraisal and the discussions between Government and

the companies with regard to the FDP and PRR account for the time between when a discovery is made and the award of a production license issued.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa Water Protesters 'Shot By Police'

Monday 13 January 2014/news.sky.com

Police say two people protesting against water shortages near South Africa's capital Pretoria have been shot and killed.

Clashes between South African police and protesters angry at the poor delivery of water supplies ave left two people dead.

The killings took place during a demonstration in the northern town of Brits.

Police spokesman Sabata Mokgwabone said: "Two protestors died and two were wounded when they marched to Brits and clashed with police. It is suspected that police fired shots but this is being investigated."

He did not offer further details.

The town lies roughly 50 miles (80km) north of Johannesburg and near the nation's platinum belt, which has been the site violent unrest over poor public services and labour conditions in South Africa's largest economy.

In August 2012 police shot and killed 34 striking platinum miners in the town of Marikana.

The latest protest comes some four months ahead of general elections which are widely considered a key test for President Jacob Zuma's government.

According to a survey published over the weekend Zuma's ruling African National Congress has seen a decline in popularity due, in part, to utility concerns.

FIVE MINUTES: South Africa

Daily Maverick Staff Reporter/14 Jan 2014

A round-up of the day's news from South Africa.

TWO KILLED IN SERVICE DELIVERY CLASH WITH POLICE

Two people have been killed during a clash with police when residents of a village marched to a nearby town in North West province to protest about water shortages, police said. The protest took place near the town of Brits, which lies 80 km north of Johannesburg and near the country's platinum belt, the scene of often-violent labour unrest the past two years.

The region has also been hit by drought. "Two protestors died and two were wounded when they marched to Brits and clashed with police. It is suspected that police fired shots but this is being

investigated," police spokesman Sabata Mokgwabone said. He did not provide further details. It was not clear if the police had used live ammunition or rubber bullets to quell the protest, which was triggered by a water shortage.

ZUMA DENOUNCES VIOLENCE AGAINST EFF IN NKANDLA

President Jacob Zuma says the governing ANC does not approve of violent action against people who are exercising their democratic right to freedom of political association. Speaking at a business breakfast hosted by The New Age, Zuma was reacting to news that 30 members of the ANC were arrested for public violence after they attacked a visiting delegation from the Economic Freedom Fighters in Nkandla. Zuma said booing is also part of the freedom of self-expression. The ANC members arrested in Nkandla have appeared in court and were given bail of R500 each. The case was postponed until 18 February.

NUM URGES FARLAM COMMISSION TO COMPLETE INQUIRY

The National Union of Mineworkers has called on the Farlam commission of inquiry into the deaths of 44 people at Lonmin's Marikana mines to "expedite its inquiry so that justice is not delayed". In a statement, spokesman Livhuwani Mammburu said justice for all those affected was the "best memorial" that could give closure to the families of the deceased. The commission is tipped to complete its investigation by the end of April, 20 months after the massacre. Rivalry between the NUM and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) is believed to have contributed to the violence in the area.

GROWTH IN JOBS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR

South Africa's skills shortage is not being met by a supply of highly skilled workers the Adcorp employment index reports. Figures for November and December last year show that South Africa's skills shortage is "substantial", Fin24 reported. At the same time, employment grew by 23,861 jobs over the same period, with 12,722 of those in the informal sector. Adcorp's labour market economist Loane Sharp the temporary work sector created 5,922 jobs and that 5,271 permanent jobs were established. Sharp said the growth in the informal sector demonstrated its importance in the labour market.

WAS R98 MILLION IN BONUSES JUSTIFIED?

Despite only achieving 40 of its 102 targets for the year, the department of correctional services spent R98 million rewarding employees. DA correctional services spokesman James Selfe said while there are many "outstanding officials" in the department, "R98 million in bonuses for a department that failed to meet most of its targets raises a few eyebrows, and certainly some questions". He said minister S'bu Ndebele should reveal whether the 6,693 bonus recipients were senior officials and whether they were performance based. "Bonuses should only be given to incentivise service delivery excellence and not to further mediocrity," he said.

MILLIONS SPENT ON CAR HIRE FOR MINISTERS

President Jacob Zuma's cabinet spent R10.8 million on car rentals between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2013, despite the ministers treating themselves to expensive luxury cars at taxpayers' expense. DA transport spokesman, Ian Ollis, said social development minister Bathabile Dlamini spent R642,904.97 and her deputy, Bongki Ntuli, a further R142,822.79. Public enterprises minister Malusi Gigaba racked up a bill of R283,166.41, and his deputy Bulelani Magwanishe spent R200,017.73. Ollis said the "continued splurging" by officials showed a lack of commitment to cutting costs despite finance minister Pravin Gordhan's "belt-tightening measures". He called for the new Ministerial Handbook to be published and implemented urgently.

LEKOTA: COPE IS FINANCIALLY VIABLE

The Congress of the People is a “strong, viable, vibrant and necessary opposition party” says leader Mosiuoa Lekota. Lekota was re-elected at COPE’s first national congress attended by over 700 delegates this weekend. Responding to reports that the party was in the midst of a financial crisis, Lekota said this was a “misperception” and “not the case at all”. He said while the party’s “true value” lay in its “human capital”, this did not mean “we [were] not financially viable”. He said the party would mount a strong challenge to the ANC in this year’s elections.

KREJCIR ASSASSINATION CASE POSTPONED

Four accused linked to a plot to assassinate police officers investigating Czech fugitive Radovan Krejcir have appeared in court, but the case has been postponed until next week. National Prosecuting Authority spokesperson Nathi Mcube told reporters the postponement was in order to “iron out few issues” but did not specify what they were. He said the state would oppose bail for the three men and one woman, as “this is a serious case”. Two men and the woman were arrested in Sandton for allegedly plotting to kill forensic investigator Paul O’Sullivan and crime intelligence officer Colonel Nkosana ‘Killer’ Ximba, Sapa reported. A third man was arrested later. DM

TANZANIA :

Nitori Holdings Co., Ltd. : Tanzania Gets U.S. \$100 Million for Agricultural Venture
01/14/2014/4-traders.com

Nitori Holdings, a Japanese firm, dealing in the in the sale of furniture and interior goods, has invested Tsh160 billion (about \$100 million) in agricultural production and manufacturing.

The investment according to the Japanese firm would increase export earnings. The company also plans to set up a fully-fledged textile industry in the country.

Nitori Holdings Senior Managing Director, Shoshin Komiya was recently briefing President Jakaya Kikwete during his visit to Japan. He said: "Our aspiration is to invest in cotton production and set up a fully-fledged textile industry in Tanzania."

Komiya requested for government cooperation in the their proposed venture.

As with most countries in Africa, the bulk of Tanzania's cotton production (in excess of 70 per cent) is exported as lint. Textile and garment manufacturing is one of the key sectors outlined in the national government's Integrated Industrial Development Strategy.

Nitori has secured 4,000 hectares out of 40,000 hectares it had sought from Handeni District, Tanga Region for cotton farming and textile factory investment. Tanga is located along the highway heading to Nairobi and Uganda from Dar es Salaam, the capital city.

The company initiated a move to ensure cotton produced within the country is not exported as a raw material rather exported as a processed good.

The majority of the mills in Tanzania are involved in the production of Kitenge and Kanga cloth, which is sold to wholesalers on the local market.

The cloth is then sold by wholesalers to outlets and traders who distribute the products to

Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

The production of mosquito nets in Tanzania has also been an enormous success, in that the nets are now exported throughout Africa.

Tanzania's garment industry is currently very limited in terms of size and products offered. Most of the industry is oriented towards export markets, and principally shipped to the United States, taking advantage of the trade preferences offered by AGOA market.

Tanzania Cotton Board's acting Director General, Gabriel Mwalo said the investment was initially planned for Morogoro Region but the company failed to secure land for its designed project. He said Nitori will introduce an out-grower scheme

Copyright East African Business Week. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).

Tanzania Yet to Decide On Pavillion

13 January 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Mwanza — Tanzania Minister for Energy and Minerals Prof. Sospeter Muhongo said the money comes as Capital Gains Tax. It would go towards supporting the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to buy two blocks along the Tanzania/Mozambique border.

"We are proposing that the proceeds to be used as capital to enable TPDC to acquire two gas blocks at the Tanzania/Mozambique border," Prof Muhongo told the Tanzania parliament in December, last year.

However, his Deputy (Energy) George Simbachawene says the money would go to restructure the cash trapped power utility, Tanzania Electric Company Limited (Tanesco).

Contacted by East African Business Week last week over this confusion Prof Muhongo only replied, "ask him" (Simbachawene).

Prof Muhongo said the Ministry has written to Treasury requesting it to direct the money to TPDC.

He however remained silent when asked for the Treasury's response.

"The government's decision is to see the money is used to finance the restructuring of Tanesco although this would depend on the requirements at the time the money would be released," Simbachawene said.

The transaction is to be completed in the first quarter of 2014.

Late last year, Ophir Energy plc entered into an agreement to sell to Pavilion Energy a 20% interest in Tanzanian Blocks 1, 3 and 4 for a maximum consideration of \$1,288 million.

Pavilion Energy Pte, the liquefied natural gas unit of Singapore's state-owned investment company, will pay \$1.3 billion for a 20% stake in three gas blocks offshore Tanzania in East Africa.

Pavilion Energy is owned by Temasek Holdings Pte.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

Angola: World Bank Regional Vice President for Africa Visits Angola

13 January 2014/World Bank (Washington, DC)/allafrica.com

press release

Luanda — The World Bank's Vice President for Africa, Makhtar Diop, will visit Angola from January 15 -16, 2014 for development talks with President José Eduardo dos Santos, the Ministers of Finance, Planning and Territorial Development, and the Governor of the Angolan Central Bank.

Mr. Diop's visit, the first by an Africa regional Vice President since 2007, reflects the World Bank Group (WBG)'s strong commitment to revitalizing its relationship with Angola and supporting its long-term development priorities.

In its recent Country Partnership Strategy for Angola (2014-17), the World Bank Group (WBG) committed its support to Angola's transition to the Bank's IBRD or middle-income borrowing status, which will unlock potential for more extensive future collaboration. The Vice President's visit comes several months after successful talks with the Angola government at the WBG's Annual Meetings held in Washington in October 2013.

In addition to meeting the Angolan President and key Ministers, Mr. Diop will hold a press conference with local, regional and international media on Thursday, January 16th.

AU/AFRICA :

Tent City in Central African Republic Swells as Violence Grips Capital

By ADAM NOSSITER/nytimes.com/JAN. 13, 2014

BANGUI, Central African Republic — The streets of this capital city's center are nearly empty. A few citizens slowly walk the wide boulevards, outnumbered by French troops patrolling after recent deadly violence. The battered buildings remain, but much of the city's population has disappeared.

It has rematerialized in a makeshift town by the airport at the edge of the real city. Almost anything can be bought in muddy paths of the impromptu market that has sprung up: flip-flops, dried fish, a haircut, yams, baguettes, gasoline, cheap handbags, okra, coffee, eggs, manioc fritters, clothes custom made by tailors sitting at old sewing machines. More than 100,000 people have moved to this rough, chaotic tent city in less than a month. In all, two-thirds of Bangui has picked up and moved, according to the United Nations.

The new city — grimly called the Ledger by its inhabitants after the five-star hotel on Bangui's heights packed with government notables, including rebel generals and United Nations officials —

is unmistakable evidence that the troubled Central African Republic is still in the grip of a low-boil civil war, despite recent steps toward a political settlement. A haze of smoke from a thousand cooking fires hangs over the camp, and the smell of raw sewage is thick.

People come here because they are afraid. Violence infests the adjacent capital's ramshackle neighborhoods; looting and killing continue deep inside the labyrinthine alleyways. So magistrates, teachers, technicians, civil servants, doctors, students and housewives have all fled to the camp's relative safety.

"Everyone has left Bangui; there is no work anymore," said a camp resident, Steve Namsene, a firefighter in the military here.

The Central African Republic's Muslim leader was forced out on Friday and flew the next day into exile in Benin, but his armed followers, the Seleka, linger and so does sectarian anger against them because of their nine months in power. The violence could break out at 1 o'clock in the morning, or 3 in the afternoon, pitting neighbor against neighbor, Christian against Muslim, rebel against militiaman. At least 1,200 people have been killed in sectarian tit-for-tat violence since early December.

In this country almost entirely without institutions, there is no authority except the French peacekeeping troops. Their camp is at the airport, and the people of Bangui have moved next to it to be under the troops' unintended protection. In row after row they have pitched a tent — often just an empty flour or rice sack suspended on thin plywood planks — in the barren fields. Between Dec. 16 and 28 the camp grew fivefold, to 70 acres, according to the United Nations. Children, mothers and jobless men are all crammed together under open sky, making the best of it.

"At home, there is only insecurity," said a young cigarette seller, Prince Yandoko, his wares shakily displayed on a plywood table. "We're hearing gunshots all the time there. Here, at least, there is a system of protection."

In fact, the only system is a rudimentary checkpoint staffed by a few ragged-looking young Christian militiamen from the countryside, part of the mainly Christian anti-balaka, or anti-machete, self-defense forces. Nearby are the French troops, who only want the displaced people to go home.

In interviews, none of them said they wanted to.

"I would rather stay here than go back to my neighborhood to die," said Marcellin Endjikale, a student.

Mr. Namsene, the fireman, said: "It is this or death. If we went back to the neighborhood, we would be killed by the Seleka." Mr. Namsene, a father of five, said his 2-year-old daughter was killed by a stray Seleka bullet when the rebels entered Bangui last March.

Others spoke of continuing firefights on their doorsteps. "There was a clash between the anti-balaka and the Seleka," said Jeskin Ngarso, a refrigerator technician. "Everybody started shooting at once. We couldn't stay there."

The conditions at the camp are so bad that only real danger could have drawn this many people. "The hygiene conditions at the camp are a disaster," said Lindis Hurum, a Doctors Without Borders coordinator there. "I am very worried about epidemics of all sorts."

Besides treating the sick, who press in throngs against the cordoned area where the group operates,

the doctors assist in an average of seven births a day, and sometimes many more. Camp residents say they are also afraid of potential epidemics. “We’re living a calvary here; we are suffering,” said Louisor Zepenge, a student. “Living like dogs. On the ground.”

Others spoke of a total absence of sanitary facilities, of widespread diarrhea and vomiting. At night, when people are trying to sleep on the ground, “the maggots crawl about,” said Koffi Oualembe, an engineer. “There are no latrines.”

The United Nations says it has resumed distributing emergency relief supplies at the camp. But residents complain about the absence of help from relief workers living at the real Ledger, the luxury hotel. Indeed, the most visible presence by far is that of Doctors Without Borders, which is building a field hospital along with other aid agencies.

The United Nations Human Rights Council said on Monday that it would convene a special session in a week to discuss rights abuses in the Central African Republic. The request was made by 36 member states of the council and submitted by Ethiopia, on behalf of African countries on the council.

The inhabitants do not want to stay in the camp. But they do not want to leave, either. “We are obligated to stay here, even if the conditions are not good,” said Espoir Penge, a vendor at a market stall. “We have no choice.”

Africa desperately needs its own Marshall Plan

By Tony O. Elumelu/Gulf News/January 14, 2014

Only unified strategy can fully correct the economic travails of the Continent

To Africa’s many challenges, add one more: unemployment.

Unemployment, independent of any other factor, threatens to derail the economic promise that Africa deserves. It’s a time bomb with no geographical boundaries: Economists expect Africa to create 54 million new jobs by 2020, but 122 million Africans will enter the labour force during that timeframe. Adding to this shortfall are tens of millions currently unemployed or underemployed, making the human and economic consequences nearly too large to imagine.

Thus, even with the strong economic growth we have seen over the past decade, job creation in Africa remains much too slow.

Africa needs a comprehensive, co-ordinated approach akin to America’s “Marshall Plan” in Europe after World War Two. That effort focused on building infrastructure, modernising the business sector, and improving trade. By the end of the four-year programme, Europe surpassed its pre-war economic output.

We can, and must, do the same for Africa. Entrepreneurs, politicians, philanthropic foundations, and development organisations must all work together to solve the unemployment crisis and make Africa an engine of growth. If we are outrun by the employment challenge, Africa will be a drag on global growth and resources for generations to come.

Africa’s Marshall Plan should prioritise three interdependent “pillars” of development, which all work together to form a virtuous cycle of growth: policy reform and a commitment to the rule of law; investment in infrastructure, and a commitment to developing Africa’s manufacturing and

processing industries. This virtuous cycle forms the heart of Africapitalism: the public, private, and development sectors all coming together, united in a single objective of creating jobs and social wealth.

First, we need enlightened government policies that help reduce administrative and operating costs for investors and businesses. We must streamline licensing and permitting processes, reduce import duties and tariffs and ease visa restrictions, among other reforms. Such policies would do much to attract investment, increase entrepreneurship and ultimately generate jobs.

Microsoft's pilot project to expand broadband access in Africa depends on government policy that frees up unused "white space" in the TV and radio broadcast spectrum. Financial services reform across several African nations, starting with Nigeria, enabled United Bank for Africa to grow into a pan-African financial institution.

Governments and the private sector must also commit to strong, transparent institutions to help boost confidence in Africa's business climate.

Sustained economic and job growth requires creating a safe and reliable environment for capital — including strong civil and legal institutions, corporate financial transparency, accountable, democratically-elected politicians, and modern, open and transparent markets.

Aggressive advances on such policy fronts will help support the development pillars of infrastructure investment and industrialisation — both of which are vital to creating employment on the continent.

Infrastructure investment

The second pillar of Africa's development programme must be infrastructure investment, particularly in power and transportation, without which business cannot function. Today, more than 70 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa lacks access to electricity and every 1 per cent increase in electricity outages reduces Africa's per-capita GDP by approximately 3 per cent.

Access to affordable electricity is essential to unlocking the continent's growth potential — reducing costs and enabling business growth, including homegrown businesses that create jobs and sustainable local economies.

Transportation infrastructure promises to have an equally transformative impact. The African Union should encourage and embrace transportation projects that first connect African nations to each other, and then to our global trading partners.

Major multinationals like Diageo, Wal-Mart, Barclays, and Microsoft are ramping up African operations in spite of infrastructure challenges. In some cases, they even build their own infrastructure. Stronger policy and physical infrastructure would bring more investment from those who cannot or refuse to bootstrap it. It would also help small and mid-sized enterprises grow faster, and these companies are the engines of job growth in any economy.

Africa's third development pillar must be building our manufacturing and processing industries. Africa lacks the capacity to process and refine its own natural resources. Raw materials such as oil, cocoa and gold are shipped overseas, where they are processed into high-margin products and often re-imported into Africa — costing both jobs and hard currency.

For example, Nigeria exports raw crude oil and then imports expensive gasoline, when the country

should be able to refine the oil itself, supplying not just its own market, but also other markets across Africa. This inability to create finished goods at home, and trade them with other African nations, drastically limits the continent's growth potential, and thus its ability to create businesses, jobs and wealth within Africa's own domestic economies.

I believe we can solve Africa's employment challenge, but only if we focus on these three development pillars with great urgency, and accelerate current investment and business trends.

Many of Africa's stock markets are delivering stellar returns, while institutional, retail mutual fund and private equity capital is flowing rapidly into African markets. Many multinationals and African conglomerates are investing heavily in Africa.

Despite such investment and economic growth, however, Africa is not creating nearly enough jobs. According to demographics, time is not on our side. But with a coordinated jobs plan for Africa, we can secure a productive, economically independent future for the continent and its people.

Égypte : un référendum controversé

Par Delphine Minoui/lefigaro.fr/ 14/01/2014

Un taux de participation record au référendum sur la nouvelle Constitution qui se tient aujourd'hui et demain en Égypte pourrait légitimer la feuille de route dessinée par l'armée.

Correspondante au Caire,

Sauf surprise, c'est le «oui» qui devrait l'emporter lors du référendum sur la nouvelle Constitution qui se tient ces mardi et mercredi en Égypte. Mais le général el-Sissi, architecte en chef de l'éviction de Mohammad Morsi, obtiendra-t-il le plébiscite tant rêvé qui lui permettra de briguer la présidentielle? Ce mardi matin, alors que les bureaux de vote venaient d'ouvrir à travers le pays, l'espoir d'un taux de participation record - qui légitimerait la feuille de route dessinée par l'armée - n'était pas complètement acquis.

Pour beaucoup d'Égyptiens - qui n'ont même pas lu le document en question -, voter «oui», c'est voter pour un retour à la stabilité à la fois politique et économique après trois années de soubresauts post-révolutionnaires. Ils sont nombreux, aussi, à relayer le point de vue des médias, quasi unanimement rangés du côté des militaires: le nouveau texte de loi est «le meilleur» de l'histoire égyptienne, il tourne la page «de l'obscurantisme» des Frères - désormais étiquetés comme «terroristes» - , et s'inscrit dans la continuité des demandes de la révolution de janvier 2011.

Pourtant, la répression qui sévit actuellement contre toute voix critique a poussé d'autres mouvances que l'Alliance anti-Coup (qui gravite autour de la Confrérie) à appeler à la dernière minute au boycott du scrutin. C'est le cas, notamment, du Parti «L'Égypte forte», dirigé par Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, un ancien des Frères, et candidat malheureux à la présidentielle de 2012. Ce Parti connu pour avoir ouvertement milité contre Morsi, mais qui s'inquiète aujourd'hui du pouvoir croissant des militaires, avait dans un premier temps décidé de faire campagne pour le «non». Lundi, il a finalement renoncé à participer au référendum. A l'origine de cette décision: l'arrestation de plusieurs de ses adhérents, «pour avoir collé des posters en faveur du «non»», croit savoir l'ONG Human Rights Watch. «Vus les incidents prouvant que les préparatifs pour le référendum violent les règles de base de la démocratie, «L'Égypte forte» a décidé de se retirer du référendum», précise un communiqué du Parti sur sa page facebook.

Embarras et prudence

C'est dans ce climat de censure renforcée que le syndicat de la presse égyptienne ainsi que plusieurs dizaines de médias étrangers (dont Le Figaro) basés au Caire ont également publié, lundi, deux appels séparés à la libération des trois journalistes d'Al Jazeera arrêtés le 29 décembre 2012. L'Australien Peter Grete, l'Égypto-canadien Mohamed Adel Fahmy et l'Égyptien Baher Mohamed sont accusés d'avoir «filmé des installations de sécurité, menacé l'ordre public et travaillé sans autorisation». L'un d'eux est également soupçonné d'appartenir aux Frères Musulmans.

Les capitales occidentales, qui suivent discrètement ces nouveaux développements, oscillent entre embarras et prudence. Par manque d'organisation, l'Union Européenne n'a dépêché sur place que quatre observateurs pour veiller au bon déroulement du scrutin. Pour sa part, l'organisation américaine Democracy International a fait venir 80 représentants, dispatchés à travers le pays (à l'exception des gouvernorats jugés trop sensibles comme le Sinaï) afin de prendre note d'éventuelles irrégularités. Mais là encore, son président fait preuve de réserve quant au processus ayant mené à ce référendum controversé. «Décider d'observer (un scrutin), ce n'est pas lui donner de la légitimité», déclarait-il à la presse deux jours avant le début du vote, en évoquant une atmosphère «contestée, polarisée et difficile».

Egyptians vote in constitutional referendum seen boosting Sisi

By Michael Georgy/in.reuters.com/Tue Jan 14, 2014

CAIRO

(Reuters) - Egyptians began voting on Tuesday in a constitutional referendum, the first ballot since the military overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Mursi and an event likely to spawn a presidential bid by army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Few doubt that Egyptians, who staged mass protests against Mursi's rule before his ouster, will turn out in big numbers and vote "yes" in the two-day referendum, a milestone on the army-backed government's political road map.

Sisi ousted Mursi, Egypt's first freely elected head of state, in July. Sisi's Islamist foes see him as the mastermind of a coup that kindled the worst internal strife in Egypt's modern history and brought back what critics call a police state.

But many Egyptians are weary of the political upheaval that has gripped Egypt and shattered its economy since they rose up to topple autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011, and they view Sisi as a decisive figure who can reinstate stability.

Analysts say the referendum is also turning out to be a vote on the popularity of a man whose image features on posters across Cairo.

If he runs for president, Sisi is widely expected to win.

In the Nile Delta town of Tanta, about 40 women lined up at a polling station at a girl's primary school. About a dozen policemen and soldiers kept watch.

"The acceptance of this constitution will show that we had a glorious revolution on 30 June that was the will of the people implemented by the army," said Negla Hassan, a 30-year-old English teacher.

Egyptians who support the military takeover refer to it as a revolution, arguing that it represented the popular will because it followed mass protests against Mursi's rule.

"We have removed the Brotherhood and we will live with stability and security with our police and our army. With Sisi at the head of our country, Egypt will be the mother of the world again," added Hassan.

Egypt's political transition may well keep stumbling. Al Qaeda-linked Islamist militants, which security officials say have ties to the Brotherhood, have stepped up attacks against security forces since Mursi's ouster.

The Brotherhood has repeatedly said it is a peaceful movement and that it hoped street protests would bring down the government and its allies in the military.

But the severe security clampdown - hundreds of Islamists have been killed and thousands arrested - has taken the steam out of demonstrations. Mursi and many other top Brotherhood leaders have been arrested and are on trial.

An explosion was heard in Cairo just before voting was due to begin, security sources said on Tuesday. The blast occurred near a court complex in the district of Imbaba. There were no early reports of casualties.

State and private television channels demonise the Brotherhood as "terrorists" while frequently showing Sisi inspecting military sites, giving speeches and meeting with members of the public.

The referendum will mark the third time Egyptians have voted on constitutional arrangements since the historic uprising against Mubarak, a former air force chief, in January 2011, and overall the sixth time they have gone to the polls since his downfall.

The constitution will replace one signed into law by Mursi a little more than a year ago after it was approved in a referendum. The new text strips out disputed Islamist language while strengthening state institutions that defied Mursi: the military, the police and the judiciary.

Egypt's Western allies were hoping that a more competitive political field would emerge, three years after the Arab Spring tide of democratic change swept through the country.

APPROVAL OF REFERENDUM LIKELY

But little leverage has been applied to back their calls for inclusive politics in the biggest Arab nation. Suspicions have already emerged about the fairness of the referendum.

Egypt is deeply influential in the Arab world and whatever political scenario unfolds there could impact the region.

The political turmoil has wrecked the economy. But Gulf Arab states, suspicious of the Muslim Brotherhood, jumped to Egypt's rescue after Mursi's overthrow, providing billions of dollars in aid.

Approval of the rewritten constitution appears a foregone conclusion. Mursi's now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood is calling for a boycott rather than a "no" vote, while many Egyptians who backed his removal are expected to vote "yes" in support of the army-backed order that has replaced Islamist rule.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), a Geneva-based group that works to uphold the rule of law, described the draft constitution as highly flawed.

"The referendum campaign has taken place within a context of fear, intimidation and repression, calling into question the fairness of the entire process," it said in a statement.

The referendum anchors a transition plan the government unveiled in July with the stated aim of restoring democracy, although it simultaneously launched a fierce crackdown on the Brotherhood, Egypt's best organised party until last year.

Driven underground and declared a terrorist group on December 25, the Brotherhood has said it will shun the road map. A presidential vote is expected as early as April, once the referendum is approved, with a parliamentary election later.

Egyptian government officials have hailed the revised constitution as a clear sign of democratic progress. Human rights groups are highly sceptical.

Human Rights Watch expressed concern at reports that seven activists from the Strong Egypt party face criminal charges for hanging posters calling for a 'no' vote in the referendum.

"Egyptian citizens should be free to vote for or against the new constitution, not fear arrest for simply campaigning for a 'no' vote," said Joe Stork, Middle East and North Africa deputy director at Human Rights Watch. "Protecting the right to vote requires safeguarding the right to free expression."

(Additional reporting by Tom Perry and Maggie Fick, editing by Mark Heinrich and Hugh Lawson)

Centrafrique : 15 jours pour trouver un président

avec AFP/le 14 janvier 2014

Afrique

Quatre jours après la mise à l'écart de Michel Djotodia, les députés entrent ce mardi en session spéciale pour désigner son successeur. Ils ont deux semaines pour y parvenir.

Michel Djotodia écarté par les pays de la région et la France, la Centrafrique se cherche désormais son nouveau président. Cette tâche primordiale pour l'avenir du pays revient au Conseil national de transition, le Parlement provisoire. Ses 135 membres débutent leurs travaux ce mardi lors d'une session spéciale limitée au maximum à 15 jours.

Selon des sources locales, il devrait y avoir une dizaine de candidats lors de ce "conclave", dont peut-être le président du CNT et le président par intérim, Alexandre-Ferdinand Nguendet. Si ce dernier est bien candidat, il serait alors le favori étant donné sa connaissance des parlementaires. "Vous ne pouvez pas laisser un pays sans dirigeant. Il faut que dans les dix jours, les dirigeants soient nommés", a demandé lundi Laurent Fabius. "Nous avons là-bas un problème sécuritaire à régler", a ajouté le chef de la diplomatie française.

Pas candidat en 2015

Le futur président aura la lourde tâche de mettre fin aux violences religieuses entre musulmans et chrétiens. Pour qu'il se consacre uniquement à cette tâche, il ne pourra pas être candidat aux élections générales prévues au plus tard au premier semestre 2015.

Sur le terrain, la situation, quoique toujours très tendue comme le prouvent les pillages qui ont eu

lieu samedi dans les quartiers musulmans, semble cependant s'améliorer. Des centaines de soldats de l'armée régulière qui avaient déserté ces derniers mois par crainte d'être victimes de représailles de la Séléka, la coalition ayant porté au pouvoir Michel Djotodia, ont ainsi regagné lundi leur commandement. De leur côté, les soldats français et africains de la Misca intensifient leurs patrouilles pour neutraliser les bandes de pillards armés de machettes et de gourdins.

CAR Humanitarian Crisis Deepens

VOA News/January 13, 2014

The number of people displaced in the troubled Central African Republic has topped 1 million, as the country's humanitarian crisis grows deeper.

The United Nations refugee agency said Monday that more than 950,000 people were displaced within the CAR, while another 86,000 have fled to neighboring countries.

VOA reporter Nick Long is in the CAR capital, Bangui. He said that according to a report from the U.N. humanitarian agency, living conditions for most of the country's people were growing desperate.

"A great majority of communities are reporting that the number of meals people eat every day has dropped from three to one. Everywhere people have lost their livelihoods, and everywhere people are saying they don't have enough seeds for the next planting season. And there's a lack of clean drinking water everywhere," he said.

Long said the U.N. report detailed especially bad conditions inside the displaced persons' camps.

"It describes them as horrendous, with an average of up to 4,000 people per latrine at some of the biggest camps. So that just gives you an idea of the scale of the challenge that aid workers and indeed everybody faces," he said.

Long said Bangui appeared calm Monday after unrest and looting over the weekend. The Red Cross reported treating 60 people for wounds since Friday at the city's main hospital.

Interim CAR President Michel Djotodia resigned Friday, after months of deadly violence, much of it involving Muslims and Christian militia groups.

On Sunday, transitional leader Alexandre Nguendet appealed for calm while political leaders begin to work out a path toward new elections.

Nguendet and parliament may begin the process of selecting a new transitional president as early as Tuesday.

The CAR has a long history of unrest since winning independence from France in 1960.

The latest crisis began after mostly Muslim Seleka rebels overthrew President Francois Bozize last March. Abuses by the rebels triggered the rise of Christian defense groups and a cycle of killings and violence.

Deployments of French and African troops have not been able to stop the violence, which has left more than 1,000 people dead.

Soudan du Sud : une boîte de nuit empêche les négociations

lundi 13 janvier 2014 / par Assanatou Baldé/afrik.com

Invitées à poursuivre les négociations dans une boîte de nuit de la capitale éthiopienne Addis-Abeba, les délégations du président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir et celles de son rival Riek Machar ont préféré remettre au lendemain leurs pourparlers, estimant le lieu inapproprié.

Les négociations pour mettre un terme au conflit au Soudan du Sud n'ont pas pu avoir lieu ce lundi. Les délégations en effet du président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir et son rival Riek Machar ont refusé de poursuivre les pourparlers dans une boîte de nuit de leur hôtel à Addis-Abeba, la capitale éthiopienne. Elles ont décliné l'invitation, estimant que le lieu n'était pas approprié pour discuter, remettant au lendemain leurs échanges.

Ces négociations, très laborieuses, se déroulent depuis une semaine au luxueux hôtel Sheraton de la capitale éthiopienne Addis Abeba. Mais aujourd'hui, la salle habituellement réservée aux délégations sud-soudanaises a été mise à disposition d'une autre délégation, japonaise. Raison pour laquelle les Sud-Soudanais ont été relégués dans la boîte de nuit de l'hôtel. D'après des sources proches des négociations, certains membres des délégations ont estimé que ce lieu, qui n'est pas opérationnel en pleine journée, était trop bruyant, trop spacieux et mal éclairé. Les discussions, qui se déroulent sous l'égide de pays d'Afrique de l'Est, devraient donc reprendre mardi.

Le Soudan du Sud est ravagé depuis le 15 décembre par des combats sur fond de rivalité entre le président Salva Kiir et son ancien vice-président Riek Machar, limogé en juillet. Ce dernier réclame le départ du président sud-soudanais. Les affrontements sans merci entre les deux parties ont déjà fait des milliers de morts et des centaines de milliers de déplacés.

More than 200 South Sudan civilians drown in ferry accident: army

AFP/Reuters/2014-01-14

At least 200 South Sudanese civilians have drowned in a ferry accident on the White Nile river while fleeing fighting in the city of Malakal, an army spokesman said.

"The reports we have are of between 200 to 300 people, including women and children. The boat was overloaded," said army spokesman Philip Aguer.

"They all drowned. They were fleeing the fighting that broke out again in Malakal."

The country has been rocked over the past three weeks by fierce fighting between government forces and those loyal to his sacked deputy Riek Machar.

More than 1,000 people have been killed, while 230,000 have been from their homes.

The clashes have continued despite stuttering peace talks in neighbouring Ethiopia.

UN/AFRICA :

UN warns M23 against resurgence in DRC

January 13 2014/By SAPA

United Nations, United States - The United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo will not “tolerate” a resurgence of the M23 rebel group, the top UN official there said Monday.

In a statement to the Security Council, the UN Special Representative in the DRC cited “credible reports that the military recruitment of the M23 did not cease” after a December peace deal.

“There are also credible reports of emerging M23 activities in Ituri in northeastern Congo,” Martin Kobler said.

“We should tolerate no military reemergence of the M23,” He said, referring to the latest incarnation of an ethnic Tutsi rebellion.

The group laid down its arms in early November after an offensive by government troops backed by a special UN brigade.

Kobler insisted there can be “no roll back on what has been achieved so far.”

And he urged “the governments of Uganda and Rwanda to do everything possible to prevent M23 elements from sheltering or training troops on their territory.”

UN experts have accused Kigali and Kampala of giving military aid to the M23, which both countries have denied.

Kobler also encouraged: “Congolese forces to do more and to intensify joint planning and execution of operations against the FDLR,” a Rwandan rebel group that includes the remnants of the Hutu militia which carried out Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

After clearing several FDLR positions, Kobler said, the UN mission in DR Congo is preparing further operations.

“The (FDLR) leadership must be left with no choice other than surrender,” he insisted, recalling that this is the 20th anniversary since the genocide.

Kobler also said that “military actions against the ADF are expected soon,” naming another armed group active in eastern DR Congo.

Sapa-AFP

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 14 Janvier 2014... AGNEWS/ DAM, NY, 14/01/2014