

AFRICA: 12 AVRIL 2018 : (Ethiopia eyes 1 bln USD annual revenue from Chinese-discovered natural gas)



[**Photo :** Li Wei (Vice President of POLY-GCL), Girma Kassaye Goben (Senior Geological Engineer from Ethiopia Ministry of Mines) and General Kedir (Commander of Jijiga Military Sub-district) POLY-GCL / 2011]

The Ethiopian government on Wednesday announced its plan to generate close to 1 billion U.S. dollars on annual basis from the recently discovered natural gas. The 7 to 8 billion cubic trillion feet (TFC) of natural gas in Ethiopia's Somali regional state was recently discovered by the Chinese firm Poly-GCL.

LIRE LA SUITE : AFRICA: 12 AVRIL 2018 : (Ethiopia eyes 1 bln USD annual revenue from Chinese-discovered natural gas) [<http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/bur12042018.pdf>]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Les assassins de Feu Ntaryamira Cyprien désormais connus

<http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-les-assassins-de-feu-ntaryamira-cyprien-sont-desormais-connus/>

GEOPOLITIQUE, REGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, SECURITE, JUSTICE – Les dossiers judiciaires attestent de la responsabilité du Président US BILL CLINTON et de PAUL KAGAME dans la mort du Président du Burundi Feu Ntaryamira Cyprien et de 2 Ministres Burundi le mercredi 6 avril 1994.

Bujumbura, vendredi 6 avril 2018 – La Justice burundaise, instruite par des documents lui conférés par le Procureur de la République [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H21joN3STlo>], dit avoir aujourd'hui la VERITE sur l'assassinat au Rwanda le mercredi 6 avril 1994, par missile à la roquette lancé sur l'avion présidentiel Rwandais, du Président Feu Ntaryamira Cyprien et de 2 ministres burundais. Cette information a été recueillie lors de cette commémoration du 24ème anniversaire de la mort de Feu le Président du Burundi Ntaryamira Cyprien.

Grosso-modo ce sont les juges du TPIR (l'Australien Michael Hourigan – <http://www.therwandan.com/fr/affaire-bill-clinton-la-verite-originale-sur-le-rwanda/> et la Suisse Carla Del Ponte – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsIMzhSnchs>), les juges Français (Jean Louis Bruguière, Marc Trévédic et Nathalie Poux – <http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/2012/01/12/01003-20120112ARTFIG00456-rwanda-les-verites-geopolitiques-des-juges-francais.php>) et surtout Espagnols (Merelles, <http://www.burundibwacu.info/?Un-Juge-espagnol-est-pret-a> et <http://jkanya.free.fr/Texte13/chantagekagame140213.pdf>), enquêtant sur les victimes Rwandaises, Françaises et Espagnols de ce qui allait être le début du GENOCIDE DU RWANDA qui ont fourni la majeure partie des FAITS JUDICIAIRES qui donnent désormais une VÉRITÉ concordante au pourquoi et à la mort du PRESIDENT DU BURUNDI et des 2 MINISTRES.

Les documents des juges espagnols surtout sont explicites : Contrairement à ce que les bruits disaient déjà dans la REGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS sur le responsable du GENOCIDE AU RWANDA : PAUL KAGAME. En fait, le Rebelle FPR Paul KAGAME, aujourd'hui PRESIDENT DU RWANDA et, en exercice, DE L'UNION AFRICAINE, n'était qu'un exécutant. La planification est sous la responsabilité américaine, celle du PRESIDENT US BILL CLINTON, et des DEMOCRATES américains.

Au niveau géopolitique [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46x6US5R5-c>], les DEMOCRATES US ont fait pression sur l'ESPAGNE, la FRANCE, et le TPIR. Ces derniers ont stoppé leurs investigations. Entre-temps les USA font pression pour que l'ONU et les pays occidentaux fassent passer des LOIS NATIONAUX et INTERNATIONAUX CONTRE LE NÉGATIONNISME SUR LE GENOCIDE RWANDAIS.

Au Burundi, une des causes du retrait de la Cour Pénal Internationale CPI sont celles-là [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEX0LxXkKFY>] ... La JUSTICE burundaise demande aux Burundi de patienter car ce n'est pas facile de demander des COMPTES JUDICIAIRES à une des 1ères puissances mondiales. Le temps, lui, le permettra un jour. A partir de 2019-2020, le monde changera son curseur vers l'ASIE, ces perspectives judiciaires sont donc proches ...

Dans les crimes de masse observés en AFRIQUE, la plupart sont commises par les mêmes FAMILLES d'ANCIENS ESCLAVAGISTES et d'ANCIENS COLONS qui sont actuellement des grandes fortunes mondiales à la tête de grandes multinationales Occidentales connues. Sans scrupules, ces mêmes FAMILLES EX-ESCLAVAGISTES ET EX-COLONS sont aujourd'hui à la base du démantèlement des ETATS en occident, pour leurs propres profits. Voilà les criminels et les Crimes contre l'Humanité et de Génocide que la JUSTICE INTERNATIONALE devrait stopper et

qu'elle ne peut stopper en ce moment, car il faut prendre en compte -L'ESPRIT DU TEMPS – très cher à HEGEL.

DAM,NY,AGNEWS,<http://burundi-agnews.org>, le lundi 9 avril 2018

Burundi : 19.181 tonnes de thé produit au 1er trimestre 2018

ECONOMIE – Le Burundi avait produit, au 1er trimestre 2018, 19.181 tonnes de thé, soit 15.915 tonnes de feuilles vertes de thé et 3.266 tonnes de thé sec.

BUJUMBURA, ce lundi 9 avril 2018 – M. Rurema Déo Guide, ministre burundais de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage, a informé, en conférence de presse, comme bilan du 1er trimestre 2018, que le Burundi avait produit 19.181 tonnes de thé, soit 15.915 tonnes de feuilles vertes de thé et 3.266 tonnes de thé sec.

2.557 tonnes de Thé ont été vendues pour un montant de plus de 13 Milliards BIF (environ 7,5 Millions USD), avec un taux de réalisation de 29%.

Au Burundi, chaque ministère présente son bilan trimestriel. L'Agriculture est le 1er secteur économique des Barundi.

Dans la Tradition des Barundi, de nombreux métiers de la CORPORATION DE PRODUCTION DES BARUNDI, HUTU, tournent autour de l'AGRICULTURE : les agriculteurs, les éleveurs, des nombreux artisans (forgerons, etc.), les commerçants, et les entrepreneurs. L'AGRICULTURE est un SECTEUR CLE DE L'ECONOMIE DES BARUNDI.

Le Ministre d'aujourd'hui est l'équivalent d'un membre de la CORPORATION DES GESTIONNAIRES BARUNDI, TUTSI, qui s'occupe de la GESTION JUSTE de toute la PRODUCTION DES MÉTIERS AGRICOLES BARUNDI. Son rôle est de faire appliquer par tous les TUTSI BARUNDI qui travaillent pour son INSTITUTION (Le Département Agriculture du CONSEIL D'INGOMA Y'UBURUNDI) les LOI de la GESTION JUSTE (BONNE GOUVERNANCE) ISSUES DE LA POLITIQUE AGRICOLE DU BURUNDI, mise en place par la CORPORATION DES REGULATEURS BARUNDI – BAPFUMU / BATWA ,soit les SAVANTS CHERCHEURS ET SCIENTIFIQUES BARUNDI. Il lui est demandé aussi de faire mention des imperfections ou des injustices qu'il remarque dans son secteur, pour permettre aux SAVANTS CHERCHEURS ET SCIENTIFIQUES BARUNDI (EXPERTS) de les corriger en les HARMONISANT.

Au Burundi, pour être TUTSI chez les BARUNDI , il faut avoir le qualificatif de GESTIONNAIRE JUSTE, titre octroyé par sa COMMUNAUTE LOCALE (LES IMIRYANGO DE SA LOCALITÉ). On passe ainsi de statut de HUTU avec un métier précis, à celui de TUTSI dont avec la fonction est d'appliquer une LOI équitable, dans un secteur donné (souvent celui du métier que l'on avait en tant que HUTU), conçue par la CORPORATION DES REGULATEURS BAPFUMU / BATWA – SAVANTS CHERCHEURS / SCIENTIFIQUES BARUNDI.

M. Rurema Déo Guide, ministre burundais de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage,est considéré comme TUTSI chez les BARUNDI [<http://burundi-agnews.org/bilan/burundi-en-2017-les-tutsi-ont-protège-et-aide-a-plus-entreprendre/>].

DAM,NY,AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le mardi 10 avril 2018

Burundi : le chef d'Etat gabonais attendu à Bujumbura pour une visite officielle de deux jours

Par : french.china.org.cn | French.china.org.cn | Mis à jour le 12-04-2018

Le président du Gabon et président en exercice de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), Ali Bongo Ondimba, est attendu vendredi prochain à Bujumbura, pour une visite officielle de deux jours au Burundi, a annoncé mercredi Jean-Claude Karerwa, porte-parole du président du Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza.

"Pour la présidence burundaise, la prochaine visite officielle du président gabonais au Burundi revêt une importance capitale dans la mesure où cette haute personnalité africaine est porteuse de deux casquettes : d'abord celle de chef d'Etat gabonais, et ensuite surtout celle de président en exercice de la CEEAC", a précisé le porte-parole à Xinhua au cours d'un entretien téléphonique.

De ce fait, a-t-il expliqué, pour la présidence burundaise, l'ultime objectif de cette visite est le renforcement des liens d'amitié et de coopération entre les peuples burundais et gabonais au plan bilatéral et multilatéral.

Créée en 1983 avec un secrétariat général basé à Libreville(Gabon), la CEEAC est un espace géographique de 6,6 millions de kilomètres carrés, et qui représente un marché de plus de 124 millions de personnes. A ce jour, elle regroupe dix Etats africains : Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, République Centrafricaine (RCA), Congo, République Démocratique du Congo (RDC), Gabon, Guinée équatoriale, Sao Tomé-et-Principe et Tchad.

L'objectif fondamental poursuivi par les Etats membres de la CEEAC, est la promotion et le renforcement "d'une coopération harmonieuse et d'un développement dynamique, équilibré et autoentretenu" dans tous les domaines de l'activité socio-économique en vue de contribuer au relèvement du niveau de vie des populations locales. F

Suivez China.org.cn sur Twitter et Facebook pour rejoindre la conversation.

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

TANZANIA :

Tanzania's Information minister wants Air Tanzania to hire beauty contestants

Monday, April 9, 2018 13:22

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/ea/tanzania/Air-Tanzania-should-employ-beauty-contestants---minister-/4003154-4378904-w15oj8z/index.html>

A Tanzanian minister says women participating in the Miss Tanzania beauty pageant should be considered for employment at the State-run airline Air Tanzania (ATCL).

Information, Culture, Arts and Sports minister Harrison Mwakyembe argues that by recruiting them, the beauty competition will be seen as a bridge to success for Tanzania's beautiful ladies.

Dr Mwakyembe spoke on Saturday while officiating this year's Miss Tanzania's pageant.

READ: Tanzania receives third aircraft in plan to revive national carrier

Criteria

He said he believes participants in the beauty contest have all the criteria to be recruited at Air Tanzania, insisting that he would push for their employment at the national carrier.

"All they need is to undergo a three-month-training at the National Institute of Transport before joining the ATCL team," he said.

Tanzania cyber law introduces \$900 fees for bloggers, compulsory passwords

<http://www.africanews.com/2018/04/12/tanzania-cyber-law-introduces-900-fees-for-bloggers-compulsory-passwords/>

Daniel Mumbere

Tanzania's government has approved a law that will regulate content posted online, introducing fees for bloggers and online media in addition to policing morals and authenticity of social media users.

The regulation known as the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations 2018, was initially published by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and came into effect during March 2018.

Under the new regulations, Tanzanians operating online radio stations and video (TV) websites, including bloggers will be required to apply for a licence, pay a licence fee upon registration as well as annual fees.

Pay \$900 to run a blog

With an application fee of 100,000 Tanzanian Shillings, an initial license fee of 1,000,000 Tanzanian Shillings and an annual license fee of 1,000,000 Tanzanian Shillings, Tanzanians have to pay up to \$900 to operate a personal blog in the country.

The regulations give government the right to revoke a permit if a site publishes content that is considered to be ‘indecent, obscene, hate speech, extreme violence or material that will offend or incite others, cause annoyance, threaten, or encourage or incite crime, or lead to public disorder’.

Online content providers will also be required to remove ‘prohibited content’ within 12 hours or face fines not less than five million shillings (\$2,210) or a year in prison.

Compulsory passwords on mobile phones

The new regulations also require all Tanzanians with mobile devices to have a password (PIN) for locking their phones, with defaulters being fined up to 5 million Tanzanian Shillings (approximately \$2,000) or 12 months imprisonment, or both depending on what the court decides.

Internet cafés and online platforms are also expected to install surveillance cameras to record and archive activities inside their business premises.

Despite TCRA holding public forums to discuss the draft document published in 2017 where various stakeholders raised objections, Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe, Tanzania’s Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, went ahead and signed the regulations into law.

“The registration requirements and the fees are likely to be a heavy burden for most bloggers and small-sized outlets streaming content in Tanzania, thereby reducing diversity in the media space in the process,” Angela Quintal, the Committee to Protect Journalists’ Africa program director said in an interview with Quartz Africa.

The government contends that the new regulations will help to put a stop to the “moral decadence” cause by social media and internet in the country. Social media has also been described as a threat to national security by some policy makers in Tanzania.

A dictator in the making?

The passing of the law is yet another demonstration of president John Magufuli’s authoritarian style of leadership which has been heavily criticised by human rights activists and the opposition.

Since coming to power in 2015, Magufuli’s strict and controversial leadership style has earned him critics and the title of ‘the Bulldozer’.

He has banned opposition parties from holding rallies and mobilisation, denied pregnant teenage girls the right to attend school, and targeted mainstream and online media that have been critical of his government.

The United States, European Union and several Western embassies last month voiced concern over politics-related violence and allegations of human rights abuses.

SOUDAN :

Sudan defends its participation in Yemen's war

<http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65167>

April 11, 2018 (KHARTOUM) - The Sudanese defence ministry has stuck to its participation in the Saudi-led war against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen and mentioned the presence of South Sudanese troops inside the national territory.

Saudi soldiers is seen in the southern province of Jizan, near the border with Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 (AP)

The Minister of State for Defence Ali Mohamed Salim made his remarks in a closed-door briefing to the parliament about the security situation in the country.

Members of Parliament (MPs) who attended the briefing told reporters that Salim defended the participation of Sudanese troops and described it as "normal".

"The participation of the (Sudanese) armed forces in the war in Yemen is normal and this is not the first time that the Sudanese forces participate in a war outside the country," Salim stated.

There are many questions raised in Khartoum about the reasons behind the involvement of Sudanese troops in the war in Yemen.

Several legislators called last week to withdraw Sudanese forces from Yemen.

Critics point that several countries members of the Saudi-led coalition did not send troops to Yemen. Others say Saudi Arabia and UAE provides financial support to other countries but not Sudan despite its difficult financial situation.

Last October, President Omer al-Bashir thanked Saudi Arabia and UAE for their strong support to the lift of 20-year U.S. economic embargo. The two countries vowed to continue supporting Sudan removal from the list of countries supporting terrorism.

South Sudan Army

The state minister further told the lawmakers that some South Sudanese troops are now present in the Sudanese territory but minimized the move saying it would not lead to war between the two countries.

The leader of the far-right Just Peace Forum (JPF) demanded to reciprocate with South Sudan, accusing the neighbouring country of supporting the rebel groups.

But the minister turned down the request saying "Gun will not solve problems with Juba but the dialogue will."

"We will not enter into a war with South Sudan despite the incursion of southern forces within the Sudanese border," he further underscored. (ST)

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan official mocks ex-army chief over corruption

<http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65165>

April 11, 2018 (JUBA) - A South Sudanese official has mocked the country's former army chief of staff, General Paul Malong Awan, days after the latter announced the formation of a new rebel group.

South Sudanese Presidential spokesperson Ateny Wek Ateny addresses journalists following renewed fighting in Juba July 11, 2016 (Reuters Photo)

Speaking to reporters in the capital, Juba on Tuesday, presidential spokesperson, Ateny Wek Ateny claimed General Malong was at the center of corruption when he was in charge of the military's affairs.

"You know General Paul Malong and the issues he raised as the cause for his rebellion. All he said makes people and country feels ashamed on his behalf", said Ateny.

He added, "The issues he [Malong] raised are the issues someone like him cannot open his mouth and talk. Who does not know that during his time in office as army chief of staff, in an attempt to conceal impunity, banks were opened at night for General Paul Malong to take money and he squandered a lot of money?"

He claimed at one moment, the Central Bank of South Sudan was opened at night and \$5 million was allegedly released for military operations against the armed opposition leader, Riek Machar.

Sudan Tribune could, however, not independently verify claims against Malong.

Malong announced the formation of the South Sudan United Front (SSUF), which he claimed was the only means through which he would work with compatriots to "arrest the carnage" in the country.

"Our movement is a just an urgent call to our compatriots and a struggle to first arrest the carnage that has befall our country and secondly to steer us towards democracy and development, which are the cornerstones of nationhood, an African nationhood of democracy, development, equal citizenry, justice and freedom", he said in a statement issued on Monday.

He accused Kiir of building a nation where total impunity is the order.

"Our movement seeks to reverse this. We must build our nationhood around strong institutions and not strongmen. Strong institutions will outlive all of us and guarantee the prosperity of our nation. This is what we yearn for in our country", stressed the ex-army chief.

Malong said his new rebel group would strive towards fighting what he described as "systemic corruption, stop the ongoing carnage, steer the country toward democracy, justice, equality and freedom."

South Sudan's information minister, Michael Makuei said Malong was at "the top of corruption" and that he was the one responsible for all the atrocities the army committed in the course of the civil war.

He, however, admitted that pro-government could have committed numerous atrocities as they pursued Machar who attempted to take over power from the incumbent President Salva Kiir.

Relations between Malong and President Kiir deteriorated after the former was sacked from his post as army chief of staff in May 2017 and placed under house arrest for fear he would start a rebellion.

The ex-army chief was freed in November following mediation led by the Jieng Council of Elders. The agreement refrained him from going to his home-town of Aweil in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal state but was allowed to travel to any East Africa country

(ST)

EGYPT :

Egypt Post signs e-commerce agreements with several African countries

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2018/04/11/egypt-post-signs-e-commerce-agreements-several-african-countries/>

Agreements aim to use logistical centre of Egypt Post at Cairo International Airport

Daily News Egypt

Egypt Post has signed cooperation agreements with several African countries to facilitate e-commerce through a logistical centre of the postal service at Cairo International Airport.

This came within the framework of the participation of Egypt Post in the meetings of the 37th session of the administration council of the Pan African Postal Union in Algeria.

Essam El-Saghir, chairperson of Egypt Post and first vice president of the Pan African Postal Union, headed the meetings of the 37th session in Algeria, held during from 10 to 12 April 2018.

El-Saghir delivered an inclusive presentation that addressed the activity of the Regional Postal Training Centre in Cairo, which provides all kinds of technical support to Africans under the umbrella of the Universal Postal Union and Pan African Postal Union.

El-Saghir also made a presentation about the Regional Logistical Assembling Centre project in Cairo, which is deemed a new window for e-commerce in Africa, as it serves the purposes of e-commerce and parcel services, especially after the infrastructure development seen by Egypt Post over the past three years.

The centre provides unique logistical services to all the countries of the continent, as it works to assemble and reorient all e-commerce parcels coming from the US, the UK, and China.

El-Saghir said that the events of the conference witnessed the signing of many cooperation agreements with the countries participating in it, including Nigeria, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Libya. The aim of these agreements is to use the logistical centre of Egypt Post at Cairo International Airport for e-commerce. Jordan and Lebanon have also previously joined the agreement to facilitate e-commerce between the countries that signed it.

The protocol aims to open new opportunities for cooperation between African countries and achieve the most gains possible in the field of e-commerce, which is dominated by global shipping companies.

In the first phase of this protocol, customers will be able e-shop from the US, as well as the UK and China. Goods will be shipped from these countries to the Regional Logistical Assembling Centre in Cairo, then shipped to the African countries that signed the agreement, which will eventually reduce the costs and improve the quality of the service.

ETHIOPIA :

Ethiopia eyes 1 bln USD annual revenue from Chinese-discovered natural gas

Source: Xinhua 2018-04-12 04:19:18

ADDIS ABABA, April 11 (Xinhua) -- The Ethiopian government on Wednesday announced its plan to generate close to 1 billion U.S. dollars on annual basis from the recently discovered natural gas.

The 7 to 8 billion cubic trillion feet (TFC) of natural gas in Ethiopia's Somali regional state was recently discovered by the Chinese firm Poly-GCL.

"We are expecting a one billion U.S. dollar revenue from gas export in the first year of operation, anticipating the figure would rise in the subsequent years due to the huge reserve," Ethiopian Minister Mines, Natural Gas and Petroleum, Motuma Mekassa, was quoted by state newspaper on Wednesday as saying.

Mekassa also said that due to the expensive nature of the processing procedures an agreement was reached with the Chinese Poly-GCL to install a pipeline and transport the gas to Ethiopia's neighboring country Djibouti.

According to Mekassa, the Chinese firm is also expected to build a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Djibouti Port so as to process the natural gas and export it to China.

He also revealed an ongoing negotiation between the Chinese Poly-GCL and Djibouti's government in the construction of the pipeline and liquefied gas plant, in which the Ethiopian government is helping the two parties reach the final agreement.

The gas discovery is a great phenomenon which is expected to make a meaningful contribution in sustaining country's rapid economic growth in the years to come, according to Mekassa.

"Ethiopia has witnessed non-oil driven economic growth for over a decade and the discovered gas is essential in diversifying the economy and enlarging natural resources contribution to the country's GDP," he explained.

The energy sector is one of Ethiopia's priorities as the country envisaged to become a light manufacturing hub in Africa and a middle-income economy by 2025.

Officials at the Ethiopian Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) on Monday told Xinhua that Ethiopia is presently working to reach 17,300 MW of energy by the end of 2020, from the current 4,280 MW of energy through energy projects in hydro, wind, geothermal and biomass energy.

Ethiopia govt rejects biased and untimely U.S. Congress resolution

Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban

The Ethiopian government has officially responded to the United States Congress' decision on Tuesday to issue a resolution against the government over human rights and political reforms.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday, Ethiopia described the adoption of House Resolution (H. Res. 128) as untimely, inappropriate and in parts biased.

“This simple resolution is counterproductive and is against the important partnership between the U.S. and Ethiopia,” said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement.

The resolution calls on the Government of Ethiopia to lift the state of emergency, end the use of excessive force, release wrongfully imprisoned protesters, and improve transparency, while at the same time urging protesters and opposition groups to use peaceful discussion and avoid incitement.

It stressed that the move had failed to recognize concrete and positive steps being taken recently in the area of political reforms and deepening the democratic culture in the country.

“The House fails to take into account the situation on the ground. H.R. 128 ignores the positive strides the country has made recently. Even if H.R. 128 is not pending and just expiration opinion, the government of Ethiopia has been working with members of the Congress including the leadership, providing information on the implementation of substantive reforms.

“In the past several months the ruling party and the government of Ethiopia have been operating under new political dynamics, launching bold reforms aimed at increasing transparency and widening the country's democratic space,” it noted.

Other major issues contained in the statement included Ethiopia's continued role in regional security, government's commitment to work to improve accountability, justice and rule of law for the citizenry and also continued engagement with relevant U.S. outfits in improving bilateral relations.

“The government of Ethiopia would also like to express its appreciation to those Members of Congress, Senate and Executive branch who, having evaluated the facts on the ground as well as weighing the importance of the bilateral relationship, worked against this biased resolution,” the statement added.

The United States Congress H. Res. 128 despite a late pushback led by one Senator Inhofe – a known ally of the government, to get Congress to reject the resolution, the motion according to Congress records did not even need to be voted upon as it adopted by voice vote.

Lawmaker took turns to give comments about the importance of the resolution with each touching on the political crisis that has rocked the country.

Others also pointed to the cost in terms of human lives and loss of properties as a result of government highhandedness and an ever-shrinking democratic space.

A Summary of the resolution by Congress policy website stated as follows:

“H. Res. 128 recognizes Ethiopia's efforts to promote regional peace and security, and its partnership with the U.S. to combat terrorism, promote economic growth, and address health challenges. In addition, the resolution expresses concern about human rights abuses and contracting democratic space, and condemns excessive use of force by Ethiopian security forces.

“The resolution calls on the Government of Ethiopia to lift the state of emergency, end the use of excessive force, release wrongfully imprisoned protesters, and improve transparency, while at the same time urging protesters and opposition groups to use peaceful discussion and avoid incitement.

“The resolution calls on the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development to cooperate and strengthen ties with Ethiopia, condemn human rights abuses, and promote accountability.”

Eritrea-Ethiopia border crisis: UN's impotence to blame - Analyst

Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban Eritrea

The United Nations, specifically the Security Council, is to blame for the raging Eritrea – Ethiopia border conflict which continues to threaten the peace in the Horn of Africa, an analyst has averred.

The views of Sophia Tesfamariam were contained in an article titled: “Impotence of the United Nations and Ethiopia’s Impunity” and published on the website of Eritrea’s Ministry of Information.

The writer, an Eritrean-American analyst and writer with the U.S. Foundation for the Horn of Africa stressed that if the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was brave enough to hold Ethiopia to account for flouting a known international agreement reached sixteen years ago, the crisis will have been solved.

By refusing to take any punitive actions, the UN Security Council, long considered to be the vanguard of international peace and security, has emboldened ... Ethiopia to flout international law and continue to violate the rights of the Eritrean people.

“By refusing to take any punitive actions, the UN Security Council, long considered to be the vanguard of international peace and security, has emboldened the minority regime in Ethiopia to flout international law and continue to violate the rights of the Eritrean people to live in peace and security within their own internationally recognized borders.

“It is the responsibility of the UN Security Council to enforce the EEBC’s final and binding delimitation and demarcation decisions,” the article read in parts.

Friday April 13 2018 marks sixteen years since the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) gave its final ruling on the border between the two neighbours pursuant to the Algiers Agreement of December 2000.

Eritrea has repeatedly held that Ethiopia continued to flout the EEBC’s final and binding declarations by illegally occupying its territories. Ethiopia has also repeatedly blamed Eritrea for having a hand in anti-government sentiments back home.

The last time Addis Ababa spoke about relations was in early April when new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated that he wanted to normalize relations with Asmara. On their part, Eritrea said the ball was in Ethiopia’s court, that it should vacate Eritrean territories and all will be well.

RD CONGO :

La Corée du Nord déterminée à renforcer sa coopération bilatérale avec la Rdc

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5ace148faa455a0004189168/>

Kinshasa 11-04-2018 Politique - Le diplomate coréen a indiqué que son pays souhaite redynamiser et renforcer la coopération diplomatique avec la RDC dans les domaines économique, culturel, éducationnel, de la médecine et en haute technologie.

Le vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères et intégration régionale Aggée Age Matembo et une délégation de la République populaire démocratique de Corée (RPDC) ex Corée du Nord, conduite par M. Song SE IL, directeur général du département d'Afrique, Moyen-Orient et Amérique Latine, ont échangé mardi à Kinshasa, sur les dossiers liés au renforcement de la coopération bilatérale dans plusieurs domaines d'intérêt commun entre Kinshasa et Pyongyang.

Le diplomate coréen a indiqué que son pays souhaite redynamiser et renforcer la coopération diplomatique avec la RDC dans les domaines économique, culturel, éducationnel, de la médecine et en haute technologie, avant de rappeler la détermination de son pays d'apporter son soutien nécessaire pour la réalisation de tous les projets liés aux domaines précités. Sur le plan politique, l'hôte du vice-ministre Aggée Matembo a salué l'évolution du processus électoral en cours en RDC.

De son côté, le vice-ministre Aggée Age Matembo a apprécié l'initiative de son hôte dans le renforcement de la coopération dans les domaines précités avant d'émettre le vœu de voir tous ces projets se matérialiser pour l'intérêt de deux peuples. Sur le plan diplomatique, le vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères et intégration régionale a exprimé sa préoccupation pour la tenue de la Commission RDC-Corée et l'intensification du rythme de fréquences entre les deux pays.

Dans le domaine politique, Aggée Matembo a souhaité que le Président de la République populaire démocratique de Corée (Corée du Nord) accompagne le Président de la République Joseph Kabila Kabange dans son combat contre l'ingérence étrangère en RDC, tout en mettant en exergue la vision commune entre les deux pays, axée sur l'indépendance et la souveraineté. Il a rappelé, en ce qui concerne le processus électoral, que le gouvernement de la République a pris l'option de financer seul le processus électoral, parce que celui-ci relève de la souveraineté nationale.

Etat des relations entre la RDC et la République populaire démocratique de Corée

Les relations diplomatiques entre Kinshasa et Pyongyang datent de novembre 1972 lorsque la RDC (ex-Zaïre) a reconnu l'existence de deux Corées. Le 15 décembre de la même année, il y a eu la signature à Brazzaville de l'accord portant établissement des relations diplomatiques entre la RDC (ex- Zaïre) et la RPDC. En septembre 1973, il y a eu l'accréditation du premier ambassadeur Nord-Coréen en RDC (ex-Zaïre), et en décembre 1974, celle du premier ambassadeur du Congo, Kimasi Matwiku Basaula François en RPDC. Pour des raisons éminemment politiques, la RDC a fermé son ambassade à Pyongyang. Ce pays se trouve actuellement sous la juridiction de l'ambassade de la RDC à Beijing (République populaire de Chine).

Quant aux rencontres bilatérales, la première de grande envergure est la tenue de la Grande Commission-Mixte RDC -RPDC à Pyongyang du 24 au 29 septembre 1987. La deuxième session sera programmée au moment opportun par les deux parties. Pour ce qui est du cadre juridique de coopération, trois accords ont été signés à Pyongyang en décembre 1974 dans les domaines commercial, culturel et de l'équipement militaire, et deux accords ont été signés en novembre 1975

à Pyongyang dans les secteurs économique et scientifique. En septembre 1987, a eu lieu la Grande Commission Mixte, et en août 2013, la signature du protocole de coopération entre les ministres des Affaires étrangères des deux pays.

Relations de coopération

En dépit du cadre de coopération qui a été créé par des Etats, notamment avec la Grande Commission-Mixte de 1987, la coopération structurelle entre la RDC et la RPDC n'a pas été agissante. Actuellement les relations entre les deux pays sont au beau fixe. Kinshasa a toujours adopté une politique de neutralité dans le différend intercoréen et dans la crise que traverse la péninsule coréenne.

ACP

(GTM/GW/Yes)

Diplomatie, RDC-ONU : Joseph Kabila plébiscité pour son bilan

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5ace12ebaa455a0004189166/>

Kinshasa11-04-2018 Politique - «... à l'heure qu'il est, c'est la RDC, sous le leadership de Joseph Kabila, et non plus la communauté internationale, qui dicte les règles !»

"Permettez-moi, de réitérer mon point de vue selon lequel la RDC a enregistré des progrès considérables depuis ma dernière visite dans votre pays, qui remonte à plus de 15 ans. Il y a eu des améliorations dans l'infrastructure; Kinshasa, comme d'autres villes, est devenue une ville africaine moderne. Il y a plus d'enfants qui vont à l'école et ont accès à l'éducation, moins d'enfants meurent et plus des femmes survivent à l'accouchement. Votre gouvernement a presque doublé son investissement dans le secteur de la santé publique et le taux d'immunisation s'est considérablement amélioré"...

Voici le tableau des progrès réalisés par la RDC, sous le leadership de Joseph Kabila, tel que peint par l'ONU, à travers une correspondance, adressée au gouvernement congolais, en date du 3 mars dernier, par son Secrétaire Général Adjoint aux affaires humanitaires, le Britannique, Mark Lowcock.

Pour bon nombre d'observateurs objectifs, il s'agit là d'une vérité, longtemps étouffée, qui vient d'éclorre dans des circonstances particulières, et de la part, d'une institution qui, depuis la nuit des temps, se fait passer pour "la bouche et le bras du monde".

En jargon, on parle d'un équilibre des forces et rien d'autre !!

NIVEAU HUMANITAIRE : FACE À LA DÉTERMINATION DE LA RDC, L'ONU RECONNAÎT SA MANIPULATION

" ... Je vous écris personnellement pour vous faire savoir que nous avons écouté attentivement vos préoccupations au sujet de la désignation de la crise humanitaire en RDC. Les Nations Unies désactiveront la désignation L3 plus tard ce mois-ci", a poursuivi Mark Lowcock dans sa correspondance.

Les N.U reviennent finalement sur la classification de la crise humanitaire en RDC, tout en présentant ses excuses auprès du gouvernement congolais.

Pour beaucoup d'observateurs habituels, il ne s'agit nullement d'une erreur comme semble le présenter l'ONU mais plutôt d'un gros mensonge, monté de toutes pièces, dans le seul but de saper sur le plan international l'image de la RDC de ses dirigeants et de décourager par ricochet, les potentiels investisseurs.

Sinon, comment comprendre que les "experts" de l'ONU soient si incompetents au point de placer la Rdc à la position la plus élevée en urgence humanitaire, au même titre que la Syrie, le Yémen ou l'Irak ?

Par cette activation humanitaire, la RDC était classée par l'ONU comme "un pays à haut risque".

Comprenez qui pourra.

Dans ce cas, comme dans bien d'autres, le Président RD Congolais avait compris que la souveraineté de son pays était mise en jeu et qu'il fallait agir avec tact, tout en restant très ferme sur le fond.

Face à la situation, le 24 mars, Joseph Kabila préside une réunion inter-institutionnelle au cours de laquelle le gouvernement congolais annonce sa non-participation à la réunion des donateurs prévue le 13 avril à Genève, en Suisse.

Vous conviendrez avec moi qu'au-delà de ce "mea culpa et de ce rétropédalage" de l'ONU et de la communauté humanitaire internationale, que nous soyons, en droit, de nous poser cette pertinente question : «pourquoi ce brusque revirement de l'ONU, face au niveau de la situation humanitaire en RDC?»

Plusieurs observateurs objectifs conviendront avec moi que l'ONU était bien contrainte de capituler grâce au courage politique d'un homme, Joseph Kabila, qui, au nom de la souveraineté nationale, et comme par le passé, est prêt à mettre en péril son fauteuil et son intégralité physique en affrontant les décisions jugées injustes contre son pays - qu'elles viennent "des puissants du monde" ou des institutions qui se sont donné comme prérogative d'agir sur le devenir du monde, comme c'est le cas présentement avec l'ONU.

LES ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS RESPECTENT LA SOUVERAINETÉ DE LA RDC

Dans une note verbale datée du 6 avril 2018, adressée au gouvernement congolais, les Émirats Arabes Unis soutiennent la décision de la RDC de ne pas prendre part à la réunion humanitaire prévue le 13 avril prochain à Genève tant que ses revendications légitimes ne seront pas prises en compte: "...Si la République Démocratique du Congo ne soutient pas cette conférence, les Émirats Arabes Unis n'y participeront pas..."

Alors, où sont passés les Samy Badibanga, Moïse Katumbi, Denis Mukwege et autres ONG congolaises financées par l'extérieur et qui n'ont trouvé mieux à faire qu'à critiquer cette mesure gouvernementale, et ce pour leurs propres intérêts, politiciens, personnels et égoïstes ?

Pathétique !

JOSEPH KABILA LE SOUVERAINISTE OU " ÉLÈVE INDOCILE", C'EST SELON

De l'analyse de ses dires et de ses actes politiques, ajoutez à cela des témoignages de quelques-uns de ses collaborateurs, on en arrive à la conclusion selon laquelle Joseph Kabila fait de la souveraineté et de l'intégrité territoriale de la RDC sa "forteresse impénétrable".

Grandi aux côtés d'un "Lumumba réincarné", son défunt père Laurent Désiré Kabila, l'actuel Président RDCongolais, déjà très jeune, a appris cette dure réalité selon laquelle les pays occidentaux et leurs institutions supramondiales n'ont qu'une seule idéologie, celle "du contrôle des États" considérés à leurs yeux comme étant "faibles", avec en toile de fond une main mise sur leurs richesses.

Derrière ce visage humaniste que véhiculent ces acteurs internationaux se cache, en réalité, une autre, plus cruelle : la poursuite et la sauvegarde de leurs intérêts et ceux de leur peuple au détriment des premiers bénéficiaires et ce, à n'importe quel prix..., même au prix du sang.

Les différentes guerres d'invasion, imposées à notre pays depuis 1998 et qui se transforment aujourd'hui en "guerres asymétriques" de type terroriste, en sont les parfaites illustrations. Sans oublier, bien-entendu, ce plan de balkanisation toujours suspendu sur la tête de la RDC comme une épée de Damoclès.

JOSEPH KABILA FAIT DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ DE LA RDC UNE OBSESSION QUASI PERMANENTE.

Quelques jours à peine après son arrivée au pouvoir en 2001, Joseph Kabila en donne la portée. De Paris où il rencontre le Président Français Jacques Chirac, à Bruxelles avec le Premier Ministre belge Guy Verhofstadt ou à Washington avec son homologue George W. Bush et le Général Colin Powell, lors de son premier périple diplomatique euro-américain fin 2001, il plante le décor.

Au cours de ses différents échanges, le jeune Président Congolais sait remettre la question de la souveraineté de la RDC au centre des préoccupations de différents partenaires, tout en faisant montre d'un leadership que nul n'avait osé remettre en question. Tout ceci se passe alors qu'un bon nombre d'observateurs émettent des doutes sur ses capacités à diriger un pays 80 fois plus grand que la Belgique, et encore aux multiples défis d'ordre sécuritaire et économique, un pays en lambeaux dont venait d'hériter son père deux ans et demi plus tôt. Il a 29 ans seulement.

À ses débuts, Joseph Kabila est présenté par ses détracteurs comme le "protégé" de l'Occident et de l'Onu alors qu'il s'agissait d'une mauvaise interprétation de l'attitude de certains acteurs au sein de la communauté internationale qui voulaient jouer au "protectorat" de la RDC et de son jeune Président avec la Belgique en tête, pour des raisons bien évidentes.

Ils seront tous très vite déçus, à cause cette mauvaise perception des choses et de la personne-même de Joseph Kabila.

" ... Peut-être se sont-ils rendus compte que je ne suis pas aussi maniable qu'ils croyaient...Que je ne reçois d'ordre de personne, sauf de mon peuple...". (Interview de Joseph Kabila avec Colette Breackman, journal le Soir, le 12 mai, 2009).

CONFIRMATION DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ DE LA RDC À TRAVERS LE SECTEUR MINIER

Face aux promesses fallacieuses et non-tenues de la communauté internationale, Joseph Kabila, se tourne vers le secteur minier de son pays pour répondre aux attentes de la population et amorcer son vaste plan de développement. C'est dans ce contexte qu'il résilie le contrat léonin liant le groupe minier Canadien First Quantum au gouvernement congolais.

Malgré les nombreuses pressions politiques, judiciaires et autres critiques stériles, Joseph Kabila reste de marbre. La société First Quantum sera contrainte de quitter la RDC par la petite porte, aux conditions du gouvernement congolais.

Une fois de plus, Joseph Kabila avait vu juste et à temps. Aujourd'hui, c'est la même compagnie canadienne, First Quantum, qui est sommée de payer une amende de 8,07 milliards USD par le gouvernement zambien à titre de "taxes impayées" !

Au mois de septembre 2007, le gouvernement enfonce le clou avec la signature d'un deal avec Beijing, le fameux "contrat chinois" privilégiant les intérêts nationaux de la RDC.

Aussi paradoxal que cela puisse paraître, cette décision souveraine du gouvernement congolais, concernant ses propres minerais, est très mal accueillie par certains gouvernements, milieux d'affaires et institutions occidentaux alors que pour bon nombre d'observateurs, ce contrat voulait justement servir de leçon à tous les Occidentaux qui, pendant très longtemps, et sans intérêt, ont toujours prétendu avoir un quelconque rôle de gérer à leur guise les ressources minières de la RDC.

"...Mais cette politique s'oppose peut-être aux intérêts de ceux qui pensent que l'on peut encore venir piller notre pays et conclure des contrats tels que ceux que nous sommes en train de renégocier, une démarche qui rencontre beaucoup de résistances. Récemment, la Banque Mondiale, le FMI nous ont donné 300 millions de dollars pour faire face à la crise. Dans le même temps, j'ai appris que la Roumanie, avait, elle, reçu 12 milliards de dollars...Alors que nous, nous sommes 65 millions d'habitants ! En fait, je considère qu'on est seuls, nous ne pouvons compter que sur nous-mêmes....C'est ce qui explique pourquoi nous avons décidé de travailler avec les chinois, comme d'autres pays d'ailleurs. Nous avons avec les chinois un rapport d'égal à égal, 'gagnant-gagnant'...En 2001, 2002, 2003, j'avais multiplié les déplacements en Occident...Mais finalement, au vu du peu de réalisations, de partenariats véritables, j'ai freiné ce type de voyages. Le tourisme ne m'intéresse pas". (Interview de Joseph Kabila au journal le Soir, 12 mai, 2009)

2018, PROMULGATION DU NOUVEAU CODE MINIER CONGOLAIS

Depuis le dépôt du projet du nouveau code minier congolais au parlement, nous avons assisté à une véritable campagne de lobbying aussi intense que discrète, de la part des "puissants miniers du monde" qui souhaitaient son réexamen avant sa promulgation par le Chef de l'État RDCongolais. Cependant, en dépit des menaces, des chantages, usant de la souveraineté de la RDC, le Président Joseph Kabila a promulgué en date du 9 mars 2018 ce texte tel que reçu du parlement congolais.

Au regard de toutes les situations évoqués, il est plus que clair aujourd'hui que la défense de la souveraineté nationale de la RDC est l'un des soubassements du contentieux entre le Président de la République et tous ceux qui, de l'extérieur, tentent par tous les moyens et sous différents prétextes, notamment l'organisation des élections, la machine à voter le respect de l'accord de la St sylvestre, de lui faire payer pour ce qu'ils considèrent comme son "indocilité".

Cependant, sur terrain les choses ne se passent pas comme ils auraient souhaité. En effet, les mesures de rétorsion diplomatiques de la RDC contre la Belgique, avec la fermeture des consulats Belges, de l'agence de l'aide au développement, de la maison Schengen et de la diminution des vols de Bruxelles Airlines en passant par la décision de sa non-participation à la réunion des donateurs à Genève, le financement intégral du budget électoral par le gouvernement congolais, la promulgation du nouveau code minier et la décision du gouvernement congolais exigeant de la Monusco de faire ses valises dans deux ans, les observateurs avertis de la scène politique congolaise sont unanimes

pour affirmer : à l'heure qu'il est, c'est la RDC, sous le leadership de Joseph Kabila, et non plus la communauté internationale, qui dicte les règles.

Guy Momat/Analyste Politique

(CL/GW/Yes)

CONGO :

Congo : la Banque sino-congolaise s'offre un siège de 35 milliards FCFA

Par Jean-Mermoz Konandi - 11 avril, 2018

<https://www.financialafrik.com/2018/04/11/congo-la-banque-sino-congolaise-soffre-un-siege-de-35-milliards-fcfa/>

Lancé en 2016, le siège de la Banque sino-congolaise pour l'Afrique (BSCA) a été inauguré en grande pompe ce 10 avril à Brazzaville en présence du président congolais Denis Sassou N'Guesso. Dernière-née du paysage bancaire locale, la BSCA, qui a démarré ses activités à la mi-2015, est le symbole des relations étroites entre l'Empire du Milieu et le Congo.

Détenue à 50% par la Banque agricole de Chine (ABC), l'établissement ambitionne de faire du Congo la base de son rayonnement en Afrique. « Cet immeuble est conforme à la stratégie de développement à long terme de la BSCA Bank. En effet, aujourd'hui, ce bâtiment abrite le siège de la Banque pour le Congo, demain, il abritera le siège de la Banque pour la zone CEMAC, et après-demain pour toute l'Afrique », a indiqué Rigobert Roger Andely, le président du conseil d'administration.

Premier bénéfice et hausse du capital

Une ambition qui se traduit dans les résultats. En deux années d'exercice, la BSCA se félicite d'un résultat net bénéficiaire de 1,7 milliard FCFA fin 2017, soit 2,7 millions d'euros, alors que le business sur plan prévoyait « les premiers bénéfices pour 2018 ».

En outre, afin de renforcer ses capacités, le capital de 50 milliards FCFA, soit 76,2 millions d'euros, va connaître une hausse de 20 milliards FCFA (30,5 millions d'euros) d'ici la fin de l'année selon Roger Andely.

Présente à Brazzaville et Pointe Noire, la BSCA qui se veut « une banque commerciale de proximité » entend par ailleurs accélérer son maillage du territoire national.

Outre la Banque chinoise ABC, le capital est reparti entre l'Etat congolais, 12%, la SNPC (société nationale des pétroles du Congo), 15%, un collectif d'actionnaires privés congolais et français, 21,5%, et la société Magminerals Potasse, 1,5%.

ANGOLA :

Le président du Botswana va se rendre en Angola

Par : french.china.org.cn | French.china.org.cn | Mis à jour le 12-04-2018

Jeudi, le président de la République du Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi, va se rendre en visite officielle en Angola, dans le cadre d'un voyage dans les pays de la Communauté de développement d'Afrique australe (SADC).

Selon un média local, M. Mokgweetsi Masisi sera reçu au palais présidentiel de Luanda par le chef d'État angolais, Joao Lourenco.

La délégation du président Masisi comprendra les ministres botswanais des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération, Vincent Seretse, des Transports et des communications, Onkokame Mokaila, et des Ressources minérales, des technologies vertes et de la sécurité de l'énergie, Mothibi Molale.

M. Mokgweetsi Masisi est président de la République du Botswana depuis le 1er avril. Il remplace l'ancien chef de l'État, Seretse Khama Ian Khama, qui a démissionné, et doit diriger le pays jusqu'aux élections générales qui se tiendront en avril 2019.

Âgé de 55 ans, le nouveau chef de l'État botswanais a été vice-président de la République et bénéficie de la sympathie de ses concitoyens.

Lors de ses interventions publiques, il s'est dit favorable à l'unité, à la compréhension et à la solidarité, à davantage de cohésion et de fermeté au sein de la population, et a promis d'oeuvrer de façon à garantir et à remplir les obligations électorales et à tenir les promesses.

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

ZAMBIA :

EL wants over \$1bn Zambia-India trade

<http://www.times.co.zm/?p=103819>

Published On April 12, 2018 » 179 Views» By Davies M.M Chanda »

By CHUSA SICHONE -

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has challenged the business executives in Zambia and India to work towards increasing trade between the two countries exceeding US \$1 billion by the end of this year. President Lungu observed that Zambia had over the years received a significant amount of Foreign Direct Investment from the Indian business community exceeding US \$3 billion.

The Head of State, however, noted during the Zambia-India Business Forum in Lusaka yesterday, that trade between the two countries was under the US \$1 billion mark.

“Trade between our two countries is still under US \$1 billion, currently at between US \$700 and US \$800 million. I am, nevertheless, encouraged by the projections made that this is expected to possibly exceed US \$1 billion by the end of this year.

“Let me take this opportunity to therefore, encourage the business men and women in this room and those who could not make it, to come and take advantage of the goodwill from us politicians and create relationships aimed at promoting more exports from both sides,” he said.

President Lungu said Zambia was proud of its relations with India and that it was committed to taking the ties to another dimension and transforming them into a strong base for investment and trade expansion between the two economies.

He assured that the Government was determined to promoting stability, upholding democracy, good governance and the rule of law besides creating an enabling environment necessary for accelerated, inclusive economic development and sustainable human development.

He told the Indian business community that the Government would ensure that their investments were safe and that Zambia’s business environment was among the most conducive in Africa for private sector participation.

President Lungu noted also that private sector growth would be a key catalyst if the Government was to achieve the aspirations espoused in the Seventh National Development Plan.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind also observed that the bilateral and economic investment between the two countries had prospered over the years but a lot more could be done.

Mr Kovind was optimistic that the forum would lead to new pathways for the Zambia-India cooperation going forward.

Mr Kovind said there were new opportunities for the investors in Zambia and India to explore and expand upon for the betterment of both countries.

He cited areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, health, tourism and renewable energy as having presented new openings for Indian investors take up in Zambia.

Mr Kovind also called for active engagement of youths in both countries as their energies could “do wonders” for Zambia and India.

Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Christopher Yaluma assured the Indian business community that the Zambian economy was open for them to invest and that the country’s investment climate was premised on a robust legal framework.

Mr Yaluma said the Zambia Development Agency Act guaranteed safety of investment against any form of unfair treatment.

KENYA :

M-Pesa and PayPal are partnering to boost e-commerce in Kenya

<https://qz.com/1247879/safaricom-m-pesa-and-paypal-deal-to-boost-kenya-e-commerce/>

Safaricom is partnering with PayPal to boost its e-commerce capabilities in Kenya, solidifying its footing not just as a mobile phone business but as a global company with diversified interests in sectors including healthcare, transportation, and music.

The company is collaborating on a new service to enable Kenyan customers seamlessly transfer money between PayPal and Safaricom's M-Pesa mobile wallets. The move will open global marketplaces to Kenyan entrepreneurs and businesses, effectively allowing M-Pesa's 22.7 million subscribers to transact online, on mobile, in an app, or in person with PayPal's 227 million users.

The new service comes just months after Safaricom launched its own e-commerce platform Masoko to take on competitors including Jumia, Pigiame, OLX, and Kilimall International. Kenya has experienced an e-commerce boom, buoyed in part by ubiquitous mobile penetration that currently stands at over 90%, increased smartphone use, and a mobile-first strategy that allows customers to pay for goods and services online through mobile money services like M-Pesa.

The PayPal partnership also pits Safaricom against other mobile operators and fintech firms like PesaPal who are all focused on bringing the hundreds of thousands of small businesses in Kenya into the digital world. By reducing the barriers to conducting transactions, Safaricom also hopes to broaden its market capitalization by challenging banking institutions like Equity through whom PayPal withdrawals have only been possible in the past. Safaricom will, however, be charging more than double the 1-1.5% transaction fee charged by Equity Bank.

The diversification of M-Pesa as a payment platform also underscores how technological innovation has been central to the mobile money story. When M-Pesa was established in 2007, it kickstarted a mobile money revolution beyond Kenya's borders. But as adoption rates peaked, officials recognized the "clumsy" and "far from elegant" nature of the service, saying it was time to plug the e-wallet system into third-party, innovative applications.

Sitoyo Lopokoiyit, the director of financial services at Safaricom, says the latest move is part of a strategy the company has embarked on in the last two years to get more people to do more digital transactions through its mobile money service. This included allowing organizations to securely disburse bulk cash through the SurePay Service, helping rural residents pay for clean water and electricity, launching the ride-hailing app Little and the music streaming service Songa, besides integrating M-Pesa into the Google Play store.

The cooperation with PayPal comes a day before full mobile money interoperability kick-starts in Kenya, allowing customers to send money across mobile networks.

By facilitating faster and more convenient transactions, Lopokoiyit says M-Pesa looks to disrupt not only cross-border payments and merchant transactions but also enable Kenyan businesses on the global stage. For both sellers and buyers, he says, "It's a fantastic opportunity."

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African countries urged to focus on building industries, skills and technologies By DPPS

Read more at: <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001276587/african-countries-urged-to-focus-on-building-industries-skills-and-technologies>

Deputy President William Ruto held talks with Sudan President Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum, Sudan, yesterday, focusing on strengthening trade and investments between the two countries. The leaders stressed the need for enhancement of co-operation in the areas of manufacturing, agro-processing, textiles and healthcare among others. ALSO READ: Uganda backs electric vehicle project Mr Ruto thanked Sudan for allowing Kenya's tea to dominate 80 per cent of its market, saying Kenya did not take it for granted. President Bashir asked Kenya to consider importing fabric for security personnel uniforms from Sudan. "I take this opportunity to ask Kenya to consider purchasing uniforms, including those for the military, from our country as we commit ourselves to increasing purchase of tea from your country," said Mr Bashir. Sudan grows cotton at the Gezira Cotton Scheme. Avoid fake news! Subscribe to the Standard SMS service and receive factual, verified breaking news as it happens. Text the word 'NEWS' to 22840 Bashir also congratulated President Uhuru Kenyatta on his re-election. Ruto urged the business community to take advantage of the cordial relations between the two countries. He said the measures taken by Kenya, including issuing of visas to individuals wishing to visit the country on arrival, were aimed at promoting trade in the region. "Our move to issue visas on arrival to people visiting us is in line with the resolve by African countries to eradicate trade barriers within the region. Kenya is implementing it without a demand for reciprocity from other countries," said Ruto. ALSO READ: When increasing prices of charcoal could land one in jail The leaders urged African countries to focus on building industries, skills and technologies to produce their own high-quality products and create much-needed jobs. "There is no need for African countries to continue to export raw materials only to buy them back in the form of finished products," said Bashir. Ruto who also toured the Sudan Currency Printing Press in Khartoum which, besides printing Sudanese banknotes, prints secured government documents.

UGANDA :

Uganda: Govt Signs \$4bn Hoima Oil Refinery Agreement

By Jeff Mbangwa

The government of Uganda yesterday signed the contract for the construction of the \$4 billion oil refinery, offering further clarity on how the country's oil resources will be exploited, writes JEFF MBANGWA.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Development Irene Muloni signed the contract with the Albertine Graben Refinery Consortium, which is led by General Electric after more than one year of negotiations.

President Museveni presided over the closed-door event at State House. The signing of the contract ends a more-than-five-year struggle by Uganda's government to get a company to invest in a refinery, whose return on investment has been questioned.

The refinery will be built under a public-private partnership, favouring the consortium with a 60 per cent shareholding while the government, through the national oil company, will retain the other 40 per cent.

Uganda is expected to invite East African states to buy into its 40 per cent stake. Tanzania had earlier committed to taking up about seven per cent of this stake. The consortium is made up of General Electric, Saipem from Italy, Yaatra Ventures from the United States of America and Intra-continent Asset Holdings.

The profile of the consortium looks quite weak and there are some doubts it can pull off a \$4 billion project. There is little independent publicly-available information about Intra-continent Asset Holdings.

Questions are bound to be asked as to how this consortium will be able to attract the capital and expertise to build the refinery. However, in October, we reported how the Albertine Graben Refinery consortium had posted a \$2 million commitment bond with government ahead of the signing of the Project Framework Agreement (PFA).

We also said that up to 70 per cent of the financing of the refinery will be through debt with the other 30 per cent coming in as equity from the project partners. In August, the government announced it had "agreed core project terms" for the refinery project.

We further noted that after the signing of the PFA, the consortium would be required to finance all pre-Final Investment Decision activities up to \$100 million.

The pre-FID activities, according to the terms of the arrangement, include market studies, logistics studies, technology licensing, refinery configuration studies, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, and Front End Engineering Design.

These activities are expected to start after the signing of the contract. The major upstream companies operating in Uganda - Total, Tullow and Cnooc - had for long preferred a crude oil export pipeline because they felt the product had a more lucrative market abroad.

Uganda's government thought otherwise, throwing its weight behind the construction of a refinery. Government commissioned a Swiss firm, Foster Wheeler, to come up with a report that offered pointers on how an oil refinery made economic sense, especially from the perspective of creating spin-off industries such as those that make bitumen, which is crucial in the construction industry.

Compromises needed to be made. To get the three oil companies to commit investments in the country, Uganda's government agreed to the demands of having a crude oil pipeline. However, it never dropped its ambition of building a refinery.

The structure of having an oil refinery and a crude oil pipeline led to another important negotiation: how much crude would each take and which infrastructure would take the first call on the oil resources. Government settled for a 30,000-barrels- per-day refinery, which would later be ramped up to 60,000. The refinery, it was agreed, would take the first call.

Earlier figures showed that the crude pipeline would carry 120,000 barrels of oil per day, shooting up to 180,000 barrels only after the refinery's demands had been met. Now, current figures show that the crude oil pipeline will carry about 212,000 barrels of oil per day.

Twitter:@jeff_mbanga

More on This

Investors to Fund Oil Refinery Venture

The Albertine Graben Refinery Consortium (AGRC), the venture of American and Italian firms that were on Tuesday... [Read more »](#)

[Read the original article on Observer.](#)

African migrants in limbo as Israel seeks Uganda deportation deal

Apr. 12, 2018 By REUTERS

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/04/12/african-migrants-in-limbo-as-israel-seeks-uganda-deportation-deal_c1742559

Israel is finalising a deal to deport thousands of African migrants to Uganda under a new scheme after agreements with Rwanda and the U.N.'s refugee agency to find homes for those expelled fell through.

About 4,000 migrants have left Israel for Rwanda and Uganda since 2013 under a voluntary programme but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come under pressure from his right-wing voter base to expel thousands more.

In January, Israel started handing out notices to male migrants from Eritrea and Sudan giving them three months to take the voluntary deal with a plane ticket and \$3,500 or risk being thrown in jail.

The government said from April it would start forced deportations but rights groups challenged the move and Israel's Supreme Court has issued a temporary injunction to give more time for the petitioners to argue against the plan.

Government representatives told the court on Tuesday that an envoy was in an African country finalising a deportation deal after an arrangement with Rwanda to take migrants expelled under the new measures fell through.

The representatives did not name the country in court sessions open to the public though Israeli lawmakers have previously said the two countries it was planning to deport migrants to were Rwanda and Uganda.

Israeli Deputy Foreign minister Tzipi Hotovely also identified the countries it was seeking to strike new deportation deals with as Uganda and Rwanda in closed-door comments leaked to Israeli Army Radio.

After the Rwanda deal fell through, the government struck an agreement with the U.N.'s refugee agency (UNHCR) to relocate 16,250 migrants to Western countries but Netanyahu scrapped it after an outcry from right-wing politicians furious that thousands more would be allowed to stay in Israel.

The fate of tens of thousands of migrants who entered Israel illegally through its desert border with Egypt and were granted temporary visas has posed a moral dilemma for a state founded as a national home for Jews and a haven from persecution.

Israeli rights groups say the country can absorb the estimated 37,000 migrants still there, or should find them safe destinations such as those agreed under the defunct UNHCR deal.

The rights groups have accused Netanyahu, who is under police investigation for corruption, of playing political games to appeal to his right-wing supporters.

The government calls the migrants "infiltrators" and says they have come to find work. The migrants and rights groups say they are asylum seekers fleeing persecution.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

The U.N.'s refugee agency and rights groups are also concerned because many of the Africans who left previously for Rwanda and Uganda voluntarily did not get the protection they were promised and some ended up back on the migration trail.

Both countries have denied having any deals with Israel to resettle migrants. Uganda, a key Western ally in the fight against Islamist militants in East Africa, also denied there were discussions about accepting deportees under the new scheme.

"We are not aware of any Israeli envoy here. Let Israelis tell you who that envoy here is going to sign an agreement with, sign with who? With the foreign affairs, with the president, minister of internal affairs, with who? On what date are they signing?" Okello Oryem, Uganda's junior foreign affairs minister told Reuters on Wednesday.

At the Supreme Court hearing in Jerusalem, one of the three judges asked the state representatives why Uganda was denying the deal, if indeed there was one. The state said it would provide the court with an explanation in a closed session.

Five migrants interviewed by Reuters said they had been told by immigration officials this year that they could go either to Uganda or Rwanda, if they chose to avoid detention.

Ristom Haliesilase, an Eritrean migrant living in Tel Aviv, said he was given until April 15 to decide whether to be deported, or detained.

"My mind is full of worries. I don't know what will happen tomorrow. The first thought I have in the morning is what will they do to me today?" said Haliesilase. "It's heartbreaking. It breaks the people. It breaks the community."

Many migrants live in cramped apartments in poor parts of Tel Aviv where eateries serve Eritrean food, clothing stores with signs in Tigrinya display traditional garb, and abandoned warehouses have been converted into makeshift churches.

'IT'S ALL A SCAM'

Rights groups such as the International Refugee Rights Initiative have been documenting the plight of Eritrean and Sudanese men who have left Israel for Rwanda and Uganda for several years.

In the past few months UNHCR has also documented at least 80 cases of Eritreans who found none of the protection promised upon their departure from Israel, prompting them to go on a perilous trail through conflict zones to reach Europe.

Along the way they were subjected to arrests, torture and extortion before trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy, UNHCR said. Israeli rights groups have documented dozens more such cases.

Under the voluntary scheme, asylum seekers say they were given the option of going back to their country of origin, remaining in detention in Israel or flying to a third country where they were promised they could stay and work legally.

Sajir, 27, an Eritrean now living in Uganda, told Reuters by telephone that he flew there in January after spending five months in Israeli detention.

"They said that my life would be sorted there," Sajir said, speaking in Hebrew. "But it's all a scam."

Notices handed out this year to migrants already in detention or those trying to renew their visas have promised residency and work permits in their destination country. "A local team that will meet you at the airport will provide guidance in the first few days," the document says.

Sajir said when his flight landed in Uganda, he and 10 other migrants were not taken through passport control. "We were taken out the back. Then someone loaded us onto a bus and took us to a hotel," he said.

The group was met by a man who offered to set them up with traffickers to take them to Sudan, Kenya or Ethiopia - for a price, he said.

"We got no visa, no papers. There is no work here. It is no good. I cannot stay here. I will try to go to Sudan soon or somewhere, to Libya and then to Europe," Sajir said.

Israel's Immigration Authority and the prime minister's office did not respond to requests for comment.

MOZAMBIQUE :

Mozambique, S/Africa join hands to fight cyber-crime

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/mozambique-safrica-join-hands-to-fight-cyber-crime/>

Published on 12.04.2018 à 08h21 by APA News

Technology experts from Mozambique and South Africa are meeting in Maputo for a two-day workshop to establish ways of strengthening cooperation in the fight against cybercrime, an official said Thursday. National director of Mozambique's information and communication technologies and projects Constantino Sotomane told APA that the workshop, which began on Wednesday, provided the experts from both countries with an opportunity to analyze strategies available to promote cyber security.

“Mozambique is one of the least developed countries in terms of cyber security, but this does not confer vulnerability. Our challenge is to make cyberspace increasingly secure,” Sotomane said.

According to the official, Mozambique is not alone in Africa, which as a region has clocked the world's fastest growth in internet use over the past decade.

Unlike in Europe and the United States, where data-privacy laws provide a level of protection to consumers, many Africans have little or no recourse if data breaches occur because often legal and regulatory safeguards do not exist.

The meeting comes at a time when Mozambique launched the law of electronic transitions last year and, at the moment, work is in the regulation of this legal instrument.

Growth of internet use in Africa, a continent of 1 billion people, has been fuelled by rapidly expanding mobile broadband networks and ever more affordable phones.

Tags : APA

MALAWI :

China gifts Malawi 3,000 tonnes of parboiled rice

Published on 11.04.2018 à 22h21 by APA News

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/china-gifts-malawi-3000-tonnes-of-parboiled-rice/>

Malawi through its Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) has received 3,270 metric tonnes of parboiled rice from China to feed several households who are food insecure this year. Speaking in a remote district of Ntcheu on Wednesday, Vice President Saulos Chilima, said, China compliments government's efforts in the implementation of the 2017/18 Food Insecurity Response Programme that seeks to mobilise financial and material resources for the affected people among others.

“A number of people will face food deficit this year. This rice will partly contribute towards addressing the shortage resulting from the infestation of armyworms and dry spell,” he said.

Apart from food assistance, he said, China has also facilitated in the implementation of the community based disaster management project through the small grants scheme.

According to Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) over one million people will require food assistance during the lean season.

Chinese envoy Shing-Ting Wang said his country is committed to assisting Malawi in times of natural disasters and promote its socio-economic development.

“We are very glad to help our Malawian friends to develop. We have rich experience in agriculture development and poverty alleviation,” he said.

He added that China will assist to develop irrigation, commercial agriculture and establish agricultural product processing system in the country.

Malawi can shake off the situation of relying only on weather and realize agriculture modernization and industrialization, he said.

Malawi and China established relations in 2007.

SWAZILAND :

India offers lifeline to Zambia, Swaziland

<http://www.nan.ng/economy/india-offers-lifeline-to-zambia-swaziland/>

India will on Thursday flag-off the construction of the \$289 million Lusaka city road expansion to support Zambia's decongestion project.

The India government has also donated \$1 million to Swaziland's disaster management agency.

Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the support to the southern African states in their respective capitals on the second and final legs of his three-nation Africa tour.

Kovind arrived in Zambia on Tuesday from Swaziland, which he visited after a tour of Equatorial Guinea.

"The construction of the \$289m Lusaka city decongestion project is set to start on Thursday," local radio reported.

The works will see the construction, rehabilitation and widening the Lusaka roads to include dedicated lanes for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind India meets Zambia's former President.

The contractor, Afcons Infrastructure Limited of India, will improve nine junctions along with four flyover bridges.

The 120km work will take 36 months.

President Edgar Lungu's government initiated a nationwide infrastructure drive.

Afcons Infrastructure Limited managing director Srivinasan Paramasivan said the company will give 20 per cent of works to decongest Lusaka to local contractors as per government policy.

President Kovind held talks with President Lungu and paid a courtesy call on first President Kenneth Kaunda.

In Swaziland, the Indian leader unveiled the \$1 million donation in his address to the National Assembly.

The Indian Business World confirmed the donation, adding that President Kovind also expressed commitment to development partnership to create local capacities across Africa.

India President leads a delegation to meet Zambia officials

"To support the Swaziland National Disaster Management Agency, we have decided to donate \$1m as well as food grains," the Indian President was quoted as saying

India is the main source of generic drugs including anti-retrovirals.

Kovind was further quoted saying Swaziland had made remarkable progress in slowing the spread of HIV.

Swaziland, according to Unicef, has the highest HIV/Aids prevalence rate in the world.

Source: Africareview

Swazi king's wife took overdose

2018-04-08 05:55

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/swazi-kings-wife-took-overdose-20180407>

King Mswati's eighth wife, Senteni Masango – known as Inkhosikati LaMasango – has died after allegedly committing suicide.

She was found dead early on Friday morning, barely a week after burying her sister Nombuso Masango, whose funeral took place last Sunday at her parental home on the outskirts of central Swaziland.

The king's wife is believed to have overdosed on about 40 amitriptyline capsules – widely used to block the long-term (chronic) pain of some rheumatic conditions and treat depression and related disorders.

She leaves behind two daughters.

The royal family announced on Friday that her vigil would be held at Ludzidzini royal residence and yesterday she was to be laid to rest this morning as per the dictates of Swazi royal family tradition.

She was known for being a good painter and she often auctioned her paintings to raise funds for local charity groups in Swaziland.

Her last public appearance was at the recent Marula Festival where she was a marvel to watch as she danced up a storm when it was time for members of the royal family to dance before the king and queen mother.

Two festivals were held during the last week of February where throngs of Swazi women delivered marula homebrew and other fruits before the queen mother Ntombi Thwala and King Mswati III.

The first event was held in northern Swaziland at the Buhleni royal residence.

Sources close to her have revealed how unhappy she was.

She alleged she was abused and neglected in the royal household.

It was alleged the king had not approved of her attending her dead sister's memorial service and funeral.

It was rumoured that she lived alone for more than three years in a big mansion with not a single visit from her husband, the king.

When called for comment the king's right-hand man Khandlela Mdluli could not be reached for comment.

King Mswati III chose his eighth bride Inkhosikati LaMasango, who was only 18 at the time, in September 1999.

It soon emerged she had a record for truancy, poor grades and she was a high-school dropout and a rebel.

The newspaper editor Bheki Makhubu who revealed the educational shortcomings of the king's bride-to-be was arrested by the Royal Swaziland Police and charged with "criminal defamation".

He was subsequently fired from the Times of Swaziland after refusing to apologise for publishing the story.

He was accused of "gross insubordination".

Previously two of the king's wives left his royal house.

Putsoana Hwala and Delisa Magwaza left the royal house in 2004.

Delisa Magwaza, better known as Inkhosikati LaMagwaza, fled the king's palace in 2004 to London. She caused a stir when details of her relationship with a 23-year-old Swazi national living in Soweto emerged.

Putsoana Hwala, known as Inkhosikati LaHwala, also fled in 2004, leaving her three children behind, allegedly to hide in Alexandra, Johannesburg. LaHwala's "fault" was attending parties without the royal family's approval.

Angel Dlamini, popularly known as LaGija, has not been seen at royal functions. Nothando Dube was once caught in a compromising mood with one-time minister of justice Ndumiso Mamba in a hotel in Swaziland. That incident resulted in Mamba's resignation from his ministerial position.

– Sibongakonke Nkosi and Staff reporter

ZIMBABWE :

Zimbabwe invites Chinese banks

<https://www.herald.co.zw/just-in-chinese-finance-giants-invited-to-zimbabwe/>

Victoria Ruzvidzo in Hangzhou, China

President Mnangagwa has invited Chinese financial institutions to set up banks in Zimbabwe to provide appropriate packages to fund economic reconstruction.

Lack of affordable finance has adversely affected funding for industry and efforts to revive the economy.

Addressing the Zimbabwe China Business Forum here yesterday, President Mnangagwa said the economy continued to face financing challenges.

“Due to the 18 years of isolation as a result of illegal economic sanctions, our economy has suffered from limited affordable long-term financing and credit lines,” he said.

“We therefore invite players in the financial services sector to come and establish financial institutions that offer appropriate financial solutions and packages for the unique realities of Zimbabwe and the region and the African continent as a whole.”

The President was on a five-day State visit to China that ended yesterday.

Zimbabwe’s economy has faced funding constraints due to Western economic sanctions which have in turn deterred would-be investors.

A few bilateral and multilateral financiers have been coming, but what has been put on the table is inadequate to meet current requirements.

Estimates are that the country needs about \$14 billion for the rehabilitation of infrastructure alone, while firms need millions for retooling.

Furthermore, sectors such as agriculture and mining need funding to realise their potential.

Local banks have been unable to secure adequate funds, while companies across the economy have bemoaned the high cost of borrowing in instances where such funds are available.

The African Development Bank and the Africa Export and Import Bank have supported Zimbabwe over the years, but this has been inadequate to counter the effects of Western sanctions.

Chinese banks have the financial muscle to bankroll major national projects and come up with packages that could prop Zimbabwe’s economy.

At least 200 business executives, 80 of them from Zimbabwe, attended the business forum which was described as highly successful by delegates.

President Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe was strategically positioned to become a regional hub for investment.

“Due to its geo-strategic location, Zimbabwe has the enormous potential to become a regional hub for any sector which investors may choose to commit to,” he said.

Opportunities were also available in the agriculture, mining and manufacturing value chains.

Wildlife, fisheries and forestry were also fertile sectors for investment, he said.

President Mnangagwa challenged the public and private sectors from both countries to leverage on strengthening ties between Zimbabwe and China to do more business and create jobs.

**SOUTH
AFRICA :**

South Africa celebrates Winnie Mandela

By AFP and Lilian Kwamboka | Published Thu, April 12th 2018 at 09:46, Updated April 12th 2018 at 12:47 GMT +3

Read more at: <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001276567/south-africa-celebrates-winnie-mandela>

South Africa paid tribute to Winnie Mandela's "fighting spirit" on Tuesday as plans were made to mark the life of the firebrand anti-apartheid campaigner and Nelson Mandela's former wife.

She died in a Johannesburg hospital at the age of 81 on Monday after suffering a long illness that failed to rob of her of the charisma and energy that defined her sometimes divisive character.

Mourners continued to gather at her Soweto home to honour the anti-apartheid fighter after President Cyril Ramaphosa confirmed that a memorial service would be held on Wednesday April 11 and a full state funeral on Saturday April 14.

The outspoken leader of the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party Julius Malema, who became a confidante of Winnie Mandela in recent years, is expected to visit her modest two-storey red brick home on Tuesday.

"She affirmed both the love and anger of black people; always committed to their right to defend their lives even (with) arms in the face of a deadly apartheid evil," the radical leftist party said in a statement. Avoid fake news! Subscribe to the Standard SMS service and receive factual, verified breaking news as it happens. Text the word 'NEWS' to 22840 The ruling African National Congress (ANC) party's Women's League, which Winnie Mandela once led, staged a mass march to her home on Wednesday. Brutality of the apartheid state ...

NAMIBIA :

Senekal applauds Peugeot for first Namibian assembly plant

April 12, 2018

<https://www.newera.com.na/2018/04/12/senekal-applauds-peugeot-for-first-namibian-assembly-plant/>

One of the 'giants' of the local motor trade Pieter Senekal (MD Spes Bona Motor Company) has applauded Peugeot France for investing in the first ever assembly plant in Namibia, which will be rolling out its first models within the next few months.

The estimated N\$200 million joint venture which was struck between the Namibian Development Corporation (NDC) and Groupe PSA France to set up a Peugeot and Opel assembly plant in Walvis Bay, will be up and running in three months.

Spes Bona, which is the official dealership of Peugeot in Namibia, is expecting to stock some of the first locally assembled vehicles at their showroom situated in Independence Avenue, which are pegged to arrive by the end of August.

During an interview with the New Era this week, Senekal confirmed that the assembly plant in Walvis Bay is already completed and will be fully operational within the next few months for production. The luxury Peugeot 3008 SUV will be the first vehicle to roll off the assembly line from this factory.

"This is the best thing that has happened to Namibia in these current economic times, and Peugeot could have gone anywhere in Africa but they chose this country," said Senekal, adding that he compliments our government for their efficient business dealings with Peugeot.

"It is excellent to see foreign companies like the French making such positive investments to our country, especially during these tough economic times, and in my opinion, this is the best thing that has happened to the Namibian automotive industry," said Senekal.

Senekal who will be accompanying visiting representatives of Peugeot France and Peugeot SA to the plant shortly, says that Peugeot is ranked as the second biggest vehicle manufacturer in Europe. "Peugeot is also one of the oldest registered motor companies and manufacturers in the world, and now Namibia is going to proudly become the new Peugeot hub for the rest of Africa, with all the logistics lined up in our favour," he continued.

"This is a historic occasion for Namibia, which will contribute positively to the upliftment of the economy through job creation and value-added services, whilst at the same time meeting the ambitions of Groupe PSA to expand into the African and Middle East markets."

Senekal explained that the vehicles will arrive in semi-knock down format from the Peugeot factory in France, and all the parts will be assembled at the plant by our trained and skilled workers, with an expected run out of around 5 000 cars a year by 2020. The vehicles will initially be distributed to dealerships in Southern Africa.

He said that Peugeot are kicking off production with their premier product the Peugeot 3008 SUV, which was crowned the Car of the Year in Europe in 2016 and is priced from N\$420 000.

In light of these new developments to manufacture locally, Senekal expects that Peugeot will adjust its pricing to become more affordable than its competitors. He predicts that the Namibian motoring

public will be changing its mindset about the Peugeot brand and that its popularity will increase. He also said that Peugeot have not hiked their 2018 prices by a 1% increase, as their confidence in the market place grows.

According to a statement by Peugeot's Fabrice Verastegui (International Industrial Projects Development Manager), this investment in Namibia is part of Groupe PSA's long-term strategy to increase its sales in Africa and the Middle East, which is consistent with their target to sell one million vehicles in 2025. This will set the course for growth in these important markets of the future.

Meanwhile Mayor of Walvis Bay Alderman Immanuel Wilfried, called this a "double celebration", in the wake of the 28th Independence anniversary, claiming that this the most exciting piece of news to come out of the harbour town in recent times.

Namibia will through the development corporation hold 51 percent equity, with Groupe PSA getting 49 percent.

Pieter Senekal MD Spes Bona Motor Company which holds the Peugeot dealership stands with the Peugeot 3008 SUV which will be the first vehicle to roll off the assembly line at the new Walvis Bay plant. Photo: Donna Collins

BOTSWANA :

China, Botswana partnership strengthens health system

By Nnasaretha Kgamanyane Wed 11 Apr 2018

<http://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?aid=75215&dir=2018/april/11>

The relationship between Botswana and the Chinese local governments continues to strengthen as China forges on to bring medical health practitioners with various qualifications to the country.

Welcoming the 15th Chinese medical team to Botswana in Gaborone recently, Chinese Ambassador to Botswana Dr Zhao Yanbo said as a sincere friend to Botswana, China began sending over Medical Teams in 1981.

He said for the last 37 years, 14 teams and more than 460 Chinese doctors came to work in Botswana.

“By overcoming many difficulties, they have helped treat and cure more than two million people in Botswana, almost the whole population of this country. In addition to this, the ‘Brightness Action Campaign’ conducted by the Chinese Medical Team in 2015 helped more than 500 cataract patients of Botswana to regain their sight. They have brought over not only the high-level medical treatment technology and expertise, but also trained a large number of local medical staff through clinical teaching and academic lectures,” he noted.

Yanbo explained that the contributions of the Chinese Medical Teams received consistent high praise from all walks of life in Botswana. He said the Chinese Medical Team has become a very good example of the longstanding friendship and tangible cooperation between the two countries adding that their fruitful contribution in medical services is significant and has helped Botswana better work towards achieving its

goal of poverty eradication.

The ambassador said besides Botswana, the Chinese Medical Teams were sent to 50 other African countries. He explained that China has been sending Medical Teams to support Africa’s health services since 1960’s.

“Over the past five decades, China has sent more than 20,000 doctors to 51 African countries, which have treated and cured millions of African patients and trained thousands of African nurses and doctors. At the moment, the Chinese Medical Teams are still working in 43 African countries,” he said.

For his part, the Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Alfred Madigele said their partnership has seen great improvements in the delivery of health services in the country particularly at their two referral hospitals namely Princess Marina and Nyangabgwe.

“So far, over the years the numbers of the medical team have increased in line with the ever increasing demand for health services as well as need to provide specialised services. The increase in the number of health workers symbolises the true spirit of friendship, partnership and brotherhood by China,” he said.

Madigele added that his team managed to recruit 46 medical personnel under various specialties namely Acupunctuarists, Omphthamologist, Orthopaedic surgeons and many more.

ALGERIA :

Military Plane Crash Is Algeria's Worst Air Disaster, With 257 Dead

By DECLAN WALSH APRIL 11, 2018

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/world/middleeast/algeria-military-plane-crash.html>

CAIRO — The crash of a military transport plane that killed 257 people on Wednesday was Algeria's deadliest ever, compounding the woeful air safety record of an insular country where there has been little accountability for such disasters in the past.

A Russian-built Ilyushin plane carrying soldiers and civilians slammed into a field moments after it took off from Boufarik military base, about 15 miles southwest of the capital, Algiers. The plane exploded into flames, sending black smoke billowing into the air. Only a handful of people survived.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, and Algeria's Defense Ministry began an investigation. But there was little prospect of any political repercussions in a country that has come to be seen as the region's hermitlike giant, hesitant and inward-facing, as its economic and political malaise has deepened.

Rich in gas and oil, and the largest country in Africa by size, Algeria should loom large over the region. It avoided the turmoil of the Arab Spring uprisings that engulfed its North African neighbors Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. And it has established itself as a bulwark against Islamist extremism.

But in recent years, falling oil prices have driven up unemployment and fostered disillusionment among the young, who account for half of its 40 million people. The president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, is an infirm man in his 80s who is rarely seen in public, resulting in persistent speculation about his health.

Experts say that Mr. Bouteflika is a front for what is essentially military rule. The government's inner workings are notoriously opaque — which is why some are skeptical that it will provide answers about Wednesday's crash.

“The people will resign themselves to it because there is no information,” said Lahouari Addi, a leading Algerian political scientist who teaches at Lyon's Institut d'Etudes Politiques, but returns to his homeland often. “Public opinion will simply repeat, as usual, that there is corruption everywhere. There is no transparency in Algeria, no debate.”

The crash occurred just before 8 a.m. when people near the Boufarik base saw flames shooting from one engine as the plane lifted off the runway, private Algerian television stations reported. Seconds later, as the plane reached an altitude of about 1,000 feet, it lurched violently and plunged to the ground.

Some onlookers told a private television station that the plane landed on one wing before crashing into a field, where it broke apart and was engulfed in flames.

Dozens of ambulances and scores of rescue workers rushed to the scene but struggled to find survivors as strong winds fanned the blaze, officials said. The fire was extinguished after two hours,

Lt. Adel Zghaimi, a security official, told state news media. But by then, just a handful of survivors — no more than five, by most accounts — had been taken to a hospital for injuries.

In the early afternoon, rescue workers laid out long rows of white body bags near the smoldering wreckage. Farouk Achour, a spokesman for the Algerian civil protection agency, told The Associated Press that many bodies showed signs of “deep burns caused by the fuselage catching fire.”

Aviation Safety Network, which tracks air accidents, considers the crash to be the 16th worst in history, excluding ground fatalities, according to Harro Ranter, its chief executive. For Algeria it was the ninth aviation disaster in 15 years, counting helicopter and plane crashes, said Mohamed Khelfaoui, a former officer in the Algerian secret service.

“That’s a lot,” he said, pointing to the military’s aging fleet as a possible cause.

Most of the dead were soldiers and their families, although the toll also included 30 members of Western Sahara’s Polisario independence movement, an official in Algeria’s governing F.L.N. party said. Mr. Bouteflika declared three days of national mourning.

Mr. Bouteflika, 81, has been a sporadic presence since 2013, when a stroke left him in a wheelchair and raised questions about his ability to rule. Yet his appetite for power appears undiminished.

A rare public appearance on Monday, when Mr. Bouteflika opened a mosque and a metro extension, stoked speculation that he intended to run for a fifth term. Supporters insist he remains strong, even if he requires a microphone to make himself heard.

“Except for his dead voice, he is in good shape and he rules the country,” Lakhdar Brahimi, a retired United Nations diplomat and a friend of Mr. Bouteflika, said in a recent interview.

Others say that real power in Algeria lies with the military, which uses civilian leaders as a front for its own interests.

“Bouteflika has no power. The prime minister has no power,” said Mr. Addi, the academic. “It’s the military.”

Algerians privately grumble about corruption inside the military, and accounts of crooked deals involving Russian military suppliers are rife. But faced with harsh political repression, most simply shrug their shoulders — which is why Wednesday’s crash is unlikely to have serious political repercussions.

A handful of senior generals might be forced to retire early, Mr. Addi said. But it was unlikely to go beyond that because “the army never judicially punishes the corrupt,” he said.

Mr. Bouteflika, who came to power in 1999, is part of a thinning generation of Algerians who fought in the 1954-62 independence war against France, and who continue to exert great influence. Although Algeria has large oil and gas reserves, which account for 60 percent of national income, officials are notoriously averse to foreign interference and have imposed strong controls that critics say have choked the economy.

In recent months, teachers and doctors held a series of long strikes to protest their pay and conditions. But some doctors suspended their walkout to treat the plane crash victims on Wednesday, Reuters reported.

Officials said the military plane was headed to Bechar in the southwest of the country, but was scheduled to stop in Tindouf, an area on Algeria's border with the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

Algeria is a longtime backer of Polisario, the group that has been fighting for independence for Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara since the 1970s. A military official in Algiers, speaking by phone, said the Polisario members killed in the crash had probably been receiving medical treatment at government hospitals before returning to Tindouf.

Until Wednesday, Algeria's deadliest accident was in July 2014 when an Air Algérie jetliner traveling from Burkina Faso to Algeria crashed in the desert in Mali, killing all 116 people on board, including 54 French citizens. A French investigation into the crash blamed pilot error.

In February of that year, an American-built C-130 Hercules transport plane of the Algerian military, carrying 78 personnel and their families, crashed into a mountain in the northeastern province of Oum El Bouaghi during bad weather. One person survived.

Reporting was contributed by Adam Nossiter from Paris, Hadjer Guenanfa from Algiers, Nour Youssef from Cairo, and Susan Beachy from New York.

RWANDA :

Rwanda Approves Continental Free Market

by Dan Ngabonziza April 12, 2018 at 2:13 pm

<http://ktpress.rw/2018/04/rwanda-approves-continental-free-market/>

African citizens from across the continent will soon begin trading freely, acquire free residence as well as free movement in Rwanda.

A cabinet meeting chaired by President Paul Kagame has approved a Draft Law approving the ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment.

On March 21, 2018, Kigali witnessed a historical signing of African Continental Free Trade Area by 44 countries – an agreement that officially made Africa an open one single market for all Africans.

Moreover, 43 countries also signed the Kigali declaration while 27 countries signed the protocol of the free movement of people. All agreements considered however, 50 countries signed either of them.

At the cabinet meeting, a brief was delivered on the aftermath of March 23 agreement signature and the way forward.

The meeting also saw approval of a Draft Law on ratification of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area together with the Protocol on trade in goods, Protocol on trade in services, and Protocol on rules and procedures for settlement of disputes.

If forwarded to Parliament for review, it means that Africans will effectively start moving freely to Rwanda and access all equal trade benefits.

Rwanda is not the only country heading towards final ratification of these pan African provisions.

On March 28 – six days after the signing of Kigali agreement, Kenyan cabinet approved the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The AfCFTA establishes a single liberalized market that will spur industrialization, infrastructural development, economic diversification and trade across the continent that is home to more than 1.2 billion people.

The pact also seeks to promote industrial development through diversification, regional value chain development, agricultural development and food security.

When fully implemented by all member States that signed, the treaty is expected to enable residents of all member countries to enjoy the convenience of a single passport and currency.

The trade deal also binds all State parties to eight objectives including the progressive elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods.

The signatory State parties are also expected to progressively liberalize trade in services, among others.