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BURUNDI:

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

<mark>Ugandan politicians draw up new anti-gay bill</mark> Date : November 21, 2014 /AP

Kampala: Ugandan politicians have drafted a new anti-gay bill that could be introduced for debate

in the country's parliament before Christmas.

The new bill is in "advanced stages" and will focus on punishing the promotion of homosexuality, Ugandan legislator Latif Ssebaggala, a strong supporter of anti-gay legislation, said on Thursday.

"We believe that before Christmas we will be through with it. It is a strong bill," he said.

"The element of promotion was strengthened, putting in place measures against people who lure young people into these sex acts."

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has said anti-gay legislation threatens the country's economic ties with the West, but there is a growing movement for new legislation following the nullification earlier this year of an anti-gay law on procedural grounds.

Rights groups condemned that law as draconian before it was nullified by Uganda's Constitutional Court, which ruled in August that the legislation was illegal because it had been passed during a parliamentary session that lacked a quorum.

But the court did not rule on the substance of the law, which allowed terms of up to life for homosexual offences.

That left the door open for legislators to introduce another anti-gay bill, and many legislators have since vowed to pass a new law.

Uganda's gay leaders say rising anti-gay sentiment in the east African country has driven many homosexuals underground, with scores being evicted by landlords and others fleeing the country.

Ugandan rights lawyer Ladislaus Rwakafuuzi, who has defended gay Ugandans in court, said the wording in the new bill was unknown and it would face a legal challenge if it limits freedom of expression and speech.

Uganda suspends wildlife chief after huge ivory theft 2014-11-21/AFP

Kampala - Uganda's top wildlife official was suspended on Thursday after seized ivory worth over a million dollars vanished from government strongrooms, state-run media said, although he insisted he kept his post.

The suspension of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) executive director Andrew Seguya follows that of five top officials earlier this week, the government-owned New Vision newspaper said.

Police investigations backed by Interpol are ongoing into the more than a ton of missing tusks.

Tourism minister Maria Mutagamba recommended the UWA boss be suspended until the probe is complete, the New Vision said.

But Seguya, who has led the agency since 2010, denied he had been suspended.

"I am still in office, I don't know what they are saying", he told AFP.

Those previously suspended include UWA's chief ranger, those who had access to the vault, as well

as intelligence officers in the agency.

The UWA said a routine check had found that 1 335kg of ivory had vanished from supposedly secure stockpiles, which officials estimated to be valued at some \$1.1m.

Staff are feared to have been working with the very traffickers they are meant to stop to steal and sell on the confiscated tusks.

Poaching has risen sharply across Africa in recent years fuelled by rising demand in Asia for ivory and rhino horn, coveted as a traditional medicine and a status symbol.

Uganda is a key transit country for the illegal trade.

More than 35 000 elephants are killed across Africa every year for their tusks.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA:

Malawi-Tanzania lake row: issue not negotiable, says President Mutharika maravipost.com/20141120

BLANTYRE (Maravipost)--Malawi President Arthur Peter Mutharika has once again challenged that the issue about disputed Lake Malawi is negotiable, saying "my position has not changed".

Mutharika said this when he meet with former President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano and former President of Botswana festus Mogae, who are members of Forum of Former African

Heads of State and Government Omediating in the Lake Malawi border dispute with neighbouring Tanzania.

The two former leaders, who arrived in the country Wednesday, briefed Mutharika on the progress of mediation in the row.

"I informed the two leaders that to us there is no conflict between Malawi and Tanzania. I have stated that the issue about Lake Malawi is not negotiable and my position has not changed.

"This does not mean that we are ready to go to war with our neighbor, but because our case on this matter is very clear according to the Helgoland Treaty of 1896 and the OAU resolution of 1985," said Mutharika.

He added, "I am confident and hopeful with the efforts of the mediation team of Presidents Chissano, Mogae and Thabo Mbeki so far, to help resolving this issue."

Mutharika assured the Forum of his personal and government's commitment to return to discussions with "our neighbours for an amicable and peaceful resolution" of this matter which he said, is in the

best interest of the two nations.

Tanzania denies reports that it planned to evict Maasai herders Friday, 21 November 2014 /Xinhua

DAR ES SALAAM (Xinhua) -- Authorities in Tanzania on Thursday denied media reports that they were planning to evict 40, 000 Maasai pastoralists from Loliondo district in the north of the country and turn their ancestral land into a reserve for the royal family of Dubai to hunt big game.

The UK Guardian newspaper reported this week that Tanzanian authorities have ordered 40,000 Maasai pastoralists to vacate their ancestral land by the end of 2014 in order to turn it into a big game hunting block for the Dubai-based royal family.

"The article was aimed at mudslinging the country in the eyes of the international community," Lazaro Nyalandu, Tanzanian minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, told a news conference in the political capital Dodoma.

The minister further described the report as malicious, misleading and unfortunate.

According to the article, the government of Tanzania was ready to offer compensation to the evictees to the tune of 600,000 U.S. dollars to be used for socioeconomic development projects but the pastoralists refused the offer.

Nyalandu said after the article was published he received several emails from across the world condemning Tanzania for its decision to evict the pastoralists from Loliondo.

"This is not the first time international newspapers have been accusing our country without seeking clarification from the government," he said.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA:

Nigeria : au moins 45 morts dans une attaque attribuée à Boko Haram Le Monde.fr avec AFP/ 20.11.2014

Au moins quarante-cinq personnes ont été tuées mercredi 19 novembre dans une attaque attribuée à Boko Haram d'un village du nord-est du Nigeria, fief de l'insurrection islamiste, ont indiqué jeudi des témoins et des responsables officiels. L'attaque a visé Azaya Kura, dans la région de Mafa, dans l'Etat de Borno, a déclaré le président par intérim du district de Mafa, Shettima Lawan, dénonçant

un acte « ignoble ».

Mafa, qui se trouve à une cinquantaine de kilomètres à l'est de Maiduguri, capitale de l'Etat de Borno, et ses environs ont été visés à plusieurs reprises par des attaques du groupe islamiste armé. Des hommes lourdement armés sont arrivés à moto mercredi vers midi à Azaya Kura.

PLUS DE LA MOITIÉ DU VILLAGE DÉTRUIT

« Pour le moment, quarante-cinq hommes ont été tués et il y en a d'autres qui sont morts dans la brousse après avoir perdu leur sang à cause de blessures par balle », a raconté un habitant, se présentant sous le seul nom de Jabiru. Musa Abbani, un commerçant qui s'est réfugié à Maiduguri, a ajouté : « Les assaillants ont détruit plus de la moitié des maisons de notre village, mis le feu à plus de cinquante motos et à quatre voitures avant de partir avec des vivres et des bêtes. »

Cinquante personnes auraient été blessées, selon des témoins, rapportant que les islamistes avaient bouclé le village pour empêcher les habitants de s'enfuir.

« DISPARITION IMMINENTE »

Shettima Lawan s'est rendu sur les lieux jeudi sous haute sécurité. « Je cherche toujours la raison de cette tuerie de masse et des destructions commises par des gens sous le prétexte d'une religion, a-t-il lancé. Il a exhorté « le gouvernement fédéral à prendre des mesures urgentes et à sauver [la] population d'une disparition imminente ».

Le 26 octobre, des combattants présumés de Boko Haram ont enlevé à Mafa une trentaine de garçons et de filles, certains âgés de seulement 11 à 13 ans. Des habitants se sont plaints d'attaques quasi quotidiennes, qui ont forcé beaucoup d'entre eux à fuir.

La dernière conquête du groupe islamiste, qui multiplie les violences dans le nord-est du pays, serait la prise la semaine dernière de la ville de Chibok, devenue l'emblème de sa barbarie après l'enlèvement le 14 avril de 276 jeunes filles d'un lycée de l'agglomération.

Blaise Compaoré, l'ancien président burkinabè, est arrivé au Maroc BFMTV S. C. avec AFP/le 21/11/2014

Blaise Compaoré, acien chef d'Etat, est arrivé à Casablanca jeudi soir. Déchu de son poste de président du Burkina Faso, il était en exil en Côte d'Ivoire depuis sa démission, le 31 octobre dernier. On ignore la durée de son séjour au Maroc.

En exil depuis sa chute, l'ancien président du Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré, est arrivé jeudi soir à Casablanca, au Maroc. Il se trouvait auparavant en Côte d'Ivoire, où il se trouvait en exil depuis sa démission le 31 octobre, a annoncé le ministère marocain des Affaires étrangères (Maec).

Blaise Compaoré est "accompagné de cinq personnes" pour ce "séjour à durée déterminée", a précisé le Maec dans un communiqué publié peu avant 0h30 GMT par l'agence officielle MAP. Un "séjour à durée indéterminée"

"Le royaume du Maroc, qui a des liens historiques, humains et politiques forts avec le Burkina Faso, réitère son soutien au processus de transition dans ce pays", est-il encore indiqué.

La durée exacte du séjour ainsi que la localisation précise de l'ancien président burkinabè, qui

entretient de bonnes relations avec les autorités du royaume marocain, ne sont pas mentionnées.

En début de soirée, le roi Mohammed VI avait pour sa part adressé un message de félicitations au président intérimaire Michel Kafando, estimant que sa désignation répondait "à la volonté du peuple du Burkina Faso d'aller de l'avant sur la voie de la consolidation de la démocratie". Compaoré prépare-t-il son retour au Burkina?

Blaise Compaoré, sa femme et des membres de sa famille avaient quitté Yamoussoukro en fin d'après-midi, dans un avion spécialement affrété pour l'occasion, selon la présidence ivoirienne. Ce départ n'est pas définitif, l'ancien chef de l'Etat burkinabè étant "amené à revenir", avait souligné à l'AFP la même source.

Blaise Compaoré, 63 ans, a été chassé par la rue après 27 années de règne pour avoir voulu réviser la Constitution afin de se maintenir au pouvoir. Le jour de sa démission, il avait été exfiltré du Burkina Faso vers Yamoussoukro, la capitale politique ivoirienne, grâce à des moyens militaires français.

Écrit par S. C. avec AFP

Africa's Latest False Choice

project-syndicate.org/NOV 20, 2014

DJIBOUTI – With the rise of Asian economies and their desire to play a greater role on the world stage, it has been suggested that Africa should choose between keeping its partnerships with the West and embracing new alliances with the East. This is the same false choice that African countries were told that they had to make during the Cold War, when the Soviet Union and the West, led by the United States, competed for exclusive influence across the continent.

The idea that Africa must once again choose between two competing blocs – Chinese and the Western – has become widespread among Western strategists, think tanks, and journalists. Reducing African options to such a crude choice conjures the specter of a new "Great Game," with foreign powers once again carving up the continent for their benefit. According to this narrative, Asian investors, particularly the Chinese, will gorge themselves on the continent's resources until nothing is left.

African governments and businesses take a more nuanced view. In recent years, Western investors have fixed their sights on emerging markets such as Brazil and China, leaving a funding gap for the pioneer markets of Africa. Many of our Asian partners have been successful in developing their industrial base, something that African countries seek to do as well. China, after all, is now the world's largest economy (in terms of purchasing power parity), just three decades after opening itself to rapid development.

Meanwhile, economic growth is no longer a distant promise in Africa, but a reality. According to the World Bank, Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP grew at a 4.7% annual rate in 2013, with the pace expected to accelerate to 5.1% in 2015 and 2016. Today, no global investor can afford to ignore Africa's tremendous potential. Similarly, no developing country should ignore the great opportunities implied by engagement with Asia's emerging powers. It is only natural that trade and diplomatic relations between two dynamic continents should be on an upward path.

The numbers are impressive. Exports from Africa to Asia increased more than sixfold between 2001 and 2011. Trade between the two continents now almost matches that between Africa and Europe, and China has become Africa's single largest trading partner, with trade flows rising from \$11

billion in 2000 to \$210 billion last year. China's direct investment in Africa has grown from a scant \$500 million in 2003 to \$15 billion in 2012.

And there is plenty of room for further growth. Africa accounts for only 5% of China's overall foreign trade and investment. This is dwarfed by China's investment in the US, for example, where it has accumulated \$1.3 trillion in US government debt alone.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has been explicit about his country's desire to form a progressive relationship with the continent, based on mutual respect, with a commitment to develop African communities. It is instructive that, although Africa accounts for only a small fraction of China's foreign investment, it has received nearly half of China's total foreign aid.

For Africa, the focus must be on building the right environment for investment. In building ties with Asia, African governments have an opportunity to learn from the region's economic success stories, while boosting their own countries' industrial development.

Much of Asia's investment in Africa has focused on infrastructure that directly supports African priorities: telecoms, power plants and transmission lines, water and sanitation, roads and railways, ports, aviation, and airports. These investments represent a long-term commitment, and Africa benefits in many ways, gaining not only jobs today, but also a more advanced industrial base that will underpin employment and drive economic growth long into the future.

These investments also support Africa's drive toward greater mobility, higher productivity, and a more prominent role in world trade. And, by fostering competition for projects and mobilizing a more diverse pool of investors, they have enhanced Africa's economic security.

Of course, short-term investment and economic growth cannot come at the expense of medium-term social development and job creation or long-term sustainability and stability. We understand this, and so do our partners. It is the responsibility of all African governments to ensure that investments and partnerships – whether with emerging-market investors such as China, Brazil, India, and the Gulf states, or with Europe and the US – are built on fair terms.

To see the ties between Africa and Asia as part of a battle between East and West is simplistic, outdated, and, above all, wrong-headed. Greater interest in the continent is the result of reforms that have emboldened foreign investors – from both East and West – and of Africa's growing ability to get the best deal for its economy and people.

UN/AFRICA:

UN Chief Emphasizes On Africa's Need For Clean Industrialization 11/20/2014/by RTT Staff Writer

Africa needs a green, clean industrialization that leapfrogs outdated, polluting processes and platforms and benefits from new technologies, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Thursday as the world body marked Africa Industrialization Day.

In a statement, Ban explained the theme Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development: Agro Industrial Development for Food Security focuses on the links between agriculture and development.

"Agriculture still accounts for the major share of rural household income and employs over 60 percent of Africa's labour force, particularly women," the UN chief said.

Low agricultural productivity continues to threaten food security in Africa as a whole. And while many African economies have shown impressive growth rates in recent years, increased prosperity does not always translate into inclusive wealth creation.

"Far too often, economic development depends on the extraction of natural resources and on lowskilled labour, which has resulted in a weak manufacturing base and uneven distribution of wealth," the UN Secretary-General said.

Inclusive and sustainable industrialization is a "key stepping stone" towards sustained economic growth, food security and poverty eradication in Africa, he added.

"I reaffirm the commitment of the United Nations to promote Africa's inclusive and sustainable industrial development to help ensure an economically prosperous and socially integrated continent," he pledged.

Within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), the UN General Assembly, in 1989, proclaimed November 20 Africa Industrialization Day.

Commemorating the occasion, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will host a symposium in Vienna on November 24 to showcase relevant actions and success stories that promote Africa's industrial development.

The event will bring together representatives from the diplomatic corps, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

US/AFRICA :

US military to extend anti-Ebola mission in West Africa Nov 21, 2014/firstpost.com

Washington: The US military may extend its mission to combat the spread of Ebola in West Africa beyond six months, if there was a surge of new cases.

"We have to be prepared for this to go longer than six months," Pentagon official John Kirby said, Thursday, according to a Xinhua report. He said that in spite of a reported drop in new cases in Liberia, the country hardest hit by Ebola, it was too soon to determine whether this trend will hold.

More than 2,500 US military personnel are in West Africa as part of "Operation United Assistance", helping battle the Ebola outbreak by providing logistical support and training for health care workers, as well as testing fluid samples and building emergency treatment units.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Ebola has killed more than 5,400 people in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea since March.

Ebola is a disease caused by the Ebola virus. Symptoms of the disease typically start between two

days and three weeks after contracting the virus.

In the beginning, the symptoms may range from fever, sore throat, muscle pain, and headache. Then, vomiting and diarrhea usually follow, along with decreased function of the liver and kidneys. Some of those affected may also begin to bleed both internally and externally.

IANS

New York, Missouri patients test negative for Ebola virus Thu Nov 20, 2014 /Reuters

(Reuters) - Two travelers who returned recently from separate West Africa trips tested negative for Ebola on Thursday at hospitals in New York and Missouri and will stay under observation while awaiting additional confirmation of the results, health officials said.

Preliminary test results showed a traveler who returned to the United States from a trip to Mali does not have the disease, but the patient remains in isolation at Bellevue Hospital Center for further testing, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation said in a statement.

Initial tests for the Ebola virus were negative as well in Crystal City, Missouri, for a patient who recently returned from West Africa, Mercy Jefferson Hospital said.

That patient was being held in isolation at an off-site surgical center and was considered at low risk for Ebola, the hospital said. She will stay in isolation as a precaution and will be retested Saturday night if she remains symptomatic.

Mercy said it was also testing for malaria, the flu and other possible diseases or illnesses. It was withholding further information about the patient, but local media described her as a nurse. Hospital officials did not disclose what country the patient visited in West Africa.

Mali shares a border with Guinea, one of three West African nations hardest hit by the virus. The worst outbreak of Ebola on record has killed at least 5,420 people out of at least 15,145 cases reported since March, mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Six people in Mali have died so far from Ebola, according to the World Health Organization.

The New York City health department has designated Bellevue, the country's oldest public hospital, as the facility where any suspected Ebola patients in New York would be transferred.

Last week, the hospital discharged a New York doctor cured of Ebola, which he contracted treating patients in Guinea while working with the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

Only 38% of Australia's Ebola funds have made it to Africa, group claims Shalailah Medhora/theguardian.com/Friday 21 November 2014

Advocacy group One says the global response to the virus has been too slow and funds are stuck in treasury departments

Only 38% of the funds pledged by Australia to fight the Ebola crisis have been distributed to stricken west African countries, an international advocacy organisation has claimed.

Campaigning group One, which boasts over six million members worldwide, has created an online Ebola tracker tool which shows how much funding, equipment and health personnel have been pledged by donor countries and large foundations.

Australia has committed a total of \$42m to tackle the disease, \$20m of which will go to private Australian company Aspen Medical to operate a UK-built medical centre in Sierra Leone. Another \$18m has gone to the United Nations' Ebola response.

Spokeswoman for One, Friederike Roder, has told Guardian Australia that less than 40% of the money Australia has already committed has made it to Ebola-stricken communities.

"We don't need words, we need action," Roder said. "Australia's response, like the response of many other countries, has been too slow."

But Roder admits there's a "lack of clarity" around how and when the money is distributed, saying after countries make their pledges, "no one knows if it is then left in Treasury departments".

Labor said the government's response to Ebola leaves Australia in danger of being internationally isolated.

Tanya Plibersek, the opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman, said: "As the current president of the UN security council, the Abbott government must explain exactly how it is providing leadership on the fight against Ebola, especially given the security council resolution Australia co-sponsored and voted for back in September calling on all nations to do more,"

Australia co-sponsored a UN bill to call for a better global response to the virus, which has killed more than 5,000 people worldwide.

"At the G20 in Brisbane last weekend, the world's most powerful leaders called on the international community, including Australia, to do more to get the Ebola crisis under control," Plibersek said.

G20 leaders issued a statement on Ebola following the two-day conference, despite Tony Abbott's efforts to keep the international meeting focused on economic issues.

Roder welcomed the statement but said the meeting failed to deliver substantive goals in stopping the spread of the disease.

"It [Ebola] made it onto the G20 agenda way too late," Roder said.

World leaders needed to set out a timetable for how services and resources would be delivered to disease-affected communities, she said.

The comments come as aid agencies defend the slow rollout of services at a newly-built hospital in Sierra Leone. The 80-bed facility, which has been functional for the last fortnight, has only seen 18 patients so far.

Roder said there needs to be more transparency of how resources are being used.

"We need better international coordination. There's very little information about what's happening on the ground in west Africa," Roder said.

The advocacy group has released a video featuring celebrities such as Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon to raise awareness of the disease.

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 21 Novembre 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 21/11/2014