

AFRICA: 31 AOUT 2018 – Uhuru,Trump meeting elevates Kenya's position

Donald Trump welcomed President Uhuru Kenyatta to the White House on Monday for what is the only second one-on-one meeting the US president has held with an African leader since he took office last year. The first meeting, with Nigeria's ailing 75-year-old Muhammadu Buhari in April, ended with the US president telling aides he never wanted to meet someone so lifeless again, according to three people familiar with the matter. [Financial Times]



Photo : US President Donald Trump, right, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and their wives Melania Trump and Margaret Kenyatta meet in the White House Oval Office (AFP Photo/MANDEL NGAN)

BURUNDI :

Burundi : Bujumbura clôture la 1ère édition des jeux de l'EAC

REGION, SOCIETE – Bujumbura clôture la 1ère édition des jeux de l'East African Community (EAC) qui a duré 2 semaines à travers tout le Burundi.

BUJUMBURA, Mercredi 29 août 2018 – En présence de M. MPFUMUKEKO Libéra, Secrétaire Général de l'East African Community (EAC), S.E. SINDIMWO Gaston, Vice Président du Burundi, a participé à la cérémonie de clôture de la 1ère édition des jeux de l'East African Community (EAC), qui, pendant 2 semaines, dans un climat totalement paisible, à travers tout le Burundi, avec des participants venant d'Ouganda, de Tanzanie et du Kenya, ont fait vibré les Burundi et les autres citoyens de l'EAC via les media...

Les sportifs de certains pays comme le Rwanda et le Sud Soudan ne se sont pas présentés à cause des situations internes dans leurs pays.

Dans la Région EAC, ce type d'événements a pour vocation d'aider aux divers communautés de l'Afrique de l'Est à apprendre à se connaître, avec comme volonté finale de permettre à faciliter les échanges économique et politique.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Vendredi 31 août 2018

Burundi : Air Tanzania ouvre la ligne Bujumbura-Kigoma-Dar-Es-Salaam

<http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-air-tanzania-ouvre-la-ligne-bujumbura-kigoma-dar-es-salaam/>

ECONOMIE – Le Burundi content de l'ouverture de la ligne Bujumbura-Kigoma-Dar-Es-Salaam par Air Tanzania

BUJUMBURA, Jeudi 30 août 2018 – Lors des cérémonies de lancement du vol au Burundi d'Air Tanzania, devant un parterre de personnalité venu inaugurer cette nouvelle ligne aérienne, M. Ntunzwenimana Jean Bosco, Ministre burundais des transports, a exprimé sa réjouissance pour l'économie burundaise : "l'ouverture de la ligne Bujumbura-Kigoma-Dar-Es-Salaam est signe d'élargissement des opportunités d'affaires du secteur privé burundais".

Le Burundi et la Tanzanie renforcent ainsi leur coopération bilatérale et leur relation fraternelle de tout temps.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Jeudi 30 août 2018

RWANDA :

Exclusive: Former Israeli officials helping Rwanda join OECD

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Exclusive-Former-Israeli-officials-helping-Rwanda-join-OECD-565945>

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is the 36-member club of the world's most developed economies.

By Yonah Jeremy Bob

August 28, 2018 05:28

Former Israeli officials are helping Rwanda's campaign to join the 36-member club of the world's most developed economies, known as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

As Weinstein told The Jerusalem Post in a recent interview, the story began with his youthful fascination with Africa.

The Israeli government has been working in recent years to improve its relations with Africa, and he had already developed a good relationship with Rwandan President Paul Kagame during visits to the land-locked country in his capacity as attorney-general.

After leaving office, and when Rwanda was weighing joining the OECD, Weinstein and Prozor met with Kagame and Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo.

They explained the benefits of joining the OECD. It did not hurt that they had helped shepherd Israel through the OECD process. (The Jewish state joined the exclusive club in 2010.) It was clear to the Rwandan leaders that joining the OECD would foster development and foreign investment.

Weinstein said, "We all saw eye to eye. They showed enthusiasm that Rwanda should go for it. After very little time had passed, they hired us. They said, 'you have experience, you did it in Israel, you can get it done for Rwanda.'"

He said that the economy and political situation of Rwanda – a country torn apart by the 1994 genocidal slaughter of Tutsi tribesmen by members of the Hutu majority – have stabilized, and that attracting foreign investors is a high priority.

Weinstein was impressed that Rwanda wanted to join the OECD since this would require the country to significantly change its approach to business and require compliance with international standards.

He did not suggest that bribery was a simple matter, but noted Rwanda had the foresight to realize that systematically rejecting bribery was worth it to obtain the benefits of OECD membership.

He said that Rwanda's hiring of Weinstein and Prozor in and of itself showed the country's serious commitment.

“No African state has ever gotten in [to the OECD]. South Africa tried, but it had a problem regarding its methods of governance. There are Eastern European countries that are not in yet, but are ‘in line,’” he said.

“There is no African country that is even ‘in line.’” Weinstein said that they have already started to court allies. OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, a former Mexican finance minister, views the potential of Rwanda joining the same way that he does.

“Usually there are countries inside the OECD who do not want to hurt its exclusivity, Weinstein said, “but he sees things differently. He wants to broaden the OECD. He really wants African countries to join. He tried hard with South Africa,” Weinstein said.

Asked how long it could take for Rwanda to join the OECD, he predicted more than five years. “Israel took more than three years and was built for it,” he added. In the meantime, there are around 200 OECD committees and working groups to work with, and Rwanda can already start engaging them at different levels.”

Weinstein described Rwanda’s capital Kigali as a Western-style city which doesn’t look like less developed areas of Africa. He said it was “orderly, developed, clean and secure.”

During his visit there as attorney-general, he noted that his Shin Bet security team, which accompanied him to Ethiopia en route to Rwanda, told him that they did not need to accompany him to Kigali because it is safe.

Weinstein added that Rwanda has a large number of female ministers.

When he visited the country as attorney-general with a five-man delegation, he said that it stood out because the Rwandan delegation was female-dominated.

Asked about the legacy of Rwanda’s genocide, Weinstein said that the country has undergone “a genuine forgiveness process.”

In contrast to Israelis who say about the Holocaust: “We don’t forget and we don’t forgive,” he said that in Rwanda the approach is: “We don’t forget, but we do forgive.”

Weinstein plans to help Rwanda move toward OECD acceptance by encouraging a free market, democracy, transparency and the rule of law. This entails a five-part strategy proving Rwanda’s sufficiency of its internal laws; the independence of its state prosecution from political influence; the independence of its judiciary; the stability of its banks; and a readiness to comply with international conventions.

Weinstein is being assisted in his legal review by veteran attorney Ron Dror and law clerk Yael Hadad.

The team he and Prosser have put together has researched both the substantive and procedural aspects of joining the OECD. Now they are moving to the next stage of applying their research to Rwanda’s specific situation and creating a working plan for advancing Rwanda’s OECD bid.

“Africa is the only continent not represented in the OECD, and I think everyone should applaud Rwanda [for] its desire to break the barrier and become the first African country to join the organization,” said Prosser.

“Joining the OECD would require Rwanda to meet the highest international standards when it comes to its government, business sector and international relations. So it’s in the mutual interest of both Rwanda and the international community that they achieve it – and hopefully... other African countries [will] follow its lead,” he added. The efforts by ex-attorney-general Yehuda Weinstein and former UN ambassador Ron Prosor on behalf of the central African country of 12 million people are a sign of warming ties between Israel and the continent, despite the long history of African nations supporting the Palestinian side in its conflict with Israel.

Indian Government approves trade cooperation framework with Rwanda

By Collins Mwai

Published : August 31, 2018 | Updated : August 31, 2018

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/business/india-rwanda-trade-cooperation>

The Indian government on Wednesday approved a trade cooperation framework between the Asian nation and Rwanda to facilitate better economic relations between the two countries.

The framework was signed on July 23 this year during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Rwanda.

“The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for the trade cooperation framework between India and Rwanda,” an official statement by the Indian government said.

The framework is expected to improve trade between the two countries for mutual benefit.

In July, during his visit, Modi was accompanied by about 100 members of India’s private sector from various fields to explore opportunities for trade and economic partnership.

During the July visit, Prime Minister Modi and President Paul Kagame, the two leaders met members of the Rwandan and Indian private sector to collect suggestions on ways to increase trade and investment between the two countries.

Rwanda’s exports to India include mainly aluminium waste and scrap, cereal flours and dairy products.

The national carrier, RwandAir, operates four flights weekly to Mumbai.

Investment projects from Indian have increased from 66 last year to 91 this year with a special focus on ICT, manufacturing and agro-processing.

Among the notable investments include Airtel, Acacia Property developers, Mahatma Gandhi University, Gisovu Tea Company and Imana Steel among others.

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TANZANIA :

Walkabout receives mining licence for Lindi Jumbo project in Tanzania

<https://www.mining-technology.com/news/walkabout-receives-mining-licence-lindi-jumbo-project-tanzania/>

Minerals developer Walkabout Resources has secured the ML00638/2017 mining licence from the Ministry of Minerals of Tanzania for the Lindi Jumbo graphite project.

The licence is, however, subject to payment of the fee and acceptance of the technical detail.

Once these requirements are fulfilled, Walkabout will receive authorisation to finalise the on-site relocation assistance programme (RAP).

The company will be able to advance its project funding options, which have been kept on hold due to the approval of its licence. Following this, it can proceed with final construction plans at the Lindi Jumbo mine site.

Walkabout can also finalise the engineering, procurement and construction agreement (EPC) with construction partner Yantai Jinpeng Mining and Machinery.

“The mining licence approval is the final major legislative requirement for the project.”

Walkabout Resources Western Australia director Allan Mulligan said: “The mining licence approval is the final major legislative requirement for the project.

“We have also been assured by the Ministry of Minerals of Tanzania of their support and willingness to assist the emerging mining industry in Tanzania in meeting those regulatory obligations required to facilitate mine development and grow the industry.”

A definitive feasibility study (DFS) was completed in February and updated in August last year. According to the DFS, the project is believed to be ‘technically sound with excellent economic returns even at potential softening price regimes for premium graphite flake material’.

The project is estimated to produce 40,000t of graphite concentrate a year with a high-grade feed to the plant of less than 300,000t per annum.

Lindi Jumbo comprises measured, indicated and inferred mineral resource of 29.8 million tonnes at an estimated grade of 10.9% Total Graphitic Carbon (TGC).

The project has a pre-tax net present value (NPV) of \$302.5m and pre-tax internal rate of return (IRR) of 108%. The mine has a lifespan of 20 years.

Tanzania rejects US criticism of local polls

2018-08-19 12:14

<https://www.news24.com/Africa/News/tanzania-rejects-us-criticism-of-local-polls-20180818>

Tanzania is an "independent" country and will not be "intimidated", the ruling party said on Saturday after the US expressed concern about the conduct of 70 recent by-elections.

The US on Wednesday cited "election violence and irregularities" aimed at the opposition after local elections were held on Sunday to replace officials who had either resigned or died.

"Credible accounts of election violence and irregularities include refusal by National Election Commission authorities to register opposition candidates, intimidation by police of opposition party members, unwarranted arrests, and suppression of freedoms of assembly and speech in the lead up to the by-elections," the US said in a statement.

But Bashiru Ally, secretary general of the ruling party, the CCM, told a public meeting on Saturday: "We will not be intimidated, we cannot be intimidated.

"Even if our country is poor, we are not ready to accept interference in our governance. We will continue to govern ourselves," he added.

Local media earlier reported the beating and hospitalisation of some members of the main opposition by supporters of the ruling party.

Churches and civil society organisations had also highlighted political violence around local elections, particularly the perceived bias of security forces in favour of ruling party candidates.

The US statement came amid sustained criticism of the rule of President John Magufuli who has cracked down on dissent since taking office three years ago.

KENYA :

UK reaffirms commitment to fight terrorism in Kenya, Somalia

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/UK-steps-up-military-aid--Kenya/1056-4737284-cd86mk/index.html>

By KENNEDY KIMANTHI

A Kenyan based counter-terrorism facility will be expanded into a regional centre.

The expansion of the UK-funded counter improvised explosive device (C-IED) training facility at the Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS) in Nairobi is part of a new UK-Kenya security agreement which is allowing both countries to keep pace with the changing nature of threats and to renew cooperation on counter-terrorism, child protection, and regional security.

SPECIAL TRAINING

The announcement was made after a visit by UK Prime Minister Theresa on Thursday.

By November 2020, the wing is expected to have developed into a fully-functioning, independent centre of excellence where East African instructors will provide specialised IED disposal training.

The Prime Minister also announced over Sh917 million of new UK funding to support African Union Mission to Somalia (Amisom), a peace keeping mission operated by the AU in Somalia with approval by the UN, as she called on international donors to contribute more to the peacekeeping mission.

Related Content

“Her visit reaffirms that the UK will support the project until it operates independently as a regional and continental centre of excellence,” said a statement from the British High Commission.

Since 2015, 1,000 military and police personnel from East Africa had been trained by the British Army in identifying and destroying IEDs. Yet, in the same period the use of IEDs has increased by around 300 per cent in Somalia, where casualties are often civilians.

During her visit, the UK and Kenya signed a new agreement that will see the two countries expand joint work on security even further.

The agreement will enable Kenya to receive critical support for border control and aviation security through training programmes and equipment for border, airline and immigration staff.

Other areas of co-operation under the agreement include countering violent extremism, terrorism and trans-national crime through sharing of information and profiling of major masterminds and beneficiaries of these crimes.

“The UK is no longer just training our own military in Kenya, but training with Kenyans to promote stability in East Africa and beyond and to build the continent’s capacity to overcome its own challenges and deliver its own security.

TERRORISM

“The UK continues to support the commitment of the brave Kenyan soldiers fighting in Somalia against Al-Shabaab. And I will announce a new package of funding to support the African Union mission in Somalia,” said the PM.

On corruption, the two leaders witnessed the signing of an agreement on the framework for the return of assets from corruption and proceeds of crime hidden in off-shore accounts by corrupt individuals.

Britain becomes the third international partner- after Switzerland and Jersey Island - to support Kenya’s war on graft through the signing of agreements aimed at repatriation of assets and monies acquired through corrupt deals back into the country.

Prime Minister May said that besides repatriation of the proceeds of corruption, her government will support efforts to prosecute and conclude all major corruption cases in the country. Additional reporting by PSCU

Uhuru, Trump meeting elevates Kenya's position

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/08/28/uhurutrump-meeting-elevates-kenyas-position_c1809286

Aug. 28, 2018, 12:30 am - By ALYKHAN SATCHU

Donald Trump welcomed President Uhuru Kenyatta to the White House on Monday for what is the only second one-on-one meeting the US president has held with an African leader since he took office last year.

The first meeting, with Nigeria’s ailing 75-year-old Muhammadu Buhari in April, ended with the US president telling aides he never wanted to meet someone so lifeless again, according to three people familiar with the matter. [Financial Times]

There is a wide-open opportunity for President Kenyatta to present himself as the African Interlocutor with respect to Africa and The White House, at this moment.

The S&P500 rose to an all-time high following the Fed Chair's remarks at Jackson Hole and the Nasdaq is also at a record high.

The Dollar has been biding its time Monday after Powell's Jackson Hole comments.

The Kenya Shilling is the second best performing currency in the world in 2018 and has appreciated by 2.4% year to date. @CytonnInvest is alluding to

The NSE is currently trading at a price to earnings ratio (P/E) of 13.8x and a dividend yield of 3.9%.

The Nairobi All Share slumped -1.65 points lower to close at 171.33

The Nairobi NSE20 retreated 36.89 points.

Volumes clocked just 270.347m.

EABL slumped to a 6 and a half year closing Low

Commercial and Services

Safaricom closed unchanged at 29.00 and traded 1.674m shares worth 48.165m. Safaricom is rock solid at these levels and will accelerate through 30.00 violently in due course.

Banks

Equity Group closed -1.00% at 49.50 and traded 3.154m shares worth 156.15m. Equity Group is +29.55% on a Total Return Basis in 2018 and reported a +17.408% H1 2018 EPS acceleration and the regional Subsidiaries gained serious traction increasing their profitability by 62% to Kshs 2.8bn in the first half of 2018. The model is portable and There is headroom.
DTB retreated -4.66% to close at 184.00 on light trading of 900 shares.
COOP Bank was sold off -3.614% to close at 16.00 and traded 281,100 shares.

Industrial and Allied

EABL sank -5.36% to close at 194.00 a 65 month closing Low. EABL traded 600 shares with Buyers seemingly on strike. EABL

KenGen closed unchanged at 6.55 and traded 147,700 shares. The Noise in and around the Energy Sector is allowing Medium Term Investors to pick up KenGen for a song at these levels.

Crown Paints rallied +9.027% to close at 78.50 and traded 3,600 shares. Crown Berger is -1.875% Year To Date

GEOPOLITIQUE REGIONALE, ECONOMIE: Le Kenya sera une base arrière économique US face à la Chine

<https://www.burundi-forum.org/wp/breves/kenya-sera-base-arriere-economique-us-face-a-chine/>

GEOPOLITIQUE REGIONALE, ECONOMIE – WASHINGTON, 27/08/2018 – Le Président du KENYA, S.E. KENYATTA (fils), accompagné de son épouse, a été reçu à la Maison Blanche par le Président des USA, S.E. TRUMP, et son épouse.

Le Kenya se prépare à avoir sur son sol une présence économique américaine forte, avec les vols directs de Kenya Airways à partir d'octobre 2018. Lors de cette visite, S.E. Kenyatta a reçu les plus grands patrons de Washington DC.

L'administration TRUMP souhaite s'appuyer commercialement sur le KENYA, pays de la Communauté Est Africaine, et en faire une de ses bases arrières stratégiques dans la grande compétition économique qui s'annonce dès 2019 avec les débuts des nouvelles routes de la soie chinoise. Les entreprises américaines – multinationales – veulent être aussi de la fête. Des multinationales Kényanes sont présentes à BUJUMBURA.

UGANDA :

Uganda Defence Minister blasts Kenyans for Bobi Wine demos

By Vincent Kejitan | Updated Aug 31, 2018 at 09:02 EAT

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ureport/story/2001294039/uganda-defence-minister-blasts-kenyans-for-bobi-wine-demos>

Uganda's Minister for Security Gen Elly Tumwine on Thursday warned Kenyans against portraying his country in bad light.

Speaking during an interview with NBS, Tumwine stated that the hullabaloo surrounding Bobi Wine's arrest is meant to destabilize Uganda and he is ready to deal with the country's enemies.

"If you want to try it out, sisi tuko tayare [we are here and ready. All those came and they were also defeated," he remarked.

He went ahead to warn young Ugandans that the messages they have been receiving on messaging platform WhatsApp are from abroad, originating from people who have enough problems in their home countries.

"A good number of them (messages) are from neighboring bad people from Kenya who are demonstrating when they have enough problems there.

"These enemies include NGOs who want to destabilize Uganda, they target opposition, young people, intellectuals and the media, and they pay you.

"We have evidence that they pay the media to present Uganda's bad image for whoever's interests, not Uganda's interests," he alleged.

Human rights activists and some members of the Law Society of Kenya last week staged demos demanding the release of Robert Kyagulanyi aka Bobi Wine who had been re-arrested moments after the martial court dropped charges against him.

On Thursday, the Kyaddondo East MP was denied access to Entebbe Airport grounds by Aviation Police who ordered him to wait for further instructions near the airport gate.

His lawyer Nicholas Opiyo revealed that the musician was grabbed by police and thrown into an ambulance to an unknown destination.

SUDAN :

Sudan's ruling party backs Bashir for 2020 election: SUNA

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sudan-politics/sudans-ruling-party-backs-bashir-for-2020-election-suna-idUSKBN1KV1D3>

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - Sudan's ruling party said on Friday it would back its leader President Omar al-Bashir as a candidate in the 2020 election, state news agency SUNA reported, a move that would require a constitutional amendment.

Bashir, who has been in power for nearly 30 years and is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, has previously said he will step down in 2020 and has not explicitly stated his intention to run again.

"The Shura Council (of the National Congress party) recognized Field Marshal Omar al-Bashir as candidate for president in the 2020 election and has directed the relevant bodies to carry out the necessary measures for this," SUNA reported.

Sudan's constitution, amended in 2005, limits a president to two terms. Another change to the constitution would be required to allow Bashir to serve another term.

The Islamist and former army officer came to power via a military coup in 1989. He won elections in 2010 and 2015 after the constitution was changed following a peace agreement with southern rebels.

The ICC indicted Bashir in 2008 over killings and persecution in Sudan's Darfur province between 2003 and 2008.

The United States lifted 20 years of economic sanctions against Sudan in October, but the country remains on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, which means a ban on weapons sales and restrictions on U.S. aid.

The country is in economic crisis, with the Sudanese pound's value plummeting. Protests broke out over rising prices throughout the country in January. Sudan has struggled economically since the oil-rich south seceded in 2011.

On Friday, Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics said inflation had risen in July to an annual 63.94 percent.

Sudan's opposition says Bashir must go to improve the country's image abroad and attract crucial investment and aid.

Reporting by Ali Mirghani in Khartoum, Ahmed Tolba, John Davison, Khalid Abdelaziz in Cairo;
Editing by Andrew Roche
Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.

Russia, Sudan foster deal among Central African Republic militia

Thursday August 30 2018

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Russia-Sudan-foster-deal-among-Central-African-Republic-militia/1066-4735490-hysvpr/index.html>

By AFP

More by this Author

BANGUI,

Russia and Sudan have hosted talks in Khartoum among some of the Central African Republic's rival militias, CAR officials said on Wednesday, while documents showed the groups had signed a preliminary agreement.

The meeting in the Sudanese capital on Tuesday unfolded in parallel to an official mediation effort in the troubled CAR led by the African Union (AU).

RUSSIA

Russia and Sudan "took the step of holding a meeting in Khartoum with the heads of armed groups," Communications Minister Ange-Maxime Kazagui said in a statement read on national radio.

The CAR exploded into violence following the 2013 overthrow of longtime leader Francois Bozize, a Christian, by majority-Muslim militias in a coalition called the Seleka.

France, the former colonial power, intervened to oust the Seleka and the UN deployed a peacekeeping mission, MINUSCA, in 2014.

But President Faustin-Archange Touadera, elected in 2016, controls only a fraction of the country.

Most of the territory is overrun by armed groups, many of which claim to protect Christian or Muslim communities, and which often fight bloodily over resources.

VIOLENCE

Violence has led to thousands of deaths, while according to the UN, nearly 700,000 people have been internally displaced, 570,000 are refugees abroad and 2.5 million are in need of humanitarian aid.

Three Seleka groups and a nominally Christian militia leader signed a "declaration of understanding" in Khartoum on Tuesday, according to the document, which was obtained by AFP.

The three Seleka groups are the Popular Front for the Rebirth of the Central African Republic (FPRC), led by Nouredine Adam; the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC), led by Ali Darassa; and the Central African Patriotic Movement (MPC), led by Mahamat Al-Khatim.

Maxime Mokom, who heads one of the biggest nominally Christian armed groups, also signed the document.

The initiative in Khartoum marks the latest sign of Russia's deepening involvement in the CAR, a country that is poor and fragile but strategically located and rich in gold, copper, iron ore and uranium.

UN

Since the start of the year, Russia has supplied weapons to the CAR army after gaining UN authorisation to do so and provides close protection for Touadera, whose security advisor is Russian.

It has also sent five military officers and 170 civilians as "instructors" for CAR's armed forces, even though its troops are already being trained by the European Union.

On the diplomatic front, Russia has twice attempted to mediate among the militias in the past two months, but without success.

The CAR communique on Wednesday said the government "takes note of the declaration" signed in Khartoum but "supports the AU's initiative for peace and reconciliation."

The AU, supported by the UN and the CAR's main partners, has been striving to set up negotiations between the militias and the government since July 2017 but progress has been scant.

An AU panel is scheduled to meet with the militias in the coming days in Bouar, western CAR, to "harmonise" 97 claims that the armed groups have set down ahead of any official agreement.

Seven peace agreements have been signed in the CAR over the past half-dozen years but none has had a lasting effect.

SOUTH SUDAN :

South Sudan: Oil revival to boost economic recovery

Affected by the civil war, the country's oil output is expected to reach 210,000 barrels per day by the end of 2018.

by Fidelis Mbah

28 Aug 2018

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/08/south-sudan-oil-revival-boost-economic-recovery-180828071729069.html>

The oil taps are open again.

On Saturday, South Sudan resumed pumping 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil from the Toma South oilfield, where production had been suspended since 2013 due to civil war, Sudan's oil and gas minister Azhari Abdulqader said.

Once maintenance work on five previously suspended oil fields is completed, it is expected to increase production to 80,000 bpd with the country's oil output reaching 210,000 bpd by the end of the year.

Income from oil accounts for 98 percent of the country's budget.

Insecurity and the post-2014 oil price crash left the economy in tatters. But the increased oil output will revive South Sudan's economic fortunes, according to Kimo Adiebo, an economics professor at the University of Juba.

"This increases government's share in oil production and eventually oil revenue," Adiebo told Al Jazeera.

"Additional oil revenue would enable the government to stick to its policy of not printing money - borrowing from the central bank - and hence more control of inflation and the exchange rate, leading to gradual macroeconomic stability."

The most intense fighting between rebels and South Sudanese government troops took place at the Toma South oilfields, just over 30km from the border with Sudan, damaging oil production facilities.

But the country's oil crisis could have been avoided, Professor Paul Moorcraft, director at Centre for Foreign Policy Analysis, said.

"Juba cutting the oil off at the start of the post-independence war with Khartoum was the biggest self-inflicted political injury since Hitler declared war on the US," said Moorcraft.

"Clearly, independence has been a catastrophe for the south and a disaster for the north. Yet, in Africa, politics always trumps economic logic."

Working relationship

The resumption of oil activities is part of a ceasefire and power-sharing agreement between President Salva Kiir, rebel leader Riek Machar and other rebel groups to end the country's civil war. The peace deal has revived hopes of economic stability being restored.

South Sudan lacks the infrastructure to process its oil production. It is landlocked, forcing the young nation to use pipelines that go through Sudan to export its oil to the international market.

In June this year, Khartoum and Juba agreed to repair oil infrastructure facilities destroyed by the war within three months in order to boost production and said a joint force would be established to protect the oilfields from attacks by rebel forces.

"Maybe utter war-weariness and famine may allow some sense to prevail and the two main sides in the civil war may now work with Khartoum," said Moorcraft.

"It is interesting how President Omar al-Bashir has had a good working relationship with Kiir and Machar. The level of corruption in the south is so bad that very little of any oil - or aid - money gets to the ordinary citizen. The problem is that all the money is held in Juba.

"Yet, if some money gets to peripheries, it fuels tribal warlordism. [The] paradox of development." Oil production was at around 245,000 bpd at the time fighting started. But plummeted to about 120,000 bpd during the war from a peak of 350,000 bpd, according to the World Bank.

Investor confidence

Juba is seeking new investors in the oil sector after the government halted talks with French oil company Total about developing two oil blocks.

Total, along with two other oil companies, had been in talks about developing those oilfields since 2013.

But Total and the government failed to agree on the duration of the exploration and the commercial terms of a production-sharing agreement.

However, despite the peace deal, investors remain sceptical. Rights campaigner Beny Mabor told Al Jazeera that the prospects of attracting investors are bleak as long as conflict go unaddressed.

"Investment is equal to secure environment, Therefore, if there's peace, the investors will come and if not, I'm afraid they might not either," Mabor said.

In March, the US imposed sanctions on 15 South Sudanese oil operators who allegedly assisted government to buy weapons and funded militia groups.

The conflict in South Sudan has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions [File: Reuters]

Tens of thousands of people were killed by the civil war which also forced millions to flee their homes, triggering a humanitarian crisis and ruined the country's economy that heavily relies on crude oil production.

Seven million South Sudanese, more than half of its population, will need food aid in 2018, according to the United Nations.

"This additional oil money may enable the government to increase spending towards poverty reduction, education, health, social welfare and humanitarian aid," said Adiebo.

"Diverting more of this additional oil money towards consolidation of peace would bring security to rural areas and hence enable the IDPs to return to their home areas and engage in more productive activities such as farming with the view of addressing food insecurity," he added.

Is peace possible in South Sudan?

Inside Story

Is peace possible in South Sudan?

SOURCE: Al Jazeera News

EGYPT :

Egypt: Eight killed in military operation in North Sinai
Clashes kill four fighters and four Egyptian troops in restive Sinai province.
26 Aug 2018

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/08/egypt-killed-military-operation-north-sinai-180825124609582.html>

Four armed men have been killed in an operation by the Egyptian police in the city of Arish in the northern Sinai.

Egyptian security source told Arabic-language media that four Egyptian policemen were also killed in the clashes on Saturday, while several others were wounded.

According to the source, the attackers were wearing explosives and others carried light weapons.

The remaining members of the group managed to flee the site of the operation, said the unnamed source.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack which it described as an infiltration operation, according to a statement published on the group's Amaq news agency.

Earlier this month, Egypt's military said it has killed 52 fighters in the Sinai Peninsula over the past few days as part of its ongoing efforts to eliminate armed groups in the sparsely populated desert region.

More than 300 fighters have been killed in Sinai since the Egyptian army launched an operation to defeat armed groups in the province in February.

Defeating armed groups and restoring security has been a promise of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who was re-elected in March in a landslide victory against no real opposition.

Sisi's critics say his presidency has brought about a harsh crackdown on dissent, but supporters say such measures, which include mass imprisonment of political opposition, are needed to stabilise Egypt.

SOURCE: Al Jazeera

ETHIOPIA :

Chinese projects in Ethiopia worth over \$4bln – Official

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/chinese-projects-in-ethiopia-worth-over-4bln-official/>

About 400 Chinese investment projects valued at more than \$4 billion are in full operation in Ethiopia, a senior official said on Friday. Foreign Ministry spokesman, Meles Alem said of the 400 investment projects over 100 were established in joint venture with Ethiopian partners.

The projects operate in major development sectors mainly in infrastructure creating over one hundred thousand job opportunities in the horn Africa nation.

The spokesperson's remark come a day after Ethiopian Prime Minister Aby Ahmed said that "the sky is the limit" in the relations between his country.

He was speaking in a farewell ceremony of 1000 Ethiopian students who secured scholarships to study in China.

"The countries have been enjoying sustained progress in infrastructure, finance and trade cooperation" the spokesperson said as opposed to rumors suggesting relations between Addis Ababa and Beijing have weaken since the new prime minister came to power in April this year.

China granted scholarships for over 2000 MA and PhD programs excluding other trainings in the past fiscal year, the spokesperson revealed.

More than 50 Chinese companies are expected to partake in a Chinese business week conference to create partnerships with Ethiopian companies.

China will host the FOCAC Summit 2018 in Beijing next week and African leaders are arriving in Beijing to participate in the summit.

"The cooperation and collaboration in United Nations, South-South Cooperation and Forum on China-Africa Cooperation between Ethiopia and China emerges strong, their consistent and predictable relations in various sectors indicated fruitful success in the South-South Cooperation concept" he said.

Ethiopian high level officials exchanged ten official visits with their Chinese counterparts and held talks with Chinese government officials last year to strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership, it was learned.

Tags : APA

Ethiopian Diaspora Community Embraces New Prime Minister

August 31, 2018 | General news

<http://www.pulitzercenter.org/blog/ethiopian-diaspora-community-embraces-new-prime-minister>

Anyone near 9th and M Streets NW in downtown Washington, D.C., on one hot Saturday this summer would have seen steady streams of people in the vibrant green, red, and yellow of the Ethiopian flag making their way to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. There they would join thousands of other Ethiopians who had flooded into the city from across the country to hear their recently elected prime minister Abiy Ahmed speak that afternoon.

Entrepreneurial young Ethiopian-Americans went up and down the line selling pins and T-shirts emblazoned with Abiy's face. At times someone in the crowd would start a spontaneous chant of "Abiy" and people would enthusiastically chime in.

Hours later, when some realized that not everyone in the 35,000-strong crowd would make it inside, the line broke down and there was a rush to the door as the crowd tried to force its way inside.

Abiy is the first Ethiopian prime minister to come to the United States expressly to develop his ties to the diaspora community, largely because he is the first who would have been met with support rather than protest. As recently as January, headlines about Ethiopia predicted its imminent collapse.

Now, just a few months after those grim predictions, Ethiopia is suddenly brimming over with hope. During the first few months in office, Abiy has led this transformation. He has freed thousands of political prisoners, led a detente with Eritrea, invited exiled opposition parties back into the country, and won the support of over 90 percent of Ethiopia.

On July 28, he came to D.C.—home to the greatest number of Ethiopians anywhere outside Africa—to make the diaspora a part of his reforms.

image6.png

The line got so long that it had to double back on itself. Image by Claire Potter. United States, 2018.

The line got so long that it had to double back on itself. Image by Claire Potter. Washington, D.C., 2018.

Turning Hope into Action

When Elias Woldu heard that the prime minister was coming to the United States, he volunteered to be one of the 500 volunteers who organized the event in Washington, D.C.

When he visited the United States as a young student over 30 years ago, he never expected that he was moving away from his home forever. "I wanted to go back all the time," he remembers, but as the situation in Ethiopia descended further into chaos, he knew that he had to make his life here. As years passed, he says that "there was hope that something better could [happen] in the country, but I never expected, in my lifetime, to see it."

The constant stream of bad news coming from Ethiopia made people in the diaspora believe that hoping for reform in the near future was foolish. Then Abiy gave them hope.

Now, many of them have great ambitions for Ethiopia. One man, Mezmure Ori, noted that Ethiopia has one of the youngest populations in the world and abundant natural resources, such as the oil deposits it has yet to tap. If his country is able to develop its economy—which Abiy is determined to do—he believes "we will be a good example for other African countries, and become one of the strong countries in Africa." He thinks Ethiopia could be the next South Korea.

People at the rally were eager to be a part of their country's development. And that's in part why Abiy was here: he has asked that Ethiopians outside the country donate one dollar a day to the Diaspora Trust Fund to help make his \$12.6 billion budget—aimed heavily at economic initiatives—a reality. Everyone I asked said they had either already pledged to donate or were planning to any day.

image4.png

A man used the flag he had brought to shield himself from the sun. Image by Jazmin Goodwin. United States, 2018.

A man used the flag he had brought to shield himself from the sun. Image by Jazmin Goodwin. Washington, D.C., 2018.

A Second Moses?

Although hope was in the air, there was also an undercurrent of apprehension. As one woman at the rally, Agena Ghebri, said "I'm happy, (but) in the meantime fearful just because there is a part of the last administration trying to diminish the moment we are having right now."

She was referring to the factions of the ruling coalition, the EPRDF, which held onto power for the last 27 years by torturing, arresting, and killing anyone who opposed it. Abiy is part of the EPRDF, but he is reforming the country and represents a shift in power—earning him plenty of enemies. Just last June, there was an attempt on his life.

On July 28, the day of the Washington, D.C., gathering, there were police officers surrounding the area, metal detectors at every entrance to the Convention Center, and even a ban on bringing in the small sticks attached to the flags people had brought. The fear was palpable, and without Abiy, the change he had begun could suddenly collapse.

Woldu was not afraid for Abiy because, as he explained, "I think God is using him, and I think nothing will happen to him."

Woldu is not alone in crediting God with Abiy and his sudden reforms. Many see Abiy as a second Moses sent by God to save Ethiopia. Abiy, who rose up through the ranks of the EPRDF, was not a likely vessel for reform.

As Sisay Kuta, an Ethiopian man living in D.C., explained, Moses also spent years by the side of those who oppressed his people, but "he saw what happened to his people, and then he was bleeding inside. And (Abiy) was the same."

screen_shot_2018-08-25_at_6.30.59_pm.png

Many people were wearing T-shirts with pictures of Abiy surrounded by Ethiopia's colors. Image by Jazmin Goodwin. United States, 2018.

Many people were wearing T-shirts with pictures of Abiy surrounded by Ethiopia's colors. Image by Jazmin Goodwin. Washington, D.C., 2018.

From Skepticism to Visions of Going Home

Abiy's reforms came so unexpectedly that it is understandable that see his rise as miraculous. Previous politicians used ethnicity and religion to divide the Ethiopian people, but Abiy keeps stressing national unity, as he did on July 28. Although his words have yet to truly overcome the deepset divisions among Ethiopians, at least the overwhelming majority of Ethiopians both at home and abroad are united in their support of him.

As Soleyana Gebremichael, an Ethiopian human rights activist based in D.C., pointed out, winning the support of the diaspora community is a major political accomplishment. Historically, the diaspora has always been the source of nearly all protest against the Ethiopian government. Without the safety of distance, activists faced torture and imprisonment.

Now, for the first time, the diaspora supports the leader of Ethiopia. On July 28, Abiy even embraced Tamagne Beyene, who has been one of the most outspoken critics of the EPRDF regime over the course of the last 27 years, on stage at the Convention Center. By winning the support of the leaders of the diaspora, Abiy is politically neutralizing the most vocal and active opposition the Ethiopian government has ever had.

Anyone at the July 28 rally would have been struck by what a broad range of people in the diaspora Abiy has been able to win over.

Eritreans had come to support Abiy because he put an end to the decades of conflict that divided the two countries after their bloody war in the 1990s. For decades there had been no communication between Eritrea and Ethiopia; families who were separated by the border couldn't even visit each other. Even in D.C., as Kuta explained, "the people from Ethiopia don't go to Eritrean restaurant, the Eritrean people don't come to Ethiopian restaurants." But on July 28, they celebrated side by side.

Ethiopians who had spent years protesting the EPRDF, like Malaki who had come to the U.S. five years ago as an asylee, came to support Abiy. Malaki [who did not provide his last name] is a member of an opposition party, so the EPRDF would have imprisoned him if he hadn't escaped.

At first Malaki was skeptical of Abiy because, as he explained, "[Abiy] came from the same party and I still have some doubts, but in the first hundred days I see a lot of changes." Now that he has seen that Abiy is serious about reform, he fully supports him.

Like Malaki, Gebremichael thought that she would never be able to go home again because she has spent years working to uncover the abuses of the EPRDF. She started the Ethiopia Human Rights Project, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., that has gathered information on the cases of the political prisoners and journalists imprisoned without any due process.

As an activist, Gebremichael describes Abiy's change as "disorienting." He is releasing the last of Ethiopia's political prisoners, so her day-to-day work is largely unnecessary now. The big questions that have always been on the horizon about what a reformed Ethiopia will look like are now at hand. The speed of Abiy's reforms has contributed to high hopes and popularity, but Gebremichael fears that her country is poorly prepared to address those big questions and lacks the stability to make long-lasting reform a certainty.

On a personal level, Abiy has changed her life. Gebremichael never thought she would go home again, and now she will this November. As she put it, "I can't even focus on whatever I'm doing now, I'm just so excited."

RDC CONGO :

Ebola control measures seem to be working in Congo, WHO says

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-ebola-congo/ebola-control-measures-seem-to-be-working-in-congo-who-says-idUSKCN1LG23F>

Tom Miles

GENEVA (Reuters) - Efforts to halt an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in Democratic Republic of Congo appear to be working, but substantial risks remain, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

The outbreak has so far killed 77 people in Congo's North Kivu and Ituri provinces among 116 cases. Fifteen of the cases were healthworkers.

"Recent trends suggest that control measures are working," a WHO statement said, citing improving figures for tracing patients' contacts, rapid treatment of Ebola patients with therapeutic drugs and vaccinations of people at risk.

A previous outbreak in Congo this year was swiftly stopped, despite the remote location and difficult terrain.

The latest outbreak presents a different challenge, occurring in a more densely populated area with dozens of armed groups. Some areas are off-limits to healthworkers due to the security risks, making it more difficult to ring-fence each Ebola case by vaccinating all the patient's contacts.

On Wednesday WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was too soon to say whether the outbreak was stabilizing due to the difficulty of identifying new cases near rebel-controlled areas.

"Substantial risks remain, posed by potential undocumented chains of transmission," Friday's WHO statement said, adding that four of the 13 new probable and confirmed cases in the past week were not known to have had contact with any Ebola patients.

There were also risks from unsafe burial practices and people's reluctance to accept contact tracing, vaccination and healthcare, as well as poor standards in some health centers and delays in getting patients to treatment.

Reporting by Tom Miles; Editing by Gareth Jones

Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.

UN chief welcomes DR Congo President's promise to stand down

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/08/1016802>

10 August 2018 / Peace and Security

The United Nations Secretary-General has commended the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Joseph Kabila's decision on Thursday, not to stand in elections scheduled to take place on 23 December.

In line with constitutional rules, Mr. Kabila was due to end his mandate as leader of the Central African nation, in 2016. Following delays and subsequent political mediation, his term was extended until December 2017, but protests were sparked when polls were once again delayed by 12 months, resulting in the violent repression of demonstrators by Congolese security forces.

Mr. Kabila's name is absent from a provisional list of candidates that was published by CENI, the DR Congo's electoral commission, on the 8 August. The following day, a joint statement from Canada, the US, Switzerland, the EU and African Union, as well as the UN Stabilization Mission to DRC (MONUSCO), applauded President Kabila for agreeing to step down at the end of the year.

A statement issued on Thursday night by the Spokesman for Mr. Guterres, added that the Secretary-General also welcomes the continued progress towards the holding of presidential and legislative elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the end of the year, preparing the ground for a peaceful transfer of power.

Despite the Presidential announcement, Leila Zerrougui, the UN Special Representative for the country and head of MONUSCO, has expressed concerns about the lack of a "level playing field" in the political process so far this year, citing opposition grievances - including over voting machinery and electoral records - and ongoing human rights violations: civil society actors and political opponents in DR Congo continue to be arbitrarily arrested and media workers threatened.

She warned that, without progress on these fronts, the credibility and inclusivity of the elections may be at risk.

CONGO :

Congo Republic Leader to Seek Chinese Help on IMF Bailout Accord

By Elie Smith

28 août 2018 à 15:24 UTC+2

The Republic of Congo's president will seek Chinese support for its negotiations with the International Monetary Fund about a bailout, a government spokesman said.

Congo owes creditors at least \$9.14 billion and has been trying to secure funding from the Washington-based lender since March 2017 to revive an economy that contracted for the past two years as oil prices declined. The IMF has rescheduled board meetings to discuss the package in recent months, without saying why.

President Denis Sassou Nguesso will travel to China next week for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit in Beijing on Sept. 3-4. He'll stay on to hold talks with President Xi Jinping, government spokesman Thierry Mougalla said by phone Tuesday from the capital, Brazzaville.

"President Sassou Nguesso will be seeking the support of China in our bailout agreement negotiations with the IMF," Mougalla said.

Congolese Prime Minister Clement Mouamba flew to Beijing last month to obtain clarity on loans to Congo by lenders including the Export-Import Bank of China. The IMF in April said it needs to know exactly what the country owes to bilateral and commercial lenders before it provides funding.
Executive Decisions

China is Congo's biggest creditor, Mougalla said. "Any clear support from China politically and economically will assure the IMF that reforms" the government agrees to in return for a bailout will be implemented, he said.

The IMF's executive board had been set to discuss a proposed three-year arrangement for Congo at a meeting on July 11, according to a calendar published on its website that month. The meeting didn't take place and has yet to be rescheduled.

Ruled for two decades by Sassou Nguesso and home to sub-Saharan Africa's fourth-biggest oil reserves, Congo ranks among the world's 20 most corrupt nations listed by anti-graft campaigners Transparency International.

The country's debt has more than tripled since 2010 to more than 110 percent of gross domestic product. London-based advocacy group Global Witness alleges a series of pre-financing deals by the state oil company were used by people close to or part of Sassou Nguesso's family as vehicles for corruption. The government has rejected the claims.

ZIMBABWE :

Zimbabwe Opposition Leader Says He is the Legitimate Leader of Zimbabwe

<https://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/zimbabwe-opposition-leader-says-he-is-the-legitimate-leader-of-zimbabwe/4550665.html>

Zimbabwe opposition MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa told journalists in Harare, Wednesday, that he is the country's legitimate leader, and that President Emmerson Mnangagwa, despite being inaugurated, is the disputed leader. Chamisa said he'll be embarking on a nationwide tour to meet supporters.

Zimbabwe's leader names ex-military commander as a VP

By The Associated Press HARARE, Zimbabwe — Aug 30, 2018, 6:12 AM ET

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/zimbabwes-leader-names-military-commander-vp-57494160>

Zimbabwe's president has re-appointed as one of his vice presidents a former military general who helped him take power.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has appointed Constantino Chiwenga, who led the defense forces when the military rolled into the capital in November to pressure longtime leader Robert Mugabe to resign.

Chiwenga later left the military with several other generals to take up leadership positions in the government and ruling party.

Chiwenga and Kembo Mohadi were sworn in as the two vice presidents on Thursday as Mnangagwa's first Cabinet appointments since his inauguration on Sunday after a disputed election.

"For now, Mnangagwa and Chiwenga need each other for political survival strategic purposes," says Harare-based analyst, Alexander Rusero.

MALAWI :

Tension as thieves storm Mzuzu main townships

By Malawi24 Reporter on Aug 31, 2018

<https://malawi24.com/2018/08/31/tension-as-thieves-storm-mzuzu-main-townships/>

Tension arose at Mchengautuwa in Mzuzu on Thursday morning when a mob wanted to set alight a thief caught stealing in one of the houses in the township.

What started as a promising day, turned into a nightmare as people were ready to reduce the suspected thug to ashes using the readily available petrol and matches. The angry mob started manhandling the suspect around 10AM while chanting, “wakuba musamusuye choncho azolowera”

But the suspect repeatedly pleaded with the angry mob to spare him saying he had to steal because of poverty.

For the past three weeks, stories of thieving have become rife in Mzuzu city, particularly in Mchengautuba Township.

Residents have been sleeping with their eyes wide open guarding their property. Some have already lost their property and as days are going by, possibilities are high, some may follow suit.

“We are sick and tired of sleeping our eyes with wide open because of thieves. Today, we will conduct a ceremony that will deter the would-be thieves by burning this man here,” screamed one man who kept on saying that thieves are drawbacks to development thus needs stiffer punishment.

Another, man, who seemed to be leading the mob, kept on downplaying the idea of taking the thief to Police. He described the Police as useless and corrupt. He claimed that Malawi’s security system is very weak.

“Mbava tithana Nazo tokha apolisi alibe ntchito. Moti tikapita, akayitulusanso lero lomwe. Kenako izabaso. Tiyeni tingochita nayo (let’s just deal with thieves on our own, police officers are unreliable),” he said.

It took the sympathy of this reporter to touch-base with some police officer who came to rescue the suspect. But, drama still continued as the angry mob told the Police pointblank that should they find another thief, they will skin him alive.

Malawi24 consulted one of the Mzuzu based social commentators John Beza Nkhata to give an insight on why thievery is becoming rampant and why people resort to mob justice.

“One, high levels of poverty. Two urbanization. In our country many people don’t have stable source of money yet they have huge responsibilities at home. How do we expect them to survive? That’s obvious, stealing is the closest alternative,” he said.

“On the issue of mob justice, people seem to have lost trust in their Police service. This might be due to lack of knowledge on how their police works thus they think it’s useless.”

Beza Nkhata then urged for sensitization campaigns on evils of mob justice and operations of Malawi police service.

Before publishing this article, there was no immediate comment from the Police authorities on the matter.

MOZAMBIQUE :

Battery Minerals sits on \$10bn worth of vanadium in Mozambique

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/battery-minerals-sits-on-10bn-worth-of-vanadium-in-mozambique-2018-08-31>

31st August 2018

By: Esmarie Swanepoel - Creamer Media Senior Deputy Editor: Australasia

ERTH (miningweekly.com) – Graphite developer Battery Minerals is looking at ways to exploit the near \$10-billion worth of vanadium contained in its assets in Mozambique.

Battery Minerals MD David Flanagan on Friday told delegates at the Africa Downunder conference that the tailings that would be produced from its Montepuez and Balama graphite projects, was expected to contain significant amounts of vanadium resource

The Stage 1 Montepuez project, which would produce 50 000 t/y of graphite, is expected to discharge between \$30-million to \$35-million worth of vanadium a year, in the form of tailings material.

“The company is working to establish how we can recover some of that vanadium, but for the time being it will be stored in the tailings dam. It is likely to be a very valuable resource,” Flanagan said on Friday.

In the meantime, Battery Minerals is continuing work at the Montepuez project, with first graphite export expected 12 months after financing completion.

The \$51-million project is expected to have a mine life of more than ten years, based on a 50 000 t/y operation, with Battery Minerals planning an expansion of the project to 100 000 t/y with a targeted mine life of 30 years.

Battery Minerals is currently working to secure the remaining \$38-million needed to bring the Montepuez project into completion and commissioning in 2020, after financier Resource Capital Fund in June terminated a \$30-million debt and equity funding agreement, saying that the graphite market no longer met the company’s investment criteria.

ZAMBIA :

UK to boost economic links with Zambia

August 30, 2018

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/08/30/uk-to-boost-economic-links-with-zambia/>

Zambians will benefit as the UK puts more attention and resource into economic development and trade links to create the economic growth that will sustain rapidly growing populations in Africa. The UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, has announced on her first visit to Africa as Prime Minister that the UK supports a long-term solution to poverty by helping to create sustainable job opportunities and investments.

The Prime Minister has pledged to make the UK the G7's number one investor in Africa, with Britain's private sector companies taking the lead in investing the billions that will see African economies growing by trillions. The Prime Minister also pledged that the UK will remain a global champion for international development, committing that UK development spending will not only combat extreme poverty, but at the same time tackle global challenges and support the UK national interest.

In Zambia, UK investment is already happening through various channels such as investment in human capital and through social impact agribusinesses such as AgDevCo, Saise Farming Enterprises Limited and Zambeef. The Prime Minister has announced additional funding through AgDevCo that will benefit Zambia.

In Zambia, the UK also promotes leadership and skills through the Chevening and Commonwealth scholarship schemes that in 2018/19 will fund almost 40 Zambians to pursue postgraduate studies in the UK.

The Prime Minister's announcement of a further 100 Chevening scholarships for Africans means that next year the number of scholarships for Zambians will increase.

The Prime Minister, Theresa May said;

“The UK's role in international development is something of which I am immensely proud, as I believe the nation as a whole should be. We will remain a global champion for aid spending, humanitarian relief and international development. We will continue our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on official development assistance. We will not falter in our work to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.”

With UK support AgDevCo has so far already leveraged £117 million of third-party capital, including from British companies. Over 1.6 million people in rural areas are benefiting from increased incomes as a result of the jobs and markets created by AgDevCo's investments. The figure is set to grow to 2.4 million over time.

The additional funding announced (£55m) will directly benefit an additional 1.5 million people by 2025. It will bring the total to 3.9 million people directly benefiting by 2025 in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Uganda.

Commenting on the increased investments by the United Kingdom in to Africa which will also benefit Zambia; British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyett OBE said;
“As a long-term friend of Zambia, the UK recognises that British aid and investment should boost Zambia’s economic growth so as to create jobs and wealth. In particular, The UK will be investing more in Zambia’s agriculture and in scholarships for young, dynamic Zambians.”

ANGOLA :

President of Angola meets with Chinese counterpart

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2018/08/31/pt-presidente-de-angola-reune-com-presidente-xi-jinping-da-china/>

Angolan President João Lourenço is due on Sunday to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping, in Beijing, the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE) said in a statement.

Lourenço heads the Angolan high-level delegation to participate in the 3rd Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which will take place in the Chinese capital on 3 and 4 September.

According to Angolan news agency Angop, which quotes the MRE statement, Foreign Minister Manuel Augusto is taking part on Monday in the opening ceremony of the High Level Dialogue between Chinese and African leaders.

On the same day, Augusto will attend the sixth conference of business people from China and Africa, taking place at the local National Convention Centre, on the sidelines of FOCAC.

The China-Africa summit is a platform for consultations and dialogue, intended to strengthen consensus and deepen relations.

The first FOCAC was held in Beijing in 2006 and the second in South Africa in 2015. (macauhub)