

AFRICA: 27 JUILLET 2018 : (La diplomatie des BRICS s'accroît envers Kigali ... Du Rwanda se prépare une guerre régionale pour la prise de la RDC CONGO par l'OCCIDENT)



BURUNDI :

Burundi : La diplomatie des BRICS s'accentue envers Kigali

GEOPOLITIQUE, REGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, ROUTE DE LA SOIE AFRICAINE TANZANIE / KATANGA – Du Rwanda se prépare une guerre régionale pour la prise de la RDC CONGO par l'OCCIDENT

Bujumbura, Mardi 24 juillet 2018 – S.E. Xi Jinping , Président de la Chine, est arrivée dimanche 22 juillet 2018 à KIGALI au Rwanda, pour une visite d'Etat de 2 jours, afin d'aider à faire pencher le Président du Rwanda, S.E. KAGAME Paul, vers un avenir aux côtés des pays BRICS (Brésil – Russie – Inde – Chine – South Africa), qui, aujourd'hui, conduisent la Monde Economique, au détriment des OCCIDENTAUX qui perdent ce leadership qu'ils détenaient depuis le 15ème siècle. La diplomatie des BRICS (1er Ministre Indien ; Ministre des Affaires Etrangères RUSSE) et leurs alliés (MOZAMBIQUE etc.) , s'est intensifiée ces dernières semaines pour tenter de convaincre KIGALI de stopper son positionnement ANTI-BRICS et PRO-OCCIDENTAL.

Dans la géopolitique des Grands Lacs Africains, le RWANDA du Dictateur KAGAME est utilisé par les OCCIDENTAUX, notamment les familles occidentales qui se sont enrichies avec l'ESCLAVAGE et la COLONISATION, pour créer le DESORDRE aux profits de leurs MULTINATIONALES (cfr. Néocolonialisme, Globalisation).

L'année prochaine, en 2019, doit commencer le début de l'exploitation commerciale des 2 nouvelles routes africaines de la soie chinoise, dont une passe par l'Afrique de l'Est, notamment Tanzanie-Congo RDC. La Chine y a investi des Milliards d'USD ces dernières décennies. Or l'OCCIDENT et LEURS MULTINATIONALES, via le RWANDA, voudrait perturber ce début de fêtes commerciales chinoises, dont des BRICS, en créant une GUERRE REGIONALE DANS LES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS.

En ce moment, d'après DIGITALCONGO

[<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5b55e159306d4f00041347be/>], médium CONGOLAIS proche du Président de la RDC, S.E. KABILA Joseph, une intervention militaire étrangère (OCCIDENTALE) se prépare avec certitude dans la Région, dont la base militaire de coordination est KIGALI, le RWANDA. Depuis quelques semaines, la Belgique et aujourd'hui, le UK, déconseillent à leurs ressortissants de se rendre au SUD du RWANDA, frontière avec le BURUNDI [<https://burundi-agnews.org/region/le-burundi-nest-pas-une-base-arriere-dune-rebellion-rwandaise/>], et à la FRONTIERE RWANDO-CONGOLAISE. Les services secrets occidentaux et rwandaises, depuis peu, ont lancé une rumeur sur une PRÉTENDUE RÉBELLION RWANDAISE AVEC DES INTERHAMWES ET DES DECUS DU FPR dans la REGION SUD DU RWANDA avec le BURUNDI. L'idée étant de permettre à tous ces militaires étrangers et leurs engins (Drones, chars etc.) de s'y installer ...

Le BURUNDI est une région stratégique pour prendre l'EST DE LA RDC CONGO jusqu'au KATANGA (Cfr. Route africaine de la soie chinoise). Les OCCIDENTAUX pensent que si ils arrivent à PRENDRE LE BURUNDI (CIBITOKÉ – <http://burundi-agnews.org/region/burundi-terrorisme-massacre-dans-un-village-de-cibitoke-23-morts-civils/> – , BUBANZA, BUJUMBURA RURAL), la traversée de la RDC CONGO jusqu'à KINSHASA sera un JEU D'ENFANT, en se référant à la 1ère GUERRE DU CONGO en 1996.

Le BURUNDI, depuis quelques années, s'est rangé du côté des BRICS, et, en 2015, a subit une RÉVOLUTION DE COULEUR de la part des OCCIDENTAUX qui a échoué [<http://burundi-agnews.org/revolution-de-couleur/> & <http://burundi-agnews.org/guerre-humanitaire/>] .

Une GUERRE [<https://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-mo-ibrahim-ami-de-soros-a-kigali/>], avec d'un côté LE RWANDA (+ PAYS AFRICAINS PRO OCCIDENTAUX + certains pays du COMMONWEALTH) ET LES OCCIDENTAUX (USA – RESEAU DEMOCRATES / SOROS , FRANCE [<http://burundi-agnews.org/securite/burundi-securite-une-affaire-despionnage-mis-a-jour/>] , BELGIQUE, ISRAËL), et de l'autre LE BURUNDI (...), est annoncée dans les JOURS qui viennent.

La visite du 1er CHINOIS à KIGALI est donc déterminante pour savoir SI OUI ou NON il y aura CETTE GUERRE DANS CETTE REGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS dont l'objectif final est la prise de la RDC par l'Occident.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le Mardi 24 juillet 2018

Burundi diaspora week kicks off in Bujumbura

Tuesday July 24 2018

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Burundi-diaspora-week-kicks-off-in-Bujumbura/2560-4679564-dspxjez/index.html>

By MOSES HAVYARIMANA More by this Author

President Pierre Nkurunziza on Tuesday launched the 2018 Burundi Diaspora Week in Bujumbura urging citizens living outside the country to contribute to development.

Now in its third edition, the annual event seeks to strengthen social cohesion and unity.

“Burundians in diaspora should be the ambassadors of Burundi and also take part in developing projects in the country,” President Nkurunziza said.

He added that because the youth have a great role to play, “we should consolidate the peace and stability we have”.

In 2015, more than 400,000 Burundians fled after fighting broke out.

The government has been wooing them to return and invest in the country.

Related Content

Burundi to waive taxes on businesses of returnees

Japhet Legentil, the chairman of the association of Burundians in diaspora, said the week's events give returnees a chance to participate.

“Not only to contribute in the peace building process but the event also gives an opportunity to Burundians in diaspora to witness the investment opportunities in the country,” Mr Legentil said.

Different activities are lined up in the four-day event that ends on Friday July 27. They include tradition and cultural events, marketing of products and services made by Burundians in diaspora and a countrywide tour.

RWANDA :

Xi and Modi just visited Rwanda and supplied millions of dollars, here's why

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/24/china-xi-india-modi-visit-rwanda-kagame.html>

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have just paid separate visits to Rwanda, pledging over \$300 million in loans to the tiny, landlocked African country.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is spearheading a pan-African single market. His country is currently in a trade spat with the U.S. over second-hand clothes.

Xi and Modi are both travelling in Africa ahead of a BRICS summit in South Africa which begins on Wednesday.

The leaders of the world's two largest emerging economies have both just visited the tiny, landlocked African country of Rwanda – separately – and showed themselves to be friends with deep pockets.

Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Rwanda's capital Kigali on Sunday, where he met with his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame.

China granted Rwanda a loan of \$126 million for the building of two roads, the latter country's Minister of Finance Uzziel Ndagijimana told Reuters.

On Monday evening, after Xi's departure earlier in the day, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched down in Kigali. Meetings resulted in the signing of two loan agreements each worth \$100 million, for investment in agriculture and the development of special economic zones.

The meetings signified the first time a Chinese or Indian leader has visited Rwanda.

China and India are the world's two most populous nations, with 1.6 billion and 1.3 billion inhabitants respectively. India is likely to be the world's fastest growing major economy in 2018, a mantle China once held. The latter is now the world's second largest economy after the U.S.

Rwanda's recent history has been marked by civil war and ethnic conflict. It was ravaged by the genocide of its Tutsi ethnic group in 1994, in which over half a million people were killed. Home to approximately 12 million people, it is now in the process of transitioning into a middle income economy and reducing its dependence on foreign aid. The East African country is also promoting itself as a technology hub.

Kagame is currently chairperson of the African Union. "As such, Rwanda becomes shorthand for engagement with Africa generally," Jared Jeffery, political analyst at South Africa-based research firm NKC African Economics, told CNBC via e-mail. He added that the deals inked with China and India were a significant sum for the small Rwandan economy.

"Modi's visit is arguably more notable than Xi's as India's ascendancy in Africa is less meteoric than China's," Indigo Ellis, Africa analyst at consultancy Verisk Maplecroft, told CNBC via e-mail. She added that Kagame views cooperation between the world's developing countries "as the future." The Rwandan president is spearheading the establishment of a single market across the African continent for goods and services which would encompass a combined gross domestic product of \$2.5 trillion. The majority of the African Union's 55 members have signed up, although Nigeria, the continent's largest economy is yet to endorse the proposal.

The issue of trade may have another dimension for Kagame. "It seems that the visit (from Xi) was an opportunity to take a subtle dig at the U.S. – with which the country is having a small trade spat over second-hand clothing" Jeffery added.

"China relates to Africa as an equal," Kagame said on Monday, a statement "implying that others did not," Jeffery pointed out.

"Kagame is sending a strong message to the U.S. – that Rwanda does not need Washington's 'paternalistic' version of aid when China and India are ready and willing to invest in his country," said Ellis.

Xi and Modi are travelling in Africa ahead of a BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, which begins on Wednesday. Xi's Africa itinerary began in Senegal over the weekend, and will also include a stop in Mauritius after the South Africa meeting. Meanwhile, Modi travelled to Uganda on Tuesday.

Indian bikes on China-made roads can help us understand the Indo-China equation in Rwanda.

<https://theprint.in/opinion/china-is-building-rwandas-gigantic-vision-city-modi-just-gifted-them-cows/89151/>

Narendra Modi was India's first Prime Minister to visit Rwanda. He landed just after Xi Jinping became China's first President to visit the east African country. It was not mere coincidence.

While several analysts often restrict the Indo-China battle for influence in the south Asian region and to the 'string of pearls', the two countries compete with each other in several ways beyond Asia. An interesting example of this can be seen in east Africa, where both nations are gaining ground in different ways.

Rwanda is among Africa's fastest growing economies, a spectacular comeback after the genocide of the Tutsis, which eliminated not just 10 per cent of their population but also its intelligentsia- only two decades ago. Rwandese President Paul Kagame is currently the chairperson of the African Union and the strategic location of the country makes it all the more relevant in the continent. There is an increasing realisation in both India and China, and rightly so, that they cannot assess their global standing only on the basis of their Euro-American relations.

China's hard power is on mighty display in the capital city of Kigali, where a Chinese company is helping the city bridge its looming housing deficit by building the country's largest real estate project aptly named the "Vision City". It is not just housing and real estate, China has helped the country make 70 per cent of its roads, has substantial investments in their manufacturing sector across the spectrum, and is also working at strengthening rail connectivity in the region.

These efforts cannot merely be viewed in the context of China's ambitious 'Belt and Road Initiative'. China was the first country to open its mission in Kigali after the genocide and has been investing in the country ever since. Like in Pakistan, these interventions have come with Mandarin classes to bridge the cultural divide.

In contrast, Modi's move to gift 200 cows under the Girinka Programme in the Rweru Model village makes the comparison look amusing and one-sided. But there is more than what meets the eye. Not only does this move strike a cord with the local custom of gifting cows, it adds to India's inherent strength in international relations that is its soft power.

Motorbikes imported from India are among Rwanda's most popular form of public transport. They will take you to the airport, to the lanes and bylanes, not only in Kigali but also in far-flung districts like genocide-hit Kirehe. These bikes are popular by the name "Motos" and are able to ply on the kutcha (mud) roads in rural Rwanda, where connectivity can become challenging- especially during the rains.

Many educated teenagers in Rwanda look upon India as an affordable destination for higher education. They are aware that several heads of states in Africa have studied in India, including a former Prime Minister of neighbouring Tanzania. The key to understanding Africa lies in the maps one will see in public places there, which are often of the African continent and hardly of just any one country. This is why the discrimination meted out towards any one country's residents in India quickly become national headlines in all the countries.

Rwandese relate to Bollywood movies and songs and have their own favourites. On seeing a brown (Indian) person, several children in rural Rwanda can gather to perform the "chicken dance" from the 'Kuk-doo-Koo' song in Bajrangi Bhaijaan.

On the culinary plane, both Indian and Chinese cuisines are gaining ground in the country. Overall, while China's approach in building influence seems systematic and government-driven, it is only now that India has announced that it will open a mission in Rwanda. If India aspires to be a power of eminence, it cannot leave everything to be done by its diaspora, or as PM Modi called them in Kigali, our "rashtradoots". The rajdoots will also have to be brought into the picture. India should assess its inherent strengths and build upon that advantage in planning out its trade policies and people-to-people contact. In a nutshell, Indian bikes on China-made roads can help us understand the Indo-China equation in Rwanda.

The author has worked in rural Rwanda and attended the "Experiencing China" course at Tsinghua University, Beijing. He is a law graduate from Oxford University and can be contacted at abhijaynegi93@gmail.com

TANZANIA :

Tanzania to benefit from \$175bn US gas project

By Njiraini Muchira The Citizen Correspondent

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/Tanzania-to-benefit-from--175bn-project/1840340-4681886-hvvi0yz/index.html>

Nairobi — Tanzania is set to benefit from an ambitious US-led initiative to invest in gas-powered power plants in Africa.

Through the initiative, US companies will invest \$175 billion in gas power projects in Tanzania and eight other African countries, namely Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa.

The initiative is in its preliminary stages and it is not yet known which country would get how much of the planned investment.

The earmarked countries were selected because of their relatively large populations, high gross domestic product and either because they have local gas resources (in operation or under development) or are planning liquefied natural gas (LNG) import projects.

The initiative, known as the Gas Roadmap for sub-Saharan Africa, was launched in June at the World Gas Conference in Washington, by the US Agency for International Development's Power Africa co-ordinator. It seeks to add some 16,000MW of gas-fired power in nine countries by 2030.

"A key ingredient in Africa's energy mix is, and will continue to be, clean natural gas. Natural gas and LNG projects have the potential to generate essential electricity quickly and at reasonable prices," wrote Mr Rick Perry, US Secretary of Energy, in the Power Africa Gas Roadmap to 2030, strategy report.

The gas roadmap is part of the Power Africa Initiative launched in 2016.

Gas resources have been discovered in 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Tanzania is set to benefit more because, according to reports, its undeveloped gas fields together with those of Mozambique account for 62 per cent of total contingent resources in Africa.

With Tanzania's proven natural gas reserves standing at 57 trillion cubic feet, the country envisages a larger role for natural gas in the future energy mix, with gas-fired power plant capacity anticipated to grow from 1,501MW in 2015 to 4,915MW in 2040, according to the country's power master plan.

In April, the government inaugurated a \$345 million natural gas-powered plant at Kinyerezi, outside Dar es Salaam, which has a capacity to generate 167.82MW. Other projects at Kinyerezi are on the pipeline with a possible capacity of more than 600MW.

Tanzania's current power generation capacity is 1,310.7MW of which hydro-generated power is 561.843 MW and thermal gas and diesel generation is 748.876MW.

According to the roadmap, the US government interventions will focus on addressing the constraints related to gas projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

These include the availability of gas (both from a source as well as delivery method perspective), financial strength of off-takers of power and gas, lag in downstream infrastructure, such as power transmission and distribution capacity and the various markets' ability to absorb power and gas.

"By focusing on decreasing fuel costs, development costs and the cost of capital, the best possible tariffs for the end user can be realised," states the roadmap.

Apart from being clean energy, gas is highly competitive as a source of power with studies showing that prices for gas-to-power could run as low as \$0.10 per kilowatt hour (kWh) for integrated LNG projects and \$0.15 per kWh for small-scale and distributed power projects.

Both projected prices are lower than the \$0.18 per kWh average cost of generation in sub-Saharan Africa.

US senator demands Trump action on Tanzania situation

Sunday, July 22, 2018

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/-US-senator-demands-Trump-action-on-Tanzania-situation/1840340-4675360-snnq0cz/index.html>

Mr Bob Menendez (pictured), a senator from New Jersey, on the Democratic party ticket, is pushing the US government to immediately nominate an ambassador to Tanzania to lead diplomatic efforts to push back against what he termed “the tide of anti-democratic actions.” The diplomatic post, he says, “...has been vacant for well over a year.”

KENYA :

Blog twists Obama statement about being first president from Kenya

By Heaven Taylor-Wynn on Wednesday, July 25th, 2018 at 1:22 p.m

<https://www.politifact.com/punditfact/statements/2018/jul/25/supremeinsidercom/did-obama-admit-being-born-kenya/>

Former U.S. President Barack Obama gestures to the crowd during an event in Kogelo, Kisumu, Kenya, on July 16, 2018. Obama was in Kenya to launch a sports and training center founded by his half-sister, Auma Obama. (AP)

A website revived suspicion of Barack Obama's birthplace by using a quote from the former president's recent visit to Kenya out of context.

The headline published on Supremeinsider.com says, "Barack Obama: I'm 'the First Sitting American President to Come From Kenya' (Video)."

Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4, 1961, to Barack Obama Sr., who is Kenyan, and Ann Dunham, of Kansas.

The story comes with a one-minute video from Obama's visit in Kenya in mid July 2018. Obama was in the country for the launch of a sports and training center founded by his sister, Auma Obama, through her Sauti Kuu Foundation. The next stop on his African trip was South Africa where he delivered the annual Mandela Lecture in Johannesburg.

The clip from the grand opening of the center in Kogelo shows him saying, "Three years ago, I visited Kenya as the first sitting American president to come from Kenya."

He's talking about a July 2015 trip to Kenya and Ethiopia for the annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

Obama did use those words (check the 5:50-minute mark of this video). But it doesn't support the impression the article gives, which is that birther claims should be re-investigated because Obama admitted he "comes from Kenya." The article frames his comment as a "slip."

The article goes on to cite an Economist/YouGov.com poll — from Decembrer 2016 — that found one-third of Americans don't believe Obama was born in Hawaii. Of the 1,345 people polled about the statement "President Obama was born in Kenya," 12 percent responded Definitely True and 24 percent responded Probably True.

The article uses this doubt coupled with Obama's admission in his speech to suggest that there's some truth to claims that he was born in Kenya. The article later calls for an investigation into the matter to find out if Obama was ever eligible to be president.

"I still want it investigated if he was even born here and eligible to be President! He could be thrown in jail and all he owns confiscated and sold!!" Alex Hall wrote.

We wanted to look into the claim and see if Obama really said he was the first sitting president to come from Kenya. It turns out he did.

Obama released a birth certificate back in 2011 when he was pressured by Donald Trump and the birther movement.

The article also includes a tweet from Obama's brother Malik Obama that includes a Kenyan birth certificate that's supposed to document birth details of the former president. We debunked this back in 2009 with a fact-check where a Kenyan official confirms the certificate is phony.

The article doesn't consider that the former president is describing his heritage rather than alluding to his father's home country being his actual place of birth. (We reached out to Obama's adviser Eric Schultz for a comment and received no response.)

The article takes his statement of being "from" somewhere to mean that he literally grew up there. Obama has denied being born outside of the United States on several occasions.

Part of our process is to reach out to the author of claims we're checking. The author of this story, Alex Hall, has authored nine other stories for Supreme Insider but none of them have contact information. A reverse image search of his profile photo revealed that it's a generic photo of a man wearing a t-shirt that's found on several other sites across the internet, such as Pinterest.
Our ruling

A story on Supremeinsider.com says "Barack Obama: I'm 'the First Sitting American President to Come From Kenya' (Video)."

In the video from his speech in Kenya Obama does say he's the "first sitting American president to come from Kenya." The article, however, goes on to suggest that this comment invalidates any past efforts Obama has made to assure that he was born in the United States and call for an investigation.

The message from Obama's speech was misinterpreted to mean he was born and/or raised in Kenya when he was actually saying that he is of Kenyan heritage. There's no evidence to prove Obama was not born in the United States.

We rate this claim Mostly False.

Let's join hands to fight corruption, Uhuru urges Kenyans

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/07/27/lets-join-hands-to-fight-corruption-uhuru-urges-kenyans_c1793686

Jul. 27, 2018, 6:00 am By EMMANUEL WANJALA @itswanjala

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday made a passionate appeal to Kenyans to join efforts in the fight against corruption.

In a message on Twitter, the president said the war against the menace was for the betterment of all in the country.

"Wakenya wenzangu (fellow Kenyans), the war against corruption and economic crimes is about the well being of our Republic. Let's all join hands and vigorously fight this vice," Uhuru said.

In a show of walking the talk, the president has in recent months led from the front in pushing for the punishment of those implicated in corruption.

The Head of State said corruption, if not contained, will curtail the implementation of his Big Four Agenda on which he wants to rally on to leave a lasting legacy in his final term.

While addressing the 8th Presidential Round Table Forum at State House, Nairobi, on May 10, the president said time has come for the country to rise up as one and say no to corruption.

"We must address the real elephant in the room. We must say enough is enough for the country to move forward", he said.

Read: I won't let graft derail my Big Four Agenda - Uhuru

The president said it was time for Kenyans to be blunt and honest with one another especially when things go wrong.

"We are all to blame. But we must now say enough is enough and move forward", the President said.

To this end, the president has called for a lifestyle audit of all public servants, including himself and Deputy President William Ruto.

He also directed all procurement officers in public entities to step aside and undergo fresh vetting, including taking polygraph tests.

The president also directed the relevant institutions mandated with investigating and prosecuting economic crimes to do a thorough job and ensure those found culpable, even if it's his brother, are held accountable.

The result of this has seen the Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji order the arrest of senior officials at the National Youth Service and Kenya Power and take them to court.

UGANDA :

In Uganda, Modi says Africa is a top priority for India

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

July 25, 2018 —

<http://www.startribune.com/in-uganda-modi-says-africa-is-a-top-priority-for-india/489092011/>

KAMPALA, Uganda — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged Wednesday to "intensify and deepen" his country's engagement with Africa, saying his government will do more to support governments across the continent.

In remarks to Uganda's legislature, Modi said that "Africa will be at the top of our priorities," adding that India intends to open 18 embassies in Africa.

He later was set to attend the BRICS summit of emerging economies in South Africa.

"India is proud to be Africa's partner," Modi said. "Our development partnership will be guided by your priorities. It will be on terms that will be comfortable for you, that will liberate your potential and not constrain your future."

Uganda's government depends heavily on outside money, especially loans from Chinese banks, to implement increasingly ambitious infrastructure projects.

India has been trying to expand trade relationships in Africa. Total trade between them increased almost five-fold between 2005 and 2016, reaching \$52 billion, according to the trade group Confederation of Indian Industry. In 2015 Modi invited African leaders to New Delhi for an India-Africa summit that was the biggest of its kind.

The Indian prime minister on Tuesday announced his government would lend Uganda up to \$205 million to expand its electricity grid and boost commercial farming.

In his remarks to Uganda's legislature, Modi extolled the ideals of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, saying: "India's freedom will remain incomplete so long as Africa remains in bondage."

India's government is planning to build a Gandhi heritage center at the source of the Nile River in eastern Uganda where some of Gandhi's ashes were immersed, he said during his two-day visit.

Uganda has a substantial Indian community, including a group of industrialists who have flourished in the years since they returned to claim assets that had been seized during the rule of dictator Idi Amin.

In 1972 Amin ordered the expulsion of Asians, many of them Indian traders, from this East African country, saying he wanted to put the economy back in the hands of Ugandans. Most of the seized property has since been handed back to the original owners by President Yoweri Museveni's government.

Since then businessmen of Indian origin have invested heavily in Uganda's manufacturing, agricultural processing and pharmaceutical sectors.

Uganda, India sign defence pact

Wednesday July 25 2018

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Uganda-India-sign-defence-pact/688334-4679828-eyfp1z/index.html>

By MISAIRI THEMBO KAHUNGU

Kampala. Uganda and India yesterday signed a defence pact that will see the two countries strengthen existing ties in military training.

The defence deal was one of four memoranda of understanding (MoU) signed at State House Entebbe at the start of a two-day state visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Other agreements signed yesterday included exemption for visa requirements for holders of diplomatic passports travelling between the two countries, cultural cooperation and exchange programme, and establishing a regional materials testing laboratory.

Without elaborating, President Museveni said: "We shall cooperate in a number of training areas; most of the details are in the signed protocol."

On his part Mr Modi said in addition to military training, his government will also give Uganda ambulances and other vehicles to be used by the army.

In a joint communique issued at State House Entebbe yesterday, the two leaders said they were committed to combating terrorism in all its forms.

"Both leaders agreed that terrorism poses a grave threat to global peace and stability and reiterated their strong commitment to combat it in all its forms and manifestations. They stressed that there could be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever," the joint statement read in part.

Trade

President Museveni also told journalists that Mr Modi announced during their one-on-one meeting that his government would extend a \$200 million credit to Uganda that will be spent in buying products from India.

The President said Uganda will use the credit to buy machinery for value addition to agricultural products.

"Prime Minister Modi has said his country will extend to us \$200 million (about Shs742.4 billion) worth of credit and we shall use the money to buy things from India," Mr Museveni said.

He instructed the Uganda Development Bank (UDB) to plan for the credit so that the value addition machines are imported from India, adding that the country had "slept" by not using the \$10 million credit India extended to Uganda during the last Africa-India summit.

The two leaders also agreed to maintain the strong business ties between Uganda and India as the two countries will continue buying each other's products.

"Uganda will continue buying their (Indian) products as they also buy our products. In 2015, we spent \$1.2 billion on Indian imports but it has reduced to \$736 million today. However, we now export products worth \$44 million up from \$24 million in 2015," Mr Museveni added.

Tourism

To boost tourism, the two leaders agreed to market the Ugandan tourism sector.

Describing Uganda's weather as one of the best, President Museveni said the Indian tourists would pour a lot of dollars into the Ugandan economy.

“I now ask the prime minister for a chance to allow Uganda Airlines to fly direct to Bombay city because this would be able to deal with tourists coming to Uganda,” Mr Museveni said.

Healthcare

The two leaders also discussed how to strengthen healthcare ties, with Uganda having been sending hundreds of patients for specialised medical attention at top Indian hospitals every year.

Mr Museveni said: “On the side of healthcare, the prime minister is proposing that some Indian groups come and invest here in healthcare. The exodus of Ugandans to India seeking treatment would be less.”

Prime Minister Modi commended President Museveni for inviting him for bilateral talks saying his country will support Uganda in capacity building, technology and infrastructure development.

He also promised to support the Uganda Cancer Institute with the donation of a cancer therapy machine.

Premier Modi, who arrived in Uganda from the neighbouring Rwanda, was received by President Museveni at State House Entebbe where he inspected a guard of honour before the two held talks.

Last evening, Mr Modi and President Museveni addressed thousands of Indians living and working in Uganda at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala.

Mr Modi will today address a business forum at Serena Conference Centre before addressing the Parliament of Uganda.

INDIANS IN UGANDA

There more than 30,000 Indians living in Uganda and some of them have been pushing to be recognised as one of the tribes here.

The Indian government also promised to construct a Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre at the Source of River Nile in Jinja where portions of ashes of the remains of first Indian prime minister were scattered.

mkthembo@ug.nationmedia.com

Uganda President Museveni gets court's nod to seek sixth term

Friday July 27 2018

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/Uganda-top-court-backs-lifting-presidential-age-limit/4552908-4683384-yqd7yh/index.html>

By The EastAfrican

More by this Author

Uganda's Constitutional Court delivered its ruling on the consolidated presidential age limit petition at the High Court in Mbale on Thursday.

The court was to rule on a number of issues among them the lifting of the age caps, extension of the term of Parliament and the raid on the House last year.

In the verdict, the five-judge bench, by a majority of 4-1, upheld the removal of the 75-year age limit that allows President Yoweri Museveni, now 73 and in office for 32 years, to seek a sixth term. The judges also ruled against the reinstatement of the presidential two-term limits which were scrapped in 2005 to allow Mr Museveni seek re-election.

Parliament

The court unanimously rejected the extension of the tenure of Parliament and Local Councils by two years, stating it was unconstitutional to amend the law without subjecting it to a referendum.

The judges termed the move by the lawmakers as "selfish" and subjective to "narrow personal interests above the public good".

This means that elections will continue to be held every five years and are due in 2021.

Constitutional Court judges at Mbale High Court

Uganda's Constitutional Court judges at Mbale High Court during the ruling on presidential age limit petition on July 26, 2018. PHOTO | MORGAN MBABAZI | NMG

Petitioners had also sought the court to declare as illegal the suspension of Members of Parliament by Speaker Rebecca Kadaga after a dramatic scuffle during debate on the age limit Bill last year.

The court declined stating that the Speaker had to take action given the circumstances in the House.

On the raid by security operatives who evicted mainly opposition MPs from Parliament on the September 27 incident, the judges said the conduct of lawmakers necessitated some intervention but condemned the handling of the incident.

The five judges were deputy Chief Justice Alfred Owiny Dollo, judges Kenneth Kakuru, Remmy Kasule, Cheborion Barishaki and Elizabeth Musoke.

Inside govt's ambitious plan for Uganda airline

July 25, 2018 - Written by Alon Mwesigwa

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/58273-inside-govt-s-ambitious-plan-for-uganda-airline.html>

In the blueprint to national airline revival, the current government proposes to implement the delicate venture in three phases – starting with consolidating regional routes and then international routes in 2021, writes ALON MWESIGWA.

Uganda will spend \$319 million (Shs 1.2 trillion) in aircraft acquisition to ply regional and international routes in phases 1 and 2, according to the blueprint laid out by the government.

The country also needs additional start-up capital of \$70m (Shs 270bn) required to launch the airline. There was an option for leasing aircraft which would have been cheaper but government says purchasing the core fleet of airplanes would be more appropriate.

Members of the aviation fraternity like Capt Francis Babu say it would have been better to first lease the aircraft as the government studied the performance.

But the 136-page blueprint written for the government by an audit and consulting firm (names withheld) says: "In contrast, cash outflows in the form of lease charges would only work to benefit international lessors with aircraft title remaining outside the company."

"Newer aircraft are more fuel-efficient compared to old ones and benefit from technological advances that lower the fuel burn. The acquisition of new aircraft is accompanied by support packages that help start-up airlines to build own internal capacity to operate and maintain aircraft efficiently."

Government, therefore, says the decision to buy was also because several countries are enforcing lower carbon emissions from airlines flying into their airspace. New aircraft have lower carbon emissions – meaning they will have no problem entering certain airspaces.

Efforts to revive the national airline come against a backdrop of heavy pessimism from many ordinary Ugandans and some top public officials. The Observer understands that even Bank of Uganda wrote to the president dissuading him from the venture, saying it will be a financial burden to the country.

Some officials at the ministry of finance, which will own 99 per cent of the airline according to the plan, have also spoken against the venture.

Ministry of Works and Transport will own one per cent of the airline. In a carefully worded article in 2016, Jim Mugunga, the ministry of finance publicist, said: "The reality is that post-2016 airline

management has to be professional, experienced and competent. The government appointments and interference, failed ideology, backward thinking and corruption have no place here.”

Indeed, early in the plan document, government interference is identified as the biggest threat to the airline. It says: “Government involvement in the business operations of a national carrier can deter the primary business objective of profit maximisation and hinder optimal efficiency.”

Slow, legislative decisions have the potential to impair operations of the airline, the plan says.

It refers to successful national carriers such as Ethiopia Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Egypt Air which have categorically rejected government involvement in management and as a result they have remained profitable and sustainable.

“Failure to run the company as a separate legal entity from its stakeholders...would create bureaucratic-slow systems, which are inadequate to address dynamic markets,” the plan reads.

This means that even the consultants who wrote the document acknowledge that it will take unwavering discipline for the airline to succeed.

“And it can succeed,” said Babu, adding “only if it can rise above the culture of corruption, nepotism, [and] intrigue.”

Babu observes, “the political will is there because they have started the airline. The onus is on government to make sure the industry works.”

The retired flight captain, however, points out the reality that the airline can only begin to see a profit after five to seven years. The consultants gave the ambitious target of one year to profit.

The government must marshal significant resources in order to meet operational, maintenance and expansion costs essential in the very competitive aviation industry.

“Poor financing usually pushes management to cut corners, which is detrimental to the business,” the blueprint reads.

In the first two years, Uganda National Airlines will fly regional routes, introducing international flights at the third year. For the regional network, the plan says, the Bombardier CRJ900 next-generation aircraft was found suitable.

The Montreal-based airplane maker Bombardier announced last week it had signed an MoU with Uganda National Airlines to sell four of such planes. It has 12 business-class seats and 64 economy class.

The plan projected that had the purchase agreement been signed in January 2018, the planes would have been available in August and September. Since they signed this month, it will take another eight months to have the planes ready.

According to the official analysis of regional routes, the Entebbe-Nairobi leg had the largest market. It is followed by Kilimanjaro, Kigali, Johannesburg and Juba.

It also found underserved markets to Khartoum, Mogadishu, Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Goma, Mombasa, Lagos, and Accra. These will be the national airline’s regional routes, according to the plan.

Long-haul routes that come into the picture around 2021 will be flown by the Airbus A330-800 Neo aircraft which, though not flown by any carrier anywhere in the world, is highly praised in the blueprint.

“This aircraft uses proven technology to deliver economic advantages on long haul flights and has a seating capacity of 257 in the chosen three class layout. This improved version of the classic A330-200 is equipped with new technology engines that leverage on geared fan advantages to lower maintenance costs and deliver efficiency in fuel consumption,” says the plan, despite the fact that Uganda is the first country to buy this model since 2014 when it first came onto the market. Most countries go for the A330-900 model.

For the routes, based on 2016 data compiled by airline industry-tracking concern, Sabre, the country’s planners found that Dubai, London, Mumbai and Guangzhou in China will return the most profit – accounting for 60 per cent of the origin traffic.

“The initial long-haul network for the airline is, therefore, based on flights to these key points with the market size being used to determine the aircraft capacity required,” the plan reads. “These

routes will be launched using the Airbus A330Neo aircraft, configured in a three-class layout as per market requirements with feed from the short-haul intra-Africa regional network.”

As at the end of 2016, passengers carried through Entebbe were 1.6 million – a two per cent growth from the year before. The plan notes that lack of convenient scheduling and affordable pricing on the majority of routes has stifled growth which in turn has resulted in the stagnation of tourism.

PROFITABLE

Government plans to borrow all the money that will be initially invested in the airline. It estimated it would be at five per cent interest and payable between five and 10 years. The overly-ambitious plan claims that in the first year of operation (2019), the airline will post a profit of \$3.9m. This will jump to \$ 7.2m in the second year.

Profitability is impacted by the introduction of long-haul flights resulting into a loss of \$6.1 million in 2021, the third year of the operation.

According to the plan, the international flights section is expected to make losses for the first five years. The airline is cash-positive throughout the plan period with bank and cash balances increasing significantly after year 10 when the majority of the loans for aircraft purchase should have been repaid. Net cash generated from operations increases from \$10.6 million in year 1 to \$28.7 million in year 5.

Uganda’s discovery of oil is also seen as an advantage that will boost the airline business. Other minerals like gold, copper, tantalite and tin, all around the country, the plan reads, have led to an increase in economic activity throughout the country.

The role played by air transport in this light cannot be understated, it said. But it said for its sustainability, Uganda must ensure Ugandans’ disposable income improves so they are able to travel a little bit more.

The industry is highly regulated with licensing and registration procedures that require significant effort to complete. In addition, airlines do not have control of traffic rights and require permission from their home countries and the respective government authorities in all targeted markets before any flights can commence.

Fuel will be the biggest outlay (27%) to grapple with as direct operating costs. This will be followed by maintenance, flight crew costs, lease charges, handling and dispatch fees, respectively. These costs make the aviation industry one of the most expensive and, therefore, a need to carefully think through whatever decision is made.

Market access will be key. Uganda already has agreements it signed before the collapse of the defunct Uganda Airlines. It can probably still use them to access certain markets. However, it will have to leverage free market access agreed on by African countries in the framework of the 2017 Yamoussoukro Decision taken in Cote d’Ivoire, which liberalises the continent’s air-spaces.

Yet even with these glowing numbers, one thing is for sure: government must not repeat the past mistakes: under capitalisation, political interference, grand corruption and non-commercial decision-making which condemned the past airline to its grave.

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SUDAN :

Sudan armed groups decide to reunify SRF factions

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65935>

July 26, 2018 (KHARTOUM) - The two factions of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) agreed to reunify the rebel umbrella which had split in October 2015 into two factions one led by Malik Agar and another by Gibril Ibrahim.

The reunification's decision was announced after extensive discussions, comprehensive review of the past experiences and the extrapolation of the present and future tasks of the revolutionary action said a joint statement released at the end of a three-day meeting.

The rebel alliance which includes the Justice and Equality Movement of Gibril Ibrahim, (JEM) Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minnawi (SLM-MM) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North of Malik Agar (SPLM-N Agar) and other factions from eastern Sudan agreed on the importance of the SRF as a strategic alliance defending the cause of the marginalized people and other national democratic forces in Sudan.

The statement said that the SRF forces felt the need to develop the rebel umbrella as a historical bloc capable of radical change but also pointed that their unity will positively contribute to strengthening Sudan Call alliance which gathers political and armed opposition groups.

The split occurred in October 2018 when the JEM, SLM-MM and SLM-Abdel Wahid and Democratic Unionist Party faction led Tom Hajo elected Gibril Ibrahim as the chairman of the SRF in the absence of the SPLM-N and its allied factions of the National Umma Party-Naser al-Din and the United Popular Front for Liberation and Justice (UPFLJ).

On 18 October 2015, three groups from Darfur region - JEM, Sudan Liberation Movement Abdel Wahid al-Nur (SLM-AW) and Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM) - plus a splinter faction of the Democratic Unionist Party led by al-Tom Hajo announced the election of Ibrahim as chairperson of the rebel umbrella replacing Agar who led the alliance since its creation.

At the time, there was a conflict between the SRF groups of over the chairpersonship of the alliance, following their failure to reach an agreement on a mechanism for rotating leadership.

The statement said the meeting set up a committee to lay the foundations and rules on which the two SRF factions will be united.

The two SFR factions furthermore called on the SPLM-N led by Abdel Aziz Hilu and the SLM-AW to rejoin them and form one alliance of the armed groups.

In a meeting held in Addis Ababa Last February, the SRF led by Minni Minnawi agreed with the SPLM-N Hilu to reunite the SRF factions. But, since al-Hilu declined even to take part in the Sudan call alliance meeting asking that the SPLM-N Agar changes its name. (ST)

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan government, SPLM-IO initial governance agreement

Thursday 26 July 2018

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65926>

June 25, 2018 (KHARTOUM) - South Sudanese government and SPLM-IO initialled power-sharing and governance agreement on Wednesday while other political opposition groups rejected the deal pointing that it didn't resolve the issue of the 32 states established in violation of the 2015 peace pact.

As the discussions were recently focused on the issue of the states, on Wednesday morning, the Sudanese mediators released a new proposal maintaining the power-sharing at the local government level despite Juba opposition and providing to hold a referendum if the parties fail to reach an agreement over the fate of the 32 states at the level of the Independent Boundaries Commission.

The signing ceremony was attended by the government negotiating delegation including senior ministers, and the Riek Machar who avoided to issue any public statement during the negotiations unlike the other opposition or the government delegations.

Sudanese foreign minister who endorsed the role of chief mediator announced in his speech at the initialling ceremony that final signing ceremony will take place on 5 August 2018 in the presence of the IGAD leaders.

El-Dirdeiry Mohamed Ahmed further reiterated Sudan's keenness to continue its efforts to bring the holdout groups to join the agreement.

According to the agreement which is the last issue of contention in the peace revitalization process the transitional government, tasked with the implementation of the peace agreement, will be composed of 35 ministers. The incumbent government will get 20 ministers, SPLM-IO 9 ministers, SSOA 3 ministers, FDs 2 ministers and OPP one minister.

Machar will be reinstated as First Vice President, and with him, there will be four other vice-presidents. All of them they will form a collegial presidency with President Salva Kiir to deliver the content of the peace agreement and achieve democratic and institutional reforms during the 30-month transitional period.

The Parliament will consist of 550 parliamentarians with 332 members from Kiir's government, 128 from Machar's group, 50 members from SSOA, 30 members from OPP and 10 members from FDs.

The political opposition groups which rejected the military action during the nearly past five years believe the current percentage of representation will deprive them of playing an important role during the transitional period. It is not clear now which role they can play during the transitional period.

Observers in Juba say SSOA- FDs's rejection may weaken Machar position during the transitional period. But an opposition leader stated to Sudan Tribune under the cover of anonymity that they will be free from any constraints and act as an initial sounding-board to explain their ideas.

ENOUGH WELCOMES THE DEAL

Rights advocacy group Enough Project welcomed the initialling of the power-sharing deal in Khartoum but stressed on the need for an inclusive peace and achieve the needed reform for the sake of peace and democracy in the new nation.

"The narrowing of the gaps between the primary warring parties in the South Sudanese conflict is welcome news. However, an inclusive peace is the only peace that will ever be sustainable," said John Prendergast, Founding Director of the Enough Project and Co-Founder of The Sentry.

for his part, Brian Adeba, an Enough Deputy Director of Policy pointed to the need to avoid concentration of power in few hands to avoid a return of war.

"The contentious issue of state borders requires the utmost independence and impartiality in its management to deter political machinations that favour one side" he further added.

(ST)

EGYPTE :

Thousands petition to drink the 'mummy juice' sewage water found inside the uncovered Egyptian sarcophagus

Will it give us super powers? No, probably not

By Emily Rolen Philly Voice Staff

<https://www.phillyvoice.com/egyptian-sarcophagus-mummy-juice-petition-alexandria-egypt/>

Just when you thought the Internet couldn't get any more bizarre, enter the Egyptian sarcophagus story.

If you haven't been following this phenomena, buckle up. It started on July 1, when Egyptian scientists uncovered a black, granite sarcophagus in Alexandria, Egypt. The Ministry of Antiquities discovered that the tomb probably dated back to the Ptolemaic era, between 305 and 30 BCE and had remained unopened since.

There was a lot of speculation surrounding what (or who) was inside the coffin — could it be Alexander the Great, whose body has never been found? People needed to know.

So last week, scientists opened the coffin and to some people's delight (or dismay if you're one of those) no treasure or ancient curse was found. And it wasn't Alexander. Darn.

Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, was at the burial site the day scientists opened the sarcophagus.

"We've opened it and, thank God, the world has not fallen into darkness," he told the BBC. "I was the first to put my whole head inside the sarcophagus ... and here I stand before you ... I am fine."

But scientists did find three skeletons sitting in a red liquid, which was actually just sewage that had leaked into the tomb and disintegrated some of the remains. And apparently, it absolutely reeked. Scientists told the media they had to leave the site for a while to collect themselves before returning to the dig.

Experts speculated that the skeletons were part of a family, but concluded the remains most likely belong to three military officers. One of the skeletons had remnants of an arrow still in the head, and most likely died in conflict, a ministry official told CNN.

A Change.org petition was created after the sarcophagus' opening, and this is when things get weird.

"we [sic] need to drink the red liquid from the cursed dark sarcophagus in the form of some sort of carbonated energy drink so we can assume its powers and finally die," the petition reads.

Someone using the handle "innes mck" had collected more than 18,000 signatures on the petition as of Monday afternoon from people who agree that, yes, we should drink the "mummy milkshake" poop water that's been fermenting bones for hundreds of years.

Some of the reasons for signing: "I wanna be immortal," "I'm thirsty," "I want my share of the power," "Because freedom," "We must be enlightened," and so on.

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Egypt goes against IMF advice, boosting public investments

David Awad July 26, 2018

Read more: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/07/egypt-parliament-confidence-government-investment-public-ppp.html#ixzz5MRUg7TOu>

CAIRO — Egypt's parliament gave its vote of confidence to the new government July 24, signifying its approval of new Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli, Cabinet members, and the government's social, economic and political policy statement.

This program, however, stirred wide controversy as Finance Minister Mohammed Moaet announced July 5 that the government will increase its investments to 100 billion Egyptian pounds (\$5.6 billion) from 70 billion pounds (\$3.9 billion) in the 2017-18 fiscal program.

The increase directly contradicts International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendations for Egypt's economic reform program, which say the government should reduce its investment role and expand the private sector's contribution. The IMF approved a \$12 billion loan to the Egyptian government in November 2016 to finance the economic reform plan.

Asked to comment on Egypt's government investment expansion, Subir Lall, head of the IMF mission to Egypt, told Al-Monitor the IMF believes the private sector can grease Egypt's economic wheels, achieve rapid growth and provide job opportunities.

"The government wouldn't be able to [accommodate] the need for employment at a time when Egypt is required to provide 700,000 job opportunities per year to be able to cope with the huge population growth," he said.

Egypt's public sector stopped hiring people in 2015, as it is overstaffed, employing roughly 7 million civil servants to serve a population of 85 million. In comparison, the United States employs about 2 million in the public sector to serve more than 300 million people. Even when accounting for government contractors and grantees, the United States only employs roughly the same number of people for over three times the population.

Egypt's heavy debt makes it difficult to expand hiring. Meanwhile, private investments offered 486,000 job opportunities in 2017.

"Many developing countries have learned from past experience in economic reform that the state's excessive interference in the economy deprives the private sector of opportunities that can otherwise enable it to achieve economic growth and create jobs in many fields away from any competition with the state and all its resources. In other words, it would be better for the state to either promote public-private partnerships [PPPs] or encourage the private sector to expand," Lall added.

A source from the Egyptian Ministry of Finance told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity that \$5.6 billion in government investments isn't a huge figure and wouldn't impede the private sector or prevent it from expanding. Egypt receives about \$9 billion in foreign investments per year, excluding Egyptian private investments.

The source pointed out that many of the government investments under the new program will be earmarked for developing existing projects. This, he explained, doesn't count as governmental expansion at the expense of the private sector, as most of these projects are PPPs.

The source said most of these investments will focus on oil and gas exploration, power plants and electricity distribution networks, mining projects, infrastructure and development in slum areas.

He also stressed that all the projects include private sector companies as key partners. Chief among these are British Petroleum (BP) and Italy's Eni SpA in the fields of gas and oil; Germany's Siemens AG in power plants; and Orascom Construction Ltd. and Arab Contractors (Osman Ahmed Osman & Co.), both of Cairo, in infrastructure and development in slums.

That information was confirmed by Mohammed Maher, CEO and vice chairman of investment bank Prime Holding for Financial Investments SAE. Prime Holding conducts periodic studies on the impact of government projects and private sector expansion on the stock market. "We are aware of the government's investment plan until 2022, and most of these investments are indeed PPPs," he said.

Maher explained that the government investment plan, in partnership with the private sector, earmarks \$24.4 billion to develop gas and oil fields until 2022. During the same period, \$8.2 billion will go to oil refining projects and \$12.6 billion to build natural gas and oil transmission lines from Egypt to several countries. This would turn Egypt into a regional gas export hub because by 2022 these transmission lines will extend more than about 650 kilometers (404 miles). Also, he added, \$4.2 billion will be dedicated to produce petrochemicals, and \$2.8 billion to expand mining projects, namely gold mining.

"These projects include coal power plants with investments worth \$6 billion and pumped-storage hydroelectricity plants in the Safaga region of the Red Sea at a cost of \$2.7 billion," he added.

Mohammed Fouad, a management professor at Modern Science and Arts University in Cairo, told Al-Monitor that PPPs rescued Egypt's oil sector after the government partnered with Eni, BP and Russia's Rosneft, and in the electricity sector with Siemens. Meanwhile, for infrastructure projects, slum projects and the new administrative capital project, the government partnered with major construction companies.

Fouad pointed out several problems that would prevent the government from providing the necessary liquidity to establish major investments unless it partners with the private sector. Chief among these is the huge budget deficit and accrued interest the state is required to pay annually, especially in light of the huge loans that it has taken out, including the IMF loan in November 2016. Egypt, he said, is required to accelerate the pace of investments in general to provide thousands of job opportunities.

Ahmed Sabri al-Hakim, a traffic engineering and transport planning professor at Al-Azhar University, told Al-Monitor that expanding government investments in transportation would be beneficial if carried out as PPPs.

He added that Egypt had a strong transportation system in the 1990s and early 2000s because it had private sector partnerships with Abu Rajaileh Transport Co. for public transport organization and Heliopolis Co. to manage Heliopolis Metro.

Hakim believes all these services have deteriorated as the private sector role subsided. He said that the only solution to developing transportation and other projects is to turn them into PPPs managed by the private sector.

Found in: Economy and trade

David Awad, an Egyptian journalist, began his career as a trainee at Al-Ahram al-Ektesady and then moved to Radio Mubashir al-Ektesady as a producer. Awad focuses on economics, media and the arts.

ETHIOPIE :

Manager of GERD found dead

26 July 2018 / By Dawit Endeshaw

<https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/article/manager-gerd-found-dead>

By Dawit Endeshaw and Tamiru Tsige

Simegnew Bekele (Eng.), the general manager of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project, which it being built on the Nile River, has been found dead in his vehicle in Addis Ababa's Meskel Square this morning, The Reporter has learnt.

It was also learnt that the engine of the vehicle he has been driving (a Toyota Land Cruiser V8, plate number AA, Code 3, A29722) was running when the police came to the scene.

The location where he was found is a place where sportspeople frequent especially in the morning and the vehicle was standing at a place where cross country buses load and unload. The Reporter witnessed that Simegnew has been wearing a scarf and a baseball cap.

In a press briefing this afternoon, the Commissioner General with the Federal Police Zeynu Jemal said that Simegnew's vehicle was seen at the crime scene at 8:30 am and he checked in his office in the morning at 7:30.

But, it was at 10:57 am that the crime scene was marked by yellow tape.

According to the Commissioner, there has been a pistol on his right hand side and his left side of the neck has been hit with gun.

Before the removal of the body, Sileshi Bekele, the Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Azeb Asnake, the head of the Ethiopian Electric Power, and Zeinu have visited the scene.

Simegnew was in Addis Ababa to orient journalists on the current status of the GERD project which was rumored on social media to have lagged and will not be completed on schedule. He was also scheduled to take journalists for a visit to the project site.

RD CONGO :

Reçue par Léonard She Okitundu : Louise Mushikiwabo à la recherche du soutien de la Rdc

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5b59d80838e3f90004d2037c/>

Kinshasa 26-07-2018 Politique - La ministre rwandaise des Affaires étrangères, Coopération et de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est, Marie-Louise Mushikiwabo, est arrivée mercredi à Kinshasa pour une mission officielle. Rien n'a filtré sur l'objet et le programme de la visite de la cheffe de la diplomatie rwandaise en RDC.

D'aucuns pensent que cette visite serait liée à la recherche d'un appui de la RDC à la candidature de Mme Mushikiwabo au Secrétariat général de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF). A ce sujet, le soutien de la RDC, 1er pays francophone du monde en termes du nombre de locuteurs de la langue française, à la candidature rwandaise serait un atout pour la réussite de Marie-Louise Mushikiwabo.

La cheffe de la diplomatie rwandaise Louise Mushikiwabo fait figure de favorite pour prendre la direction de l'OIF lors du prochain sommet de cette organisation, en octobre, après avoir notamment reçu le soutien de l'Union africaine (UA) au début du mois. Comment l'OIF "va-t-elle pouvoir favoriser le pluralisme des médias et la liberté de la presse conformément à ses objectifs en matière de droits de l'homme, si elle est dirigée par l'une des principales dirigeantes d'un Etat qui piétine le droit à l'information et réprime les journalistes depuis 18 ans", s'interroge dans ce communiqué Christophe Deloire, secrétaire général de RSF.

Pour M. Deloire, "c'est la capacité de l'OIF à défendre les médias et les journalistes libres comme acteurs incontournables du développement dans l'espace francophone qui est en jeu". "Censure, menaces, arrestations, violences, assassinats... Le régime dirigé d'une main de fer par (le président rwandais) Paul Kagame depuis 2000, et dont Louise Mushikiwabo est ministre depuis près de 10 ans, dispose de l'un des pires systèmes de répression à l'égard des médias et des journalistes. Son président occupe une place de choix dans la galerie des prédateurs de la presse constituée par RSF", dénonce le communiqué.

Dr Tedros Adhanom à Kinshasa

Par ailleurs, le Directeur général de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), Dr Tedros Adhanom, a atterri mardi à l'aéroport international de N'djili en provenance de Genève en Suisse, en prévision de la déclaration de la fin de l'épidémie de la maladie à virus Ebola ayant sévi dans la province de l'Equateur, au nord de la RDC. La dernière visite du Dr Tedros Adhanom en RDC remonte au mois de mai 2018 où il s'était rendu dans la province victime de cette épidémie. Il avait, à cette occasion, encouragé les efforts du gouvernement et des partenaires dans la riposte de cette contagion.

Cependant, le ministre de la Santé, Oly Ilunga avait déclaré au jour de l'arrivée à Kinshasa du directeur général de l'OMS, la fin de l'épidémie de la maladie à virus Ebola à l'Equateur, après 42 jours d'observation à l'issue de laquelle aucun nouveaux n'a été enregistré. Il sied de rappeler que la maladie à virus Ebola a fait 54 victimes dont 33 personnes décédées et 21 survécus grâce à une riposte rapide, énergique et efficace par des prestataires de soins congolais.

A l'occasion de la fête de l'armée populaire de libération de la Chine : Wang Tongqing loue les prouesses des FARDC

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5b59c57838e3f90004d20373/>

Kinshasa 26-07-2018 Politique - Le 1er août prochain, l'Armée populaire de libération de Chine (APL) va totaliser 91 ans. A cinq jours de cet anniversaire l'Attaché de défense près l'ambassade de Chine en RDC a donné hier à Kinshasa une réception au Fleuve Congo Hôtel. Le Colonel supérieur Ma Fei est revenu notamment sur l'aspect humanitaire de l'Armée chinoise œuvrant dans le contingent onusien en RDC.

Outre les travaux de génie civile (construction de routes, ponts), les militaires chinois s'illustrent positivement dans le secteur de la santé. L'équipe médicale chinoise, souligne l'Attaché de défense, " offre des soins médicaux gratuits aux populations locales ". En plus , a renchéri le Colonel supérieur Ma FEI, " durant leur mandat, chaque médecin et infirmier fait son jumelage avec deux ou trois orphelins pour mieux s'occuper de leurs soins".

Plus globalement, réaffirme l'Attaché de défense, la Chine poursuivra sa coopération avec la RDC et la Communauté internationale pour aider Kinshasa dans sa défense de la souveraineté nationale et de son intégrité territoriale.

Même son de cloche du côté de l'ambassadeur de Chine en RDC. WANG Tongqing a martelé que son pays soutient les efforts d'amélioration de FARDC. Question de permettre à l'Armée congolaise de préserver la souveraineté du pays et d'assurer sa sécurité nationale.

A ce sujet, le chef de la mission diplomatique chinoise en RDC se réjouit des résultats engrangés progressivement par les FARDC. Lesquels, ajoute-il, sont particulièrement encourageants et rassurants.

La Chine révèle le diplomate chinois à l'assistance, est le deuxième plus grand pays contributeur aux opérations de maintien de paix de l'Onu. Depuis 1990, annonce-t-il, Pékin a déjà déployé plus de 37000 casques bleus dans le cadre de 24 opérations de maintien de paix.

Ce chiffre fait de la Chine le pays comptant le plus grand nombre des casques bleus parmi les 5 membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité des Nations- Unies.

Allocution de S.E.M. WANG Tongqing à l'occasion de la Fête de l'Armée Populaire de Libération de la Chine (Kinshasa, le 25 juillet 2018)

Distingués invités,

Chers compatriotes,

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis,

À l'occasion du 91ème anniversaire de la fondation de l'Armée populaire de Libération de la Chine, j'aimerais vous souhaiter, au nom de l'ambassade de Chine en RDC, la bienvenue à la célébration de cette fête importante.

En effet, il y a 91 ans, la Chine connut des troubles intérieurs. Pour y faire face, le Parti communiste chinois a créé une armée populaire, qui a mené une lutte âpre.

Grâce à la bravoure de cette armée, une nouvelle ère s'est ouverte pour la révolution chinoise, la construction du socialisme à la chinoise, la conduite des réformes et l'émergence d'une Chine nouvelle.

Elle sauvegarde la souveraineté, la sécurité et les intérêts du développement de la Chine, et contribue à la prospérité du pays et au bonheur du peuple. L'armée et le peuple chinois sont inséparables comme le poisson et l'eau. L'armée chinoise est une armée qui protège le peuple, qui apporte le bonheur au peuple. C'est ainsi qu'elle est respectée et aimée par le peuple.

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis,

La politique de défense de la Chine repose sur la doctrine qui est de nature purement défensive, tournée vers une voie de développement pacifique. La Chine est disposée, de concert avec les autres pays, à construire une relation internationale de type nouveau, qui privilégie la coopération gagnant-gagnant comme son noyau, et vise à créer une communauté de destin pour l'humanité où nous pouvons partager les réalisations et la prospérité communes.

Depuis 1990, la Chine a déjà déployé plus de 37 000 casques bleus dans le cadre de 24 opérations de maintien de la paix. Maintenant, elle est le pays qui compte le plus grand nombre de casques bleus parmi les cinq membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU.

La Chine est aussi le deuxième plus grand pays à contribuer aux coûts des opérations maintien de la paix de l'ONU. Ainsi, la Chine honore toujours son engagement solennel de sauvegarder la paix mondiale par des actions concrètes.

S'agissant des relations sino-congolaises, elles maintiennent toujours le cap vers un développement sain et stable, à travers divers échanges et de nombreux programmes de coopération entre nos deux pays. La coopération militaire bilatérale ne cesse de progresser et elle produit des résultats fructueux.

La Chine est consciente des difficultés que connaît la RDC dans son processus de réforme du secteur et de la sécurité. Elle soutient les efforts d'amélioration des forces de défense nationale pour lui permettre de préserver sa souveraineté et d'assurer sa sécurité nationales.

Les résultats progressivement récoltés par les FARDC sont particulièrement encourageants et rassurants. La stabilité de la RDC et le renforcement de ses capacités militaires sont un gage pour le développement du pays, mais aussi un levier pour la promotion de la sécurité et du développement dans l'Afrique et dans le monde. C'est cette note d'espoir sur le renforcement des relations entre nos deux pays, particulièrement dans le secteur de coopération militaire.

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis,

Sur ce, je vous invite à lever nos verres pour la célébration du 91ème anniversaire de la fondation de l'Armée populaire de Libération de la Chine, et un bel avenir de sécurité et de développement de notre globe pour les générations présentes et futures. Merci !

Allocution de la fête de l'Armée Chinoise, par le Colonel Supérieur MA FEÏ (le 30 juillet 2018)

Mesdames, messieurs, chers amis »

Bonsoir !

A l'occasion du 91ème anniversaire de la fondation de l'Armée Populaire de Libération de Chine (APL), je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la réception de l'Ambassade de Chine en RDC et me permets de souhaiter aussi la bonne fête à toutes et tous les militaires chinois dans leurs missions respectives en RDC.

En effet, depuis sa fondation le 1er août 1927, sous la direction du Parti Communiste, l'APL a continué à grandir, à se développer, et a contribué remarquablement à la construction socialiste, à la défense de la souveraineté, de la sécurité, des intérêts de développement nationaux, au maintien de la paix mondiale, ainsi qu'à la promotion du progrès de l'humanité.

Depuis le 18ème congrès national du Parti Communiste chinois, sous la direction du Comité Central du Parti et autour du noyau dirigeant du Président M. Xi Jinping, l'APL poursuit l'excellence et la perfection, guidé par le but de renforcer l'armée et d'approfondir complètement la réforme de la force de l'armée et de la défense. L'APL a établi une nouvelle disposition dont la Commission Militaire du Comité Central est chargée de la situation générale ; le théâtre militaire est chargé du combat et les armées sont chargées de la construction. L'APL a réalisé la reconstruction intégrale de la réforme organisationnelle de l'armée et a commencé un pas historique pour construire le système militaire avec le style chinois.

L'armée chinoise préconise les concepts de la sécurité commune, synthétique, coopérative et durable. Elle instaure la relation militaire de non aligné, non-affrontement et non-viser-autre-tiers et promeut la fondation du mécanisme juste et efficace de la sécurité collective et de la confiance mutuelle militaire. Sur la base d'un respect mutuel, d'une égalité et avantage mutuel et d'une coopération gagnant-gagnant, l'APL développera les coopérations pragmatiques avec les armées des différents pays. Avec l'augmentation du pouvoir national de la Chine, l'armée chinoise intensifiera ses efforts pour participer au maintien de la paix internationale, à l'opération du secours humanitaire, et remplira plus de devoirs et responsabilités internationaux pour contribuer plus à la paix mondiale et au développement commun.

Depuis ces dernières années, les armées de nos deux pays ont formé une amitié profonde. Nous avons maintenu une bonne relation de coopération dans le domaine de la formation du personnel et de dons de matériels. La Chine a apporté tout son appui possible au développement moderne de FARDC et au renforcement de force de défense nationale de la RDC en participant aux opérations de rétablissement de la paix des Nations Unies en RDC.

A l'heure actuelle, dans le cadre du maintien de la paix, un contingent de génie, une équipe médicale, 16 observateurs militaires et officiers d'état-major sont en mission en RDC. Pour accomplir parfaitement les divers mandats lui confiés par la MONUSCO, le génie chinois a fait beaucoup de travail au bénéfice de la population congolaise » comme la construction de ponts et de routes. Ils sont bien accueillis par les gouvernements et les peuples locaux. L'équipe médicale chinoise offre des soins médicaux gratuits aux populations locales. En plus, elle prend « SOS Kinderdorf » à Bukavu comme son projet principal, offrant aux enfants locaux des dons en nature, en espèce ou des papeteries scolaires. Durant leur mandat, chaque médecin et infirmière fait son jumelage avec 2 ou 3 orphelins locaux pour mieux s'occuper de leurs soins. Les enfants les appellent « papa et maman venus de la Chine ». Cette contribution a déjà passé 17 ans depuis 2001

et reflète l'esprit d'internationalisme sans frontière des militaires chinois. Dans le futur, la Chine poursuivront sa coopération avec la RDC et la communauté internationale pour soutenir la RDC dans sa défense de la souveraineté nationale et l'intégrité territoriale du pays, ainsi que la reconstruction nationale. Nous espérons que la RDC pourra restaurer très bientôt la paix totale et revitaliser son développement durable dans tous ses territoires.

Que vive l'Armée Populaire de la Libération de la Chine !

Que vive l'amitié Sino-Congolaise !

Que vive l'amitié entre l'armée chinoise et l'armée Congolaise !

Je vous remercie.

Forum des As (CL/GW/Yes)

ZIMBABWE :

Zimbabwe elections: What happened to Mugabe's land reforms?

By newsday

- July 26, 2018

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/07/zimbabwe-elections-what-happened-to-mugabes-land-reforms/>

Zimbabweans will vote in the country's first presidential election since Robert Mugabe stepped down after more than 30 years in office.

In the past few decades, the southern African country has gone from being one of the brightest economies in the region to one of the weakest.

BBC

This dramatic reversal of fortunes has been blamed on a controversial policy introduced by Mr Mugabe in 2000 that led to the seizure of white-owned farms, transferring them to black Zimbabwean ownership.

It was a popular policy among President Mugabe's supporters, who saw it as addressing the wrongs of British colonial rule, which had favoured land ownership by white settlers.

But according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), this programme saw agricultural production plummet and productivity decline.

Both the leading candidates for the presidency have promised a reversal in the country's economic fortunes.

What do the candidates say?

The current president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, of Zanu-PF, had been Mr Mugabe's deputy and assumed office following a brief military intervention last November, which saw the downfall of Mr Mugabe.

Mnangagwa is one of the two leading candidates in the forthcoming election.

On the campaign trail, he has paid lip-service to the land reforms, saying they are "irreversible" – but since he took office, there have already been signs of changes to the landmark policy.

Some white farmers have been allowed to return and compensation for those displaced has also been suggested.

During his campaign, there has been a clear admission of the economic failures of the land reforms from Mr Mnangagwa.

He told the Daily News of Zimbabwe: "The critical thing is that during land reform, productivity collapsed totally, we moved from self-sufficiency to an insecure nation.

"We began importing – we became a beggar."

His main rival for the presidency, Nelson Chamisa, of the opposition MDC party, has also supported continued land reform but hinted at changes.

He told the Daily News: "All of you who got land under the land reform programme should not worry that we will take your farms."

But, on Twitter, he has also said that there is a place for white farmers to return to the land.

"We are in agreement that skilled white farmers must be put back to work – but they must be allocated available land without reversing the land reform," he tweeted.

Ahead of polling day, with improving the economy at the heart of both candidates' election promises, Reality Check looks at whether land reform has been the economic disaster its critics claim or whether there has been an economic upside?

So what is land reform policy?

In 1980, Zimbabwe gained independence from white-minority rule.

At that time, most of the country's arable land was owned by some 4,000 white farmers.

Land reform has historically focused on redistributing land owned by white to black farmers, to correct what the post-independence leadership said were colonial wrongs of the past.

The initial policy of shifting land was focused on “willing seller, willing buyer”.

However, up until 2000 the pace of land redistribution was slow.

Mr Mugabe was also under political pressure after losing a referendum in which he had hoped to gain popular support for a policy permitting the government to forcibly remove land from white farmers.

Following this, and with Mr Mugabe’s support, a mix of government forces and vigilante groups began forcibly taking over white-owned land.

It proved a controversial move, receiving international condemnation.

How did it affect the economy?

Initially, there was a rapid decline in agricultural output.

The Financial Times wrote: “Farm production collapsed and by 2008 output volumes were two-thirds below their peak levels in 2000.”

There was also a disastrous period of hyperinflation, which peaked in 2008. Officials gave up measuring the figure when it reached 80,000,000,000% in November of that year.

Between 2000 and 2009, agricultural revenue declined by \$12bn, according to the commercial farmers’ union.

According to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation, the value of Zimbabwe’s food exports have fallen since 2000, whereas food imports have grown significantly.

‘Remarkably resilient’

However, after initial declines in production, some point to a recovery in Zimbabwe’s second most valuable export – tobacco.

Sales reached record levels this year, according to government data.

The industry was predominantly white-owned but now thousands of black farmers grow tobacco.

The FAO data shows that there has been a recovery in tobacco production and the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board, which represents the industry, says the number of tobacco growers has been increasing since 2006.

Export sales of tobacco – mainly to China – were worth about \$900m (£685m) in 2017.

Ian Scoones, a development economist based at Sussex University, said tobacco was being produced by thousands of smallholders, not a few large-scale farms as before, as a result of the land reforms.

He said: “Smallholder production has been remarkably resilient, increasing over time as people invested in land.”

Mr Scoones has studied the progress of some farms since the land reforms kicked in and has found pockets of success elsewhere too – in the production of certain small grains, for example.

And Joseph Hanlon, a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics, points to the bumper crop of maize in 2017, which he said had been the highest in two decades.

There are clear signs of recovery in some sectors of Zimbabwe’s economy, although unemployment remains high.

Both candidates have recognised shortcomings in the land reform programme and sought to assure Zimbabweans that their policies will put the country back on a better economic footing.

Zimbabwe’s politicians are fighting a vicious battle against fake news and each other

July 27, 2018

<http://www.thezimbabwemail.com/editors-memo-pad/zimbabwes-politicians-are-fighting-a-vicious-battle-against-fake-news-and-each-other/>

Harare, – Zimbabwe’s political parties are winding down their campaigns ahead of elections on Monday (Jul. 30) to pick the first new administration since the ousting of former president Robert Mugabe in November. But as well as battling each other in the run-up to a historic election,

politicians and party officials have been fighting the spread of disinformation, so-called fake news, through social media.

Social media in Zimbabwe has been key through the election season but it has been overwhelmed by disinformation against all the major parties and significant candidates. Twitter, Facebook, and perhaps most importantly, WhatsApp, the leading platform here, have been used for mudslinging both officially and unofficially as the electoral race enters the home stretch.

The allegations and accusations from both sides have at times been so extreme voters might find have found it difficult to know the difference between disinformation from unknown sources versus the absurd claims from established politicians.

The main opposition, MDC Alliance, led by Nelson Chamisa, has alleged president Emmerson Mnangagwa and the ruling Zanu PF party, will manipulate the election results by using a “magical” ballot paper and ink which will turn Chamisa’s votes into votes for the current president. Meanwhile, a message has also been circulating on Twitter and WhatsApp, purportedly from one of Chamisa’s top advisors, advising voters should write CCC on the back of the ballot paper to ensure their votes do not shift to become Mnangagwa’s. Charlton Hwende, a senior MDC Alliance advisor reaffirmed this was a hoax message.

“If voters scribble anything else outside of placing an X in the box of their preferred candidate, this would count as spoilt ballot papers and that is the motivation behind the disinformation and hoax messages,” said political analyst Moses Moyo.

Tensions are high in Zimbabwe as people prepare for the first election in the country’s 38-year history as independent country that will not feature Robert Mugabe. But there are also hopes that there will not be as much political disruption or violence as some of the last elections during the Mugabe years.

So far, fake news appears to be a bigger challenge for opposition candidate, Chamisa who claims Mnangagwa’s team has hired people to do the dirty work of spreading fake news but has offered no evidence.

But it is not just the parties dealing with the impact of fake news, the beleaguered electoral commission has also had to work overtime to correct disinformation peddled through social media about the process and its own personnel. The latest has been a false story about the resignation of ZEC chairperson, Priscilla Chigumba.

Social media strategists in Zimbabwe say the current wave of fake news could force the government to wield a heavy hand in regulating over the top services after next week’s election. Zimbabwe has a Cyber Security Bill that could be passed into law in the next few months as a draft has already been published which will penalize the spread or possession of offensive content.

Source: Quartz Media

MALAWI :

Malawi Completes Lions Translocation Drive

<https://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/malawi-lions-african-parks/4499931.html>

In Malawi, the conservation non-profit organization African Parks has completed the translocation of 12 lions into two Malawi national parks under its management. The lions were flown into Malawi from South Africa with support from international animal welfare charities and others.

MOZAMBIQUE :

200 elephants to be moved to Mozambique as part of effort to prevent falling numbers

The operation will be one of the country's largest ever elephant relocations.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/de-beers-elephants-south-africa-4144273-Jul2018/>

SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMOND producer De Beers Group has announced it will transport 200 elephants to a nature reserve in Mozambique.

The operation, one of the country's largest ever elephant relocations, is part of a conservation effort to help restore Mozambique's dwindling elephant population.

The company announced the move after the elephant population at the private Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve got too high, risking extensive damage to the ecosystem.

The elephants will be transported about 1,500km from the reserve to Mozambique, which has one of the highest rates of poaching for ivory in the world.

De Beers said it would transport 60 elephants to the Zinave National Park in central Mozambique during July and August, with the remaining 140 elephants to be moved to conservation areas in the country from next year.

In a statement, the company revealed that it would also donate \$500,000 (€427,496) to anti-poaching group the Peace Parks Foundation over five years.

De Beers Group CEO, Bruce Cleaver, said there was "no greater symbol of Africa than the majestic elephant", and that the company was proud to help the animal flourish in Mozambique.

"This translocation is born of a deep sense of responsibility and is part of our wider commitment to continue to invest in new and innovative ways to protect the natural world," he said.

Werner Myburgh, CEO of the Peace Parks Foundation, also welcomed the move, saying it would help the group's "dream of restoring the landscape" at Zinave National Park.

ZAMBIA :

Top UK Minister on Zambia Mission

Chris Phiri | July 25, 2018

<https://zambiareports.com/2018/07/25/top-uk-minister-zambia-mission/>

Zambia has continued scoring high on diplomatic relations on the globe with another top international dignitary heading to Lusaka.

Over the weekend President Edgar Lungu will be hosting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan adding to the diplomatic traffic in Zambia's way.

United Kingdom's Minister for Africa, Harriett Baldwin will be visiting Zambia [25-26 July] to see how the UK can strengthen its partnership with Zambia by supporting growth and poverty reduction and working towards shared prosperity.

Minister Baldwin will hold meetings with Her Honour the Vice-President, Inonge Wina and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Energy.

During her visit, Minister Baldwin will sign the Energy Africa Compact and announce 406 million Kwacha of new UK development assistance. This funding will support the growth of the sustainable energy sector, giving a boost to local businesses and providing millions of Zambians with reliable, affordable energy.

Speaking ahead of her visit, Minister Baldwin said:

"I am looking forward to my first visit to Zambia, where the UK enjoys so many strong bilateral relationships, whether with Government, communities or businesses.

"It will be a great opportunity to highlight the ways in which we can work together for a healthier, safer and more prosperous future for both our countries."

Zambia eyes more Turkish investors

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/zambia-eyes-more-turkish-investors/1215503>

Turkish envoy in Lusaka says Zambia closely monitors Turkey's growing presence in African continent

By Tufan Aktas

LUSAKA, Zambia

Turkey's Ambassador to Zambia Sebnem Incesu said the African country would like to see more Turkish investors.

In an exclusive interview to Anadolu Agency in the wake of the first Turkish presidential visit to Zambia, Incesu said the two countries had rapidly improved bilateral relations since the opening of the Turkish Embassy in Lusaka in 2011.

The Zambian Embassy in Ankara opened in 2013.

"Zambia closely monitors and appreciates Turkey's economic moves and its growing presence in Africa," she said.

Incesu said that Zambia has great potential in economic terms with its rich underground and overland resources, agricultural areas, young population, and high urbanization rate.

"Zambian authorities expect more bilateral economic and trade relations to be developed with investment focus and create added value and employment," Incesu said.

According to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, the trade volume between Turkey and Zambia in 2017 was \$21.8 million.

Turkish export to Zambia was worth \$16.6 million while its import from Zambia was worth \$5.2 million, the figures of the ministry says.

"Turkish investors are not yet fully aware of the Zambian market," said the envoy, adding that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's upcoming visit to the country had already increased attention to the bilateral and economic relations.

Erdogan will pay an official visit to Zambia on July 28.

As part of his visit, Erdogan will meet Zambian President Edgar Lungu to discuss bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international developments.