



(After 32 years of quitting in protest of the acceptance of Western Sahara as member of African Union (AU), Morocco is seeking to rejoin the bloc and be more relevant.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Kenyan tycoon on the spot after Uganda bank collapse
Monday November 7 2016/nation.co.ke

Prime Bank chairman Rasik Kantaria has found himself in the eye of a storm after Ugandan authorities placed Crane Bank in receivership over irregular lending practices

Mr Kantaria – a significant shareholder at Prime Bank – is a long-serving director and the second largest shareholder in Crane Bank with a 47.32 per cent stake.

Ugandan authorities placed Crane Bank in receivership on October 20, 2016 and immediately suspended the nine-member board of directors, as well as the bank's executives, saying the bank had failed to meet the legal requirements of its operating licence.

The Bank of Uganda (BoU) said in a statement that Crane Bank was "significantly undercapitalised", adding that the lender posed a systemic risk to the stability of the financial system.

"The continuation of Crane Bank's activities in its current form is detrimental to the interests of its depositors," the BoU said.

Crane Bank's total capital to total risk-weighted assets ratio was at 12 per cent at the time of the takeover, short of the statutory 18 per cent for significant banks, according to the BoU.

Ranked the fourth largest lender by assets, Crane Bank has been designated by the industry regulator as a "domestic systemically important bank", making Mr Kantaria's stake in the lender significant in Uganda's financial system.

Other significant banks with systemic importance in Uganda are Stanbic and Standard Chartered.

Mr Kantaria owns his Crane Bank stake through an investment vehicle dubbed White Sapphire Ltd, and has served on the Ugandan lender's board for more than a decade.

Crane Bank is controlled by Ugandan tycoon Sudhir Ruparelia, who has a 48.67 per cent stake, held directly and through his wife Jyotsna, daughter Sheena and son Rajiv.

Resigned from board

Mr Kantaria last week told the Business Daily that he had resigned from Crane Bank's board ahead of the takeover, but declined to disclose the date he quit or the reasons behind his exit.

Mr Kantaria's Crane Bank links makes it the second time a Kenyan investor has found himself at the centre of a banking storm in neighbouring Uganda after the collapse of Imperial Bank in October last year.

Crane Bank's volume of non-performing loans and advances stood at US\$142.358 billion (KSh4.15 billion) as at December 2015, accounting for a quarter of Uganda's banking sector bad loans that stood at US\$573.4 billion (KSh16.72 billion), according to BoU data.

Crane Bank has a network of 46 branches in Uganda, owns a stock brokerage arm - Crane Financial Services - and a subsidiary in Rwanda that currently operates two outlets.

Mr Kantaria has vast interests in property, tourism and financial services not only in Kenya but across the continent.

He chairs the boards of multiple firms, including Tausi Assurance and Leisure Lodge Beach and Golf Resort, and is a director in First Merchant Bank of Malawi, where Prime Bank directly controls 11.24 per cent and a further 11.24 per cent through Prime Capital Holdings Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Mr Kantaria's directorships in Malawi include The Leasing and Finance Company of Malawi Ltd, a

deposit taking lender, and BNC Packaging Ltd, a logistics firm.

Prime Bank indirectly owns a minority stake in Capital Bank of Botswana, given that First Merchant Bank controls 38.6 per cent of the Gaborone-based lender.

Prime Bank, an affiliate of Crane Bank by virtue of common ownership and directorship, said it does not have any outstanding credit facilities with the Ugandan lender.

“Prime Bank does not have any outstanding facilities or exposure in Crane Bank,” Prime Bank said in response to our queries.

“Prime Bank is a professionally run financial Institution regulated by the CBK (Central Bank of Kenya). We are fully compliant and strictly follow the prudential guidelines laid down by the CBK.”

Prime Bank is ranked 15th in size out of Kenya’s 40 operational banks, with 24,000 deposit accounts and 4,000 loan accounts — giving it a cumulative market share of 1.82 per cent, according to latest CBK data. CBK governor Patrick Njoroge declined to comment on this story.

Cytonn investments manager Maurice Oduor said there was need for the CBK to take an interest in the Prime Bank- Crane Bank relationship given the precedent of Imperial Bank where the BoU immediately closed down the lender’s Uganda operations after Nairobi shut down the mid-tier bank.

“It is not unimaginable that there is some link between the two. I think the common directorship and possibly ownership offer strong grounds to watch out,” said Mr Oduor in an interview.

Diluted stake

Mr Kantaria’s stake is likely to be diluted given that the Ugandan regulators have announced the search for deep-pocketed investors to rescue Crane Bank.

“We are seeking new investors who can boost the capital base of Crane,” said BoU governor Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile in a statement.

Mr Kantaria, 73, founded Prime Bank in 1992 after starting Prime Capital & Credit Ltd, a non-bank institution, four years earlier.

He previously served as a director of Deposit Protection Fund – since renamed Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation - for a four-year term and retired in January 2010, having been appointed by then Finance minister Amos Kimunya.

Prime Bank was named during the Goldenberg scandal hearings as one of the conduits used by Kamlesh Pattni to siphon taxpayer cash through one of his firms, Aebha Properties Ltd.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Dar Eyes International Air Routes

5 November 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

The government announced yesterday that plans are underway to acquire new Boeing plane as it considers initiating Air Tanzania (ATCL) direct flights to US, China and Russia markets.

President John Magufuli said this during his first address to members of the press. He added that negotiations with the manufacturer are going on and further talks are set for next month.

"We have allocated 10 million US dollars (21.80bn/) as advance payment for a new Boeing," Dr Magufuli said, adding that three more aircraft are also scheduled to arrive anytime in June, next year. He detailed that the new fleet, which is tailored to revive the nation's flag carrier, includes two SC 300 jets with up to 300 passenger seats and one Bombardier Dash 8400.

The plan, according to the president, is designed to transform the nation's infrastructure and to spur development through industries and tourism. According to President Magufuli, Tanzania is not performing well in the tourism industry.

Citing Morocco, the president said the far northern African country registered 10.3 million arrivals last year and expects about 14 million this year, while Tanzania was still struggling with only two million tourist arrivals. He explained that the government commitments on improving infrastructure is undisputed. "We allocated 1trn/- for the construction of the central railway line at standard gauge.

The tender for construction has already attracted more than 40 firms. The project will start from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro in the first phase and will be funded by the government," he noted. He went on detailing that the government's plan to shift its administration capital to Dodoma will also open up new tourism attraction sites.

As strategy, he said his administration is embarking on reviving all regional airports and to start with Kigoma, Iringa, Morogoro, Singida and Mwanza to ease landing of flights in the regions. Nevertheless, President Magufuli said his government will ensure by 2018 the national flag carrier can be able to compete with other airline on regional destinations.

"By 2018 we will be in a good position in the airline industry," he said. Meanwhile, the president said he was prompted to implement the election manifesto which, among other things, campaign for improved economy. Improving infrastructure, according to the head of state, would help improve the economy.

"This is why we're also working on flyovers at Tazara and other places. The goal is to ease the movement of goods and services." The government under Magufuli is eyeing an industry powered economy. Figures from the government show Tanzania will need to generate a 5000MW of electricity up from the current 1500MW to power the industrial economy.

Dr Magufuli said yesterday that doors are open to all investors to invest in the energy sector.

East Africa: Tanzania Reduces Resident Permit Fees for Region

7 November 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

Tanzania's recent move to cut resident permit fees for residents of the East African Community bloc

(EAC) has been described as a good gesture.

The country's Ministry of Home Affairs reduced by half, to \$500 for the A-4 category resident permit for small-scale traders, businesses, artisans, fishing, farming or any legally recognised activity.

The permits are for renewal every two years.

Rwandan members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) commended the gesture from Tanzania but added that East Africa's largest nation should now scrap the fees altogether.

Martin Ngoga said: "It is a good development and marks good progress towards approximation of our laws in the EAC. It is a boost towards enjoyment of the freedoms provided by the common market protocol. We certainly still have a lot to do in that direction and, in so doing, we need to appreciate every step we make along the way. Some partner states waived, totally, these fees."

The Assembly has repeatedly voiced its concerns over the lack of harmonisation and approximation of national laws in the region, which they say negatively affects cross-border business, and the integration agenda.

MP Straton Ndikuryayo, a member of EALA's standing Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (CTI), noted that Tanzania's President John Magufuli made a commendable step.

"The reduction of the amount by 50 percent is a big step in line with facilitating free movement of people, capital, and goods. However, my wish is to see a total waiver of work or resident permit for EAC citizens as has been done by other countries. Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya set a good example on this matter," Ndikuryayo said.

Furthermore, under the resident permit class B, people offered specific employment by specific employers and have specific qualifications and experience will now pay \$500 instead of \$2,000. This also goes for professionals, technicians associate professionals from partner states as prescribed in the schedule to the EAC Common Market Protocol regarding regulations of free movement of workers.

As regards residence permit class C, researchers and retired people will pay \$250, down from \$500.

Class C resident permit fees reduced include persons engaged in approved religious activities such as missionaries (\$100), volunteers or people engaged in non-remunerated activities (\$100), NGO employees (\$250), and persons attending medical treatment at recognised medical institutions (\$100).

Persons studying in approved training establishments, including children of persons legally residing in Tanzania who are above the age of 18 who previously paid \$200, will now get the Student Pass-1 free of charge.

The same goes for children below 18.

KENYA :

Kenya denies UN report of illegal trade in Somalia

7 November 2016/Xinhua

Nairobi - Kenya on Sunday dismissed a United Nations report linking its troops to illicit charcoal trade from a port under their control in Somalia.

State House spokesman Manoah Esipisu condemned the allegation "in the strongest terms possible," terming it "hogwash masquerading as research."

The Kenyan troops are part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which is helping the Somali government battle terror group Al-Shabaab.

"We are focused on the job that took us to Somalia in the first place, and will not be distracted by the latest hogwash masquerading as research," Esipisu told journalists in Nairobi.

A UN Monitoring Group report, published by a Kenyan daily on Sunday, said Kenyan troops in Somalia received fees for allowing illicit exports of charcoal from the port of Kismayu. The report said the Kenyan troops received US\$2 per bag of charcoal at Kismayu, citing charcoal industry and non-governmental organisation sources.

The report estimated that up to 6 million bags of charcoal had been exported annually from Kismayu and Buur Gaabo, another port adjacent to a Kenyan army base in Somalia.

Charcoal exports were banned by the UN Security Council in 2012 in an effort to cut off funding for Al-Shabaab.

Esipisu said the UN report appeared as a regurgitation of reports NGOs have issued over time, with the sole agenda of "demoralizing" Kenyan troops.

Last week, Kenya was angered by the UN chief's dismissal of Kenyan Lt. General Johnson Kimani Ondieki as the commander of the UN peacekeeping force in South Sudan.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa Versus the International Criminal Court

NOV 7, 2016/project-syndicate.org

NEW YORK – On October 19, South African President Jacob Zuma's government delivered documents to the United Nations (UN) signaling its intent to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC). Many ICC observers were taken by surprise.

A week earlier, Burundi charted a course to become the first member state to leave the ICC. The ICC had indicated that it would investigate, and possibly indict, government officials after Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza threw his country into turmoil by pursuing a third term, in

violation of the constitution.

Many people have died in the unrest Nkurunziza caused, giving him and other officials an incentive to withdraw from the ICC. But no indictments are pending in South Africa, leading many people to wonder what precipitated the government's decision.

Withdrawing from the ICC is no simple matter. Under the 2002 Rome Statute, which established the court, a country remains an ICC member for at least one year after it notifies the UN of its intent to withdraw. Moreover, that country is required to continue cooperating with the ICC on any proceedings that began prior to the effective withdrawal date.

Thus, the ICC will be allowed to complete any prosecutions that it begins within the next year. That means that the court not only can indict Burundian officials; it can also pursue them indefinitely if they do not surrender, or are not turned in by the Burundian government.

In South Africa, the Zuma government's decision to withdraw from the ICC is legally questionable. In fact, it may not even take effect, because Zuma has so far acted on his own. He has not brought the matter before the South African Parliament, which ratified the original decision to join the ICC and should participate in any decision to withdraw; and he has not given the South African public an opportunity to debate the issue or influence an eventual legislative decision.

If this unilateral action stands, it will leave South Africa in an ambiguous position. While the country's status as an ICC member state would end, the government would still be bound to cooperate with the ICC in accordance with the Implementation Act that the South African Parliament adopted in 2002.

The decision to withdraw seems to reflect Zuma's own fit of pique following Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's trip to South Africa in June 2015. Bashir was indicted by the ICC in 2009 and 2010 for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed in Darfur, and when he attended an African Union summit in South Africa last year, the Southern Africa Litigation Center (SALC), a nongovernmental organization, filed suit under the 2002 Implementation Act, demanding that the government arrest him.

The High Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa both ruled in the SALC's favor, but Zuma's government thwarted their decisions by helping Bashir slip out of the country. The Zuma government also appealed their rulings, and the matter was scheduled to come before the country's Constitutional Court on November 22. But when the government announced its ICC decision, it also said it would withdraw its Constitutional Court appeal, suggesting that Zuma is hitting back through other means at those who have embarrassed him through the judiciary.

Another factor behind recent decisions to withdraw from the ICC is an ongoing campaign among some countries to accuse the court of singling out African leaders. Although this charge has some merit, it is worth mentioning that all prosecutions against Africans have been referred to the ICC by African governments themselves or the UN Security Council. The only exception is a case involving post-election ethnic violence in Kenya in 2007, which was referred to the ICC by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan after he helped mediate the dispute.

As it happens, the ICC will likely have a more diversified caseload soon. It is actively monitoring crimes in other parts of the world, including the widespread extrajudicial killings of suspected drug users in the Philippines. The ICC has only completed a handful of prosecutions in Africa, but its actions seem to have significantly curbed violent crimes in several countries. It would be very unfortunate if other African states chose to follow the Burundian and South African governments'

lead.

Africa: Dlamini-Zuma Calls for 'Intense Dialogue' in Crisis-Hit Ethiopia

6 November 2016/News24Wire (Cape Town)

African Union Commission head Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has called for intense dialogue over the recent protests in Ethiopia, saying that it was imperative to find lasting solutions in the country.

In a statement, Dlamini-Zuma said that the Ethiopian government should ensure that fundamental human rights and freedoms were respected as the guidelines on state of emergency were implemented.

She also urged the government to ensure that the internet which had been restricted due to the protests was restored.

"The AUC chairperson calls for calm and peace during the period when the state of emergency is in effect, and further urges the government to consider ensuring that citizens' rights to access to information and communication technologies, including internet services and social media are restored," the statement said.

Dlamini-Zuma's remarks came just less than a week after Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn announced a cabinet reshuffle that has seen opposition leaders receiving senior roles in government.

Stampede

The prime minister gave key government positions to two leaders from the Oromo people who spearheaded deadly anti-government protests over the last year, reducing the dominance of the minority Tigrayans.

Reports indicated that protesters from the majority Oromo and Amhara ethnic groups had claimed that they were being marginalised by the minority Tigrayan-led government which they accused of monopolising power and controlling the economy.

Last month dozens of people were crushed to death in a stampede after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse an anti-government protest that grew out of a massive religious festival last month.

At least 52 people died during the stampede.

The government last responded by imposing a state of emergency that would last at least for six months in order to get the country back to normal.

Following the imposing of the state of emergency and a visit by Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel, Desalegn said that his government was planning to reform the country's electoral system which had excluded the opposition.

Morocco seeks relevance in AU

November 7th, 2016/businessdayonline.com

After 32 years of quitting in protest of the acceptance of Western Sahara as member of African Union (AU), Morocco is seeking to rejoin the bloc and be more relevant.

Moroccan King Mohammed VI offered a conditional olive branch to African leaders in a speech in Senegal declaring his country wanted to “take back its natural position in Africa”.

Mohammed VI delivered an annual speech usually given at home in Dakar to “show the great interest we take in our continent”, while still firmly maintaining the “unshakeable Moroccan identity of the Western Sahara”.

Morocco has occupied the sparsely populated Western Sahara area since 1975 in a move that was not recognised by the international community.

He emphasised that his nation would “ask no one’s permission to take our legitimate rights,” as “nothing” would change regarding its position on the Western Sahara.

According to Africa Review The king arrived late Sunday from Gabon on a three-day trip to Senegal following an east African charm offensive in Rwanda and Tanzania.

He declared that Morocco has “a staggering level of support to take up a seat in the heart of the institutional family of Africans,” referring to the AU.

He is due to meet Senegalese officials on Monday including President Macky Sall.

Morocco maintains that Western Sahara is an integral part of the kingdom even though local Sahrawi people have long campaigned for the right to self-determination.

In 1991, the United Nations brokered a ceasefire between Moroccan troops and Sahrawi rebels of the Algerian-backed Polisario Front but a promised referendum to settle the status of the desert territory is yet to materialise.

Rabat’s membership bid must be approved by a vote of the AU Commission in order to be accepted.

The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 54 countries in Africa.

The only African state that is a United Nations member, but is not a member of the African Union is Morocco, which opted to leave its ancestor, the Organisation of African Unity, due to the Organization’s recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) as a member state.

It reapplied to rejoin the union in 2016.

The AU was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa, with the aim of replacing the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The most important decisions of the AU are made by the Assembly of the African Union, a semi-annual meeting of the heads of state and government of its member states. The AU’s secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

German ministry wants migrants returned to Africa

By Reuters/Mon, November 7th 2016

The German Interior Ministry wants to stop migrants from ever reaching Europe's Mediterranean coast. The ministry wants to be picking them up at sea and returning them to Africa, the *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper reported Sunday. In what would be a huge shift for a country with one of the most generous asylum policies, the ministry says the European Union should adopt an Australian-style system under which migrants intercepted at sea are sent for processing at camps in third countries.

"The elimination of the prospect of reaching the European coast could convince migrants to avoid embarking on the life-threatening and costly journey in the first place," the paper quoted a ministry spokeswoman as saying. "The goal must be to remove the basis for people-smuggling organisations and to save migrants from the life-threatening journey." The ministry's proposal calls for migrants picked up in the Mediterranean - most of whom set off from Libya - to be sent to Tunisia, Egypt or other north African states to apply for asylum from there. If their asylum applications are accepted, the migrants could then be transported safely to Europe. The ministry is headed by Thomas de Maiziere, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats. Merkel has been under fire for her open-door refugee policy, with her party losing votes to the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany party in recent regional elections.

The ministry said there were no concrete plans at EU-level about the proposal, but opposition politicians condemned the plan. Bernd Riexinger, head of the opposition Left party, said it would be "a humanitarian scandal and a further step toward elimination of the right to asylum," the paper reported.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

Websites of 7 Indian missions 'hacked', data allegedly put online

Hindustan Times/Nov 07, 2016

The websites and databases of seven Indian missions in Europe and Africa were hacked and data from their servers were allegedly dumped online on Monday.

Hackers going by the name Kapustkiy and Kasimierz L on Twitter claimed to have breached the security of the official websites of the Indian missions in South Africa, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Italy, Switzerland and Romania.

The leaked databases containing admin and login details, names, email IDs, phone numbers and, in some cases, passport numbers of mission staffers were published on pastebin.com. The data dump was later removed by the administrators of pastebin.

The hackers allegedly leaked details of 161 Indians living in South Africa, 35 in Switzerland, 145 in Italy, 305 in Libya, 74 in Malawi, 14 in Mali and 42 in Romania.

One of the hackers, who identified himself as Kapustkiy on Twitter, told Hindustan Times: "We did it because their security was poor and as the Indian Embassy they need to have better security."

The websites of several other Indian missions too are not secure, the hacker claimed.

"The websites have a SQL vulnerability. Even a six-year-old could breach it," the hacker said. Kapustkiy claimed to be in possession of more data, such as addresses and more passport numbers, that the hackers chose not to make public.

An SQL vulnerability is a security flaw in a database. A hacker inserts malicious content into the database -- using forms on the website, accessing the website code or via email. This malicious content compromises the security of the database and gives the hacker unfettered access. An example of such an attack was the Sony hack of 2011 when 1 million accounts and passwords were released online.

"It's not hard to fix it. You just have to be aware of such things because most of the time you want contact them and saying that they have vulnerabilities, they just ignore you," the hacker added.

The hackers claimed to be under the age of 18 and from the Netherlands. They called themselves "grey hats" and claimed their hacking was an attempt to inform administrators about vulnerabilities on their websites.

"All the actions we made were to force the administrators of the site to get better protection on their websites. It's very odd that multiple websites of embassies can be exploited with an SQL injection," the second hacker who identifies himself as Kasimierz told HT.

According to reports, the Indian high commission in South Africa was hacked first, followed by the embassies in Switzerland and Italy.

There was no official word from the external affairs ministry.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 07 Novembre 2016... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 07/11/2016