

AFRICA: 3 DECEMBRE 2018 - [Burundi / NDADAYE : Mandat d'arrêt international contre BUYOYA Pierre | Présidentielle en RDC: La Belgique dément l'envoi de troupes à Brazzaville annoncé dans une vidéo de 1997 | Nigeria President Buhari denies dying: 'It's the real me']



DECEMBRE 2018

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Images : African Union ; Aljazeera ; Belga



Burundi / NDADAYE : Mandat d'arrêt international contre BUYOYA Pierre 2/ La mort de Feu NDADAYE Melchior, Jeudi 21 octobre 1993 [<http://burundi-agnews.org/dossier-1993-assassinat-de-feu-ndadaye/>]

Présidentielle en RDC: La Belgique dément l'envoi de troupes à Brazzaville annoncé dans une vidéo de 1997

L'ambassade de Belgique en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) a démenti l'existence de préparatifs pour l'envoi imminent de troupes belges à Brazzaville, face à Kinshasa, à trois semaines d'élections générales qui doivent conduire au départ du pouvoir du président Joseph Kabila.

Nigeria President Buhari denies dying: 'It's the real me'

Nigerian leader refutes claims circulating on social media that he has died and been replaced by a Sudanese lookalike. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has denied claims that he had died and been replaced by a Sudanese impostor, quashing a rumour that has circulated on social media for months.

Burundi :

Burundi / NDADAYE : Mandat d'arrêt international contre BUYOYA Pierre

GEOPOLITIQUE DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, JUSTICE – Dans le dossier de l'assassinat de Feu Ndadaye en octobre 1993, le Procureur lance un Mandat d'arrêt international émis contre M. BUYOYA Pierre et 16 autres personnes.

BUJUMBURA, Vendredi 30 novembre 2018 – Dans le cadre de la Politique de la Justice des Burundi, M. NYANDWI Sylvestre, Procureur Général de la République, a annoncé, en conférence de presse, avoir émis un mandat d'arrêt international, rendu public, à l'encontre de personnes recherchées dans l'affaire du Coup d'État sanglant de 1993 et assassinat du Président Feu NDADAYE Melchior et ses collaborateurs.

Voici le mandat d'arrêt international émis à l'encontre de : http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/bdi_burundi_mandatdarretcontrebuyoya1993_2018.pdf

Les 17 individus sont : 1/ BUYOYA Pierre, ancien président du Burundi sous la Dictature ; 2/ SIMBANDUKU Pascal ; 3/ NKURUNZIZA Alfred ; 4/ SINARINZI Mamert ; 5/ DARADANGWE Jean-Bosco ; 6/ BUSOKOZA Bernard ; 7/ NIYUNGEKO Vincent ; 8/ NSOSABA Juvénal ; 9/ NGOMIRAKIZA Jean ; 10/ BARIBWEGURE Janvier ; 11/ KAMANA Jean Paul ; 12/ NTAKIJE Charles ; 13/ GRUKWIGOMBA Astère ; 14/ BARARUNYERETSE Libère ; 15/ RUKINGAMA Luc ; 16/ MUKASI Charles ; et 17/ NDUWAYO Antoine.

Le Dictateur HIMA Burundais BUYOYA Pierre, pour les Burundi, c'est ceci :

1/ Ntega Marangara (Entre 5.000, 25.000 et 100.000 victimes Burundi, selon les sources) : <http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide.htm>

2/ La mort de Feu NDADAYE Melchior, Jeudi 21 octobre 1993 [<http://burundi-agnews.org/dossier-1993-assassinat-de-feu-ndadaye/>]

3/ La Guerre Civile du Burundi d'octobre 1993 à 2003 (3,2 Millions de Victimes Burundi – Réfugiés, Internés dans les Camps de Concentration, Morts) : <https://burundi-agnews.org/histoire-la-guerre-civile-du-burundi-1993-2003/>

4/ Les camps de concentration du Burundi de 1996 à 2001 (1,5 Millions de Victimes Burundi) : <http://burundi-agnews.org/ccburundi.htm>

5/ Le coup d'état militaire raté du mercredi 13 mai 2015 (200.000 Victimes Burundi – Réfugiés, et quelques centaines de morts) : <https://burundi-agnews.org/revolution-de-couleur/> et <https://burundi-agnews.org/guerre-humanitaire/>

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Samedi 1 Décembre 2018

Burundi : La déclaration de FAKI MAHAMAT, U.A., passe très mal

GEOPOLITIQUE GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, SECURITE, DIPLOMATIE, UNION AFRICAINE – Le Burundi ne comprend pas la réaction de M. FAKI MAHAMAT Moussa, Président de la Commission de l'Union Africaine (UA), suite au mandat d'arrêt international émis à l'encontre de l'ancien dictateur HIMA burundais BUYOYA Pierre, dans le dossier de l'assassinat du Président Feu NDADAYE Melchior en 1993.

ADDIS ABEBA (Ethiopie), Samedi 1 décembre 2018 – M. FAKI MAHAMAT Moussa, Président de la Commission de l'Union Africaine (UA), dans sa déclaration sur les efforts régionaux sur le Burundi, a pris la défense de son ami, l'ex-dictateur HIMA burundais BUYOYA Pierre, en demandant à la justice burundaise de s'abstenir à son égard, après l'émission d'un mandat d'arrêt international délivré à l'encontre du Dictateur HIMA BUYOYA, notamment pour le dossier de l'assassinat de Feu le Président NDADAYE Melchior en octobre 1993.

Voici le morceau de cette déclaration qui passe très mal au Burundi :

Le Président de la Commission, notant avec une profonde préoccupation l'impasse persistante dans le Dialogue inclusif, appelle tous les acteurs burundais à faire preuve de l'esprit de compromis qu'appelle la situation actuelle. Il souligne que le Dialogue inclusif reste la seule voie à même de permettre au Burundi de surmonter durablement les défis actuels. Il forme l'espoir que le Président Pierre Nkurinziza apportera sa contribution personnelle à la réussite du Sommet que la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est envisage de tenir le 27 décembre 2018. Dans l'intervalle, il est crucial que l'ensemble des acteurs concernés s'abstiennent de toutes mesures, y compris politiques et/ou judiciaires, de nature à compliquer la recherche d'une solution consensuelle, conformément à l'esprit de réconciliation nationale qui a sous-tendu l'Accord d'Arusha d'août 2000 et les Accords subséquents ayant permis de mettre un terme au conflit au Burundi

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/35286-pr-declaration_du_president_de_la_commission_sur_les_efforts_regionaux_sur_le_burundi.pdf ou <https://au.int/fr/pressreleases/20181201/d%C3%A9claration-du-pr%C3%A9sident-de-la-commission-sur-les-efforts-r%C3%A9gionaux-sur-le> ou http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/35286-pr-declaration_du_president_de_la_commission_sur_les_efforts_regionaux_sur_le_burundi.pdf]

Pour les BARUNDI, cette déclaration sur la situation au Burundi qui serait problématique alors qu'il n'en est rien [Le Burundi est un pays calme et il n'y a pas de crise au Burundi : <http://burundi-agnews.org>] et ce positionnement du Tchadien M. FAKI MAHAMAT, Président de la Commission de l'UA, n'ayant jamais mis les pieds au Burundi, pourtant après de nombreux passages au Rwanda voisin ces derniers mois, demeurent incompréhensibles et inappropriés pour sa fonction.

Le Dictateur HIMA BUYOYA Pierre, ce sont près de 3,5 Millions de Victimes Burundi sur une population de 9 Millions d'âmes : Ntega Marangara, avec 100.000 victimes burundaises en 1989 <http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide.htm> ; l'assassinat du Président Melchior Ndadaye en octobre 1993, avec plus d'1,8 Millions de victimes burundaises parmi les morts et les réfugiés dans les pays limitrophes du Burundi jusqu'en décembre 1993 <http://burundi-agnews.org/dossier-1993-assassinat-de-feu-ndadaye/> ; la Guerre Civile du Burundi d'octobre 1993 à 2003 avec 3,2 Millions de victimes burundaises (Réfugiés, Internés dans les Camps de Concentration, et Morts) <https://burundi-agnews.org/histoire-la-guerre-civile-du-burundi-1993-2003/> ; et les camps de concentration du Burundi de 1996 à 2001 de plus d' 1,5 Millions de Victimes burundaises <http://burundi-agnews.org/ccburundi.htm>

Mais, malgré l'Accord d'Arusha de 2000 et l'Accord de cessez le feu de novembre 2003, le Dictateur BUYOYA Pierre c'est aussi la récidive, avec le coup d'état militaire raté du mercredi 13 mai 2015, avec 200.000 victimes burundaises (Réfugiés, et quelques centaines de morts)

<https://burundi-agnews.org/revolution-de-couleur/> et <https://burundi-agnews.org/guerre-humanitaire/>

Le Tchad, pays frère du Burundi, a connu le même phénomène avec l'ancien dictateur tchadien Hissène Habré. Le Burundi ne comprend pas la logique de M. FAKI MAHAMAT...

Au Burundi, les citoyens rappellent le danger de ce type de Déclaration de l'Union Africaine envers la SECURITE DES BARUNDI. Pour rappel, Mme NKOSAZANA DLAMINI -ZUMA, sa prédécesseur dans cette même fonction, avait donné en 2015 "le Feu Vert" à 2 reprises aux commanditaires PUTSCHISTES OCCIDENTAUX (la France de Holland , la Belgique des Michel et les USA du tandem OBAMA – SOROS) pour leur agression envers le Burundi [<https://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-securite-2-fois-lunion-africaine-a-donne-les-barundi-en-pature-aux-usa-et-a-lue/>]. Aujourd'hui, Mme NKOSAZANA DLAMINI -ZUMA, est partie de l'Union Africaine, et en Afrique du Sud, les Sud Africains n'ont pas voulu d'elle comme présidente de l'ANC ni Président de l'Afrique du Sud [<https://burundi-agnews.org/eac/burundi-histoire-ulundi-le-burundi-dafrique-du-sud/>]. Pourquoi M. FAKI MAHAMAT agit de la sorte, alors que les BARUNDI et les TCHADIENS sont des PEUPLES AFRICAINS liés SOCIOLOGIQUEMENT et par l'HISTOIRE [<http://burundi-agnews.org/histoire/burundi-reflexion-sur-le-royaume-millenaire-ingoma-yuburundi-et-sa-spiritualite/>] ?

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

Rwanda :

Rwanda : les derniers combattants FDLR, expulsés de RDC, sont arrivés au camp de Mutobo.

<https://information.tv5monde.com/afrique/rwanda-les-derniers-combattants-fdlr-expulses-de-rdc-sont-arrives-au-camp-de-mutobo-274196>

Plus de 520 anciens combattants FDLR - dont une femme - ont rejoint le camp de Mutobo, au nord du Rwanda.

Ils ont été expulsés par la RDC où ils vivaient depuis des années.

Ils vont être pris en charge pendant trois mois à Mutobo avec comme objectif de se réinsérer dans la société rwandaise.

03 déc 2018 Mise à jour 03.12.2018 à 20:37 par Laure de Matos avec Maurice Magorane

C'est la première étape de leur nouvelle vie au Rwanda, s'enregistrer officiellement au camp de Mutobo. Des milliers d'anciens miliciens FDLR sont déjà passés par ce centre, situé à Ruhengeri au Nord du pays.

Actuellement, il accueille un plus de 500 hommes et une femme. Des récalcitrants : tous d'anciens combattants qui il y a encore quelques jours vivaient en RDC voisine.

Ils n'avaient pas du tout envie de rentrer au pays.

"J'avais un peu d'appréhension...comme tout combattant qui est capturé sur le champ de bataille par l'ennemi, admet dans un sourire gêné, Joseph Kabarindwi, ancien milicien FDLR. Notre retour a été un retour forcé, nous n'avions pas l'intention de venir." Un autre ancien FDLR raconte : "Lorsque nous avons traversé la frontière entre la RDC et le Rwanda, nous avons peur. Apparemment le pays est beau, on a vu de belles maisons le long de la route et l'éclairage public, bien que c'était la nuit. Nous avons constaté qu'il y a un développement ici."

Les FDLR sont nées au début des années 2000, en RDC. Fondées par des exilés rwandais hutus, dissidents de "l'Armée de libération du Rwanda". Quelques dizaines de membres des FDLR sont recherchés par la justice internationale pour leur implication présumée dans le génocide de 1994.

Ces hommes - ex-FDLR - craignaient d'atterrir ici, à Mutobo, dans une sorte de prison. Ou pire encore, ils craignaient pour leur vie.

"L'idéologie des FDLR, leur propagande au sujet du Rwanda actuel, est erronée. Donc ces hommes avaient peur, ils croyaient qu'ils allaient être tués, égorgés et tout ça, mais ils ont changé de mentalité, explique Ephrem Kanamugire, le directeur du centre Mutobo. Depuis qu'ils sont arrivés ici, et qu'ils ont vu comment les autorités, le personnel et même la population locale les ont accueillis, ils se sentent mieux"

Le Rwanda d'aujourd'hui, ces anciens combattants ne le connaissent pas.

Certains ont passé plus de 20 ans en exil. Pendant trois mois, séparés de leur famille, ils vont suivre ici des cours d'éducation civique, découvrir le système politique, judiciaire de leur pays d'origine, les valeurs qu'il prône. L'objectif est de faciliter leur réinsertion dans la société rwandaise. Et de les renvoyer, ensuite, dans leur région natale.

Un journaliste arrêté pour «terrorisme» à Kigali

Rwanda Phocas Ndayizera, collaborant pour la BBC, avait disparu depuis une semaine. Il a été arrêté pour possession d'explosifs et «complot terroriste».

<https://www.tdg.ch/monde/afrique/Un-journaliste-arrete-pour-terrorisme-a-Kigali/story/22427933>

Phocas Ndayizera, 39 ans, encourt une peine de 20 ans de prison s'il est reconnu coupable. Ce journaliste rwandais travaille comme pigiste pour le service local de la BBC-radio. Il a été arrêté pour possession d'explosifs et participation à un «complot terroriste», a annoncé le Bureau rwandais d'enquêtes (RIB). Il n'avait plus été vu par ses proches depuis une semaine.

En flagrant délit

«Il a été arrêté en flagrant délit alors qu'il recevait les explosifs, dont de la dynamite», a déclaré jeudi Modeste Mbabazi, le porte-parole du RIB. «Nous enquêtons sur lui et avons fait le lien entre lui et des groupes terroristes cherchant à porter atteinte au Rwanda», a-t-il ajouté. Le RIB a été créé en début d'année pour prendre en charge la mission d'enquête de la police.

Paradé jeudi devant les médias, M. Ndayizera a déclaré n'être «jusqu'à présent, pas au courant des raisons pour lesquelles (il a) été arrêté, ni des accusations qui pèsent sur (lui)».

L'Organisation rwandaise de la presse a dit espérer qu'il bénéficie d'un procès équitable mais ne pas pouvoir s'impliquer dans le dossier car les accusations ne sont pas liées à son travail de journaliste.

«Nous sommes très inquiets, étant donné la gravité des accusations. Nous espérons qu'il aura droit à un procès juste, équitable et rapide», a-t-elle indiqué dans un communiqué.

Un document qui accuse Kagame

Le service radio de la BBC en kinyarwanda est suspendu depuis 2014 au Rwanda, après que la BBC-télévision au Royaume-Uni eut diffusé un documentaire accusant le chef de l'État rwandais Paul Kagame d'avoir été impliqué dans l'attentat de 1994 contre l'avion du président d'alors, Juvénal Habyarimana.

Cet attentat est considéré comme le déclencheur du génocide de 1994 qui fit 800.000 morts selon l'ONU, essentiellement au sein de la minorité tutsi, mais aussi parmi les Hutu modérés.

Réélu en août 2017 pour un troisième mandat de sept ans, M. Kagame, homme fort du Rwanda depuis 1994, est crédité de l'important développement d'un pays exsangue au sortir du génocide. Il est aussi régulièrement accusé de bafouer la liberté d'expression et de museler toute opposition. (afp/nxp)

Créé: 30.11.2018, 12h44

Tanzania :

Burundi, Tanzania secure external finance for road construction

<https://newbusinessethiopia.com/burundi-tanzania-secure-external-finance-for-road-construction/>
November 22, 2018 newbusiness

The Boards of Directors of the African Development Bank Group have approved \$322.35 million loans and grant to Burundi and Tanzania to finance the Rumonge-Gitaza (45 km) and Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu (260 km) road upgrading project.

The project aims at strengthening regional integration and trade in the East African Community, particularly between Tanzania and Burundi through improved cross-border transport and is part of the East African roads network linking the Port of Dar es Salaam to the regional markets in Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

To be completed in 2023, the project comprises several phases, including the upgrading from gravel to bitumen standard of Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu (260 km) road section in Tanzania and rehabilitation of Rumonge – Gitaza (45 km) paved road section in Burundi.

It also involves the construction and operationalization of a One Stop Border Post between Tanzania and Burundi at Manyovu/Mugina Border; Rural/Urban Roads rehabilitation, Health Centres and Schools construction, Community Water Sources, and road safety, institutional support and capacity building of actors involved, including compensation and resettlement of people affected by the project.

The project aligns with the National Development Plans of both Burundi and Tanzania, particularly the respective sectoral policies on transport in both countries. When completed, this multinational road will help open up rural areas, reduce vehicle operating costs, and enhance road safety.

In addition, it will improve access to socio-economic and health infrastructure located along roads, particularly in Burundi's Rumonge province Tanzania's Kigoma region.

“The project will fundamentally enhance the mobility of goods and services for the people in Burundi and Tanzania”, said Gabriel Negatu Director General of the Bank Group's East Africa Regional Development & Business Delivery Office. “The improved transport will bring additional benefits for the two neighboring countries, including empowering women and youth for whom new market centers will be opened and other economic activities will increase.”

The project is in line with the objectives of the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (2013 – 2022) which focuses on assisting its regional member countries achieve more inclusive and greener growth via the Bank's High5 priorities including integrating Africa and improving the lives of the people of Africa,

The project is also consistent with the Bank's Country Strategy Papers for both countries, which have infrastructure development as an important pillar. Likewise, the project is one of the priorities in the Bank's East African Regional Integration Strategy Paper (2018-2022).

Complementary components to benefit local communities along the Project road in addition to the main roads upgrading works were well appreciated by Board members who encouraged packaging such integrated Projects.

Tanzania, Egypt agree on commission

Saturday December 1 2018

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/Tanzania-Egypt-agree-on-commission/4552908-4877038-fcbvvhz/index.html>

By APOLINARI TAIRO

More by this Author

Tanzania is pushing for the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission, and reforms in the management of the area to speed up implementation of projects utilising the river.

Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the delay in establishing the commission, almost 10 years after it was proposed, is hampering the implementation of projects in the Nile Basin member states.

Mr Majaliwa was speaking in Tanzania at a meeting of senior officials from 11 member states of the Nile Basin Initiative to discuss the status of the projects.

Tanzania's Minister for Water Prof Makame Mbarawa said there are renewed efforts to establish a commission to speed up implementation of development programmes among the Nile Basin member states.

Ethiopian Minister for Water, Energy and Irrigation Seleshi Bekele said that the Nile Basin population is projected to double to one billion in less than two decades.

He added that member countries should come up with common strategies to prepare for and cope with climate change by putting in place measurement systems, standards and analytical frameworks to monitor, plan and manage the Nile.

Related Content

Egypt seeks revision of Nile Treaty to safeguard water source

Tanzania and Egypt have agreed to revive the Joint Commission on the River Nile, which has been dormant for the past 20 years.

During his visit to Tanzania in August last year, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi held talks with the President John Magufuli on rights for the use of the Nile's water.

In a joint communiqué after the visit, President El-Sisi said his government was committed to work with Tanzania on major water projects, irrigation and in the health sector.

Rwanda, Ethiopia and Tanzania ratified the Co-operative Framework Agreement, 2010, that established the Nile Basin Commission.

Germany, through its international development agency, is funding the \$6.7 million wetland protection project.

Key projects

Construction of the 80-Megawatt Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project is among key projects under the Nile Basin co-operation.

It is shared by Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. The project is located on the Kagera River, which flows into Lake Victoria.

The Rwanda Energy Group said China Geo-Engineering Corporation, Jianxi Water and Hydro Construction Ltd and Austria's Andritz Hydro will carry out civil, electronic and mechanical works on the power plant, which is expected to be commissioned in 2019.

The development of the Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project was revived in 2006.

The project design is a Run-of-River Development Scheme, which maintains the natural flow of the river and does not significantly modify the natural environment.

Kenya :

Drought exacerbates conflict over land use in Kenya

Pastoralists move cattle onto private farms as grazing land becomes more scarce, raising the prospect of a repeat of the violence in 2017

03 December 2018 - 17:13 Agency Staff

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/africa/2018-12-03-drought-exacerbates-conflict-over-land-use-in-kenya/>

Renewed invasions of private ranches by herders in Kenya's northern Laikipia region a year after similar invasions led to deadly conflicts is a sign of cracks in the country's land use system, experts said on Wednesday.

A herder was shot dead when police tried to confiscate his cattle after they invaded one of the ranches last week, police and ranchers said.

"That herder was killed as a matter of self-defence by the police," Martin Evans, chair of the Laikipia Farmers Association, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

Dozens were killed and injured in Kenya's drought-stricken Laikipia county in 2017 as armed herders searching for scarce grazing land drove tens of thousands of cattle onto private farms and ranches from poor-quality communal land.

"Right now, it is very dry out there," Evans said. "The November rains have failed and if it doesn't rain between now and April the situation is going to get worse."

Francis Munyambu, the Rift Valley police commandant, said the shooting was under investigation but security in the region had returned to normal.

Increased droughts due to climate change, as well as population growth and the enclosure of public lands, have pushed many traditional nomads to move onto grazing land on private ranches.

"This is really putting pressure on normal pastoralists in terms of where they are going to access pasture and water," said Nyangori Ohenjo, programme manager at Centre for Minority Rights Development.

Each cow needs at least 4ha of land to be healthy, Evans said, but the large herds of cattle kept by pastoralists are leading to depletion of grazing land. "All the land in the north is already destroyed and that's why they are moving southwards," he said.

The conflict in Laikipia highlights the struggle for land between indigenous communities and conservationists across the world, Ohenjo said, and is partly a legacy of Kenya's colonial past.

British colonialists gave most of Laikipia to Europeans after getting the Maasai to sign a treaty in 1911 agreeing to move some 300km southwest to a native reserve.

After independence, then president Jomo Kenyatta gave or sold most of the departing whites' land to his own ethnic group, the Kikuyu, many of whom had also lost their land under colonialism. More recently, wealthy Kenyans, foreigners and conservationists have bought land in Laikipia.

“There has always been a misconception previously that some land was underutilised or idle and that’s how you got all this land taken away for other uses,” Ohenjo said.

This contested land ownership has been a source of friction, with politicians fuelling the conflict by instigating invasions into land that belongs to ranchers, said Maria Dodds, a rancher in Laikipia whose property was invaded last year.

Former Laikipia North MP Mathew Lempurkel, of the Samburu tribe, was charged in court in 2017 for inciting herders to evict white landowners ahead of the 2017 elections. One case against him was dismissed for lack of evidence, but other cases of incitement to violence are ongoing. Lempurkel declined to comment on the recent ranch invasions.

Kenya tops in African banks bad loan study

<https://www.nation.co.ke/business/Kenya-tops-in-African-banks-bad-loan-study/996-4878344-qvg8i4/index.html>

Sunday December 2 2018

By CHARLES MWANIKI

[More by this Author](#)

Kenyan banks' non-performing loan (NPL) ratios are among the most elevated among major economies in Africa, and are likely to be exacerbated by continued delays in payment by government to contractors and suppliers who owe lenders billions of shillings.

Global ratings agency Moody's says in a new report on African banks that weak risk-management practices in the past have also contributed to the fairly high dud assets ratios among African banks, with many of those assessed lying above 10 percent.

Latest Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows the ratio of bad loans to total loan book among Kenyan banks stood at 12.3 percent at the end of October, having come down from 12.7 percent in August largely due to improved recovery efforts on the trade, personal and household sectors.

Out of 11 African countries profiled by Moody's in the report, only Angola, Ghana and Democratic Republic of Congo have a higher ratio than Kenya, at about 25, 22 and 18 percent respectively.

"Government arrears remain high (five per cent of GDP on average, according to IMF estimates), hurting the loan repayment capacity of contractors and sub-contractors of government projects. Risks are compounded by the fact that—in some cases —problematic direct and indirect exposures to the government are not classified as nonperforming," said Moody's in the report.

Other countries profiled include Egypt, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia.

The ratings agency added that the introduction of new IFRS 9 accounting standards across most African countries signals a rise in loan-loss provisioning coverage, thus cutting the risk associated with bad loans.

Kenyan lenders have already adopted these accounting standards, although most have been cutting their provisions in spite of the rising NPL load.

While Moody's also flags foreign-currency loans to borrowers as a potential problem due to local currencies depreciation, Kenyan banks would be fairly insulated from this risk given that most of their lending is in shillings.

Uganda :

Uganda accused of fanning South Sudan violence by supplying arms

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Uganda-South-Sudan-violence-supplying-arms/688334-4877790-74l0fw/index.html>

Sunday December 2 2018

By The EastAfrican

Uganda defied a European Union arms embargo and purchased arms and ammunition from at least three EU members — Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia — that were then transferred to South Sudan's military and armed allies in Sudan before the United Nations Security Council imposed an arms embargo on Juba in July this year.

This is part of the findings of a study by London-based Conflict Armament Research (CAR), released on Thursday, which raises questions about Uganda's support for the Juba administration even as it promotes itself as a "impartial negotiator" in the five-year conflict.

South Sudan's warring sides signed a peace agreement in September in Addis to end a five-year civil war that has killed nearly 400,000 people, after previous peace agreements collapsed.

The report details how military equipment reached all sides of the South Sudan conflict from 2014 through the intermediation of neighbouring states, networks of brokers and intermediaries, via air and land.

"South Sudan's immediate neighbours have been the main conduits, and sometimes sponsors, of weapon supplies to all sides in the conflict," says the report.

"These cross-border supplies have in some cases included weapons, ammunition and aircraft lawfully exported to South Sudan's neighbours from China, the European Union, and the United States."

Possible diversion

There is no suggestion that the exporting countries were aware of the possible diversion of their material to South Sudan, or that they were complicit in the diversion, the report says.

"Nonetheless, these retransfers may have breached end-use or non-retransfer commitments made to exporters as a prior condition of sale."

European and US arms transfers to South Sudan's neighbours have involved a wider international circle of European, Israeli and US individuals and companies, who have either been unwitting suppliers of the South Sudan conflict, while in other cases, have liaised directly with senior national army, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), and the main opposition forces, the SPLA-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) to supply weapons and related equipment via South Sudan's neighbours.

"This report provides the first public evidence of direct liaison between these commercial suppliers and the parties to the conflict.

"Such activities may in some cases fall under European Union and US arms control mechanisms — notably the longstanding EU embargoes on Sudan and South Sudan, and extraterritorial dimensions of US arms control laws.

“It paints a forensic picture of how prohibitions on arms transfers to the warring parties have failed,” said Conflict Armament Research’s executive director James Beva.

Arms embargo

Although there was no UN arms embargo between 2013 and mid this year, some of the military materiel transferred from Uganda to South Sudan — in potential violation of non-retransfer and end use restrictions — was exported to Uganda by states, including EU member states, that had already imposed regional or unilateral prohibitions on arms supplies to South Sudan.

The SPLA and SPLA-IO have each relied on air assets to deliver weapons and personnel to the conflict’s major operational theatres.

The SPLA, in particular, has used foreign commercial logistics providers to do so, including oil firms who use their logistics lines to move weapons within the conflict-torn country.

The EU has begun to put diplomatic pressure on at least one of these suppliers through the state where the company and its aircraft are registered.

Uganda accused of fanning South Sudan violence by supplying arms

Under the new UN Security Council embargo, other countries may similarly be able to increase diplomatic pressure and scrutiny on logistics providers and commercial air assets operating in South Sudan.

A network of US and Ugandan companies — controlled by British, Israeli, Ugandan, and US nationals — procured a military jet from the United States and an Austrian-made surveillance aircraft.

“These aircraft entered into SPLA service during 2015 and 2016 with neither the original supplier companies, nor the US or Austrian governments, being aware that the aircraft could be retransferred to South Sudan.

“However, has obtained documentation indicating that at least one of the companies in the US–Ugandan network that procured the aircraft was in direct commercial contact with the South Sudanese government regarding the supply of at least one of these aircraft to the SPLA, along with training, crew and technical support,” the report says.

Non-retransfer conditions

A US firm, Yamasec, is accused of aiding the purchase of the aircraft in the US and using the cover of the Uganda military to transfer two aircraft to South Sudan’s military, violating the non-retransfer conditions under the US arms export controls.

The military jet’s previous private owner in the US told that Yamasec USA Llc took responsibility for obtaining a US Department of Commerce dual-use export licence, but the US State Department denied ever issuing such a licence.

“The transfer of the aircraft from Uganda to South Sudan was not unlawful at that time, as no UN embargo was in effect.

“Since this aircraft was originally exported from the United States to Uganda, however, its re-export to South Sudan may have violated non-retransfer conditions under US arms export controls — assuming that it did indeed receive a US licence for its export to Uganda,” the report said.

The report also shows that Riek Machar’s SPLA-IO officials sought to obtain their own aviation capability, using a Kenyan registered company, but it flopped.

In early 2016, a senior SPLA-IO politician and adviser to Mr Machar entered into negotiations with a US lawyer and a Somali-US citizen to purchase a second-hand Fokker F27 Mk 50 aircraft, through a Kenyan aviation firm, for \$4 million.

“A draft purchase agreement and draft aircraft operation agreement, both drawn up by the US lawyer and Somali-US citizen and dated October 2015, list the aircraft’s seller as Brighton Freedom Air.

“This company was newly registered in Kenya in August 2015 as a subsidiary of Brighton Ventures Llc, a company based in the US state of Maryland.

“The episode is indicative of the range of international actors from which the SPLA-IO has attempted, largely unsuccessfully, to acquire both military equipment and dual-use items such as aircraft,” the report said, adding that this attempt to procure an aircraft was not the first time that SPLA-IO figures had reached out to wider international procurement networks.

Between 2014 and 2015, Uganda, a key US security ally in the region, imported Bulgarian weapons that found their way into the South Sudan military, becoming complicit in the diversion of ammunition.

Mike Lewis, head of regional operations for CAR, said that South Sudan arranged for Uganda to issue end-user certificates, which are essential for an international arms transfer.

“This was just to make it look like the weapons were meant for the Ugandan army use yet, in a real sense, they were headed to Juba,” Mr Lewis said.

Ugandan military spokesman, Brig Richard Karemire said they are yet to see the report, but they “support the peace process” in South Sudan.

China has also been named in the report, given that its ammunition is by far the most prevalent among all sides in the civil war.

Sudan :

Sudan decides to allow private sector to export gold - PM on twitter

<https://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKBN1O21W4-OZABS>

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - Sudan has decided to allow the private sector to export gold, Sudanese Prime Minister Moataz Moussa said in a message on his Twitter account on Monday.

“With the blessings of the president of the republic, we have decided to include the private sector in exporting gold,” Moussa said in his message, adding that the central bank will take the necessary measures to ensure that gold exports are channeled through the national economy.

Reporting by Khalid Abdelaziz, writing by Sami Aboudi, editing by Adrian Croft

Win-win: Why Khartoum brokered 2018 peace deal in South Sudan

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Why-Khartoum-brokered-2018-peace-deal-in-the-South/1066-4878090-lbs3gjz/index.html>

Sunday December 2 2018

By JULIUS BARIGABA

More by this Author

As South Sudan begins to rebuild from scratch following a peace deal signed in September 2018 between the main rival factions, the region’s countries with economic interests in the world’s youngest nation remain edgy, even as Khartoum is confident that the permanent ceasefire will hold this time round.

The agreement signed in Khartoum between long time rivals president Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar — was brokered by an unlikely mediator in Sudan President Omar al-Bashir — after the two previous peace deals had broken down, plunging the country back into conflict.

But South Sudanese officials highlight as key the fact that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni also agreed to come on board to support the peace deal that al-Bashir had on the table.

“I will tell you two reasons why this peace deal will hold,” Petroleum Minister Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth said in an interview with The EastAfrican in Juba recently.

“First, this peace belongs to the people of South Sudan who are tired of war,” he said.

“But also, when two countries decided to help us — Uganda and Sudan — both of which have leverage over us, this changed everything. Our oil goes through Sudan, and Uganda is a close ally of President Salva Kiir Mayardit.”

Related Content

S. Sudan security deal: What you need to know

MWAGIRU: Kiir’s term extension threatens peace deal

S. Sudan factions to sign power deal

LEVERAGE

Mr Gatkuoth says that other regional governments like Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania tried to broker peace between the rival groups in Juba, but without much leverage over either side, they couldn't make substantial progress

Although South Sudan's economy had collapsed as a result of war since 2013, Khartoum says the new peace deal is a win-win for both Sudans, which are desperate to revive their economies.

But there was an added incentive for Sudan, which needed to regain its international profile among the community of nations.

"Our intention [to broker the peace deal] was that Sudan can be removed from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism, with the help of the South, we can be taken off that list," Sudan Petroleum Minister Azhari Abdallah told journalists in Juba, South Sudan recently.

Mr Abdallah also told The EastAfrican that five years of the South Sudan war that had seen oil production shut down had an economic impact on Khartoum, as this meant that Juba could not pay the full amount of the \$3.5 billion that was negotiated as part of the compensation to Sudan for losing revenue when the south gained Independence in 2011.

"The impact of the shutdown would be that production stopped, and of course then revenue also stopped," he said.

But the government in Juba later said it could not pay that lump sum, based on the calculation that for every barrel of oil produced, South Sudan should pay Khartoum \$15.

Other sources raise even more pointed issues about the two neighbours, each accused of supporting rebels in the others' territory.

"I can speak for Sudan; we are fully confident that this time there is genuine commitment to peace and stability. Ezekiel [Lol Gatkuoth] also says people in South Sudan are tired of war and want peace to bring prosperity," he said.

South Sudan :

EU pressed to shore up funds for South Sudan

<https://euobserver.com/migration/143576>

By Nikolaj Nielsen

BRUSSELS, Today, 17:27

The EU and other donors are being pressed to front-load money to stave off starvation in South Sudan amid a troubled ceasefire among warring factions.

The insecurity has humanitarian aid workers on guard following revelations last week of the mass rape of some 125 women and girls on a road leading to a World Food Programme (WFP) distribution point at Bentiu, a village in the north of country.

Adnan Khan, WFP country director for South Sudan, told EUobserver on Monday (3 December) that the Bentiu food distribution was scheduled to take place later this week.

"They were assaulted, raped, looted, whipped, horrendous treatment," he said.

"Despite peace, despite the agreements between the commanders, despite everything, in the week when the international humanitarian community is sort of celebrating a week of no violence against women, we have mass rape, torture," he added.

The survivors, who were attacked by armed bandits, are now being treated.

But the incident - a possible war crime - highlights broader problems in a country wrecked by five years of brutal civil war, resulting in some 2 million refugees and 1.7 million internally displaced people.

Amid the violence is a shaky two-month ceasefire - and a population that heavily depends on international aid.

Last year, the WFP declared famine in two counties in the country, around the same region where the women and girls were attacked.

The crisis was rendered even more severe following reports that arms were being shipped into the country from Ukraine.

At the time, a South Sudanese soldier had told this website near the Uganda border that he had trekked on foot for weeks in the search of food.

Humanitarian efforts on the ground have improved conditions somewhat with just over six million affected to varying degrees when comes to lack of access to food.

Although there is not enough people today concentrated in one area to declare an official famine, Khan said at least 47,000 people spread over seven counties are now starving.

"In a sense there is a wider dispersion of food insecurity in the country," he said, when compared to last year.

He said many more people are now falling into an emergency category of food insecurity, the stage just below famine.

The task now is to ensure that the category doesn't get bumped to famine stage but it means shoring up \$662m [€582m] to stock up food supplies in around 50 sites throughout the country before the rainy season starts next May.

The WFP wants the food purchased, transported, and stored while roads are still accessible and then distributed during the rainy season when crops cannot be harvested.

If not, they will have to resort to the much more expensive alternative of air drops.

"There have been donors who have put in some money, so we have a visibility of some \$357m but we are still short about \$305m and we are actively asking donors," said Khan.

Khan said fronting the money ahead of the normal budget cycles could also result in some \$100m in savings.

The May deadline is also important because it is when a so-called pre-transitional period of a revitalised peace agreement comes to an end.

Khan's appeal on Monday was directed towards the European Union.

The European Commission has over the five past years provided nearly €160m to the WFP for South Sudan.

UN, South Sudan opposition slam rape of 125 women, girls amid peace deal

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/un-south-sudan-opposition-slam-rape-of-125-women-girls-amid-peace-deal-18363860>

Africa / 3 December 2018, 2:34pm / Mel Frykberg

Johannesburg - The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in Opposition (SPLM-IO) and the United Nations peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have strongly condemned the rape of 125 women and girls in the Bentiu-Rubkona area.

Sunday's condemnation followed a report by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on Friday which stated that the sexual assaults took place between November 19 and 29.

According to UNMISS, the women were intercepted by military and civilians in plain clothes while the victims were walking from their villages along roads near Nhialdu and Guit on their way to Bentiu.

"It is disappointing that this criminal act of rape still exists while the parties are implementing the peace agreement," said SPLM-IO military spokesperson Lam Paul Gabriel when reached by the Sudan Tribune on Sunday morning.

The opposition initially said that it planned to investigate the attacks in the areas under its control and bring those responsible to justice. However, it subsequently stated that the rapes took place in a government-controlled area patrolled by government forces.

The rape and abuse of women as a weapon of war in South Sudan's civil conflict is not new but according to MSF, last week's assault was unprecedented and surpassed the number of rapes registered during the past 10 months of this year which was 104 cases.

"These attacks on vulnerable civilians are absolutely abhorrent and must stop," said the head of UNMISS David Shearer.

"The Mission has held urgent meetings with authorities and urged them to take immediate action to protect women and girls in the area and to hold the perpetrators of these terrible crimes to account," Shearer added.

In the wake of the sexual violence, UNMISS sent further patrols to the area in an attempt to prevent further such attacks and catch the perpetrators with the help of an investigation team.

"The Mission is also urging armed forces in the area to guarantee command and control over their troops to ensure rogue elements within their ranks are not involved in these criminal acts," said Shearer.

African News Agency (ANA)

RDC Congo :

Présidentielle en RDC: La Belgique dément l'envoi de troupes à Brazzaville annoncé dans une vidéo de 1997

Le Vif

<https://www.levif.be/actualite/belgique/presidentielle-en-rdc-la-belgique-dement-l-envoi-de-troupes-a-brazzaville-annonce-dans-une-video-de-1997/article-normal-1061621.html>

03/12/18 à 06:24 - Mise à jour à 07:10

Source: Belga

L'ambassade de Belgique en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) a démenti l'existence de préparatifs pour l'envoi imminent de troupes belges à Brazzaville, face à Kinshasa, à trois semaines d'élections générales qui doivent conduire au départ du pouvoir du président Joseph Kabila.

"Depuis le 28 novembre 2018 circule une vidéo qui montre des para-commandos belges qui se préparent à embarquer dans des avions de type C-130. Les images sont accompagnées d'une interview dans laquelle est raconté que 500 para-commandos se préparent pour partir pour Brazzaville. Je tiens à vous informer que ces images datent de 1997 et ne sont donc pas du tout d'actualité", a indiqué l'attaché de Défense auprès de l'ambassade de Belgique à Kinshasa, le lieutenant-colonel Bart De Cuyper, dans un message "à diffusion restreinte", dont l'agence Belga a obtenu une copie.

Ce message, daté du 28 novembre, est principalement adressé au chef-d'état major des Forces armées de la RDC (FARDC), le lieutenant-général Célestin Mbala Munsense. Le lieutenant-colonel De Cuyper ajoute que la Belgique a entrepris les démarches pour ouvrir une ambassade en République du Congo (Brazzaville). "Ceci pourrait se concrétiser au début du mois de décembre. La mise en place du matériel afférant et les procédures, est, comme il est d'usage, confiée à des militaires", poursuit l'attaché de Défense.

"Lors des premières semaines qui suivent cette ouverture, il y aura donc une délégation militaire qui visitera ce poste (diplomatique)", indique encore l'officier, dans ce message également adressé au ministère congolais de la Défense, au chef des renseignements militaires et l'agence nationale (civile) du Renseignement (ANC).

Des élections présidentielle, législatives nationales et provinciales sont prévues le 23 décembre en RDC. La présidentielle est censée élire le successeur du président Kabila, dont le second mandat constitutionnel a expiré le 19 décembre 2016. Les relations entre Bruxelles et Kinshasa traversent une profonde crise depuis la suspension, le 14 avril 2017, la coopération militaire belgo-congolaise mise sur pied en 2003 à la suite de critiques du ministre des Affaires étrangères, Didier Reynders, sur le choix du nouveau Premier ministre congolais, Bruno Tshibala, un ancien opposant.

La RDC a ensuite pris en janvier dernier une série de mesures à l'encontre de la Belgique - la fermeture du bureau de coopération installé au sein de l'ambassade à Kinshasa, celle du consulat général de Lubumbashi (sud-est), le seul poste diplomatique belge à l'est du pays, et celle de la Maison Schengen à Kinshasa, une sorte de bureau consulaire belge chargé de traiter les dossiers des demandeurs de visa pour plusieurs pays européens. Kinshasa ripostait à la décision prise par M. Reynders et son collègue de la Coopération au développement, Alexander De Croo, de réviser la coopération bilatérale, notamment son aide financière au gouvernement congolais en réorientant 25 millions d'euros "au profit de l'aide humanitaire et d'autres initiatives répondant aux besoins les plus pressants de la population".

Au printemps 1997, lors de l'avancée des rebelles qui ont fini par faire tomber le régime du maréchal zaïrois Mobutu Sese Seko, les Etats-Unis, la France et la Belgique avaient déployé des troupes au Congo-Brazzaville en guise de mesure de précautions - qui s'étaient avérées inutiles. .

Belga

UE : la RDC exige la levée des sanctions avant la tenue des élections

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5c052b35ba0a200004a25ae5/>

Kinshasa03-12-2018Politique - Le chef de la diplomatie congolaise, Leonard She Okitundu affirme que ces sanctions, loin d'être judiciaires, sont plutôt politiques, unilatérales, iniques, scélérates et arbitraires.

Si jamais l'UE arrivait à renoncer à ses sanctions prises à l'endroit d'un certain nombre de personnalités congolaises, depuis plus de deux ans, après les élections, une telle décision serait contre-productive. Elle serait, au fait, un non-événement. Léonard She Okitundu, Ministre d'Etat en charge des Affaires Etrangères, Coopération et Intégration Régionale, affirme que ces sanctions, loin d'être judiciaires, sont plutôt politiques, unilatérales, iniques, scélérates et arbitraires.

Car, elles violent, selon lui, toute une série de textes du droit international à tel point qu'elles portent atteinte aux droits fondamentaux de l'homme alors qu'en même temps, elles restreignent délibérément, la liberté de mouvement des personnalités visées dont Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, le candidat aligné par Kabila et adoubé par les sociétaires du Front Commun pour le Congo pour les joutes électorales, telles que prévues pour le 23 décembre 2018. Tout en exigeant que ces sanctions soient levées de toute urgence, la RD. Congo se réserve, toutefois, le droit de prendre, à son tour, des mesures de rétorsion en guise de réciprocité face aux ingérences de l'Union Européenne dans ses affaires internes.

Hier, vendredi 30 novembre 2018, She Okitundu, traits tirés sur le visage, n'a ni fixé la nature, ni déterminé l'ampleur de ces mesures que la RD. Congo se propose d'initier pour mettre ainsi fin au masochisme qui, depuis plusieurs années, caractérise l'attitude de ses dirigeants qui privilégiaient, pourtant, la voie du recours ainsi que du dialogue, en vertu des textes régissant les relations internationales.

D'ores et déjà, les observateurs de l'Union Européenne n'ont pas été accrédités pour le suivi du processus électoral dont le point culminant sera atteint, le 23 décembre 2018.

Si cette menace, ainsi brandie, était mise en exécution, il va de soi que l'on assiste à un gel des relations, si pas à un redimensionnement des dossiers à traiter et affaires à traiter avec l'Union de l'Union Européenne. Heureusement qu'on n'en est pas encore là.

Car, en tout état de cause, le dialogue et les concertations peuvent, s'ils sont réellement engagés, sauver ce qui peut encore l'être d'ici la tenue des élections du 23 décembre 2018.

Dans cette édition, il y a lieu de lire, ci-dessous, in extenso, la déclaration officielle du Gouvernement de la République du Congo en rapport avec les derniers développements de l'état de ses relations avec l'Union Européenne. Sur toute la ligne, Léonard She Okitundu, tout en se montrant exaspéré, a laissé les portes ouvertes à toutes les discussions éventuelles pour un dénouement heureux de ce dossier aux multiples conséquences.

La Prospérité (DNK/Rei/GW/Yes)

Le combat contre Ebola se poursuit en zone de guerre

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5c052c51ba0a200004a25ae6/>

Kinshasa03-12-2018Société - Cette épidémie qui sévit dans une zone confrontée à des conflits armés dépasse également celle qui a frappé pour la première fois l'Ouganda en septembre 2000. En cinq mois, 425 personnes contractent le virus qui fait 224 morts. Reportage.

Région meurtrie par des décennies de guerre dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, le Nord-Kivu connaît en ce moment la pire épidémie d'Ebola de l'histoire du pays. Les nombreux groupes armés présents dans la région compliquent la riposte de l'OMS et du ministère de la Santé. La crise pourrait dégénérer. Reportage dans une région qui lutte sur plusieurs fronts.

Plus de 400 cas confirmés, plus de 240 décès recensés fin novembre : jamais une épidémie d'Ebola n'avait fait autant de victimes en RD Congo depuis la découverte du virus dans le nord du pays, en 1976. Depuis le 1er août, date à laquelle l'épidémie a été confirmée, la réponse s'organise et mobilise des agents de l'OMS, du ministère de la Santé, des ONG internationales... La ville de Béné, épice de la crise, accueille médecins et spécialistes du virus. Mais la réponse à Ebola est particulièrement complexe au Nord-Kivu, où des groupes armés sèment la terreur et empêchent les équipes médicales d'accéder à certaines zones.

Les Forces démocratiques alliées (ADF), un groupe djihadiste, mènent des raids meurtriers sur Béné et toute sa région. Les ADF agissent de nuit, en attaquant un village ou un quartier. Tirs de kalachnikovs, de mortiers, coups de machettes... De nombreux habitants sont exécutés, d'autres, enlevés. L'armée congolaise est désarmée et ne parvient pas à mettre fin aux tueries.

Pour protéger les populations et sécuriser les équipes de riposte sanitaire, forces armées du pays et casques bleus de la Monusco ont lancé une opération dans la région de Béné. Son objectif : reprendre les camps ADF et éloigner les combattants de la ville. Mais l'offensive fait de nombreux morts au sein de la coalition : sept casques bleus ont été tués, ainsi que de nombreux membres de l'armée congolaise.

La lutte contre Ebola est une course contre la montre : il faut absolument éviter que la maladie ne se propage rapidement, mais la bataille contre les groupes armés s'annonce longue. Sans accès à ces zones, la situation pourrait bien dégénérer au cours des prochains mois.

L'actuelle épidémie d'Ebola devient la deuxième plus dangereuse au monde

L'actuelle épidémie d'Ebola, qui sévit dans les provinces du Nord-Kivu et de l'Ituri où elle a déjà fait 245 morts parmi les 426 cas, est devenue la deuxième plus grande épidémie d'Ebola au monde, a fait remarquer, le vendredi 30 novembre, le ministre de la Santé, Oly Ilunga.

"L'épidémie au Nord-Kivu est devenue la deuxième plus grande épidémie d'Ebola au monde, après celle de l'Afrique de l'Ouest", a déclaré Oly Ilunga dans un message diffusé samedi par son cabinet.

L'épidémie la plus meurtrière à ce jour s'est déclarée en Afrique de l'Ouest, en décembre 2013, et a duré plus de deux ans faisant plus de 11.300 morts sur 29.000 cas recensés.

Deuxième plus grande épidémie, l'actuelle épidémie est pourtant la "première épidémie de l'histoire dans laquelle autant de traitements préventifs et curatifs sont disponibles pour protéger la

population contre Ebola. Ces traitements nous ont permis d'éviter d'avoir déjà des milliers de cas et de morts", a ajouté le ministre.

Cette épidémie qui sévit dans une zone confrontée à des conflits armés dépasse également celle qui a frappé pour la première fois l'Ouganda en septembre 2000. En cinq mois, 425 personnes contractent le virus qui fait 224 morts.

"Cela démontre qu'Ebola est avant tout une maladie avec une dimension sociale. Au-delà de la réponse médicale, c'est à la communauté de décider de mettre fin à la propagation de ce fléau en s'engageant et en respectant les mesures de prévention", note l'autorité sanitaire de la RDC.

Déclarée depuis le 1er août 2018, l'actuelle épidémie reste dangereuse et imprévisible, selon les autorités, 87 cas suspects en cours d'investigation. Une vaste campagne de lutte contre le paludisme a été lancée à Beni, épice de l'épidémie d'Ebola.

Pendant quatre jours, cette campagne vise à "distribuer gratuitement des moustiquaires imprégnées d'insecticide" et des médicaments contre le paludisme, l'une des premières causes de mortalité au monde.

Jusqu'à 50% de personnes qui arrivent au centre de traitement d'Ebola (CTE), et qui sont "considérées comme étant des cas suspects, souffrent en réalité du paludisme, dont les premiers symptômes sont similaires à ceux de la maladie à virus Ebola", d'après l'auditoire sanitaire.

Transmis par des moustiques infectés, le paludisme (malaria) cause plus de 435.000 personnes chaque année, majoritairement en Afrique, selon l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). Aux côtés du Nigeria, de Madagascar et de l'Ouganda, la RDC figure parmi les pays les plus touchés.

France24/Le Potentiel

(DNK/Rei/GW/Yes)

Sud-Kivu : un lieutenant-colonel des FARDC condamné à perpétuité pour crimes contre l'humanité

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5c053aeaba0a200004a25ae8/>

Kinshasa 03-12-2018 Politique - Engageant sa responsabilité comme chef hiérarchique, le lieutenant-colonel Mabilia Ngoma aurait dû surveiller le mouvement de ses troupes. « Un chef hiérarchique a pour devoir de prévenir, réprimer et référer », a rappelé la Cour.

Le commandant du bataillon spécial des Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) au Sud-Kivu, le lieutenant-colonel Mabilia Ngoma, a écopé d'une peine de prison à perpétuité. Le commandant du bataillon spécial ne bénéficiera d'aucune circonstance atténuante en dépit du réquisitoire du ministère public qui évoquait les loyaux services qu'il a rendus à la nation. Conjointement avec le civilement responsable (la RDC), le lieutenant-colonel Mabilia Ngoma Alma est reconnu coupable des crimes contre l'humanité par viols, meurtres et autres actes inhumains que les unités du bataillon spécial avaient commis à Chirimi, Katasomwa et Mirenzo en date des 7, 8 et 9 juin 2013.

Siégeant en audience foraine à Kalehe, depuis le mercredi 20 novembre, la Cour militaire du Sud-Kivu a enfin rendu son arrêt jeudi 28 novembre 2018.

Cet arrêt, qui revêt un caractère particulièrement ferme, semble défrayer tout pronostic! Alors que le ministère public ne requerrait qu'une peine maximum de 7 ans à l'officier des FARDC, la composition de la Cour militaire est allée jusqu'à la peine la plus sévère, réfutant tout moyen de défense évoquant la réduction de la peine de l'ancien homme fort du bataillon spécial d'intervention de la 33ème région.

Engageant sa responsabilité comme chef hiérarchique, le lieutenant-colonel aurait dû surveiller le mouvement de ses troupes, estime la cour. Afin de motiver sa décision, la cour militaire a rappelé les trois prérogatives qui reviennent au chef hiérarchique selon les statuts de Rome. « Un chef hiérarchique a pour devoir de prévenir; réprimer et référer», ont signalé les juges de la juridiction militaire en province. N'ayant pas répondu à ces trois prérogatives qui incombent au chef hiérarchique, le guerrier est donc reconnu responsable d'actes criminels commis par ses hommes à Katasomwa, Mirenzo et Chirimiro.

Les faits pour lesquels a été jugé coupable le colonel Mabiala ont été commis par des éléments de la première compagnie du bataillon spécial qu'il commandait. Ce fut au moment où cette unité militaire venait d'être attaquée par un groupe d'assaillants Raiya Mutomboki. Alors que les militaires essayaient de faire porter à un jeune un fardeau des vivres collectés à la barrière retrouvée à l'entrée du marché de Katasomwa, le refusa de s'exécuter, prétextant la fatigue pour avoir transporté des planches pendant toute la journée.

C'est alors qu'essayeront de l'intimider les hommes en armes, en tirant trois balles entre ses jambes. Ensuite, il fut acheminé, avec trois autres villageois venus à sa rescousse, au camp militaire local.

Pour venger les jeunes du village, un groupe de Raiya Mutomboki vint et attaqua les militaires loyalistes, abattant même un élément. Informé de l'attaque, le colonel quitta Lemera (base de son bataillon) pour Katasomwa afin d'apporter une aide à ses hommes. Ceux-ci se rendront à Chirimiro et Mirenzo en représailles contre de présumés proches desdits rebelles.

Afin d'enfoncer le clou, la cour militaire s'est également appuyée sur les aveux du colonel Mabiala, lors de son écoute sur procès-verbal, reconnaissant que ce dernier avait séjourné pendant trois jours à Katasomwa, ayant été informé de l'attaque de ses hommes par des Raiya Mutomboki. Ceci est prouvé également par les affirmations de son adjoint, qui reconnaît être resté au siège du bataillon à Lemera en train de ravitailler son chef.

La défense va interjeter appel

Me Louis-Pasteur Barhabula Mweze du collectif de la défense promet que son client va interjeter appel dans le délai prévu par la loi. « Nous allons interjeter appel comme la loi nous l'autorise. Dans les deux, trois jours nous allons le faire et la Haute Cour militaire va réexaminer le dossier», promet l'avocat.

Ce verdict intervient quelques jours après le début des audiences foraines le 21 novembre dernier.

Laprunellerdc.info/Le Potentiel

(DNK/Rei/GW/Yes)

Egypt :

Egypt hosts international arms expo

2018-12-03 17:02

<https://www.news24.com/Africa/News/egypt-hosts-international-arms-expo-20181203>

Egypt is hosting its first international weapons fair, an event that organisers hope will project a message to the world that the country is secure and stable.

The three-day Egypt Defence Expo that opened on Monday features the world's top arms companies and hundreds of military and civilian participants from dozens of countries.

The United States, Egypt's largest arms supplier, had over 40 companies present, alongside major firms from Britain, France and Germany, as well as Russia, China, India and Gulf monarchies.

Organisers have not specified sales targets or expectations, but say agreements will be signed and announced.

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi led the 2013 military overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president. Egypt is currently battling an Islamic State-led insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula.

Nile countries prepare water monitoring system

Frederic Musisi Timberlake

3rd December 2018

<https://theecologist.org/2018/dec/03/nile-countries-prepare-water-monitoring-system-fill-data-gaps>

Officials hope the hydromet system will help neighbours along the world's longest river to manage the pressures of population growth, infrastructure and climate change.

The 10 countries along the River Nile are set to bring in a shared water and weather monitoring system next year, to promote efficient water use and inform water-sharing negotiations.

An idea first mooted in 2010, the "hydromet" system has been slow to materialize, due to funding shortfalls and political tensions.

Officials at the Nile Basin Initiative told Climate Home News they are ready to start installing equipment in late 2019, subject to resolving legal issues.

Riparian states

"The system will help us to know how much water is available and where, to enable us have a water accountability system," NB river basin management specialist Mohsen Alarabawy said. "This will help to enrich the dialogue we are having on cooperation."

The plan, according to a draft work programme, is to establish 53 hydrological stations in select areas in the 10 countries, plus a central database for capturing and storing the observations.

This information will be shared with all the governments, to help them monitor changes in rainfall and water consumption, improve climate change adaptation plans, and prepare for climate-linked hazards like floods and droughts.

The longest river in the world, the Nile drains around 10% of the African continent. Its catchment area is shared by Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, and DR Congo.

That makes the river a theme for political interaction and more than once has jolted relations of riparian states that share the river with distinct variations, uses and interests.

Environmental degradation

Egypt and Ethiopia, and sometimes Sudan are the usual warring parties over the river's waters; they have been at loggerheads since 2011, when Ethiopia started building the 6.5-gigawatt Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, set to be the largest dam in Africa.

While each country along the river has some hydromet capacity, NBI studies have found substantial gaps in the monitoring infrastructure.

"There are hydrologically important areas of the basin that are poorly monitored due to inadequate monitoring network; many monitoring stations are poorly equipped – some not operational for quite substantial periods of their history since establishment; many stations are not equipped with modern

instruments that ensure more precise data collection and continuous and timely transmission of data,” one NBI brief reads.

Alarabawy said the system installation is expected to start later next year after officials from all countries have met to thrash out issues like how the regional database will communicate with national systems. A summit was planned in Kampala late last month but was indefinitely deferred due to organisational hiccups.

The pressures over the river are rising every day, with high population growth, climate change, infrastructure development, and environmental degradation.

Water quotas

The World Bank and European Union are funding establishment of the hydromet system.

The two development partners have also been pushing the riparian countries to strike a middle ground on the new Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) that espouses equitable utilisation of the river, and seeks to replace the colonial agreements that granted Egypt and Sudan veto powers on how other countries use the river’s waters. The CFA was adopted in Entebbe in 2010.

The CFA was signed by Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Burundi and Kenya to work towards attaining a greater share of the Nile shares, but Egypt and Sudan declined, insisting on the colonial-era agreements which grants them bigger shares of the Nile water.

In 1929 Britain (then colonizing, and on behalf of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) negotiated an agreement granting Egypt 75% share (55.5 billion cubic meters), and in 1959 negotiated another agreement granting Sudan 25% (18.5 billion cubic meters) of the river’s total flow, on the assumption that the upstream countries can rely on other sources like rain or underground aquifers.

According to these older deals, upstream countries cannot undertake any activities, say irrigation or dam construction, which could significantly affect Egypt’s or Sudan’s allocated water quotas without first notifying and presenting detailed impact studies to Cairo.

Booming population

Uganda’s permanent secretary in the ministry of water and environment, Alfred Okot Okidi, described the hydromet as “a step in the right direction”. It will help to build on the ongoing discussions for a better water-sharing regime and better prepare of climatic variations like floods and drought, which are prevalent in the basin, he said.

According to the last published State of the Nile Basin report, the Nile Basin is highly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming owing to a multiplicity of factors, and the basin communities have limited ability to cope with the negative impacts of climate variability.

“Nile flows are very sensitive to small changes in average basin rainfall, but the Nile Basin consists of a number of distinct sub-basins that each respond quite differently to possible climatic variations,” the 2012 report says.

The senior regional climate changer advisor on trans-boundary water cooperation in the Nile basin at the German development agency, Michael Menker Girma told CHN: “You can look at the hydromet in two aspects: one, the climate change variability, and two we don’t have a

regional/African model for climate change projects so having such data can help us to have a starting point, like in this case specifically on the Nile.”

While climate variability is an issue of concern, Girma said the basin’s main problem is the booming population in all countries, which means pressure on available water means in the not-so-distant future, and the decline in water quality due to increased pollution and urbanisation.

“The system will help in knowing how much water is available: if countries work together towards how it is used, they can use it efficiently,” Girma said.

Congo Brazza :

Pont entre Brazzaville et Kinshasa : signature d'un accord ce jeudi à Johannesburg

08.11.2018

[https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-](https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-44299_pont_entre_brazzaville_et_kinshasa_signature_d_un_accord_ce_jeudi_a_johannesburg.html)

[44299_pont_entre_brazzaville_et_kinshasa_signature_d_un_accord_ce_jeudi_a_johannesburg.html](https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-44299_pont_entre_brazzaville_et_kinshasa_signature_d_un_accord_ce_jeudi_a_johannesburg.html)
La République démocratique du Congo et la République du Congo ont conclu un accord de 550 millions \$, pour relier leurs deux pays via un pont, a indiqué, ce mercredi, Jean-Jacques Bouya, ministre de l'Aménagement du territoire de la République du Congo, lors de l'Africa Investment Forum 2018, se tenant à Johannesburg.

Alain Ebobissé, Directeur général d'Africa 50, la plateforme panafricaine d'investissements en infrastructures capitalisée par la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), a annoncé mercredi lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture du Forum africain sur l'investissement (AIF) qu'un accord sera signé ce jeudi à Johannesburg sur l'ambitieux projet de construction d'un pont entre Brazzaville et Kinshasa, les deux capitales les plus proches du monde.

« Cet accord est l'un des projets concrets qui seront discutés à Johannesburg durant les 3 jours du Forum africain sur l'investissement », a dit le patron d'Africa 50 lors d'une conférence de presse en marge de la cérémonie d'ouverture du forum.

M. Ebobissé n'a pas dit plus sur cet accord qui sera conclu ce jeudi mais il est connu que le pont Brazzaville-Kinshasa est un projet de construction d'un pont route-rail sur le fleuve Congo, reliant la République du Congo à la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) au niveau de leurs capitales respectives, Brazzaville et Kinshasa.

Près de 4 km séparent les deux villes et un tel pont permettrait de relier Kinshasa au port en eau profonde de Pointe-Noire en une seule ligne ferroviaire.

Un projet qui date de 1991

Le Congo-Brazzaville vue depuis Kinshasa

Le projet du pont route-rail entre les deux Congo figurerait sur la liste des 61 projets étudiés par la BAD. Il devrait inclure la construction d'un pont à péage, d'une voie ferrée, d'une route et d'un trottoir. Une fois achevé, il facilitera le développement de zones économiques spéciales, de part et d'autre du nouveau pont, et stimulera les échanges humains et économiques entre les deux villes, et donc entre les deux pays. Il devrait également permettre de réduire les risques et coûts liés aux seuls moyens de transport disponibles actuellement pour passer d'une capitale à l'autre (bateaux, avions).

Notons que l'idée de la construction d'un pont pour relier les deux pays avait déjà été lancée en 2004 après l'adoption par les membres de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC) d'un Plan directeur consensuel des transports dans cette sous-région.

Le premier projet d'un tel pont fut conçu en 1991. Des études furent financées mais le projet tombe finalement à l'eau faute de financement et à cause des différents problèmes internes que les deux pays connaissent.

En février 2010, un Comité technique mixte (CTM) et un sous-comité ferroviaire (SCF) sont installés, lors d'un atelier préparatoire combiné à Brazzaville, afin de travailler sur la mise en œuvre du projet du pont route-rail et l'étude d'autres projets comme l'aménagement de la route Ketta-Djoum ou le prolongement du chemin de fer entre Kinshasa et Ilebo.

En janvier 2017, la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC) réactive le projet et estime que les travaux de construction du pont entre Kinshasa et Brazzaville pourraient commencer fin 2017 ou début 2018. En effet, le financement par la Banque africaine de développement et les deux Congo se précise.

En mai 2018, le projet a été confié à Africa 50 qui regroupe 23 pays du continent et deux banques centrales. Le président du groupe de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), Akinwumia Adesina a, de son côté, indiqué durant la même conférence de presse mercredi à Johannesburg que la BAD dispose de 61 projets d'une valeur de 44 milliards de dollars. Ceux-ci passeront au conseil d'administration de la BAD en vue de leur financement.

Les Echos du Congo Brazzaville / Agence Ecofin / MCP, via mediacongo.net

Zimbabwe :

China gifts Zimbabwe a \$100m new parliament building

3 December 2018 | By GCR Staff

<http://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/china-gifts-zimbabwe-100m-new-parliament-building/>

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Friday, 30 November broke ground for the construction of a new parliament building for the country, to be built by a Chinese contractor with a \$100m grant from the Chinese government.

The 33,000-sq-m complex in the village of Mount Hampden, 25km west of the capital Harare, will replace the 100-seat, colonial-era parliament building downtown, which the government considers too small for Zimbabwe's 350 parliamentarians.

President Mnangagwa said it would catalyse a "new Harare".

Comprising six storeys and two congress halls, it is the largest building to be funded by the Chinese government in a southern African country, reports Chinese state news agency, Xinhua.

Chinese firm Shanghai Construction Group will carry out the work, which is expected to last for 32 months.

President Mnangagwa said the parliament would be the start of a "new Harare", adding he planned to locate the judiciary and the executive branch of government in Mount Hampden as well.

"This is not just a landmark building in this area, it marks the start of construction of a new city of Harare. Within a few years, a new Harare will take shape. It will attract more visitors into this country," he said, according to Xinhua.

The Zimbabwean government will provide about \$10m to build residential areas, shopping centres, and infrastructure.

Image: The 100-seat, colonial-era parliament building in downtown Harare is considered too small (Wikipedia user Radozw/CC BY-SA 3.0)

Further reading:

China denies bugging African Union HQ, which it built
China to donate new HQ for West African alliance

Zimbabwe post-election violence Commission relied on post-mortem evidence

<https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-150891.html>

THE commission of inquiry into the August 1 post-election violence that resulted in the fatal shooting of six civilians by the military has claimed that it captured 90% of evidence, particularly post-mortem reports, provided by human rights groups.

Commission secretary Virginia Mabiza yesterday told NewsDay that contrary to public fears that the inquiry team had ignored submissions from the 22 human rights organisations represented by the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, they had, in fact, considered the bulk of the evidence contained in the group's 500-page dossier.

"People should wait for the full report, as opposed to speculate. It is unfortunate that now I have to disclose something which I should not have done. People will see it for themselves after we have put up a website," Mabiza, who heads the commission's secretariat, said.

"Let me say it today, we used quite a lot from their voluminous report which they presented to the commission. I can tell you that the commission relied upon the post-mortem evidence from the forum. So it would be unfair to allege that we ignored them, we did not," she said.

Mabiza, however, declined to disclose finer details of the team's findings, saying they were still putting final touches to the final report before its submission to Mnangagwa.

The Zanu-PF leader, who has been accused by the opposition MDC leadership of deploying the killer soldiers as a crowd-control measure following protests over delayed presidential results, received an executive summary of the findings from commission chair, former South African President Kgalema Motlanthe, on Thursday.

Mabiza's remarks came after Human Rights NGO Forum chairperson Jestina Mukoko wrote to the commission on November 26, expressing fears that their submissions had been ignored by the secretariat.

"I, hereby, submit video evidence in connection with the violence of August 1, 2018. We note, with concern, that despite the submission of this evidence to the secretariat of the commission of inquiry on October 5 and 12, 2018, this evidence is not before the commission of inquiry and only two of the 18 witnesses covered by this evidence were invited to testify," Mukoko said.

She, too, said she was expecting to be invited to give evidence before the commission, but was locked out.

The NGO Forum, which brings together 22 local human rights groups, had accused the commission of cherry-picking witnesses to testify before it, while ignoring those directly affected by the violence and subsequent shootings that resulted in the death of six people, as 22 others were left nursing gunshot injuries.

The forum accused the commission's secretariat of poorly handling evidence, expressing fears that evidence could have been tampered with.

The human rights lobby group also said it was perturbed that the commission wound up its inquiry on Tuesday before even acknowledging the evidence that they had presented before it and denying other critical witnesses an opportunity to testify.

But Mabiza said the commission could not summon all witnesses who tendered their affidavits through the forum, but took the affidavits into account and the evidence would be included in the final report.

"The forum must know that we had many other organisations presenting evidence and they had brought reports like theirs, so we had to look at those we needed clarity on. The report with all technical issues and witness testimonies will be published on the website," she said, adding the executive summary submitted to Mnangagwa was compiled after a thorough analysis of all evidence gathered from various witnesses.

Among the affidavits contained in the dossier that the NGO Forum claimed were ignored was that of Wisdom Chipere, who claims that he was shot by soldiers in his genitals.

Several people, including MDC supporters, who were assaulted by soldiers in several high-density suburbs in Harare, Epworth and Chitungwiza, among others, were also not called to testify.

Chipere, in his affidavit, said he was at the corner of Julius Nyerere Way and Nelson Mandela Avenue in the city centre when he was shot at point blank by a soldier.

Last Thursday, the commission's spokesperson John Masuku said the final report would be handed to Mnangagwa on Saturday, but the commission made a U-turn at the weekend, claiming the report was still being finalised, although it admitted submitting an executive summary to the President.

Meanwhile, Motlanthe left for South Africa yesterday, leaving other members of the commission to finalise the report and is expected back in the country in time for presentation of the final report on or before December 19.

South Africa :

South Africa: Electricity cuts a great irritation to fruit industry

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9049982/south-africa-electricity-cuts-a-great-irritation-to-fruit-industry/>

Eskom, the national (and sole) electricity provider in South Africa has embarked on a programme of load shedding (planned power outages) as a result of maintenance on the grid. Such power outages are not new, but previously they've usually occurred in winter at times of high electricity demand.

It's unusual for Eskom to cut electricity during summer, and for stonefruit packhouses it couldn't come at a worse time.

It is expected that these rounds of load shedding – some parts of the Western Cape experiencing two daily cuts of approximately two hours duration each since last week – will have a significant impact on the stonefruit season. Fortunately, the load shedding programme is announced in advance (even if Eskom doesn't always strictly keep to it, causing annoyance when workers have been told to remain at home and then there's no power cut) and the duration is only between two to four hours at a stretch.

Since the major power cuts of 2011 and 2007, most packhouses have invested in contingency plans and backup power generators and the impact of load shedding is therefore controlled.

At the harbours the terminals are ensured of backup electricity, supplied by Transnet (the national port and rail company), so that there is no impact from power cuts at the points of loading.

“We're used to it”

While it is a great irritation, most packhouse managers are regarding it with admirable stoicism. Many packhouses have electricity generators capable of running the packing lines, lights and computers, but not powerful enough to run the compressors of cold rooms. Their only solution is to ensure that the doors of cold rooms remain tightly closed and not to load during this time. To control field temperature, they could bring in fruit very early in the morning or late afternoon.

Some smaller packhouses, especially those for fruit categories only packed for a few months every year, don't have the capital outlay for electricity generators and there the impact is greatest, as power cuts bring a halt to all activities.

“And even if the power cuts are outside working hours, I have to get up at the middle of the night and check on the cold store to start the compressor again when the power comes back on,” a plum pack store manager says. “If you get two power cuts during a nine hour working day, you lose four to five hours of work a day.”

One cold store manager tells FreshPlaza he's used to power outages by now. “You just have to make sure you have plans in place. It's not ideal but we work around it.”

Publication date : 12/3/2018

Author: Carolize Jansen

Patrice Motsepe pledges R3.5bn towards SA's land reform programme

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/patrice-motsepe-pledges-r35bn-towards-sas-land-reform-programme-18359058>

Gauteng / 3 December 2018, 06:45am / Sipehelele Dlodla

Johannesburg - South African billionaire Patrice Motsepe announced on Sunday that his family, under his charity foundation, will donate R3.5 billion to help with the contentious issue of land reform in the country and the sustainable development goals.

Motsepe was speaking at the Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100 at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg, and was joined by, among others, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, leader of the Zion Christian Church Bishop Barnabas Lekganyane, and leaders of AgriSA, the Black Farmers Association, African Farmers Association of South Africa, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

"What we are going to do, as the Motsepe family, is we are going to contribute R3.5 billion to help with the process of land reform in this country. The amount is about US250 million," Motsepe said.

"We want to give a moment of hope, we want to give a moment of inspiration for all of the people of this rainbow nation. We are coming together as leaders in South Africa. We are coming together in unity as leaders and are committed to working together to ensure that the current land reform process will result in land with the requisite support and skills being made available to black people living in rural areas," he said.

This after governments and corporate companies already pledged billions of dollars in support for initiatives geared at ending poverty around the world at the concert to celebrate the centenary of South Africa's first democratic president. The money raised will go to addressing many social ills, such as providing decent sanitation in schools and others.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who tweeted to South African comedian Trevor Noah, thanking him for everything he was doing to celebrate Nelson Mandela's legacy, pledged US\$50 million towards education.

The Vodacom Foundation announced that it would invest almost R500 million in fighting gender-based violence, enhancing sanitation in schools, and enhancing digital literacy for teachers, learners, youth, and in early-childhood development centres.

Mozambican Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário announced a US30 million partnership with governments in southern Africa to help eradicate diseases. President Cyril Ramaphosa also announced that South Africa would top up the pledges that had been made with a further R2 billion.

"R98 billion has been made tonight and we as South Africans will top it up to R100 billion. Let us be part of this mission. Let us be the generation that ends poverty," Ramaphosa said.

Global Citizen worked in partnership with a number of organisations to bring the festival to South Africa, including the Motsepe Foundation, House of Mandela, and a number of partners, and 25 local NGOs and organisations.

African News Agency/ANA

Zambia :

DROUGHTS & FLOODS COST ZAMBIA \$100M

By Joshua Jere - December 3, 2018

<https://www.znbc.co.zm/droughts-floods-cost-zambia-100m/>

Zambia loses about 100 million united states dollars every year due to droughts and floods.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction -UNISDR- Representative for the Regional Office for Africa Katarina Soltesova says there is need for the Zambian Government to implement a holistic and inclusive approach to achieve disaster risk Reduction.

Ms. Soltesova says about 11 percent of the country's population is potentially affected while the potential losses to crops is estimated at 16 million United States Dollars.

She further says the country's hydro power production will be highly affected by climate change and in the future potentially lose about 2-hundred and 10 million United States dollars per year.

Ms. Soltesova said this at a workshop held in Lusaka under the theme "Building disaster resilience to natural Hazard's in sub – Sahara Africa Regions, countries and communities".

And officially opening the Zambia Disaster Risk Reduction Country level workshop, Minister in the Office of the Vice President Slyvia Chalikosa said there is need to bridge the integration gap between action on disaster risk and climate risk.

Ms. Chalikosa said government is committed to maximize the use of resources to reduce effects of disasters in the country.

Angola :

President João Lourenço sees himself as an Angolan Deng Xiaoping

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2018/12/01/president-joao-lourenco-sees-himself-as-an-angolan-deng-xiaoping>

Though better than the last guy, a reforming autocrat is still an autocrat

IN INDUSTRIAL ZONE should be a noisy place. At the Zona Económica Especial (ZEE), a Manhattan-sized plot near Luanda, Angola's capital, the only sound is birdsong. "My boss said to only show you the factories that are working," a guide tells your correspondent. Yet all is not well at a handpicked pipe manufacturer. It operates at 10% capacity. Power has just gone out, so unfinished tubes droop out of machines, like saggy wizard sleeves. "Would you like to take a photo of a worker pretending to use the machine?" asks the guide.

ZEE is a monument to Angola's gigantism, corruption and folly. The country is sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest economy and its second-largest oil exporter. From 2002, when 27 years of on-off civil war ended, until 2015, GDP grew by almost 10% a year, a result of high oil prices and a surge in production. But little wealth trickled down to ordinary Angolans, nearly two-thirds of whom live on less than \$2 a day. The elite in the ruling MPLA party stole or squandered billions on projects such as the ZEE. In the zone the state runs 73 factories, which splurge on everything from machines to uniforms without a nod to cost.

After becoming president in September 2017 João Lourenço vowed to stop such idiocy, overhaul the economy and tackle corruption. He surprised many observers by swiftly sacking the super-rich children of his predecessor, José Eduardo dos Santos, from the top jobs at Sonangol, the state oil company, and Angola's sovereign-wealth fund. The ex-president's son, José Filomeno dos Santos, was charged with fraud and money-laundering, which he denies.

The purge raised expectations. On WhatsApp Angolans shared images of "The Terminator", with Mr Lourenço as Arnold Schwarzenegger. But the new president prefers another analogy. Last year he likened himself to Deng Xiaoping, the politician who led China's economic reforms in the 1980s. This is revealing, says Ricardo de Soares Oliveira of Oxford University. For Mr Lourenço, Deng was someone who saw reform as a means to an end: a way of keeping the ruling party in power.

Angola has little option but to reform. Oil accounts for about 95% of exports and half of government revenues. But relatively low oil prices mean that the economy has lagged behind population growth since 2015, and will continue to do so until at least 2019. Even if oil prices recover, Angola is set to sell less of the black stuff. Production is forecast to fall from 1.6m barrels per day in 2018 to 0.7m in 2028 (see chart). "We can no longer depend on oil," says José Massano, the governor of the central bank.

Under Mr dos Santos "diversifying" the economy meant Potemkin projects like the ZEE. Mr Lourenço, instead, plans to privatise 50-100 companies, including many in the Sonangol empire. A new law removes the need for foreign investors to have an Angolan partner, a rule that had created a cadre of useless but well-connected "tenderpreneurs" during the boom years.

In January Angola stopped pegging its currency (the kwanza) to the dollar, relieving pressure on foreign reserves. The central bank now auctions dollars instead of handing them to cronies.

The authorities are also trying to clean up Angola's financial system. Most banks in Angola are, in fact, not banks in the normal sense, says Carlos Rosado de Carvalho, the editor of a business

newspaper. As recently as 2009, 85% of all lending went to about 200 individuals. Business plans can amount to “I need \$5m now,” sighs one bank executive. Nearly 29% of loans are in default. The central bank has raised capital requirements, introduced new accounting standards and suspended the board of one of the worst-run state banks.

Whereas Mr dos Santos made Angola the main recipient of Chinese lending in Africa, Mr Lourenço has sought to rebalance its foreign relations. He has visited Belgium, France, Germany and Portugal. Perhaps the clearest sign of change is Angola’s improved relationship with the IMF. Under Mr Lourenço Angola has adopted many of the fund’s recommendations and is set to borrow money from it in the next few months.

His reforms are encouraging. But it is too soon to get carried away. He has barely begun to mend the harm caused by his awful predecessor. More years of slow growth and inflation in the double digits will test the patience of Angolans ahead of local elections in 2020.

It is also too early to judge his anti-corruption efforts. Mr Lourenço remains a party man. And many MPLA bigwigs would hate to see corruption curbed. Since taking power after independence from Portugal in 1975, the MPLA has proved remarkably adaptive. During the cold war it embraced communism; as its Soviet sponsor crumbled it turned to crony capitalism and multiparty elections. At no point have its leaders shown much interest in the welfare of ordinary Angolans. It is possible, alas, that Mr Lourenço’s appointees may see the new order as their chance to get rich quick.

Nor has Mr Lourenço shown himself to be much of a political reformer. He has rejected calls to change the constitution to limit his powers. He has put loyalists in key positions in the army and security services. And he has shown little desire to make courts independent. Such omissions undermine his talk of a new Angola. “We don’t need a strongman,” says a local activist. “We need strong institutions.”

Cameroon :

Cameroon: gun battles rage despite Biya's disarmament committee

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/cameroon-gun-battles-rage-despite-biyas-disarmament-committee/>

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There was an upsurge of violence in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon at the weekend despite a decision by the Head of State Paul Biya to create a National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee.

There was heavy fighting across the North West region last weekend with at least three persons killed in Mankon, Mezam division.

Traffic was paralysed along the Buea-Kumba road in the South West region as gun battles raged throughout the weekend between security forces and separatist fighters.

Earlier last week, a twin suicide bomb attack from suspected Boko Haram elements led to at least 29 persons seriously injured in Amchide, Far North Region of the country.

All these happening before, during and after the Head of State signed the decree to set up the National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee.

Paul Biya said the Committee shall be head quartered in Yaounde and placed under the supervision of the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

The Committee will have regional Centres in Buea, Bamenda and Mora with the possibility of creating more centres as need arises, the Head of State said in the decree.

The Committee will be charged with organizing, supervising and managing the disarmament, demobilization and re-integration of ex fighters Boko Haram fighters and armed groups in the North West and South West regions willing to lay down their arms as requested by the Head of State in his swearing in speech.

It is left to be seen how effective this committee will be given the rising insecurity in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon.

Nigeria :

Nigeria President Buhari denies dying: 'It's the real me'

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/12/nigeria-president-buhari-denies-dying-real-181203055810230.html>

Nigerian leader refutes claims circulating on social media that he has died and been replaced by a Sudanese lookalike.

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has denied claims that he had died and been replaced by a Sudanese impostor, quashing a rumour that has circulated on social media for months.

"It's the real me, I assure you. I will soon celebrate my 76th birthday and I will still go strong," Buhari told Nigerians in a town hall session in Poland on Sunday, where he was attending a conference.

"A lot of people hoped that I died during my ill health," he said, adding that those who spread the rumour were "ignorant and irreligious".

The Nigerian leader, who is running for re-election in February, spent five months in the United Kingdom last year being treated for an undisclosed illness.

One theory widely aired on social media - and by some political opponents - was that he had been replaced by a lookalike from Sudan called Jubril.

One of the questions that came up today in my meeting with Nigerians in Poland was on the issue of whether I've been cloned or not. The ignorant rumours are not surprising — when I was away on medical vacation last year a lot of people hoped I was dead. pic.twitter.com/SHTngq6LJU

— Muhammadu Buhari (@MBuhari) December 2, 2018

No evidence has been presented, but videos making the claim have still been viewed thousands of times on YouTube and Facebook.

The presidency circulated Buhari's comments in an emailed statement entitled "It's Real Me, President Buhari Responds to Cloning Allegation".

SOURCE: News agencies