

AFRICA : 10 FEVRIER 2017 : (Chad foreign minister Moussa Faki Mahamat to head African Union)



Burundi :

Burundi : La France attaque la CNIDH Burundaise à la SCA-GANHRI

La France, à travers la SCA – SubCommittee on Accreditation – du GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (GANHRI), attaque la Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l’Homme (CNIDH) qui est un frein dans la GUERRE HUMANITAIRE qu’elle mène contre le BURUNDI.

A Bujumbura, ce mercredi 9 février 2017, les Burundi ont entendu que la FRANCE, par son bras droit médiatique en Afrique, RFI – Radio France Internationale [<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20170209-burundi-commission-droits-homme-serait-pas-independante>], attaquait la Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l’Homme (CNIDH) du Burundi. La France aurait souhaité que la CNIDH – <http://www.cnidh.bi/> burundaise soit rétrogradée au STATUT B pour discréditer ses rapports pertinents mais malheureusement pour elle, la CNIDH burundaise garde son statut A pendant encore 1 an [<http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/ICCAccreditation/Documents/SCA%20Final%20Report%20-%20Nov%202016%20-%20English.pdf> ou

<http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/ICCAccreditation/Documents/SCA%20Final%20Report%20-%20Nov%202016%20-%20French.pdf>]. La CNIDH burundi pourra se défendre car la France (son représentant de la Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme of France – <http://www.cncdh.fr/>) sortira (peut-être) du SCA en cette année 2017 [<http://ennhri.org/International-Coordinating-Committee-ICC>]...

Toutefois, cette histoire de STATUT du GANHRI interroge de nombreux BURUNDI car un pays comme le RWANDA (Pays voisin agresseur), qui a exclus 4/5 ème de sa population de la vie politique (la majorité des RWANDAIS errent en RDC Congo : le fameux problème sécuritaire numéro 1 des Grands Lacs africains) , possède un STATUT A.

La France à travers son membre au sein de la SCA – SubCommittee on Accreditation – du GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (GANHRI) serait à l'origine de l'attaque vis à vis de la CNIDH du Burundi. Elle a forcé à l'activation de l'art. 16.2 des statuts du GANHRI. C'est à dire que la CNIDH Burundi puisse perdre son statut A pour un statut B.

Grosso-modo, la SCA reproche à la CNIDH burundaise d'avoir été indépendante pendant la REVOLUTION DE COULEUR ou TENTATIVE DE RENVERSEMENT DU REGIME DEMOCRATIQUE BURUNDAIS en 2015, qui s'est soldé par un COUP D'ETAT MILITAIRE raté le mercredi 13 mai 2015. Pour

rappel, cette REVOLUTION COLOREE, préparée depuis 2013, était organisée par les USA (administration OBAMA + Réseau SOROS), la FRANCE (administration HOLLANDE), la BELGIQUE (le Réseau LOUIS MICHEL), le RWANDA (REGIME KAGAME), et le Réseau de l'ancien dictateur HIMA burundais PIERRE BUYOYA.

Les rapports annuelles 2015 et 2016 de la CNIDH du Burundi dérangent la FRANCE et les ennemis agresseurs du Burundi. Car ces rapports indépendants contredisent leur version – de génocide ou crimes contre l'Humanité -, argument que les ennemis du Burundi utilisent dans leur GUERRE HUMANITAIRE contre l'ETAT du Burundi, avec pour intention de traduire les dirigeants actuels burundais à la CPI (COUP D'ETAT POLITIQUE) enfin de permettre à leurs pions de diriger ce pays (la finalité géopolitique).

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le vendredi 10 février 2017

GUERRE HUMANITAIRE : Le HCR Burundi dément une Rumeur grossière de l'OCHA

Le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés HCR de l'ONU au Burundi dément l'INFO PROPAGANDE de l'OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA) de l'ONU concernant 500 burundais qui fuiraient par jour une Guerre qui serait en cours au Burundi. L'ETAT du BURUNDI dénonce la GUERRE HUMANITAIRE à son encontre.

A Bujumbura, ce jeudi 9 février 2017, M.Pascal BARANDAGIYE, Ministre burundais de l'Intérieur, a reçu M. Abel MBILINYI, représentant du Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés HCR de l'ONU au Burundi, qui a démenti catégoriquement la déclaration de l'OCHA qui disait, en citant le HCR , qu'actuellement 500 Burundais fuient chaque jour les atrocités de la guerre au Burundi. Selon M. MBILINYI, représentant du HCR Burundi, ces informations qui ont été diffusées à la BBC, ne sont pas du HCR ... L'ETAT burundais suit cette affaire de très près car, en décembre 2015, ce même HCR burundi avait été impliqué dans une affaire douteuse [<http://www.iwacu-burundi.org/hcr-burundi-dement-son-implication-dans-le-transport-darmes/>]...

Au Burundi, d'après le Ministre M. BARANDAGIYE, cette rumeur a été lancée par les ennemis des Burundi, qui mènent une

GUERRE HUMANITAIRE [<http://burundi-agnews.org/guerre-humanitaire/>] contre le pays. A ce titre, le HCR, avec ses chiffres mensongers ou grossiers du nombre de réfugiés burundais, participe à cette campagne négative sur le Burundi [<http://burundi-agnews.org/onu/le-burundi-fache-contre-le-hcr-outil-dune-guerre-humanitaire/> ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/globalisation-mondialisation/guerre-humanitaire-le-burundi-contre-les-chiffres-propagandes-du-hcr/> ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/onu/burundi-les-18-gouverneurs-burundais-le-hcr-doit-cesser-de-mentir-pour-la-guerre-humanitaire/>]. Le Ministre burundais de l'intérieur profite à cette occasion pour dire à la communauté internationale que la paix règne actuellement au Burundi. Il n'y a pas de GUERRE au Burundi. Toutefois à cause de la période de sécheresse qui s'abat sur l'Afrique de l'Est (dérèglement climatique oblige), certains Burundi qui vivent dans les communes frontalières de la Tanzanie ou de la RDC Congo, profitent pour aller s'approvisionner dans les camps de réfugiés du HCR installés dans ces pays, puis ils reviennent au Burundi. On appelle cela au Burundi : le phénomène – Makanaki – [<http://burundi-agnews.org/globalisation-mondialisation/burundi-le-scandale-makanaki-pelerinage-mensuelle-au-hcr-en-rdc/>].

**DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le vendredi
10 février 2017**

Rwanda :

Rwanda: le swahili devient la 4ème langue nationale

Les autres langues officielles sont le kinyarwanda, le français et l'anglais.

L'Assemblée nationale rwandaise a adopté mercredi 8 février une loi visant à faire du swahili la quatrième langue officielle du pays. Le texte devra encore être soumis au Sénat avant d'être promulgué par le président Paul Kagame.

Il s'agit pour Kigali d'honorer un des engagements pris lors de son entrée en 2007 au sein de la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est, une organisation dont les trois fondateurs - Kenya, Ouganda et Tanzanie - utilisent le swahili comme langue officielle, aux côtés de l'anglais.

« [Adopter] le swahili comme langue officielle, c'est d'un côté nous acquitter d'une obligation en tant que pays membre, et d'un autre côté une façon d'accroître les bénéfices que le Rwanda peut tirer de l'intégration économique », a déclaré devant les députés la ministre des sports et de la culture, Julienne Iwacu, citée par New Times.

Le swahili sera intégré dans l'enseignement rwandais

Selon le quotidien pro-gouvernemental, le swahili va désormais être utilisé dans l'administration et figurer sur certains documents officiels. Un décret présidentiel déterminera par ailleurs les modalités d'intégration du swahili dans l'enseignement rwandais, comme requis par la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est.

Avant le génocide rwandais de 1994, le swahili était parlé uniquement dans quelques zones urbaines du Rwanda. Seuls le kinyarwanda et le français avaient le statut de langue officielle.

Après le génocide, au retour d'anciens réfugiés et exilés, dont beaucoup avaient été accueillis dans des pays anglophones et swahilophones d'Afrique de l'Est, l'anglais s'est imposé comme troisième langue officielle tandis que le swahili a gagné en nombre de locuteurs.

Le Rwanda, administré par la Belgique jusqu'à l'indépendance, en 1962, reste membre de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, même si la langue de Molière perd désormais du terrain face à l'anglais.

Appartenant au groupe des langues bantoues, le swahili est né des interactions entre les peuples d'Afrique orientale et des personnes venues d'Inde et du golfe Persique. Elle est la langue la plus parlée d'Afrique subsaharienne et est depuis 2004 une des langues officielles de l'Union africaine.

En savoir plus sur

http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2017/02/09/rwanda-le-swahili-devient-la-4eme-langue-nationale_5077217_3212.html#Y3a6YPMpPQgdFC6b.99

RDC CONGO :

RDC: la CENI a déjà enrôlé 13 millions d'électeurs

Publié le jeu, 09/02/2017 - 14:24 | Modifié le jeu, 09/02/2017 - 15:04

La commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI) a déjà enrôlé environ 13 millions d'électeurs dont plus de 2 millions au Nord-Kivu depuis le lancement des opérations d'enrôlement en RDC en juillet 2016.

Le vice-président de la CENI, Norbert Basengezi, a communiqué ces chiffres à la délégation du Secomité de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies en charge de l'administration et du budget en visite de travail à Goma. Selon M. Basengezi, 48% de personnes déjà enrôlées sont des femmes.

Le vice-président de la CENI a déclaré être « satisfait » de ce résultat.

Lors des élections de 2011, environ 32 millions de Congolais s'étaient enregistrés sur les listes électorales.

Lancées en juillet 2016, les opérations d'enrôlement des électeurs en prévision des prochaines élections sont censées prendre fin en juillet 2017.

Selon l'accord politique signé le 31 juillet dernier, les élections présidentielle et législatives doivent être organisées avant la fin de cette année.

Défis

Devant la délégation du 5e comité de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies en charge de l'administration et du budget, Norbert Basengezi a également évoqué des défis auxquels fait face la commission électorale. Il a notamment parlé du défi financier.

Le vice-président de la CENI a dressé une liste d'une dizaine de zones où l'enrôlement n'a pas encore commencé faute des moyens.

Il s'agit des zones inaccessibles par voie terrestre, où l'organisation des opérations d'enrôlement des électeurs nécessitera des moyens humains et logistiques importants.

Norbert Basengezi a fait état d'une contribution de 123 millions de dollars américains que l'ONU aurait promise en 2015.

« Nous leur avons remis, au niveau défi financier, leur document signé en 2015, un engagement de 123 millions de dollars. Mais jusque-là rien n'a été versé à la CENI. Ils ont été attentifs. Je crois qu'ils vont mettre la main à la pâte », a-t-il indiqué.

Selon le chef de bureau de la MONUSCO au Nord-Kivu, Daniel Ruiz, les délégués de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU ont réitéré l'appui des Nations unies au processus d'enrôlement.

« On a entendu quels sont les obstacles et quels sont les grands défis. Vous savez que l'Organisation des Nations unies a plusieurs initiatives pour appuyer la CENI, en particulier dans la logistique mais aussi dans l'appui technique », a-t-il fait savoir.

- See more at:

<http://www.radiookapi.net/2017/02/09/actualite/societe/rdc-la-ceni-deja-enrole-13-millions-delecteurs#sthash.rsnDbXFd.dpuf>

UGANDA :

Tarehe Sita has changed the political destiny of Uganda

Tarehe sita is important because it gave birth to the current UPDF that created stability not only in Uganda, but within the great lakes region.

By Christopher Omara

Tareh Sita celebration is a very significant event in Uganda and can never be wished away from our history as portrayed by some of president Museveni's critics.

Irrespective of our political affiliations, 6th February remains one of the most significant historical events in the political evolution of Uganda that should not be taken for granted.

Recently there was excitement in Apac Bomah ground in northern Uganda when Gen Yoweri K Museveni presided over the 36th Tarhe Sita celebration organized by the Ugandan armed forces who treated the crowd with a colorful parade which was preceded by revolutionary statements.

Ugandans need to recognize, reflect, appreciate the values and learn from such historic events beyond merry-making and entertainment, especially our challenges and achievements in the course of our political evolution.

Every 6th February, the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) celebrates the start of the five years bush war led by President Yoweri K. Museveni. The day marks the National Resistance Army (NRA) first attack on Kabamba military barracks in

Mubende district on 6th February 1981. From that attack, Uganda has never been the same and the gains remain irreversible

Gen YK Museveni led a small group of 27 patriotic people whom he referred to as potential soldiers who represented other Ugandans and engaged in a protracted guerilla and mobile warfare that dislodged the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) government forces and eventually took over power on 26th January 1986.

Tarehe sita is important because it gave birth to the current UPDF that created stability not only in Uganda, but within the great lakes region. The UPDF is the most disciplined and professional army exceptionally unique on the African continent because of their relationship with the civilian population, ideological clarity, pan-Africanism and able leadership, their contributions in the pacification of other African countries including Somalia, Central African Republic, Rwanda, democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan has attracted national, continental and global applause. Indeed the Uganda armed forces is a source of admiration and inspiration not only nationally, but globally.

Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the commander-in-chief of the hitherto rag-tag rebel outfit, that transformed into the UPDF is one of the most accomplished revolutionaries in the contemporary history.

His unique leadership style, military experiences, charisma and revolutionary methods of work has ensured that he remains in power for long and Ugandans should not underestimate such a rare gift from God, this has not been a coincidence.

We should learn to appreciate celebrating our past as one way of building collective memory and national consciousness and thus

build social cohesion that is necessary for the stability and development of our country.

Celebrating events of historical significance in the evolution of our political and democratic processes in this country is very important to demonstrate unity in diversity, build a common identity and chart a way forward to a cohesive state that meets global challenges.

Tarehe sita celebrations should help inculcate in young people appreciation for our turbulent past and heritage. Young people should be encouraged to take the occasion to actively listen from their elders and revolutionary leaders when they share heartfelt moments of their own experiences and struggles when they were young.

Sir Seretse Khama, the first president of Botswana once remarked that “a nation without a past is a lost nation and a people without a past is a people without soul”

The writer is the former NRM senior mass mobiliser for Gulu/Pader

- See more at:

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1445836/tarehe-sita-forever-changed-political-destiny-uganda#sthash.280lSJel.dpuf

TANZANIA :

Now Tanzania Seeks German Reparations Over Colonial Acts

Tanzania's government is considering legal action to force former colonizer Germany to pay reparations for alleged atrocities committed over a century ago, the country's defense minister said Wednesday.

The government will seek compensation over tens of thousands of people who allegedly were starved, tortured and killed by German forces while trying to put down rebellious tribes, minister Hussein Mwinyi told lawmakers.

"We will consider steps taken by Kenya and Namibia governments in seeking reparations from Britain and German governments, respectively," he said.

Germany ruled Tanzania, then known as Tanganyika, from 1890 to 1919.

There was no immediate response from the German embassy in Tanzania.

- See more at:

<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/165152#sthash.fpCfmE6g.dpuf>

KENYA :

Germany seeks deeper ties with Kenya in renewed trade

Feb. 10, 2017, 3:00 am

By WEITERE MWITA @mwitamartin

German firms are keen to invest in machinery, technology and skill development as they look to share the spoils in the manufacturing industry currently dominated by the Chinese. The sector's contribution to the economy has stagnated at about 10 per cent for years.

Germany, a global industrial powerhouse, whose wealth is estimated at \$3.73 trillion (Sh386.32 trillion), is pushing for investment deals under the German African Business Summit, underway in Nairobi, riding on the Western European country's G20 Presidency.

Germany's visiting Economic Co-operation and Development minister Gerd Müller said Kenya is key to its change in strategy – shifting co-operation with Africa “from aid to trade”.

“Public money has to mobilise private investment, for instance through government guarantees. Private investment has to be increased and protected against risks. We need a paradigm shift, a new dimension of cooperation,” Müller said.

This underscores the dollar economy's deepening interest in the region.

German Economic Affairs minister Brigitte Zypries said Africa is a major priority for his government, as the country eyes more

opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa “for investing, trading, learning and connecting – both for business and government”.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich and Foreign Affairs' Amina Mohamed and their German counterparts yesterday signed agreements which include a joint East African-German university of applied sciences. They also agreed on a joint initiative to enhance technical and vocational training in Kenya.

Rotich said the two countries are also building on a double taxation agreement to expand investment space. Under the DTA, a firm or its subsidiary which has paid taxes to a host government cannot be asked to pay levies of similar nature on proceeds repatriated back home.

“We have a double taxation agreement signed 20 years ago but obviously there has been many changes especially on investment and trade, but we are keen to ensure they benefit both economies,” Rotich said.

Last year alone, five new major companies came to Kenya, including automaker Volkswagen which reopened its assembly plant in Thika after a four-decade hiatus.

The value of imports from Germany to Kenya dropped to Sh47.3 billion in 2015, from Sh47.4 in 2014, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics data shows. Exports to Germany were valued at Sh12.5 billion, an increase from Sh10.8 billion in 2014.

There has been a tremendous increase in China’s investments in Kenya. Mega deals in infrastructure development has seen China become the country’s largest bilateral lender, having overtaken Japan in early 2014.

Official data from the National Treasury, published in the Central Bank's Quarterly Economic Review, shows Kenya owed China about \$3.1 billion (about Sh321billion) as at last June. [

http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/02/10/germany-seeks-deeper-ties-with-kenya-in-renewed-trade_c1503862]

SOUTH SUDAN :

Exxon Mobil in talks with South Sudan over oil deal

Juba, February 9, 2017 (SSNA) — The US-based Exxon Mobil Corporation is in secret talks with Juba to buy a stake in South Sudan's vast untapped oil deposit, a senior-level government source familiar with the negotiations told the South Sudan News Agency on Wednesday.

The official, who demanded his identity be submerged because of the sensitivity of the talks, said the government is pleased about the fact that Western oil companies are returning to South Sudan.

“The government is working days and nights to make sure these corporations are awarded stakes in our oil deposits,” the source said, adding “we are happy about the fact that French, UK, and US oil companies are coming back to do business with us.”

The source revealed that France-based oil and gas company Total SA and London-based Tullow Oil Plc have also shown interest in buying stakes of the untapped reserves.

Exxon Mobil, once led by the current United States' Secretary of State, Rex W. Tillerson, ended oil exploration in 2014 after the civil war broke out.

The source further disclosed to the South Sudan News Agency that “around the clock negotiations” between South Sudanese Petroleum Minister Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth and oil and gas companies are ongoing and that Juba expects “positive outcomes” from the talks.

<http://www.southsudannewsagency.com/index.php/2017/02/09/exxon-mobil-talks-south-sudan-oil-deal/>

Opposition leaders accuse IGAD, AU of failing to solve South Sudan conflict

JUBA (9 Feb.)

<https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/opposition-leaders-accuse-igad-au-failing-solve-south-sudan-conflict>

Several South Sudanese opposition leaders have accused the East African regional bloc IGAD and the African Union of failing to find a radical solution to the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.

In an interview with Radio Tamazuj yesterday, Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, leader of South Sudan's National Movement for Change (NMC) accused the East African regional bloc IGAD and the African Union (AU) of failing to find a radical solution to the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.

“The African Union and IGAD have failed, the two bodies are watching South Sudanese fighting, they should ask why civilians are running away from their homes, “said Bakososo.

Bakasoro, who had served as governor of Western Equatoria State, said he lost confidence in the East African regional bloc IGAD which brokered the signed peace agreement in August 2015.

The opposition leader pointed out that the region was supposed to invite the government and the oppositions for negotiations once again instead of doing nothing.

“The IGAD, AU and Troika, let them go and visit villages in South Sudan, but if they are just sitting in their offices and talk and they don't know what is going on in the country, then this is just a waste of time,” he said.

Meanwhile, Pagan Amum, former Secretary-General of the SPLM party, said the outcome of the African Union summit on South Sudan in Addis Ababa recently did not meet the expectations of the people of South Sudan.

“The resolutions of the African Union summit did not meet the expectations of South Sudanese and the world. What we suggest is that the African Union should involve the United Nations and bring a new initiative for peace in South Sudan,” said Amum.

Amum called on the African Union and the East African regional bloc IGAD to deploy UN and regional troops to protect civilians across South Sudan, saying deployment of regional forces in Juba will not solve the problem.

Amum said the National Dialogue called for by President Kiir must be led by a neutral body to ensure effectiveness of the process.

For his part, Ateny Wek Ateny, South Sudan’s presidential spokesman, said the opposition wants the African Union to be a mechanism for regime change in South Sudan.

He pointed out that the plan to change the current government will not happen. “The opposition is blaming the African Union because it did not pick any one of them to be the President and this is what they are looking for,” said Ateny.

“The African Union did not discuss anything about South Sudan, because we are going on the right path, and we are implementing the peace agreement,” he added.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa Zuma: Violence at State of Nation address

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-38923415>

Punches have been thrown in South Africa's parliament as opposition MPs tried to disrupt the State of the Nation address by President Jacob Zuma.

Members of the radical Economic Freedom Fighters' party (EFF), all dressed in red, scuffled with security guards who ejected them from the chamber.

Mr Zuma had twice got to his feet but was shouted down by EFF MPs.

Outside parliament, police used stun grenades to disperse opposition and government supporters.

Mr Zuma has been dogged by allegations of corruption and cronyism and widely criticised for his handling of the economy.

Previous addresses by him have been marred by MPs demanding his resignation.

Is ANC betraying S Africa dream?
The colourful and controversial Zuma
Zuma fights for his reputation

As Mr Zuma entered parliament in Cape Town on Thursday he was met by chants of "thief" by EFF MPs, who included their firebrand leader Julius Malema.

Members of the governing African National Congress (ANC) countered them by chanting "ANC, ANC".

Amid raised voices and chaotic scenes, Speaker Baleka Mbete tried to deal with repeated interruptions and procedural questions.

Mr Malema called Mr Zuma "an incorrigible man rotten to the core".

He also turned on the speaker, telling her: "Your conduct has failed you. You are irrational, impatient, partisan."

Ms Mbete told the protesting MPs: "We have been patient with you, we have been trying to give you an opportunity to express yourselves but... it is being abused."

Security guards were called in and the EFF members were forcibly ejected. Members of another opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, then walked out, saying President Zuma was unqualified to hold office.

A smiling President Zuma said "Finally" as he resumed his address, speaking about the economy and other issues.

Pure political theatre - analysis by BBC's Africa correspondent Andrew Harding

President Zuma knew it was coming. He stood up to make his speech in parliament with the look of a man braced for a long, uncomfortable evening.

Sure enough, the heckling and the "points of order" began almost immediately, and continued for more than an hour.

In some respects it was pure political theatre - an emboldened opposition seeking to hijack a high-profile televised event in order to humiliate the president and overshadow an increasingly divided governing party.

But there is genuine anger in South Africa about allegations of corruption and cronyism against Mr Zuma - and in particular about last year's constitutional court ruling that condemned his role in a renovation scandal at his private homestead, Nkandla.

Before long, cries of "criminal" and "racist" were being hurled across the floor between rival MPs, and pepper spray was released in the public gallery.

Image copyright AP

Image caption EFF leader Julius Malema, in red, was among those ejected from the chamber

It was only a matter of time before the security guards were deployed. They charged into the hall - a donut of white shirts quickly surrounding the red-suited MPs of the EFF.

A few fists swung. Bodies were dragged over plump parliamentary furniture. And within seconds the red suits had been ejected from the chamber.

The DA's MPs quickly stood up and left under their own steam.

Mr Zuma, looking tired but managing the occasional smile, finally began his speech, focusing on familiar plans to address the legacy of racial apartheid and to accelerate the transfer of South Africa's economy into the hands of the black majority.

But the atmosphere in the chamber felt flat, while outside, opposition leaders were busy speaking in angry, urgent tones to crowds of journalists.

The State of the Nation address had, as planned, been sidelined.

Mr Zuma had angered some MPs ahead of his speech by ordering the deployment of about 440 troops to maintain law and order in parliament on the day.

Opposition parties condemned the decision as a "declaration of war".

It was the first time that troops had a security rather than a ceremonial role.

Previous State of the Nation speeches have been marred by chaos in parliament.

Since winning seats in 2014, members of the EFF have caused disruption by chanting and jeering at the president over allegations of corruption.

In 2015, EFF members were removed from the chamber by security guards disguised as waiters.

Jacob Zuma: Key facts

With no formal schooling, he joined the ANC at 17 and was jailed for 10 years on Robben Island alongside Nelson Mandela

A charismatic politician, he shook off various scandals to become president in 2009

But his presidency has been dogged by allegations of corruption

Last year, the Constitutional Court ruled he had breached the constitution by failing to repay government money spent on upgrades including a swimming pool and chicken run at his private home in Nkandla

The anti-corruption watchdog then said a judicial inquiry should be set up to further investigate allegations of criminal activity in government in relation to the Guptas, a business family with links to Mr Zuma

The 74-year-old survived three no-confidences votes last year, two in parliament and one within the ANC

He is due to step down as ANC leader in December and as president after general elections in 2019.

ANGOLA :

SA, Angola aim to strengthen co-operation

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/94f730004ffce0b9aea8af2519165aae/SA,-Angola-aim-to-strengthen-co-operation-20170702>

Tuesday 7 February 2017 20:19

South Africa and Angola have committed to strengthen co-operation in the areas of mining and upstream petroleum.

This has been agreed at a meeting between Minerals Minister Mosebenzi Zwane and his Angolan counterpart, Francisco Queiroz, on the side-lines of the Investing in African Mining Indaba currently underway in Cape Town.

Minister Zwane said the two countries will collaborate on matters of mutual interest, including in the areas of policy, geological mapping, exploration and policy.

Teams from both countries will meet in the next two weeks to begin implementing the bilateral commitments.

AFRICA UNION :

Chad foreign minister Moussa Faki Mahamat to head African Union

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jan/30/chad-foreign-minister-moussa-faki-mahamat-african-union-head>

Monday 30 January 2017 17.21 GMT

Last modified on Thursday 2 February 2017 12.25 GMT

Chad's foreign minister has been elected as the new chair of the African Union Commission, pledging to place development and security at the top of his agenda and streamline the organisation's bureaucracy.

Moussa Faki Mahamat – a former prime minister who has been at the forefront of the fight against Islamist militants in Nigeria, Mali and the Sahel – was chosen by the 54-member body at a summit that has exposed splits over Africa's relationship with the international criminal court and Morocco's readmission to the union.

He edged out his closest rival, the Kenyan foreign minister Amina Mohamed, who had been regarded in some quarters as the frontrunner.

Surviving on wild seeds after failed harvests in Chad – in pictures
View gallery

In an interview last week with Radio France International, Moussa Faki said the AU needed strong leadership from someone who could “refocus on the basics”, adding that the body had implemented less than 15% of the 1,800 resolutions adopted since 2002.

Moussa Faki said during his campaign that he harboured dreams of an Africa where the “sound of guns will be drowned out by cultural songs and rumbling factories”. He pledged to streamline the organisation during the course of his four-year term in office.

Moussa Faki succeeds Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, of South Africa. Dlamini-Zuma stayed in the post an extra six months after leaders failed to agree a candidate in July last year.

On Monday, Dlamini-Zuma spoke out over the recently imposed US travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries. President Donald Trump’s executive order halted travel by people with passports from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days, and stopped refugee resettlement for 120 days.

“We are entering very turbulent times,” she told leaders at the start of the summit, at the AU’s headquarters in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. “The very country to which many of our people were taken as slaves during the transatlantic slave trade has now decided to ban refugees from some of our countries. What do we do about this? Indeed, this is one of the greatest challenges to our unity and solidarity.”

Condé’s stewardship of his own country has been controversial, with at least half a million people taking to the streets of Guinea last year to protest against alleged government corruption.

Global Development - The Guardian African women form a united front in the battle for equality – podcast

Kary Stewart looks at how feminists are championing women’s rights across the continent and beyond

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Demonstrations against what domestic critics charged as economic mismanagement by Condé’s government were marked by clashes with the police. In November 2015, Guinea’s

constitutional court formally confirmed Condé's re-election, dismissing opposition claims of vote-rigging and fraud.

Condé's position at the AU is held for a one-year term and rotates among the continent's five regions.

Separately, divisions were likely to be exposed when heads of state gathered at the summit to decide whether to approve the re-admission of Morocco; the country left the AU's predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity, three decades ago amid a dispute over the body's recognition of Western Sahara.

USA – AFRICA :

Indiana National Guard, Republic of Niger form new partnership
State Partnership Program builds relationships; has lasting impact in Africa

By Nate Herring, U.S. Africa Command Public Affairs Jan 31, 2017

<http://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/28613/indiana-national-guard-republic-of-niger-form-new-partnership>

NIAMEY, Niger - The Indiana National Guard and the Republic of Niger began a new partnership Jan. 26 as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the Adjutant General of Indiana, and Gen. Seyni Garba, Joint Chief of Staff of the Niger Armed Forces, signed a ceremonial partnership agreement during a ceremony in Niamey, Niger.

"This partnership is timely because it offers a great opportunity for the Niger armed forces to further develop its capabilities to face all the major security challenges of the day," Garba said.

The State Partnership Program is a long-term security cooperation program that pairs National Guard States with partner nations in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

"For the Forces Armée Nigerien, it will build and strengthen its already impressive military training institutions and security operations," said Amb. Eunice S. Reddick, U.S. Ambassador to Niger. "For the Indiana National Guard, the partnership offers a

chance to increase readiness, interoperability, and regional expertise.”

While the National Guard Bureau oversees the State Partnership Program, it is not limited to military to military engagements, but can also include military to civil, and civil to civil interactions, said Lt. Col. Chris Kimball, U.S. Africa Command State Partnership Program coordinator.

“The National Guard State Partnership Program is an innovative means to bring together a state’s National Guard with that of a partner country,” Carr said. “It enables Indiana National Guard to leverage whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency engagements spanning the military, economic, education and socio-cultural realms.”

The Indiana National Guard has a history of partnering with academic institutions such as Indiana University - who is interested in playing a vital role in the partnership with Niger, he said.

The State Partnership program began in 1993 and currently there are 73 unique partnerships across the world. With the addition of Indiana and Niger, there are now 13 African nations partnered with 10 State National Guards. Other partnerships include Botswana and North Carolina; Djibouti and Kentucky; Ghana, Togo, Benin and North Dakota; Kenya and Massachusetts; Liberia and Michigan; Morocco and Utah; Nigeria and California; Senegal and Vermont; South Africa and New York; Tunisia and Wyoming.

“Since the first partnership in Africa began in 2003 between South Africa and New York, the State Partnership Program has been a vital contributor to the AFRICOM mission,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy McAteer, AFRICOM deputy director for strategy, plans, and programs. “The long-term relationships built between Guard

members and their African counterparts have a positive impact on security, stability, and the future of the partnered African nations.”

Typical engagements between National Guard units and African militaries include leadership, officer and NCO development training and opportunities, cooperative training and exercises, senior leader visits, exchange programs and deployment planning.

Since many African militaries are smaller than the U.S. military, the State Partnership Program matches military organizations of comparable size, focus and mission, Kimball said.

“National Guard units offer the full spectrum of military capabilities, plus others not found in active components, such as disaster response, border, port and aviation security, and counternarcotic trafficking,” he said. “These are all unique challenges that African militaries may face.”

In fiscal year 2016, the National Guard conducted more than 110 State Partnership Program events in support of AFRICOM’s security cooperation objectives. These events involved approximately 700 U.S. and approximately 1,900 partner nation personnel, said Col. Dan Bilko, Chief, AFRICOM National Guard Integration Office.

Looking forward, Bilko hopes more partnerships in Africa will be formed as part of the program.

“The State Partnership Program constitutes AFRICOM’s best opportunity for broad, deep, stable and lasting relationships with nations on the continent,” he said. “Maintaining existing partnerships and forging new ones represent modest, and prudent, investments for Africa’s long-term security and stability.”

Concerns in England are that the British Prime Minister Theresa May withheld information about the failed test from the British parliament as she persuaded it to approve spending 40 billion British pounds on new Trident submarines in June.

“If there are problems, they should not have been covered up in this ham-fisted way. Ministers should come clean if there are problems and there should be an urgent inquiry into what happened,” former British defense minister Kevan Jones told the Sunday Times.

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CHINA – AFRICA :

China steps in to reshape Africa with new railway

Feb 9, 2017, 5:00 am SGT

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/africa/china-steps-in-to-reshape-africa-with-new-railway>

Chinese expertise and financial muscle behind Djibouti-Ethiopia line

DJIBOUTI • The 10.24am train out of Djibouti's capital drew some of the biggest names in the Horn of Africa last month.

Serenaded by a chorus of tribal singers, the crush of African leaders, European diplomats and pop icons climbed the stairs of the newly built train station and merrily jostled their way into the pristine, air-conditioned carriages making their inaugural run.

"It is indeed a historic moment, a pride for our nations and people," said Mr Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, shortly before the train - the first electric, transnational railway in Africa - headed towards Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

"This line will change the social and economic landscape of our two countries."

But, perhaps, the biggest star of the day was China, which designed the system, supplied the trains and imported hundreds of engineers for the six years it took to plan and build the 750km line. And the US\$4 billion (S\$5.7 billion) cost? Chinese banks provided nearly all the financing.

Having constructed one of the world's most extensive and modern rail networks at home, China is taking its prodigious resources and expertise global.

High-speed Chinese trains for Russian line

BEIJING • A new generation of high-speed trains capable of reaching speeds of 400kmh will be put into service for Russia's Moscow-Kazan line by 2020, reported the Chinese state media yesterday.

The 770km line will run through seven Russian regions with a total population of more than 25 million, reported China Daily.

The line will use regular high-speed trains rather than magnetic levitation trains which can travel faster than 400kmh.

"To ensure the operation, China will test the 400kmh train in a selected part of the 709km Beijing-Shenyang high-speed railway line," said Mr Yang Guowei, a researcher at the Institute of Mechanics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Once they have been successfully developed for the joint Sino-Russia rail project, Mr Yang said the trains can then be introduced to the domestic market.

The rail track is expected to be completed in 2019.

It is expected to reduce the travelling time from Moscow to Kazan from 12 hours to just 3 1/2 hours.

Mr Yang's work unit is responsible for designing the shape of the high-speed trains.

The Moscow-Kazan line is reportedly the first segment of a transnational high-speed rail link to eventually connect Moscow and Beijing.

Chinese-built subway cars will soon appear in Chicago and Boston, Beijing is building a US\$5 billion high-speed rail line in Indonesia and the Chinese government recently christened a new rail freight service between London and Beijing.

But few places are being reshaped by China's overseas juggernaut like Africa, a continent that has seen relatively little new railroad construction in a century.

Despite years of steady economic growth, sub-Saharan Africa remains hobbled by an infrastructure deficit, according to the Africa Development Bank, with only half of its roads paved and nearly 600 million people lacking access to electricity.

Chinese companies, many of them state-owned and grappling with an economic slowdown at home, have stepped into the breach, spending some US\$50 billion a year on new ports, highways and airports across the continent, according to the China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

China's enthusiasm for constructing railways, schools and stadiums in Africa stands in marked contrast to the role of the United States, which has largely shied away from financing infrastructure on the continent. When it comes to trade, China surpassed the US in 2009 to become Africa's biggest trading partner.

Mr Aboubaker Omar Hadi, chairman of the Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority, said he hoped the new railway linking his country to the Ethiopian capital would be just the first leg of a

long-dreamed trans-African route, from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic.

"The train is already a game changer," he said, noting that it will cut a gruelling three- or four-day trip by truck to 12 hours.

He praised the Chinese for going all in after Western banks declined to help finance the nation's glaring infrastructure needs.

"We approached the US, and it didn't have the vision," he said. "They are not thinking ahead 30 years. They have a vision of Africa only from the past, as a continent of war and famine. The Chinese have vision."

Not everyone is comfortable with China's vision. Some worry about the leverage China wields and what happens when countries fall behind on loan payments. Others worry about the Djiboutian government's lack of transparency, its authoritarian impulses and a vexing legacy of official corruption.

Although workers from China did much of the technical and engineering work for Djibouti's first modern railway, thousands of Djiboutian and Ethiopian labourers were hired to lay tracks and dig tunnels.

The system will be operated by Chinese conductors for five years and then turned over to local citizens, many of them trained in China.

Mr Daha Ahmed Osman, 34, a tech specialist who works for the Djiboutian government, predicted that the new train service would transform Djibouti and Ethiopia, and eventually all of Africa.

"For this, we have the Chinese to thank, because they shared with us their money and their technology," he said. "More than anything, we thank them for showing confidence in us."

NYTIMES

A version of this article appeared in the print edition of The Straits Times on February 09, 2017, with the headline 'China steps in to reshape Africa with new railway'. [Print Edition](#) | [Subscribe](#)

INDIA – AFRICA :

JETRO to push Japan-India business collaboration in Africa

by Atul Ranjan

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/02/05/national/jetro-push-japan-india-business-collaboration-africa/#.WJ2BF7XjIb0>

NEW DELHI – The Japan External Trade Organization plans to promote partnerships between Japanese and Indian companies looking to expand their presence in Africa by leveraging their mutual expertise, JETRO officials said.

The move is aimed at reducing market risks by combining the experience and knowledge of Indian firms in the African market with the technical and funding capabilities of Japanese companies to tap growth opportunities on the continent, the officials said.

Reiko Furuya, director of JETRO's New Delhi office, said it is organizing a conference in March to discuss collaboration in Africa, among other topics.

Kenji Hiramatsu, Japan's ambassador to India, said at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit held recently that both countries are looking to jointly explore opportunities in Africa.

“Indians have been doing business in Africa for a long time and have the knowledge and experience of operating in the market. We would like to combine this knowledge with the Japanese technologies and financing capabilities . . . this will be a win-win scenario,” the envoy said.

According to experts, the move is in line with a joint statement issued by Japan and India in November last year that “underscored the importance of India-Japan dialogue to promote cooperation and collaboration in Africa, with the objective to synergize their efforts and explore specific joint projects.”

Izuru Kobayashi, chief operating officer of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia based in Jakarta, said the Japanese and Indian governments are planning to start consulting on selecting specific projects in Africa as per the November statement.

“Japanese firms are good at production and quality management while Indian firms have strong local presence and connections, which are complementary,” he said.

“Japan has been increasing official development assistance loans under the Quality Infrastructure Initiative, and India also extends a substantial amount of lines of credit to African countries,” he said.

“The partnership may create opportunities for both Indian and Japanese firms to develop bankable projects in Africa.”

According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, collective gross domestic product in the African continent is expected to reach \$3.6 trillion by 2020, up from \$2.1 trillion in 2011.

Published reports show that Indian foreign direct investment in Africa stood at almost \$12.5 billion in 2014 alone, while Japan’s cumulative FDI in the continent was \$10.5 billion as of that year.