

AFRICA : 17 FEVRIER 2017 : (RD Congo : raid policier contre la secte politico-religieuse Bundu Dia Congo, déjà quatre morts)



Burundi :

Burundi / AGENDA : 18 février 2017 à 17H à l'IFB – Battle et Formation de DJ

Kool DJ Herc at Hot 97's VIP Lounge featuring Busta Rhymes in New York City on June 7th, 2006. (Photo : WIKIPEDIA)

Battle et Formation à la discipline artistique de DJ ce samedi 18 février 2017 à 17H à l'Institut Français du Burundi IFB

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_6z87NbbiI]

A Bujumbura, à partir de 17 heure, ce samedi 18 février 2017, un – Battle – de DJ ou DeeJay (Disc Jockey) aura lieu à l'Institut Français du Burundi IFB.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjmXMvLU1ps>]

Une formation à l'art du DJ sera donnée par M. Benjamin Lebrave, DJ franco-américain « DJ Bbrave » spécialisé en Afrohouse & Afrobeat, vivant au Ghana à Accra en ce moment.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qwml-F7zKQ>]

L'art musical du DJ est né vers les années 1950 dans les ghettos NOIRS de Kingston avec le Reggae en Jamaïque. C'est DJ Kool Herc, un NOIR Jamaïcain émigré aux USA (dans le Bronx à New-York) qui lui va lier cette discipline artistique au monde du Hip-Hop (art musical des NOIRS AMERICAINS) au début des années 1970.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kk99DmV5uLk>]

Au Burundi, le dimanche 15 janvier 2017, avec la présence de S.E. SINDIMWO, Vice Président du Burundi, l'Amical des

Musiciens du Burundi a intégré la branche DJ en son sein. Il s'agissait d'un moment HISTORIQUE pour le Burundi, car les âmes AFRO JAMAÏCAINE et AFRO AMERICAINE désormais ont retrouvé les BARUNDI.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeoK7gSkcuk>]

DAM, NY, AGNEWS – <http://burundi-agnews.org> , le vendredi 17 février 2017

Burundi : 952 militaires burundais partis pour l'AMISOM

952 membres de la Force de Défense Nationale FDN du Burundi sont partis en Somalie ce jeudi 16 février 2017 pour une rotation au sein de l'Africa Union Mission in Somali – AMISOM.

A Bujumbura, ce jeudi 16 février 2017, le Colonel BARATUZA, porte-parole au Ministère burundais de Défense, a informé que 952 militaires burundais de la Force de Défense Nationale FDN, issus du 40ème Bataillon, avaient pris l'avion ce jeudi en destination de la Somalie pour relever leurs confrères du 34ème bataillon, au sein de l'Africa Union Mission in Somali – AMISOM.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS – <http://burundi-agnews.org> , le jeudi 16 février 2017

Rwanda :

Togo Réformes : Le HCRRUN partage l'expérience rwandaise

!

iciLome | Vendredi, 17 Février 2017

<http://news.icilome.com/?idnews=833379&t=reformes--le-hcrrun-partage-l-experience-rwandaise-!>

Délégation d'experts Rwandais

Une délégation d'experts Rwandais réside au Togo depuis lundi. Sur invitation du Haut-Commissariat à la Réconciliation et au Renforcement de l'Unité Nationale (HCRRUN), les émissaires de Kigali partagent avec les acteurs étatiques et non étatiques du Togo, leur expérience en termes de réformes institutionnelles et constitutionnelles. Après deux jours d'entame à l'exercice, le tour des Institutions de la République, les ministères, les organisations de la Société civile et les médias.

La rencontre a été ouverte dans la matinée de jeudi, dans un hôtel à Lomé. Pour Madame Awa Nana-Daboya, un ingrédient essentiel manquait à l'atelier de Juillet 2016 sur les réformes institutionnelles et constitutionnelles : l'expérience des experts internationaux. « C'est maintenant chose faite, avec la présence des experts rwandais », a-t-elle précisé.

Dans un exposé vif et riches d'informations et d'expériences du Rwanda, le professeur Anastase Shyaka, CEO du Rwand governance board et chef de la délégation, a fait sortir plusieurs aspects du parcours de son pays depuis le génocide jusqu'à nos jours.

C'était non pas sans avoir précisé dans un premier temps, qu'ils n'étaient pas là pour enseigner les Togolais, mais échanger, partager les expériences, car le Rwanda, quoique satisfait de son engagement dans le vivre-ensemble aujourd'hui, a encore des défis à relever.

Pour le professeur Anastase Shyaka, trois aspects essentiels sont à relever dans le parcours Rwandais à savoir :

L'Unité : pour le peuple Rwandais après le génocide, le vivre-ensemble était un impératif ayant motivé tous les efforts à se défaire des distractions politiques et régionalistes qui sont sources de balkanisations et d'instabilité au service de manipulateurs politiques qui enveniment d'ailleurs de pareilles situations.

La redevabilité : Dans tous les domaines (politiques, administrations, sociales et institutions) et à tous les niveaux (autorité politiques, armées et citoyens, hommes, femmes et enfants), le sens de redevabilité et respects des institutions de la Républiques a été encre dans les esprits au point de fixer des

limites à tout pouvoir quel qu'il soit. C'est un choix de réformes pour les Rwandais !

Et enfin, la confiance en eux-mêmes (Peuple Rwandais) et en une nouvelle orientation pour l'avenir. Pour les Rwandais, le passé ne devrait plus être un exemple ou une source d'inspiration pour tous les débats au point d'empiéter sur toute nouvelle initiative visant la paix et la cohésion sociale.

Une corbeilles d'engagements dans l'expérience rwandaise dont les participants ont été tous éblouis, manifestant une curiosité poussée dans tous les aspects, comme par exemple, les rôles de l'armée, de l'intelligence, de la société civile ou même de la diaspora rwandaise dans la réussite des réformes.

Une histoire, un vécu, une réalité, des anecdotes, un tout plein d'intérêt dont ne se laisseront les épris d'un changement au Togo, mais une seule question revient sous diverses formes : Comment le Togo peut impliquer tous ces aspects ou mieux les adapter aux dures réalités de la Terre de nos Aïeux ?

Une chose est certaine : l'impossible n'est pas togolais.

A. Lemou

Un Suédois d'origine rwandaise condamné à perpétuité pour avoir participé au génocide

15 février 2017 à 14h31 Par Jeune Afrique avec AFP

La justice suédoise a confirmé mercredi en appel la condamnation à perpétuité pour génocide d'un Suédois d'origine rwandaise.

L'accusé, Claver Berinkindi, 61 ans, avait été naturalisé suédois en 2012, dix ans après son arrivée dans le pays. À l'époque, la Suède ignorait qu'il avait été condamné par contumace en 2007 par un tribunal au Rwanda.

Ayant retrouvé la trace de l'homme, qui s'était installé à Eskilstuna, dans le centre de la Suède, la justice rwandaise a cependant transmis le dossier à son homologue suédoise, qui a mené sa propre enquête.

« Selon l'acte d'accusation qui relève cinq lieux différents pour ces crimes dans la province de Butare, l'homme agissait comme commandant informel durant le génocide, et il est affirmé qu'il a, en compagnie d'autres, pris part à l'assassinat, à la tentative d'assassinat et à l'enlèvement d'un très grand nombre – en tout plusieurs milliers – de Tutsis », a écrit la cour d'appel, qui s'est rangée à l'avis du parquet.

Rwanda : découverte de gisements de terres rares et pierres précieuses

15 février 2017

<http://buzz.lanouvelletribune.info/2017/02/rwanda-decouverte-terres-rares/>

Le Rwanda regorge de pierres précieuses et de terres dites rares. C'est l'annonce qu'a faite Dr. Emmanuel Munyangabe, chef des opérations à la Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMPGB).

Cet organe mis en place par le gouvernement du président Kagame pour explorer les différentes contrées du pays à la recherche de gisements naturels vient de révéler l'information que tous les rwandais attendaient.

En effet, en plus du coltan, de l'or ou de l'étain pour ne citer que ceux-là, le pays possède également de grandes quantités de fer, de terres rares, de pierres précieuses, de cobalt et de lithium.

« Nous avons fait de nouvelles découvertes, y compris de ressources dont nous n'avions auparavant aucune idée de leur existence au Rwanda (...) les prochaines étapes vont consister à mener d'autres enquêtes et analyses pour déterminer la compositions et les quantités exactes des dépôts » a complété M. Munyangabe

Pour rappel, les terres rares sont d'une importance capitale dans le développement des nouvelles technologies. Très utilisées dans les nouveaux supports type smartphone, ordinateurs, tablettes...

D'après le plan d'actions du président Kagame, ces produits devraient d'ici quelques années être majoritairement transformés sur place avant de les écouler sur les marchés internationaux.

RDC CONGO :

RD Congo : raid policier contre la secte politico-religieuse Bundu Dia Congo, déjà quatre morts

Carole KOUASSI avec AFP - République démocratique du Congo

<http://fr.africanews.com/2017/02/14/rd-congo-raid-policier-contre-la-secte-politico-religieuse-bundu-dia-congo/>

Poussée de tension ce mardi à Kinshasa où la police réalisait une opération d'envergure pour déloger des partisans de la secte politico-religieuse Bundu Dia Congo.

Les tensions se sont d'abord fait sentir dans la soirée de lundi, dans une résidence située au centre de la capitale soupçonnée d'abriter des fidèles de la secte.

Ce mardi, les hostilités ont repris de plus belle, cette fois aux abords de la résidence du chef autoproclamé de la secte, l'honorable Muanda Nsemi. Armés de kalachnikov, des dizaines de policiers anti-émeutes venaient également mettre la main sur des membres de la secte.

Des arrestations ont d'ores et déjà été effectuées dans le cadre de ce coup de filet, à en croire les déclarations du porte-parole de la police congolaise à l'Agence France Presse. On parle également de quatre morts dans les rangs de Bundu Dia Congo.

Très opérationnelle dans l'ouest de la RDC, du reste dans le Kongo-Central où elle est notamment accusée d'avoir perpétré des troubles meurtriers, Bundu Dia Congo s'est livrée à des menaces contre l'État congolais ces derniers jours.

En effet, dans des vidéos tournant en boucle sur les réseaux sociaux, son chef Muanda Nsemi a appelé à l'insurrection contre le pouvoir du président Joseph Kabila, dont il conteste ouvertement la nationalité congolaise sur la foi d'une vieille rumeur selon laquelle le fils de Laurent-Désiré Kabila, tombeur du dictateur Mobutu en 1997, serait "Rwandais".

"Dans deux semaines, je vais frapper", a-t-il menacé dans le dernier de ses messages filmés.

Député à l'Assemblée nationale, Muanda Nsemi n'a jamais été arrêté en dépit des nombreuses exactions dont sont accusés ses sbires. Sous la menace d'une éventuelle arrestation, il se cacherait aujourd'hui au Kongo-Central, sa province d'origine.

UGANDA :

In Uganda, refugees are being given plots of land to help rebuild their lives

[<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/16/uganda-refugees-given-plots-land-help-rebuild-lives/>]

By Anna Dubuis, on the Ugandan border 16 February 2017

Her husband's killers did not say one word. Mary watched as government soldiers ambushed their home and slaughtered him. In the darkness she fled, a baby in one arm and a toddler in the other, walking for four days until she reached the Ugandan border. The 25-year-old lost track of her two older children in the chaos.

"I still don't know where my other children are, I don't know if they are with the rebels, or killed," she says, six months later.

Mary is one of 734,000 South Sudanese refugees who have fled the country's civil war and sought safety in Uganda, most of whom arrived when violence erupted last July.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania Power Issues Casts Shadow on \$12 Billion Debt Plan
by Omar Mohammed 17 février 2017

For investors considering financing Tanzania's proposed 27.6 trillion-shilling (\$12.3 billion) borrowing program, the government's handling of its power utility's debt problems may give pause for thought.

Last month, President John Magufuli fired the Tanzania Electric Supply Co.'s chief executive officer and vetoed its decision to raise electricity prices, ignoring International Monetary Fund advice that higher tariffs may help improve the company's financial position. The state is also facing international arbitration over its failure to pay more than \$35 million owed for power supplied to Tanesco from a gas-fired plant built by Washington-based Symbion Power.

“The current state of Tanesco is a cautionary tale about how state-owned enterprises in Tanzania are managed, particularly with respect to debt,” said Ahmed Salim, a vice president at Teneo Strategy, a Dubai-based research group. “In order for Tanzania to secure a good credit rating, institutions like Tanesco have to have the opportunity to reform, even if it means raising tariffs.”

Symbion didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The nation with East Africa's largest deposits of natural gas after Mozambique plans to spend at least 107 trillion shillings (\$47.9 billion) over the next five years on projects including a liquefied natural gas plant, rail links, and an industrial zone around a planned port at Bagamoyo. The government is obtaining a credit rating and its borrowing plans include an \$800 million Eurobond and syndicated loans, the Finance Ministry said in December.

Financial Troubles

Tanesco's travails could increase the premium at which Tanzania enters the Eurobond market, and weigh on any credit ratings, said Lisa Brown, an analyst at Rand Merchant Bank, a unit of Johannesburg-based FirstRand Ltd.

The utility's debt is estimated at more than \$300 million, according to Teneo. In 2013, Tanesco raised \$250 million in five- and seven-year loans. Last year, it asked the World Bank for a \$200 million emergency loan that's still pending.

"The longer the company remains financially unstable, the more of a burden they are to the government as they often have to guarantee the loans," Brown said. "Because of Tanesco's financial troubles, and the debt risks it poses, the company exposes the government, especially when these loans are taken in foreign currency."

Energy and Minerals Minister Sospeter Muhongo said the state will transform Tanesco by reorganizing it into a smaller, more efficient company, rather than by raising power costs for a country trying to industrialize. The nation's abundant natural resources and a growing economy are guarantees that it can repay debt, he said.

"Hiking tariffs will bring about high production costs and consequently very high food and other industrial prices," Muhongo said by phone. "We are not in a desperate situation when it comes to our debt."

The country is ramping up borrowing for projects. In January, Magufuli asked Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan to help fund a \$7.5 billion rail line to neighboring states. Days later, Turkish construction company Yapi Merkezi Insaat VE Sanayi As and Portuguese building firm Mota-Engil SGPS SA won the

contract for the first of a five-phase project, a 300-kilometer (127-mile) track for \$1.2 billion.

Tanzania and the World Bank also discussed loans of as much as \$1.3 billion last month.

About 43 percent of what Tanzania plans to borrow for its development program will come from foreign investors, according to a Finance Ministry proposal in June last year.

‘Plenty of Headroom’

The long-term and concessional nature of Tanzania’s debt makes servicing well within the country’s power, according to Brown. The gamble is whether it can meet obligations on time. The risk of distress will be relatively low if Tanzania reduces debt by increasing domestic revenue and cutting back expenditure, the IMF said in a debt sustainability report in June.

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More than half of Tanzania’s current \$19 billion debt is external, with the total accounting for about 34 percent of gross domestic product. Over the past six years, its debt-to-GDP ratio has grown by 7 percentage points. The government still has plenty of borrowing headroom with a public-debt ceiling of 56 percent of GDP, Finance Minister Philip Mpango told lawmakers in the capital, Dodoma, on Jan. 31.

“Tanzania still has the ability to continue to borrow domestically and abroad to finance its development activities and also has the ability to repay maturing loans using internal and external income,” he said.

KENYA :

France values Kenya as strategic partner, new envoy says

Today 2:43 pm (2 hours ago)

By PSCU, NAIROBI, Kenya, Feb 17 – France values Kenya as a strategic, economic, diplomatic and development partner in the region, the incoming French Ambassador to Kenya, Antoine Sivan, has said.

Ambassador Sivan said France is proud of its privileged dialogue and relations with Kenya – one of the key players in Africa.

“We are both committed to a strong economic partnership and close political engagement for peace and stability in the region of the great Eastern Africa,” Ambassador Sivan said.

The new French Ambassador to Kenya spoke Friday when he presented his credentials to President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House, Nairobi.

Ambassador Sivan assured that France stands by Kenya and its neighbours in their efforts to ensure regional peace and security, especially in Somalia and South Sudan.

He said a dynamic relationship existed between the two countries with more than 70 French companies currently operating in Kenya, including the Peugeot Group which resumed the assembling of passenger vehicles early this month.

“Their turnover of the 70 companies amounts to more than Sh250 billion and they directly employ more than 10,000 Kenyans,” the French envoy said.

He added: “The Ruiru Dam project implemented by Vinci and Egis, Lafarge Bamburi (the first French investor in Kenya),

Bollore which employs 1,500 Kenyans, the Total with 165 petrol stations countrywide and Schneider Electric which has 300 local employees are some of the perfect examples.”

On security, the French envoy assured of France’s commitment to fighting terrorism in whatever form it takes.

President Kenyatta also received credentials from five other envoys including Mohamed Abdulghani Khayat of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ernesto Gomez Diaz of Cuba, Agrina Mussa of Malawi, Slaiman Arabiat of Jordan and El Mokhtar Ghambou of Morocco.

Presenting his credentials to President Kenyatta, Ambassador Ghambou of Morocco delivered the greetings of King Mohamed VI who expressed deep respect for the historic relations symbolized by the strong friendship between the two countries’ founding fathers the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and the late King Hassan II.

On his part, Ambassador Arabiat of Jordan said it was a great pleasure for him to present his credentials as the first resident Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Kenya.

“Opening a Jordanian embassy in Nairobi will definitely expand and strengthen the bonds of friendship and further cooperation between our two countries in different fields, including political, cultural, economic, trade and tourism,” the Jordanian Ambassador said.

Receiving credentials from the new envoys to Kenya, President Kenyatta said he looked forward to working closely with them to enhance the strong ties existing between Kenya and their countries.

The Head of State assured them of his support to make their tour of duty in Kenya successful.

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan labour minister resigns, cites frustration

JUBA (17 Feb.)

<https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/south-sudan-labour-minister-resigns-cites-frustration>

A South Sudanese minister resigned from his position on Friday, citing frustration with the unity government's inability to tackle the country's problems.

Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, who was a senior member of the SPLM-IO faction allied to First Vice President Taban Deng in Juba, was the labour minister in Kiir's administration.

In a resignation letter seen by Radio Tamazuj today, Gebrial Duop Lam said, "I have officially resigned from the position as the Minister of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development in the so-called partial Government of National Unity with effect from 17 February, 2017."

Duop also announced his defection from the SPLM-IO faction allied to Taban Deng Gai and joined Riek Machar's group. "I reaffirm my full allegiance and commitment to the SPLM/SPLA-IO under the wise leadership of Dr Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon," said Duop.

South Sudanese army to investigate village "rape"

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article61671>

February 16, 2017 (JUBA) – The South Sudanese army has vowed to investigate reports of rape, which allegedly occurred in villages along Juba-Nimule road last week.

Anglican Bishop Paul Yugusuk of the Lomega Diocese in Eastern Equatoria claimed that pro-government soldiers raped several women and detained 47 men over the weekend.

Five young girls and women, the Bishop said, are being treated at Juba hospital.

“We don’t know the exact number of women who were raped but we have five [women and girls] here in Juba Teaching Hospital. Most of them are underage girls and women,” Yugusuk told reporters after visiting the victims in Juba on Monday.

The 47 men arrested after the ransacking of the Kubi village, some 50 km on Juba – Nimule highway, have been released, according to local news report that quoting George Ladu, the Commissioner of Lokiliri County in Jubek State.

But the South Sudanese army spokesman Brig. Gen. Lul Ruai Koang said the military will form a committee to investigate the report, identify the suspects and take action.

“The chief of general staff has ordered an investigation into the circumstances that led to the reported rape incidents in Kubi, identify the suspects and arraign them before the military court,” Koang told Sudan Tribune over phone on Thursday.

The military official further said all church groups and any other “interested” parties are invited to help in the investigation to dispel any fears of bias during the process.

The SPLA, despite promises to take measures, has been accused by advocate groups of doing little to end sexual assaults on women and girls during military operations.

In the past, however, human right organizations have accused both the government forces of carrying out atrocities, including gang rape and mass killing of innocent civilians when taking over a territory held by rebels.

SOUTH AFRICA :

The empty promises of South Africa's "radical economic transformation"

source : <https://qz.com/912297/what-the-ancs-policy-of-south-african-radical-economic-transformation-really-means/>

The only thing radical about South Africa's ruling party's understanding of "radical economic transformation", a commentator once suggested, is its use of the word 'radical'. The comment was made a few years ago, when the African National Congress was in the habit of using the slogan to describe very modest change. Now it's back.

In his 2017 state of the nation address South Africa's president Jacob Zuma brought back the phrase "radical economic transformation" causing nationwide debate. Other senior ANC politicians have done the same.

Have the ANC's intentions changed?

To answer that, we need to understand why "radical economic transformation" is back on the ANC's agenda. As with much of what happens in the ANC today, factional politics is a crucial part of the story.

One slogan, two agendas

The ANC has believed for decades that change is needed to speed up black people's access to the economy. It has emphasized this over the past few years as it became clearer that economic exclusion remains a stubborn reality despite two decades of political change.

Translating this into reality is difficult. The country's racial divisions ensure that government and business do not share the

common goals which, for example, produced change and growth in Asia.

But are there any signs of attempts to ensure radical change? At the time of negotiating and assuming power, the ANC recognized that it could not impose change since this would scare away capital. And it did not develop an effective strategy for negotiating with power holders in the private economy. The result was a gap between rhetoric and detail.

More than five years ago the ANC began talking about a “second phase of the transition” to address social and economic change. Since then its documents and statements have tended to combine radical phrases with plans which simply tweaked what already exists.

And over the past few months, “radical” economic change has become a growing ANC preoccupation. This is not because its policymakers decided this. Rather it’s because its patronage politicians seized on the slow pace of change to justify their continued quest—in partnership with their private allies—to control public resources.

Triggered by the need of the Gupta family, which has been accused of “capturing” the state to protect their interests, they ratcheted up a campaign to paint patronage as a contribution to freedom.

A familiar tale

The story they tell has become familiar. “State capture” is actually the reverse: an attempt to take back a state already under the control of private interests. “White monopoly capital”, this lobby insisted, controls the state and is determined to prevent a challenge by using claims of “state capture” to defame the forces of economic freedom.

As many commentators have pointed out, this is not about building an economy which includes more people but about justifying why some connected people should get their hands on the public purse.

But ANC politicians who reject this ploy cannot simply dismiss it. The patronage group is trying to exploit the idea of economic change because just about everyone in the ANC—and many people outside it—agree that it is not credible to claim that the economy is now nonracial and inclusive. Their opponents must, therefore, acknowledge that change is needed. But they must try to ensure that it is about including people, not enriching a few.

The stress on “radical economic transformation”—and more militant statements on the economy by ANC politicians such as secretary-general Gwede Mantashe and parliamentary finance committee chair Yunus Carrim – are part of this attempt to develop a program for change which is not about giving a free pass to the connected.

This does not necessarily mean that there is always a neat divide between the two change agendas—some policy documents might mix proposals from the both sides. But the attempt to justify patronage has triggered enhanced ANC interest in change. Jacob Zuma, leader of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC), sings for his supporters at the Pietermaritzburg high court outside Durban August 4, 2008. Zuma appeared in court on Monday to push for the dismissal of a corruption case that could stop him becoming president next year. Over 1,000 supporters demonstrated outside the high court in Pietermaritzburg to denounce charges they say are politically motivated and to try to stop Zuma from being put on trial later in the year.

REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko (SOUTH AFRICA) - RTR20MBW

When sung, Zuma's slogans can very convincing.
(Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko)
More serious than before

Given this background, the latest version of "radical economic transformation" should be taken more seriously than previous editions.

The patronage group's opponents need to show that it is possible to achieve economic change which fixes the problem rather than using it as an excuse. So they can't simply talk about change—they must make it happen.

But are there any signs of attempts to ensure radical change?

The details spelled out in recent ANC statements provide an answer. They include plans to boost business opportunities in townships and rural areas, and by using "the Constitution, legislation and regulations, licensing, transformation charters, the national budget and procurement, state-owned companies and development finance institutions, as well as government programs" which, of course, is fairly vague.

The State of the Nation Address, which can presumably be taken as a statement of the government's intent, ignored the township business proposals and concentrated on tougher competition legislation and a state-owned mining company (a possible gain for the patronage group).

It also emphasized land distribution and using a variety of measures to boost black business: public procurement, legislation to boost black property practitioners, and the black industrialists program.

How radical these ideas are depends on the beholder. To some lobbies any attempt to interfere with the market is a threat to its survival. But, for those with a greater grasp of reality, the theme seems to be change which goes beyond tinkering with current ways of doing things, but does not seek to tear up the fundamentals which have underpinned policy since 1994. It also seems likely that the proposals are designed for negotiation and are not final decisions.

The patronage lobby's ideas would, of course, change those fundamentals dramatically. It would tear up many of the controls which protect public money, from rules which award tenders to the cheapest bidder, through to controls on money laundering to the Treasury's spending safeguards.

Their opponents propose a program which leaves all of that in place but seeks to nudge the economy in a more inclusive direction.

The land proposals, for example, may use expropriation—which will allow courts to set the price of the land—but, according to land reform minister Gugile Nkwinti will mainly rely on the valuer-general, a recently created government office which sets the prices of land earmarked for reform. New competition laws may trample on some toes but are hardly radical in a market economy.

This year's version of “radical economic transformation,” therefore, has more substance than the previous editions. But it is hardly a recipe for a dramatic economic shift.

And, while the content of government proposals has shifted, there are no signs yet that the lack of a strategy to achieve them has been addressed. All of these plans will remain on the drawing board unless ways are found of ensuring that investment not only

continues but also grows. That will require a coherent plan to win the support—or at least the compliance—of economic power holders. Until that emerges, “radical economic transformation” will remain the stuff of policy documents rather than concrete action.
The Conversation

Steven Friedman, Professor of Political Studies, University of Johannesburg

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

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ANGOLA :

Portuguese prosecutors charge Angolan VP with corruption

By AFP Source : <http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Angolan-VP-charged-with-graft-/1066-3816472-ppp9qbz/>

LISBON

Portuguese prosecutors on Thursday charged Angolan Vice President Manuel Vicente with corruption over allegations he bribed a magistrate with roughly 760,000 euros (\$800,000) in 2012 to drop two investigations against him.

Vicente, who was the president of Angolan national oil company Sonangol at the time of the alleged crimes, is charged with bribery, money laundering and document falsification, the public prosecutors' office said in a statement.

His alleged accomplices, his lawyer Paulo Blanco and his business representative in Portugal, Armindo Pires, were also charged over the affair, as was the Portuguese magistrate who he is accused of having bribed, magistrate Orlando Figueira.

Figueira, who was arrested in 2016 and is currently under house arrest, was charged with accepting bribes, document falsification, money laundering and violation of the confidentiality of an official investigation.

OPERATION FIZZ

Authorities seized about 512,000 euros which the magistrate had placed in bank accounts and safes in Portugal and Andorra as part of their investigation dubbed 'Operation Fizz', the prosecutors' office said.

According to Portuguese media reports, one of the investigations which Figueira allegedly dropped in exchange for cash centred on the origin of funds which Vicente used to buy a luxury apartment in a Lisbon suburb.

The Angolan vice president will be notified of his indictment through an official letter sent to the authorities in Angola, an oil and diamond rich former Portuguese colony in southwestern Africa, the prosecutors' office said.

Vicente has denied any involvement in the affair, saying shortly after Figueira's arrest that he had "absolutely nothing to do with any payment".

NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED

Vicente's lawyer Rui Patricio said Thursday that his client had not been notified of any charges being brought against him.

"I am astounded that my client has been accused, not only because he had nothing to do with the facts mentioned but also because he has never even been questioned about them," Patricio said in a statement sent to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

The fact that Vicente was not questioned "invalidates the (legal) process," he added, according to Lusa.

In 2012, attempts to investigate alleged money laundering and tax evasion by several Angolan officials in Portugal sent a chill in relations between the two countries, which have strong economic ties.

Portugal is Angola's main source of imports and Portuguese companies are active in banking and construction in the vast African country.

SIGNIFICANT STAKES

In turn, Angolan investors including state oil company Sonangol — currently headed by billionaire businesswoman Isabel dos Santos, the daughter of Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos — have built up significant stakes in Portugal's top telecommunications firms and banks.

Dos Santos announced earlier this month he will not run in elections in August, signalling the end to 37 years in power and naming his Defence Minister Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco as the candidate to succeed him.

Until news of the corruption scandal emerged last year, Vicente had been strongly tipped as a potential successor to Dos Santos, who has ruled Angola since 1979.

Angola's vast oil wealth has not trickled down to the masses and critics accuse both dos Santos and his family of amassing huge wealth by siphoning off state funds.

AFRICA UNION :

India welcomes Morocco's return to African Union

Elizabeth Roche

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/nf899bUydKffpFoKbG13gI/India-welcomes-Moroccos-return-to-African-Union.html>

Morocco's re-admission into the African Union in January is after more than three decades

New Delhi: India on Wednesday congratulated Morocco on its return to the African Union (AU).

“India and Africa have a historic relationship and this has grown into a sustainable partnership. India wholeheartedly welcomes Morocco's return to AU, which has strengthened Africa's Unity,” a statement from the Indian ministry of external affairs said.

India's message follows Morocco's re-admission into the African Union in January more than three decades after it left the body over the latter's recognition of the independence of the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

Morocco, the only country in Africa that was not a member of the AU, left its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity, in 1984 after a majority of the member states recognised Western Sahara.

A former Spanish colony, Western Sahara was annexed by Morocco in 1975 and was the focus of conflict between Morocco and indigenous people led by the Polisario Front until a UN-brokered truce brought the armed insurgency to a halt in 1991.

Thirty-nine countries supported Morocco's bid for re-admission into the AU this week but nine voted against it, news reports said.

India has been following an aggressive woo Africa strategy with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Pranab Mukherjee and vice president Hamid Ansari visiting about a dozen African countries among them last year.

USA – AFRICA :

CHINA – AFRICA :

China's commitment to mining in Africa deepens

African leaders showcase mining opportunities at Cape Town conference

Bill Corcoran Cape Town Thu, Feb 16, 2017, 11:46

<http://www.irishtimes.com/business/energy-and-resources/china-s-commitment-to-mining-in-africa-deepens-1.2977864>

US president Donald Trump's anti-China stance could accelerate Asian investment into Africa's mining sector over the coming years, experts attending a major industry conference in Cape Town have predicted.

Despite commodity prices falling dramatically between 2011 and 2015, China has remained a dominant investor in African mining, as the continent has enough mineral resources to meet the resource-hungry nation's development needs, as well as those of other developing Asian economies.

Mining experts attending South Africa's annual four-day Investing in Africa Mining conference, said this China-led demand for resources coupled with Trump's protectionist approach to the US economy should prove beneficial to Africa's beleaguered mining sector.

Intarsia Capital chief executive Graeme Robertson told delegates he believed that the US was going to boost its own production of resources, and this development would lead to a restructuring of political alliances internationally. Robertson went on to say that although the US had never had a major influence on African mining investments, many parts of the continent were attractive to Asian companies wanting to invest in the industry.

“The investment coming into Africa is Chinese, in Mozambique it’s Japanese, there is South Korea money coming in and interestingly a lot of Indonesia money coming in,” he said.

Collaboration

South Africa and Japan signed a co-operation agreement last week which will enable the two countries to collaborate on exploration and the creation of geoscientific knowledge, reciprocal investments, skills development, environmental issues, research and development, and clean-coal technology.

That China is committed to mining in Africa is apparent from all the deals it is making across the continent. Only last November Chinese state-owned mining company Shandon Iron and Steel revealed it will invest heavily in the sector in Sierra Leone.

In a press statement, Shandon said it intends investing \$700 million in an iron ore processing plant in Tonically district, which it had acquired in full in 2015 from Britain’s African Minerals mining company. According to Shandon, all of the iron ore mined at Tonically will be shipped to China.

The aim of last week’s mining event in Cape Town was to provide African leaders with a platform to showcase investment opportunities to foreign miners and investors, and to debate issues that are undermining the sector’s performance.

The mining sector is seen as a key pillar upon which Africa’s economic and social development could be built, but in recent years it has performed poorly due to the fall in commodity prices, political problems, regulatory uncertainty and labour unrest.

However, on the back of prices for iron, copper and tin rising dramatically over 2016, and significant interest from within the global industry in this year’s conference, there was speculation a

potential commodities' boom could spark investment in African mining again.

The World Bank's latest commodities forecast confirmed that prices are climbing due to strong Chinese demand and low levels of supply. Copper prices jumped 10 per cent in the last quarter of 2016, "the first double-digit quarterly gain in nearly five years", the report said.

The bank is also projecting metals prices to rise by 11 per cent this year, a significant improvement from an earlier forecast of just 4 per cent.

But outside of the predicted interest from Asian companies, many experts believed that despite the rising prices, the aforementioned deterrents to investment could stop risk-averse Western investors from loosening their purse strings.

Regulatory uncertainty

Indeed regulatory uncertainty was one of the main topics of discussion among delegates and interested parties last week.

Writing in Business Day newspaper on Tuesday, Peter Leon, the Africa cochairman of international law firm Herbert Smith Fireless traced much of the regulatory uncertainty to a raft of new laws passed by governments in the 1990s and the global economic crash in 2008.

Leon said during that decade up to 30 African countries passed less restrictive and business-friendly laws to boost trade and attract investment, but by the mid-2000s there were concerns that the prosperity generated was only benefiting the investors and not African citizens.

“The 2008-09 global financial crisis intensified these concerns as countries dependent on mineral exports suffered a sudden shortage in revenue and sought to tackle their fiscal deficits and growing populist pressures by extracting higher mineral rents from their biggest investors when the latter could least afford it.

“Many African countries made rash and unpredictable changes to their mining regimes, creating regulatory uncertainty and harming investor confidence,” he maintained.

As South Africa has the most developed mining industry in the continent, the regulatory issues here were of particularly interest to delegates. Especially the proposed amendments to South Africa’s Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act – now in a fourth year of legislative limbo – and the mining charter. In relation to the charter, which is designed to redress inequity in the industry created by apartheid, the South African government is proposing that mining companies be 26 per cent owned by black investors, even if those investors later sell their stakes. Companies argue this will lead to continual dilution.

On Monday, the department of mineral resources minister Mosebenzi Zwane said the charter would be gazetted by the end of March and the long-delayed amendments to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act would be promulgated by the end of June.

“We must remain committed to the principle of shared prosperity and responsible investment in the mining sector. We ask the investment community to seize the opportunity to partner with black people, communities and work meaningfully in their operations,” Zwane said in his welcoming address to delegates. But the industry has pointed to a lack of engagement and consultation around the charter, and has concerns related to how much input of theirs has been taken on board by government.

The South African Chamber of Mines welcomed the minister's emphasis on "shared prosperity and responsible investment".

Commenting on the need for the country's mining legislation to be finalised, Chamber of Mines chief executive Roger Baxter said the mining industry needs "predictable, stable and competitive" mining policy and legislation that is workable and practically achievable.

INDIA – AFRICA :

EUROPE – AFRICA :

EU looks to camps in Africa to cut immigration

World News | Thu Jan 26, 2017 | 9:42am EST By Gabriela Baczynska | VALLETTA <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-eu-idUSKBN15A1PG>

EU interior ministers on Thursday pushed ahead with plans to finance camps in Africa, where the U.N. refugee agency and aid groups would process migrants to prevent them from trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

The sea crossing from Libya to Italy, operated by people smugglers, is now the main route for migrants seeking better lives in wealthy Europe, but the EU wants to shut it down and admit only refugees. More than 4,500 people are known to have drowned last year alone trying to make the crossing.

The European Union has deployed a naval mission in the Mediterranean and is training the Libyan coastguard to cut the numbers attempting the journey. Now it also wants to return migrants plucked from the sea to where they came from.

"The idea is to send them to a safe place, without bringing them into Europe," German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere told reporters in the Maltese capital Valletta.

"The people taken up by the smugglers need to be saved and brought to a safe place, but then from this safe place outside Europe we would bring into Europe only those who require protection."

The camps in Libya or its neighbors would be run by the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR or the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which would screen the migrants and help return those not eligible for asylum to their home countries.

Most of those taking the Libya-Italy route are regarded as economic migrants with no chance of winning asylum in the EU.

POLITICAL BACKING

Since the influx of more than a million people in 2015, many of them fleeing the Syrian conflict, the EU has tightened border controls, making it increasingly hard for migrants and asylum seekers alike to enter the 28-nation bloc.

It is also offering money and other assistance to countries along the migration routes in the Middle East and Africa in the hope that fewer people will seek to leave their homes or will be stopped on the way before they embark for Europe.

The idea of financing camps in Africa enjoys wide political backing in the EU, but poses legal and security challenges.

Libya sank into chaos following the 2011 overthrow of veteran ruler Muammar Gaddafi, and the new U.N.-backed government in Tripoli exercises no control over its territory.

Such lawlessness means returning people to Libya would likely violate international law, which prohibits sending people back to a place where their lives could be in danger.

That is why the EU needs the UNHCR and IOM to create sites there that could be deemed as meeting international standards.

A group of leftist European lawmakers criticized the plan, saying it was inhumane, cynical and unacceptable.

"Even more refugees will be locked up in North Africa under high risk of torture, rape and other forms of ill treatment," said German MEP Cornelia Ernst.

Similar issues were raised around an EU deal with Ankara last year. Despite criticism, the EU went ahead and the agreement slashed the number of people - mainly fleeing the war in Syria - leaving from Turkey for Greece.

Five EU states invoked the migration crisis in slapping emergency border controls inside what should normally be the bloc's zone of free travel. Three of them, Germany, Norway and Austria, already said they want to keep them in place.

(Additional reporting by Philip Blenkinsop in Brussels; Editing by Alison Williams)