

AFRICA: 5 SEPTEMBRE 2018 - Clôture du Sommet de Beijing 2018 du Forum sur la Coopération Sino-Africaine

1/ La Chine souhaite toujours garder comme ligne de sa coopération : la non immixtion dans les affaires de souveraineté des états avec lesquels elle traite [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtJ3e6m1ddo>] ;

– et 2/ La Chine met sur la table plus de 60 milliards de dollars dans sa coopération avec l’Afrique, couvrant des projets alignés sur l’initiative chinoise de “Nouvelle route de la soie”

(https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nouvelle_route_de_la_soie ...), touchant les télécoms, les infrastructures (routes, ponts, ports), l’énergie, les ressources humaines etc.

Entre 2019 et 2020, le monde, dans sa globalité quittera les 500 ans de domination occidentale pour entrer dans l’ère de l’Asie.



Photo : intumwa, ikiriho

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Clôture du Sommet de Beijing 2018 du Forum sur la Coopération Sino-Africaine GEOPOLITIQUE, GLOBALISATION, GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS – BEIJING, 4/09/2018 – Le Vice Président de la République du Burundi, M. Joseph Butore, accompagné de l'Amb. Ezechiel Nibigira, Ministre burundais des Affaires Etrangères, était à la clôture du Sommet de Beijing 2018 du Forum sur la Coopération Sino-Africaine, qui avait lieu du 3 au 4/09/2018.

– 1/ La Chine souhaite toujours garder comme ligne de sa coopération : la non immixtion dans les affaires de souveraineté des états avec lesquels elle traite [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtJ3e6m1ddo>] ;

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SOURCES : INTUMWA, IKIRIHO, NAHIMANA P.

Burundi : L'armée s'équipe de systèmes antiaériens russes – Pantsir-S1 –

<http://burundi-agnews.org/globalisation-mondialisation/burundi-larmee-sequipe-de-systemes-antiaeriens-russes-pantsir-s1/>

GEOPOLITIQUE, REGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, SECURITE – La Force de Défense Nationale du Burundi (FDNB) va s'équiper de systèmes antiaérien russes de type – 'Pantsir-S1' air-defense missile-gun systems –

MOSCOU, Vendredi 24 août 2018 – Lors du Forum technique militaire international "Army-2018", M. Ntahomvukiye Emmanuel, Ministre burundais de la Défense, a informé que la Force de Défense Nationale du Burundi (FDNB), l'armée burundaise, allait acquérir des systèmes antiaériens russes de type – 'Pantsir-S1' air-defense missile-gun systems –, de courte à moyenne portée. Le noyau du système comprend une tourelle portant un radar à antenne à balayage électronique, des canons antiaériens et des conteneurs lance-missiles.

Auparavant, le Ministre Ntahomvukiye avait signé un accord de coopération militaire avec le Général Alexander Fomin, vice-ministre de la Défense de Russie.

Selon le Général Fomin : "la signature de l'accord de coopération militaire avec le Burundi permettra des échanges d'expériences, la poursuite de l'amélioration de la pratique du peacekeeping et la lutte contre le terrorisme". Les armées burundaises et russes, en force de paix onusiennes, sont présentes en République Centrafricaine.

Le Burundi fait face ces derniers mois à des menaces venant du voisin rwandais, notamment des vols illégaux d'engins militaires.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 3 septembre 2018

Burundi / Accords militaires – Russie : Achat de 4 hélicoptères de combat RUSSE MI8 et MI24

<https://www.burundi-forum.org/wp/international/russie/burundi-accords-militaires-russie-achat-de-4-helicopteres-de-combat-russe-mi8-m24/>

SECURITE,EAC, GLOBALISATION, GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS – MOSCOU, 24/08/2018 –
En marge du Forum militaire 2018, l'Etat du Burundi a signé des accords pour la livraison de 4
hélicoptères de combat RUSSE MI8 et MI24.

[Lien : https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=9CUTvroIsmw]

Le Burundi est menacé par son voisin du nord, le Rwanda, depuis 2015, à la suite d'un coup d'état
militaire raté, au cours d'une Révolution Colorée menée par la Belgique, la France, les USA, et le
Rwanda.

SOURCES : agoravox.tv, NAHIMANA P.

RWANDA :

Four Seats Enough for Rwanda Opposition to Declare Vote Victory

By Saul Butera

5 septembre 2018 à 16:52 UTC+2

[<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-09-05/four-seats-enough-for-rwanda-opposition-to-declare-vote-victory>]

Rwandan opposition parties won just four seats in parliamentary elections -- but that's enough for one of their leaders to hail a victory for democracy in the tightly controlled East African nation.

The result in the Sept. 3 vote marks the first time a party other than the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front has had lawmakers since the country was torn apart by a 1994 genocide. Provisional results show the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and Social Party Imberakuri each winning 5 percent of ballots, securing them two seats apiece in the 53-member parliament's lower chamber.

"This is a big victory for the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and for democracy in Rwanda," Frank Habineza, the organization's leader, said by phone from the capital, Kigali. The party will now try to persuade other lawmakers to adopt parts of his group's political agenda, he said.

Rwanda, where President Paul Kagame won a third term in a landslide victory last year, is accused by rights groups of cracking down on political opponents and the media. Authorities reject the criticism and point to the landlocked country's economic revival since Kagame, who led a rebel army that ended the genocide, took power.

MIGA official visits Kenya, Rwanda to encourage private sector investment

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/miga-official-visits-kenya-rwanda-to-encourage-private-sector-investment/>

Published on 05.09.2018 at 14h21 by APA News

The vice president and chief operating officer of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), S. Vijay Iyer, will be visiting Kenya and Rwanda from September 7-15. MIGA is the political risk insurance arm of the World Bank Group, and the visit aims to enhance private sector investments in both countries in key industries such as energy, infrastructure and agriculture.

In Kenya, Iyer will chair multiple business development roundtables and hold meetings with government officials; while in Rwanda, he will speak at the Development Finance Forum in Kigali and meet with senior members of the government and regional business leaders.

"Governments across the continent have set ambitious development targets. MIGA stands ready to provide support by securing capital from the private sector for high impact projects, which will act as economic multipliers and create jobs," Iyer said in a statement issued in Nairobi on Wednesday.

MIGA has an expansive portfolio in sub-Saharan Africa, across a range of industries spanning agribusiness, manufacturing, power generation and infrastructure.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania tick for graphite company

<https://www.mining-journal.com/politics/news/1346056/tanzania-tick-for-graphite-company>

Kibaran Resources' Epanko graphite project in Tanzania has received some certainty with the government's mining commission agreeing to renew the project's mining licence. Kibaran said it had received a letter stating the commission would renew the licence when it expired for a further 10 years, provided Section 53 requirements of its mining act were fulfilled.

The company said the guarantee letter was a major requirement of lenders.

"This letter of guarantee for its renewal is an important demonstration of government support for the project and formed part of broader discussions that are currently taking place with the commission," Kibaran said.

It said the current discussions were to finalise the remaining requirements of the lenders so Epanko's construction could proceed as soon as possible.

At a presentation in Perth last week, the company said it had German and Australian project financing only awaiting Tanzanian government clearance to facilitate banking requirements. Epanko has a preproduction cost of US\$89 million and is forecast to produce 60,000tpa of natural flake graphite.

Kibaran is aiming to also produce spherical graphite at a downstream processing facility in Germany.

It has pilot plant test work underway that has gained funding from the German government.

Tanzania's mining commission was formed this year as part of sweeping changes to regulations in the country.

ASX-listed Walkabout Resources was awarded a mining licence by the Tanzanian government for the Lindi Jumbo graphite project last week, saying it could now progress project funding options.

Kibaran had A\$2.9 million in cash at the end of June.

Its shares were up 3.2% in morning trade to 16c, capitalising it at \$42.7 million.

KENYA :

Kenya 428 km power line complete, to add 310 MW to grid by December

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/kenya-428-km-power-line-complete-to-add-310-mw-to-grid-by-december-2018-09-05>

5th September 2018

high-voltage power line to carry electricity from a 310 MW wind power plant to central Kenya from the north is complete and supply to the national grid will stabilise by December, the energy minister said, replacing diesel generation.

The 428 km, 400 kV power line is critical for the Lake Turkana Wind Power project, to carry electricity from Loiyangalani in the north to Suswa in the centre of Kenya.

Danish wind turbine maker Vestas Wind Systems, supplier of the wind farm's 365 turbines, said last year the wind farm was ready for launch but would be idle until the government installed the transmission line.

"What is left now is the official commissioning for the power plant and the transmission line," Energy Minister Charles Keter said on Tuesday during a site tour of the transmission station that will receive the electricity.

"This a very major project, 300 MW. Within the next one month, we will feel the difference once the line has run very well. For me, everything being constant, we are seeing by December we will be comfortable in terms of our generation, and in terms of evacuation (transmission). We will see the cost of power coming down," he said.

Construction of the power line started in November 2015 and had been due to be completed by December last year, but the timeline once more shifted to September.

Kenya, which has more than 6.5 million customers connected to the power grid, has installed generation capacity of 2 351 MW with peak demand of 1 802 MW, it said in June.

UGANDA :

Uganda: Museveni slams cacophony of ‘imperialist’ human rights actors

By AT editor - 5 September 2018 at 5:11 am

<https://africatimes.com/2018/09/05/uganda-museveni-denies-torture-slams-cacophony-of-imperialist-human-rights-actors/>

President Yoweri Museveni personally called on Ugandan military leaders to deal with the political opposition in Arua last month, as clashes and protests led to deaths, injuries and high-profile arrests.

He confirmed the orders followed a stone-throwing incident as he campaigned there and praised the “remarkable discipline and restraint” of Uganda’s military in dealing with the candidates and marchers.

That’s according to a five-page letter Museveni sent to Uganda’s Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga, and published by Ugandan media outlets. Kadaga called for an inquiry into the August 13 incident that left Afrobeats musician Bobi Wine – an opposition MP whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi – and others seriously injured; she also demanded that military personnel be arrested and held accountable.

“I would like to advise that we await the outcomes of the investigation,” Museveni answered, asking her to “refrain from use of the word ‘torture’ until we establish the full facts of the events of that day.” He then reminded Kadaga of the rights of Ugandan security personnel to use “reasonable force” when dealing with suspects and referred to possible terrorists among them.

“As for the cacophony of the so-called human rights defenders, in reality agents of imperialists’ interests and their local lackeys, I would advise them to stop wasting their time in Uganda,” added Museveni, before assuring Kadaga that Uganda is capable of managing its own affairs and pivoting to recent economic advances.

Museveni’s response came as the Ugandan military again denied torturing those in custody, including Wine – who wrote a detailed Facebook post on Monday alleging extensive torture at the hands of Ugandan security forces. Wine is in the United States for medical care, while fellow MP Francis Zaake has flown to India for treatment of serious injuries.

They are among nearly three dozen people, many of them injured, who were arrested after the Arua incident. Wine’s driver, Yasin Kawuma, was shot and killed during the violence.

A copy of Museveni’s entire letter was published here. <https://edge.ug/2018/09/04/museveni-replies-kadaga-agents-of-imperialists-wasting-time/>

SUDAN :

Sudan's participation in Yemen war part of commitment to Arab issues: FM

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article66171>

September 3, 2018 (KHARTOUM) - Sudan's Foreign Minister El-Dirdeiry Mohamed Ahmed said his country's participation in the Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen was part of a collective commitment toward Arab issues.

JPEG - 19.8 kb

Sudanese troops arriving in Aden, Yemen (Al-Arabiya TV)

In an interview with the Yemen news agency Saba on Monday, Ahmed said Sudan took part in the military alliance in order to restore security and stability in Yemen.

He underlined Sudan's support to the efforts of the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffith, to arrive at a peaceful solution to the crisis through dialogue.

The Sudanese army has been participating in the Saudi-led military coalition since 2015 in a regional effort to back the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi after he was ousted from the capital Sanaa by the Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels.

Last May, President Omar al-Bashir underscored Sudan's continued participation in the military coalition, three weeks after State Defence Minister Ali Mohamed Salim said his ministry was evaluating pros and cons of the participation in the Yemen war in order to decide on it soon.

Al-Bashir has been under pressure to withdraw his troops from Yemen because Gulf countries particularly Saudi Arabia do not provide financial support to the country to overcome its economic crisis.

(ST)

SOUTH SUDAN :

Egyptian leader says supports stability in South Sudan
<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article66172>

September 3, 2018 (BEIJING) – Egypt supports all efforts to finalize a peaceful settlement of the conflict in South Sudan and continues to provide economic support, President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi told his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir on Monday.

JPEG - 36.7 kb

President Al-Sisi of Egypt meeting South Sudan's Salva Kiir in Beijing (Press Photo)

The two African leaders met at al-Sisi's residency in Beijing in the framework of the Forum on China and Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

In a statement released after the meeting, Egyptian Presidential Spokesperson Bassam Rady said al-Sisi reiterated Egypt's support for the government efforts to achieve a final peaceful political settlement in South Sudan. Also, he congratulated Kiir on the recent initialling of the final peace document and affirmed Egypt's support for the national dialogue initiative.

"The President said that Egypt will continue to support the development projects in South Sudan, strengthen bilateral cooperation and provide assistance and technical support to South Sudan," said the presidential spokesperson.

For its part, the South Sudanese presidential press team said in a statement about the meeting that al-Sisi renewed commitment to support agriculture projects and provide more scholarships to South Sudanese students.

In addition, President Kiir expressed his commitment to implement the revitalized peace agreement without delay, adding that the "people of South Sudan need nothing more than peace and development".

The summit provided an opportunity for the African leaders to meet each other and to discuss bilateral relations.

President Kiir met with a number of Chinese firms to discuss infrastructure and development projects as well as oil industry.

Further, the ruling party SPLM signed a five-year cooperation agreement with the Chinese Communist party to provide training opportunities and scholarships in the Chinese universities to the SPLM cadres and South Sudanese students.

The China Africa annual summit will wrap on Tuesday.

In November last year, Egypt sponsored the signing of a declaration for the unification of two different factions of the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The declaration, which supports peace efforts to end the dispute between the rival factions and stipulates the return

of refugees displaced by conflict, was signed under the auspices of Al-Sisi and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni.

Egypt was one of the countries that recognized South Sudan's independence from Sudan after a self-determination referendum held in January 2011.(ST)

EGYPT :

Archaeologists unearth village in Egypt older than the pharaohs

By Lauren Said-moorhouse and Nada Altaher, CNN | Posted - Sep 3rd, 2018 @ 9:22am

<https://www.ksl.com/article/46385323/archaeologists-unearth-village-in-egypt-older-than-the-pharaohs>

(CNN) — Archaeologists believe they have unearthed one of Egypt's oldest-known settlements in the Nile Delta, dating back some 7,000 years to the Neolithic era.

The country's ministry of antiquities announced the discovery of a village in the Tell el-Samara area of the Dakahlia governorate, north of Cairo, in a statement posted to Facebook on Sunday.

A joint team of Egyptian and French archaeologists say they located several storage silos where organic matter — such as animal bones and plant remains — were recovered in addition to fragments of pottery and stone tools.

These findings allowed the expedition to date the village to around 5,000 BC, which would mean it was established approximately 2,500 years before work began on the Great Pyramid of Giza, one of Egypt's oldest and most famous structures.

Expedition leader Frederik Geo said in the ministry statement that excavations at the site had been ongoing since 2015 and the discovery would allow experts to learn more about the communities that "were living in the Delta for thousands of years before the First Dynasty (the period of unifying the North and the South by King Mina and the beginning of Egyptian History)."

Archaeologists will continue to excavate the village site next season and hope analysis of the organic material found will shed light on the origins of farming and agriculture in Egypt.

Earlier this year, Egyptian archaeologists made headlines around the globe when they unearthed a huge, undisturbed granite sarcophagus, thought by some to be the largest ever found in Alexandria.

Egypt has faced years of instability since the 2011 Arab Spring and tourism, which once contributed more than 11 percent of the country's GDP, has struggled in the years since.

But the country is banking on its cultural heritage to once again boost visitor numbers with the opening of the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum later this year. The mammoth 5.2-million-square-foot structure has cost more than \$1 billion to construct and will become the world's largest devoted to a single civilization.

ETHIOPIA :

Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia leaders to meet in Asmara

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/ethiopia-eritrea-and-somalia-leaders-to-meet-in-asmara/827635008>

By: The Associated Press

Updated: Sep 5, 2018 - 6:55 AM

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somalia leaders are set to meet in Eritrea's capital Asmara, furthering the diplomatic thaw in the strategic Horn of Africa region.

By bringing together the leaders of former arch-foes in a summit Wednesday, Eritrea is building newly friendly relations with neighbors Ethiopia and Somalia.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed arrived at Eritrea's Assab port for a two-day working visit in Eritrea, said Eritrea's Minister of Information, Yemane Gebremeskel. He tweeted that Ethiopia's leader and Eritrea's President Isias Afwerki will hold "extensive discussions" to follow up on an agreement signed by the two countries in July.

He later tweeted that Somalia's President Mohammed Abdullahi Mohamed will arrive in Asmara later Wednesday for a tripartite summit.

Ethiopian state affiliated media outlets reported Abiy visited the Assab port. Later Wednesday, an Ethiopian merchant ship is expected to dock in Assab, the first Ethiopian vessel there since a bloody border war broke out 20 years ago in which tens of thousands were killed.

Ethiopia is looking at the possible use of Assab port, following the two decades of antagonistic relations between the two countries that forced it to rely almost exclusively on the more distant port of Djibouti.

Ethiopia's reformist leader Abiy since coming to power in April has succeeded in forging newly friendly relations with Eritrea. The leaders of the two countries have since visited each other's capitals in recent weeks and opened to the public the formerly heavily militarized border areas. Ethiopia must still withdraw troops from contested locations including the flashpoint border town of Badme.

Also in July, Somalia's president visited Eritrea, developing a new friendship, following tensions over Eritrea's alleged support for Somalia's extremist rebel group, al-Shabab.

RDC CONGO :

Après le verdict de la Cour Constitutionnelle, Mende recadre Bemba

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5b8f9d600acb52000421e4d1/>

Kinshasa 05-09-2018 Politique - Lambert Mende, ministre de la communication et porte-parole du gouvernement de la RD Congo, accuse le Sénateur Jean-Pierre Bemba, dont la candidature à la présidentielle a été invalidée, de politiser la décision de la Cour constitutionnelle.

Candidat à la présidentielle du 23 décembre 2018, le sénateur Jean-Pierre Bemba a été définitivement écarté de la course par la Cour constitutionnelle. Ainsi, le juge constitutionnel, lors d'une audience retransmise lundi dernier sur la chaîne nationale, a confirmé l'inéligibilité du sénateur Jean-Pierre Bemba, au regard notamment du fait que la subornation des témoins est une circonstance aggravante dans l'infraction de corruption.

Le juge a aussi expliqué que si la loi électorale a été modifiée, c'était dans l'objectif de tenir compte de la moralisation du comportement des acteurs politiques. Il a, pour l'occasion, rappelé que Bemba a été condamné en première instance pour entrave à l'administration de la justice et cette décision a été confirmée en appel.

Comme pour dire, à en croire le juge, que le candidat président de la République a bel et bien posé des actes de corruption et il ne peut prétendre à l'élection présidentielle qui pointe à l'horizon.

La Cour est revenue sur le certificat de détention qui a été malheureusement produit après le défaut de candidature du sénateur. Et c'est en bon droit que la CENI a conclu à la déclaration de l'irrecevabilité de Jean-Pierre Bemba.

Interviewé par France 24 qui voulait avoir sa réaction à chaud après cette disqualification, Bemba a dénoncé une « parodie d'élection ».

L'ex-chef de guerre a été exclu, lundi 3 septembre, de l'élection présidentielle prévue le 23 décembre 2018 en République démocratique du Congo par la Cour constitutionnelle, en raison de sa condamnation pour "subornation de témoins" par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI).

« La Cour constitutionnelle est aux ordres du pouvoir en place (...). Tout ça n'est qu'une mise en place qui veut que le candidat du pouvoir puisse ne pas avoir de candidat sérieux devant lui », a-t-il allégué.

Nous allons « assister à une parodie d'élection » en décembre, a estimé l'ancien rebelle, qui avait été acquitté en appel par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) de sa condamnation à 18 ans pour crimes de guerre et crime contre l'humanité commis par sa milice en Centrafrique.

La même instance l'avait condamné dans une affaire annexe, pour "subornation de témoins", une condamnation qui a motivé son exclusion de la présidentielle, selon la Cour constitutionnelle congolaise, qui confirmait une décision de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI).

« C'est l'amertume qui fait parler monsieur Bemba »

Soulignons que pour la Cour constitutionnelle, « la subornation de témoins est une circonstance aggravante dans l'infraction de corruption » en RD Congo.

« C'est en bon droit que la CENI a conclu à l'inéligibilité de M. Jean-Pierre Bemba ». « Il est évident que la justice a été instrumentalisée pour m'écarter », a rétorqué l'ex-chef de guerre, âgé de 55 ans, qui avait déposé sa candidature aussitôt qu'il avait regagné Kinshasa en août.

Interrogé par France 24, Lambert Mende, ministre de la communication et porte-parole du gouvernement de la RD Congo, a accusé de son côté Jean-Pierre Bemba de politiser la décision de la Cour constitutionnelle.

« C'est l'amertume qui fait parler Monsieur Bemba, il faut absolument qu'il ait du respect pour nos instances judiciaires », a-t-il affirmé, avant d'ajouter, on a l'habitude, lorsqu'on perd un procès d'avoir, beaucoup d'amertume mais pour autant qu'il a voulu exercer la magistrature suprême, la première chose qu'il devrait faire, c'est de montrer du respect pour la Constitution du pays, qui consacre l'indépendance du pouvoir judiciaire, et qui fait qu'un homme politique n'ait pas à porter de jugements de valeur sur un arrêt de justice, pris surtout au niveau de la plus haute Cour de son pays.

La Cour a décidé, il doit s'incliner, c'est ça, l'État de droit". Lorsque la Cour a pris une décision en faveur d'un camp, il faut s'incliner.

Les partisans de Jean-Pierre Bemba affirment, eux, que la subornation de témoins est différente de la corruption et ne fait pas partie des motifs d'invalidation d'une candidature, selon la loi électorale. « Nous nous réservons le droit de quitter le processus ou de le requalifier totalement notamment par la refonte de la Ceni », a déclaré la Secrétaire générale du Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC), Eve Bazaïba.

La candidature unique de l'opposition vole en éclat

Nombreux sont les Congolais qui auraient souhaité que Jean-Pierre Bemba et Adolphe Muzito, maintenant qu'ils ont été disqualifiés par la Cour constitutionnelle, lancent un message clair à l'endroit de leurs collègues de l'opposition, en soutenant une candidature unique.

Ce candidat pourrait être Seth Kikuni, Kazadi Lukonda Pierre-Honoré, Ngoy Ilunga Théodore, Maluta Joseph, Tchiani Kabamba Noël, Mabaya Gizi, Kin Kiey Mulumba Tryphon, Matungulu Mbuyamu Freddy, Tshisekedi Tshilombo Félix, Shekomba Okende Alain Daniel, Radjabo Sobolabo, Kamerhe Lwa Kaningini Vital, Fayulu Madidi Martin, Mpunga Yves, Mokia Mandembo Gabriel, Masheke Sylvain Maurice, ou Luntadila Diavena Charles et Vemba Francis.

Malheureusement, c'est comme si tous les opposants, leurs candidatures soient conformes à la loi électorale ou pas, peu importe, auraient tous voulu s'engager dans la compétition, à l'élection présidentielle du 23 décembre 2018. Ce qui est du domaine de l'impossible et l'alternance tant rêvée et vantée ne peut jamais intervenir dans ce contexte. Preuve que du côté de l'opposition, l'on n'est pas encore préparé à une quelconque candidature unique et la défaite risquera d'être dans ce cas plus que certaine.

Et pourtant, la démocratie voudrait qu'un camp concentre toutes ses forces en un leader, capable de refléter et de défendre la position de tous ses pairs.

Et pourtant en Rdc, aucun leader de l'opposition n'est à même de faire l'unanimité et de bénéficier le transfert des voix de ceux qui ont été recalés par la Cour constitutionnelle.

C'est une attitude très condamnable et qui peut déboucher sur des incompréhensions et des conflits inutiles.

Pour rappel, chaque fois que l'on abordait la question de la candidature unique à l'opposition, l'on nous disait que pour l'instant, chacun dépose sa candidature et ce n'est qu'après le verdict de la Cour constitutionnelle que l'on peut se choisir un candidat commun.

Pourquoi l'opposition ne semble pas être pressée, pendant que le calendrier indique que trois mois seulement restent à parcourir pour aller aux élections ? Peut-être qu'elle (l'opposition) le fait à dessein pour distraire la population, sachant bien qu'elle n'a pas de candidat valable ni de projet de société capable de fédérer tous les Congolais.

JMNK/L'Avenir

(BTT/PKF)

CONGO :

Xi holds talks with Republic of the Congo's president

Source: Xinhua| 2018-09-05 20:59:40|Editor: Mu Xuequan

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447169.htm

Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) holds talks with President of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 5, 2018. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

BEIJING, Sept. 5 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday held talks with his counterpart of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso, agreeing to promote the bilateral ties with greater and more substantial measures.

Sassou Nguesso attended the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) on Sept. 3-4.

Xi said the bilateral relationship is at its best in history, adding that China regards the Republic of the Congo as an all-weather friend and is willing to consolidate and deepen political mutual trust, expand high-level and all-level exchanges, boost experience sharing in governance, and strengthen communication on policies, concepts and strategies.

China will firmly grasp the right direction of the Sino-Congolese relationship and continue mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns, and further substantiate the comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership between the two countries, said Xi.

Xi called for enhanced coordination and collaboration on key global issues and make the global governance system and the international order more just and equitable.

China will unswervingly enhance mutually beneficial cooperation and welcomes the Republic of the Congo to join the Belt and Road construction, said Xi.

Sassou Nguesso said his country fully supports the Beijing Declaration and the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan adopted at the summit.

The Republic of the Congo is grateful for China's long-term support and highly appreciates the Belt and Road Initiative and the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity as well as the eight initiatives proposed by President Xi, said Sassou Nguesso.

He said the country will align its development strategy with the Belt and Road Initiative to accelerate the growth.

The Congolese-Chinese friendship is unbreakable, said Sassou Nguesso, adding that his country will not be disturbed by those noises on Africa-China relations, and will be committed to enhancing the Republic of the Congo-China and Africa-China comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnerships.

After the talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of bilateral cooperation documents.

ZIMBABWE :

May and Merkel backing Mnangagwa is bad news for Zimbabwe

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/merkel-backing-mnangagwa-bad-news-zimbabwe-180904063033905.html>

Foreign governments ignoring rights abuses to secure economic benefit in Zimbabwe will only enable oppression.

Tafi Mhakaby Tafi Mhaka

5 hours ago

On August 28, British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, for a one-day working visit. This visit was part of a three-nation tour of South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria designed to strengthen Britain's trade ties with African nations.

During the course of her visit, May made a brief appearance on South African TV channel NCA, which all but confirmed her willingness to mollicoddle African strongmen and do business with administrations which hold shaky and homicidal claims to power.

When asked if she endorses President Emmerson Mnangagwa's strongly disputed victory in Zimbabwe's July 30 presidential election, a wily-looking May immediately alluded to the commission of inquiry which the former vowed to establish to look into the army's violent crackdown on opposition supporters.

On August 1, six people died after Zimbabwe Defence Force (ZDF) soldiers used live rounds on hundreds of angry protestors and innocent pedestrians in Harare. Supporters of the opposition MDC Alliance were demonstrating against the alleged rigging of the election in favour of Mnangagwa and his ZANU-PF party when the violence erupted.

Unimpressed by her cagey response, the interviewer asked May a second time whether she endorsed the Zimbabwean president. "Mnangagwa is an elected president," said the British PM, "He is taking an important step in saying that he will set up a commission of inquiry. I think this is a very important signal from him about the Zimbabwe he wants to see."

May also mentioned how South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa attended Mnangagwa's inauguration ceremony, in an apparent attempt to justify her endorsement.

But May should not have endorsed Zimbabwe's new president without condemning the needless loss of innocent lives and expressing concern over the much-documented electoral shortcomings and illiberal practices, which the European Union's election observation mission to Zimbabwe also reported on.

Commission of inquiry as political ruse

This is not the first time ZDF soldiers have been accused of killing innocent civilians and a commission of inquiry has been set up to pacify public outrage and whitewash gross human rights violations orchestrated by high-ranking civil servants and army officials in Zimbabwe.

The ZDF, along with influential actors from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO), was accused of committing torture, holding public executions, causing forced disappearances and murdering unarmed civilians during the Gukurahundi massacres in Matabeleland and Midlands between 1983 and 1987.

Human rights groups allege soldiers killed up to 20,000 people in a politically and ethnically motivated, violent crackdown on mainly Ndebele-speaking opposition Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) supporters and officials in the country's Matabeleland and Midlands provinces.

As domestic and international condemnation and political pressure to explain horrific reports of mass killings of civilians in southern Zimbabwe mounted, then-President Robert Mugabe established a commission of inquiry, led by Judge Simplicius Chihambakwe, a former judge and highly regarded lawyer.

Prior to this investigation, Mugabe had set up another commission of inquiry to investigate clashes between Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) that took place during the 1981 Entumbane uprising. Judge Enock Dumbutshena, the country's first black judge, had chaired this commission.

But the findings of both the Dumbutshena and Chihambakwe commissions have not been made available for public examination to this day. According to a 2000 affidavit by Mnangagwa, who was then serving as justice minister, the Dumbutshena report had simply vanished into thin air and nobody could find it. Unsurprisingly, not a single person has been held to account for the Gukurahundi killings to this day.

There was a single man at the centre of this deadly drama from beginning to end: Mnangagwa. As minister of security between 1980 and 1988, he exercised control over the much-feared CIO and is believed to have helped in the planning and implementation of the Gukurahundi massacres.

However, he refuses to apologise for his perceived role in the massacres and established a National Peace and Reconciliation Commission earlier this year to smother comprehensive investigations into historical atrocities.

In light of all this, Mnangagwa's decision to establish a commission of inquiry into the events of August 1 cannot be interpreted as an honest attempt to hold guilty parties to account. His government is extremely reluctant to face judicial scrutiny and will likely use this commission for the very same purpose its predecessors used the ones that came before it: to whitewash the role the Zimbabwean government played in the violence.

The findings of the commission will likely not even be made public or acted upon if they do not match its political agenda or narrative of events. Mnangagwa, ZDF Commander General Valerio Sibanda, Home Affairs Minister Obert Mpofu and the ZRP have already assigned the blame for the August 1 violence to opposition leader Nelson Chamisa and the MDC Alliance.

Human rights and economic engagement

Theresa May seems to have turned a blind eye to the new Zimbabwean government's democratic shortcomings in order to secure trade deals, and she is not the only Western leader to do so.

When Mnangagwa became Zimbabwe's interim leader on November 24, following the military coup that removed Robert Mugabe from power, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a letter to him: "Germany will support you as a partner in your endeavours to start a new chapter in the

history of Zimbabwe - one characterised by democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights."

Mnangagwa has failed to fulfil the above mentioned democratic thresholds, but Germany remains unconcerned.

Late last month, only a few days after Mnangagwa's inauguration as Zimbabwe's new president, Germany once again demonstrated its intention to work closely with his administration. Germany's Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Mueller visited Zimbabwe and launched a joint commission with Zimbabwe's finance minister, Patrick Chinamasa, to identify areas of cooperation that could help promote economic development.

Mueller also met Mnangagwa during his visit and announced that Germany will open new lines of credit for Zimbabwean businesses.

Sadly, the German minister glossed over Harare's dismal human rights record and only said Germany "believed the new government of President Emmerson Mnangagwa would uphold the rule of law and pass friendly policies". The German government says its foreign policy champions democracy and human rights, but it appears to be ready to ignore Zimbabwe's human rights abuses for economic benefits.

The duplicitous approaches of May and Merkel towards Zimbabwe evokes memories of former British PM Margaret Thatcher's policy towards the country. In 1983, Thatcher's administration reportedly downplayed the killings of civilians in the Gukurahundi massacres, simply to protect its economic investments in the region. Now, Thatcher's successor also appears to believe an equally unconscionable approach to human rights abuses in Zimbabwe is the diplomatic way to go.

Zimbabwe undoubtedly needs a massive injection of direct foreign investment. But it also needs to respect human rights and embrace political and legal accountability for its politicians.

Rewarding murderous political leaders with unconditional legitimacy when innocent people have been shot and killed is hardly suggestive of progressive international engagement.

At what point will political accountability extend beyond measured sound bites in public forums and well-scripted statements and result in legal convictions and lengthy jail terms for officials who flout basic laws and order the killings of unarmed civilians? Overlooking political impunity for economic expediency will likely result in further deaths if Mnangagwa's hold on power is ever challenged seriously again or indeed overhauled through constitutional means. This political and electoral dilemma has repeated itself time and again since 1980.

Suffice it to say, diplomatic silence and official solidarity with shady characters like Mnangagwa will always metamorphose into lethal complicity down the line. Worse still for Zimbabwe's long-suffering people, May and Merkel's awkward diplomatic dance with Mnangagwa hardly suggests democratic and electoral change is in the offing now - or in the 2023 elections.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.

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MALAWI :

Mandarin lessons in Malawi underline China's Africa ties

From power plants in Botswana to diamond mines in Zimbabwe, railways in Nigeria and hydropower projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa has come to rely on China for investment and jobs.

AFP by AFP

2018-09-05 07:25

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/china-in-africa-malawi/>

Lilongwe, Malawi | AFP | by Ben Sheppard

As African leaders attend this week's summit in Beijing awash with investment pledges, back in Malawi, pupils are stuck into their Mandarin lessons — a clear sign of China's increasing sway over the continent.

“The world now is going in such a way that if you want to travel, (you) should not want to find difficulties talking to people. Language can be a barrier,”

said Ndazona Mponde, a Malawian student studying Mandarin in the capital Lilongwe.

“I want to learn Chinese because if I get a chance of going to China maybe for business or for school then I wouldn't find too many problems,”

she told AFP.

Malawi and China have had diplomatic relations only since 2008.

But more than 1,000 Malawians now attend Chinese classes at 25 learning centres in four cities across Malawi, according to professor Feng Jianguo, director of the Confucius Institute in Lilongwe.

“We have a lot of Chinese enterprises offering opportunity of employment,” Jianguo said.

“If you know how to speak, how to read and write and you learn the Chinese language, it will be much easier for you to find a job.”

Education and infrastructure

Last month, the Chinese embassy in Lilongwe announced it would provide 1,000 scholarships to Malawian students ranging from undergraduate to doctoral levels to study in China.

The programme is just part of China's massive engagement with Africa in recent decades.

The world's second-biggest economy has poured billions of dollars of loans and funding support for roads, ports and other major infrastructure projects.

From power plants in Botswana to diamond mines in Zimbabwe, railways in Nigeria and hydropower projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa has come to rely on China for investment and jobs.

Yvonne Sundu, an arts reporter on Malawi's Nation newspaper who recently returned from studies in China, said the country's impact on Africa was increasingly evident.

"China is continuously offering options that were not previously available," she said.

"When you thought of going for further studies, the ideal choice was the UK or USA. But now, China has opened up."

Chinese President Xi Jinping told African leaders in Beijing on Monday that the country's investments on the continent have "no political strings attached" as he pledged \$60 billion in new development financing.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Rwandan President Paul Kagame were among leaders present at the summit, which ends Tuesday.

At the demanding Confucius Institute at the University of Malawi teacher Sung Goujua has some encouraging advice.

"If your pursuit is to become a professional translator, maybe it can be quite difficult," he said. "But if you just want to learn basic communication, it is very easy — maybe two or three months would be enough."

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MOZAMBIQUE :

Malawi, Mozambique Strengthen Security Relations

05 Sep, 2018 - 00:09 <https://www.herald.co.zw/malawi-mozambique-strengthen-security-relations/>

BLANTYRE. – There is possibility of a stronger security relationship between Malawi police and their counterparts in Mozambique following meetings the two parties have been holding in the country.

In Chikwawa, the meeting was held Friday at Hope Lodge in the district that saw the participation by Malawi’s Immigration Department, Lengwe National Park representatives, officers from Chikwawa Police Station and those from Doa District in Mozambique.

Speaking in an interview with Malawi News Agency (Mana), Chikwawa Police Station Officer in-Charge (OC), Assistant Commissioner Dave Chingwalu said the aim of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between officers from Doa and those from Chikwawa District in Malawi.

“There are a lot of crimes committed in both districts. When a suspect commits an offence in Malawi, especially in our boarder district Chikwawa, they likely escape to Doa in Mozambique and such also happens in Mozambique.

“So, our meeting today strives to assist each other on the repatriation of these suspects whenever they are arrested in both countries,” said Chingwalu.

According to Chikwawa OC, the common incidences taking place in both districts are theft of livestock, sexual offences and murder.

“In Chikwawa District, we record livestock theft cases almost on a daily basis and in most cases, the suspects involved sneak into Doa. In addition, there is heavy wanton cutting down of trees inside Lengwe National Park caused by people from both sides.

“So, we decided that we discuss and get ourselves involved in dealing with such vices,” said Chingwalu.

On his part, Head of Police in the districts of Doa, Zobwe and Villa in Mozambique, Commandant Arindo Domingos Deves said it was proper to bring together the two sides so that they could critically discuss security issues affecting them.

He said if, indeed, there was that collaboration between the two parties, the insecurity threats would be a thing of the past.

“We wanted to seriously look at livestock theft and encroachment issues at Lengwe National Park among many others.

We believe that if we coordinate on these issues between us and our counterparts in Malawi, we will be able to end them,” he said There was also a similar meeting in Angonia District in Mozambique on the same day involving Malawi Police and their Mozambican counterparts.

The meeting had the same objective-to fight cross border crime.

Ntcheu Police Public Relations Officer, Hastings Chigalu, told Malawi News Agency the meeting took place following an invitation from Mozambique and was held under the theme: “Working together, the only tool to combat crime.”

“The meeting was aimed at enhancing the good working relationship between the two sister countries and map the way forward in exploring ways that may create a win-win situation for the two countries while creating a no-safe-haven for criminals along the borders of the two countries,” said Chigalu.

The 17-member delegation from Malawi (immigration officers, Malawi Revenue Authority officers and police officers from Dedza and Ntcheu) was led by Ntcheu Police Officer In-Charge, John Nkhoma and Dedza Police Officer In-Charge Emmie Soko. – Malawi News Agency

ZAMBIA :

WHO places Zambia on the list of Countries at risk of the Ebola disease outbreak.
September 5, 2018

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/09/05/who-places-zambia-on-the-list-of-countries-at-risk-of-the-ebola-disease-outbreak/>

World Health Organisation (WHO) has placed Zambia among countries at risk of the Ebola disease outbreak.

This is due to Zambia's porous borders shared with countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that has recorded cases of Ebola disease.

WHO Country Representative Nathan Bakyaite said that there was need for the country to be on high alert, adding that was the reason the WHO had partnered with Zambia to help prevent any eventuality.

The WHO representative said this when Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya and North western province minister Naheniel Mubukwanu visited the centre where the Ebola rapid response preparedness team is being trained on handling any Ebola related cases.

And Dr. Chilufya has implored the public and health personnel in North Western Province to remain alert and report any suspected Ebola outbreak in the area because North western is a border province with the DRC where the disease has been detected.

The minister also assured the people in all border areas with the DRC not to panic over Ebola outbreak in Congo as his ministry is ready for any outbreak of the disease.

And Mr. Mubukwanu has urged the people to be on high alert and report any suspected Ebola cases in the area.

ANGOLA :

Angola and Brazil Analyze Priority Projects

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201809050709.html>

Brasília — The Angolan ambassador to Brazil, Nelson Cosme, has analyzed with Brazilian authorities the first "priority" projects submitted by the Angolan Government, which will be financed with funds from the Angola-Brazil Understanding Protocol of February 2018.

According to a press release from the Angolan embassy that reached Angop on Monday, the Angolan diplomat met from 27 to 29 of August with officials of the ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

Also in the meeting were entities linked to the Brazilian Guarantees and Fund Managements Agency (ABGF) and Banco Credit Suisse (Brazil), an institution that will participate in the facility agreed between Angola and Brazil.

Under the protocol, a new line of credit of an amount of two billion dollars was established from Brazil to Angola.

The Angolan Government submitted to the Government of Brazil about 22 "initial" projects, among which, the projects for the construction and rehabilitation of hospital units, bridges, water supply and energy networks, as well as projects related to scientific research, rural expansion and agricultural development.

To date, Angola has benefited from six credit facilities under the referred Understanding Protocol between the two states.

Also under the bilateral cooperation with Brazil, the ambassador met with officials of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

ABC and the Ministry of Health are also working on a technical cooperation in the area of cardiology which provides training of Angolan professionals in Brazil.

ABC cooperates with the Government of Angola in other areas, such as education, where the "School for All" a school education project, which provides for the integration of children with special needs into the educational environment with other children, is highlighted.

In the field of Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Angola is assessing with ABC the implementation of a training program for Angolan technicians in agricultural mechanization, rural expansion, community organization, agrarian statistics, agro-livestock processing and marketing.

Angola-Brazil technical cooperation also covers the financial sector.

The General Tax Administration of Angola - AGT and ABC are working for the professional training of Angolan technicians at the School of Finance Administration of Brazil.

Angola

Train Collision Casualties Rise to 18

The number of deaths caused by the collision of two trains in the south-western Namibe Province rose to 18, plus... [Read more »](#)

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SOUTH AFRICA :

Black South African farmer urges parliament to drop land seizure plans
<https://www.rt.com/business/437703-black-farmer-confiscation-useless-reform/>
Published time: 5 Sep, 2018 14:41

Confiscating lands from white farmers for redistribution among the country's black majority won't produce the desired result, as it won't give black farmers access to commercial markets, a black farmer warns.

Ramodisa Monaisa spoke at parliamentary hearings on land reform to urge the government not to amend the constitution to allow land expropriation without compensation. "You will give us land and you will render us useless," said Monaisa, as quoted by a South African weekly newspaper The Mail & Guardian.

Monaisa has been cultivating the land owned by the department of rural development for 15 years and says he knows what it means to be a black farmer in South Africa. The government body made it possible for Monaisa to start his farming business, but he is reportedly able to employ just one person on his farm.

Read more

© Kai Pfaffenbach South Africa suffers shocking drop in agriculture after government threat to confiscate land

Not having enough money, the farmer failed to make much progress with commercial farming, losing out to agricultural businesses bolstered by financial support from South African lenders.

"I've tried commercial banks but, because of my credit score, it is so difficult to get a loan, and the Land Bank uses the same scale," Monaisa said. "The biggest problem is, as black farmers, we have become unable to perform. As if we cannot work. If we can get funding like commercial white farmers, we can do it."

Monaisa's submission was made as a beneficiary of Grain SA, a voluntary and non-profit organization for grain farmers. The organization provides skills and financial support when possible to the country's grain producers.

The submission reportedly attracted the attention of South African lawmakers, as Monaisa pleaded with the parliament to leave section 25 of the constitution unchanged. He stressed that, without financial support, black farmers can do nothing with the land they might get if the controversial land reform is implemented the way it is planned.

Owning of the land alone cannot keep black farmers afloat, according to Grain SA Chief Executive Jannie de Villiers, who said that small black farming enterprises need to cooperate with commercial farmers.

"Land alone will not restore the dignity of those that were negatively affected by the previous dispensation," De Villiers said. "Partnerships and joint ventures with current commercial farmers are also key to gain quick ground in this regard."

On Tuesday, the Constitutional Review Committee in parliament began four days of hearing oral submissions from institutions on whether section 25 of the constitution should be amended. The change in the law would allow confiscation of land from white farmers without compensation.