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**IMAGES : xinhuanet.com | newvision.co.ug | AP | Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed**

## BURUNDI :

Burundi : La Belgique veut créer une rébellion avec le CNL et le Rwanda

<http://burundi-agnews.org/elections-2020/burundi-la-belgique-veut-creer-une-rebellion-avec-le-cnl-et-le-rwanda/>

GÉOPOLITIQUE DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, DEFENSE, ELECTIONS 2020 – BUJUMBURA, Jeudi 20 Février 2020 – Le Burundi est en pleine campagne pré-électorale 2020. Le mercredi 20 mai 2020, 5,1 Millions de Burundi iront voter démocratiquement [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/elections-2020/burundi-ceni-5-126-351-electeurs-elections-democratiques-2020/> ]. L'accalmie retrouvée dans le pays de nombreux réfugiés Burundi rentrent de manière massive [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/les-refugies-burundais/> ]

Pourtant ce mercredi 19 Février 2020 de manière inattendue, le journal belge des familles d'anciens colons Belges – LA LIBRE – a sorti un article avec ce titre :” Burundi: tirs nourris à Muyira, proche de Bujumbura“.

Jusqu'aujourd'hui, aucun autre journal dans le monde n'avait repris cet info. Car les sources étaient tellement ambiguës et surtout l'info incompréhensible.

Ce matin du jeudi 20 Février 2020, c'est le journal privé burundais PROCHE DES COLONS - IWACU- qui est venu en aide à LA LIBRE. IWACU a écrit un article aussi ambigu : ” Bujumbura rural : Coups de feu à Kirombwe, 2 combattants tués et une dizaine d'autres capturés “. De nouveau très mal embarqué pour le media privé IWACU dont le Directeur vit en Belgique.

Pour la sécurité burundaise, la Belgique souhaite perturber les élections démocratiques burundaises [ [http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/bdi\\_burundi\\_Relation-Belgique-Burundi\\_depuis\\_2015\\_bdiagnews.pdf](http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/bdi_burundi_Relation-Belgique-Burundi_depuis_2015_bdiagnews.pdf) ]. Apparemment comme le suggère l'article Belge de LA LIBRE : 1 / ( 1ère source ) c'est avec le concours du CNL; et 2/ ( “une autre source” ) c'est à dire, la Belgique compte aussi sur une autre REBELLION qui elle viendrait du RWANDA [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/des-elements-armees-venus-du-rwanda-ont-attaque-le-burundi/> ]. Le colonel Makenga et ses hommes du M23, le 8 juillet 2012. REUTERS/James Akena

Mardi 22 octobre 2019, à Bubanza, des jeunes burundais ayant reçus quelques promesses pécuniaires depuis la Belgique, avaient décidé de terroriser les citoyens burundais paisibles de la localité [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/province/bubanza/burundi-banditisme-transfrontalier-avec-la-rdc-14-bandits-tues-a-bubanza/> ; ]. Avant de commettre leur méfait, ils s'étaient entendus par mobile avec 4 journalistes d'IWACU ce media privé PRO COLONS BELGES et FRANCAIS [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/globalisation-mondialisation/burundi-tgi-bubanza-en-appel-2-ans-1-2-pour-les-4-journalistes-diwacu/> ]. Afin qu'ils soient présents pour couvrir médiatiquement leur acte terroriste.

A quelques mois des élections burundaises; l'idée était de nuire à l'image du Burundi en disant qu'il y avait de l'insécurité à cause d'une RÉBELLION ARMÉE. Cela n'avait pas fonctionné.

Mercredi 19 février 2020, à Bujumbura rural, des jeunes burundais “CNL RWASA” ont tenté de perturber la sécurité dans la localité. Mais en vain, cela a échoué. Ce qui perturbe la sécurité burundaise, c'est encore cette proximité Belge dans cette affaire. Une journaliste Belge qui cite des sources et qui écrit la première sur un fait divers au Burundi. Depuis des mois, ce qui s'est passé hier et qui a été étouffé dans l'œuf, était attendu [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/cnl/burundi-arsenal-militaire-decouvert-chez-le-president-du-cnl-de-buhiga-karusi/> ]. Les renseignements burundais ont appelé cela – scénario Côte d'Ivoire, Gbagbo –.

La Belgique compte sur le CNL RWASA pour perturber en 2020 la sécurité burundaise à travers tout le pays. Le CNL, profitant de la DEMOCRATIE BURUNDAISE [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/elections-2020/burundi-un-detail-pour-rwasa-pas-si-anodin-pour-les-burundi/> ] comme le font les RESEAUX TERRORISTES, a pu établir des permanences à travers tous le pays. Ce que veut la Belgique maintenant, c'est que les réseaux dormants CNL se mettent en action.

Avec ce scénario “Côte d’Ivoire, Gbagbo”, la Belgique demandera en mai à RWASA de revendiquer la victoire, comme Président.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Jeudi 20 Février 2020 | Photo : IWACU, LA LIBRE, REUTERS

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Burundi / Génocide 1972 : La CVR commence la phase 2 à Gishora, Gitega

<http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-genocide-1972-la-cvr-commence-la-phase-2-a-gishora-gitega/>

GEOPOLITIQUE GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, COLONISATION, HISTOIRE, SOCIETE, GENOCIDE – GITEGA ( Commune GIHETA ), Lundi 17 Février 2020 – La Commission Vérité Réconciliation (CVR) a annoncé commencer la phase 2 d’exhumation des fosses communes de 1972. La méthode de la CVR consiste à suivre le cours de la rivière RUVUBU, un affluent du NIL. Les ouvriers ont commencé la préparation des fosses 7 et 8. Entre-temps, les populations de GISHORA descendent dans les rues. Maintenant, les cœurs commencent à s’ouvrir. Elles viennent renseigner la CVR Burundi sur l’existence de nouvelles fosses communes. Elles disent de regarder non loin de l’IRAZ sur la route Gitega-Ngozi.

Pour rappel, la phase 1 de ce parcours de la CVR a révélé 6.032 corps trouvés dans 6 fosses en province KARUSI [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide/burundi-genocide-1972-cvr-6-032-corps-trouves-dans-6-fosses-a-karusi/> | <http://burundi-agnews.org/news/burundi-genocide-la-cvr-organise-un-cafe-presse-ce-14-02-2020/> | <http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/burundi-le-genocide-de-1972-visant-le-hutu-a-enfin-un-corps/> ].

Le Génocide Régicide du Burundi de 1972 a été un des plus grands crimes contre l’Humanité au 20ème siècle. Réalisé par le régime militaire HIMA du dictateur HIMA MICOMBERO Michel [ <http://burundi-agnews.org/hima> ]. Ce Génocide a emporté la vie de 500.000 Burundi sur une population de 3 Millions d’âmes à cette époque. Plus il a généré 1 Million de réfugiés Burundi dans les pays voisins et dans le monde.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 17 Février 2020 | Photo : CVR , [umap.openstreetmap.fr](http://umap.openstreetmap.fr) , Google Map

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Burundi / RDC : Clôture et Recommandations du forum intra-communautaire BANYAMULENGE de 3 jours à Kinshasa

<https://www.burundi-forum.org/38673/>

GEOPOLITIQUE GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, SECURITE, DEFENSE – KINSHASA, 15/02/2020 – Les représentants de la communauté BANYAMULENGE ont clôturé leur forum intra-communautaire de 3 jours [ <https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e45756bbfe4f6000408e77f> ] sur les causes de l’insécurité à Fizi, Minembwe et Mwenga. Ce Forum des BANYAMULENGE était organisé par l’Etat Congolais de la RDC.

A cette rencontre était présent des BANYAMULENGE venus du Burundi.

Voici les 18 recommandations de ces derniers relatifs à l’insécurité à l’Est de la RDC : [ [https://www.burundi-forum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/bdi\\_burundi\\_ForumIntraCommunautaire\\_kinshasa\\_15022020.pdf](https://www.burundi-forum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/bdi_burundi_ForumIntraCommunautaire_kinshasa_15022020.pdf) ]

Parmi ces recommandations, certaines intéressent le Burundi :

9. Éradiquer les groupes armés étrangers notamment les RedTabara, FOREBU et FNL et les rapatrier dans leurs pays d’origine;

17. Installer de manière effective les animateurs de la commune de Minembwe et autres nouvelles entités du Sud-Kivu, à l’instar des villes de Baraka, Uvira, Kamituga dans le but de renforcer l’autorité de l’État;

18. Organiser des réunions tripartites pour le rapatriement des membres de notre communauté réfugiés dans les pays voisins.

SOURCES : NAHIMANA P. | Photo : DigitalCongo.net

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Burundi : 28 organisations politiques participeront aux élections 2020

<http://burundi-agnews.org/institutions/burundi-28-organisations-politiques-participeront-aux-elections-2020/>

ELECTIONS 2020 – BUJUMBURA, Mardi 18 Février 2020 – La Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI) vient de valider définitivement les insignes des 28 organisations politiques. Ces derniers participeront aux 4èmes élections démocratiques consécutives depuis 2005 au Burundi. Ainsi, c’est un tirage au sort qui les a distingué en leur attribuant chacun un numéro. En bref, sur les 28, il y aura : 17 partis politiques ; 1 coalition politique ; et 10 citoyens indépendants.

Dr. KAZIHISE Pierre Claver, Président de la CENI, a clôturé cette rencontre. Tout en rappelant ceci : “Les candidats qui vont se retirer de la course électorale après l’impression des cartes d’électeurs se verront sanctionnés conformément à la loi”.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Mardi 18 Février 2020 | Photo : EjoHeza News, CENI

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Ebola / Santé : Le Burundi aurait homologué le vaccin Ervebo

<http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/ebola-sante-le-burundi-aurait-homologue-le-vaccin-ervebo/>

GLOBALISATION, GUERRE HUMANITAIRE, DEFENSE, SECURITE, SANTE, BONNE GOUVERNANCE, PARLEMENT – BUJUMBURA, Lundi 17 Février 2020 – Certains parlementaires burundais ont été surpris d’entendre par la voix des média mainstream que le Burundi aurait homologué le vaccin – anti Ebola – Ervebo. La question EBOLA au Burundi est certes d’abord d’ordre : 1/ sécuritaire et 2/ de santé publique.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Directeur Général de l’Organisation Mondiale de la Santé ( OMS ) , a informé que 4 pays africains ( RDC Congo, Burundi, Ghana et Zambie ) venaient d’homologuer le vaccin Ervebo contre EBOLA. Selon ces résultats, le vaccin Ervebo, fabriqué par Merck, aurait un taux d’efficacité de 97,5 %. Pour l’OMS : il s’agit d’un “jalon” important dans la lutte contre cette maladie.

Au Burundi, le “HIC” est que le pays n’a jamais connu de cas d’ébola. En tous cas connu. Dès lors, comment est ce que l’efficacité du vaccin Ervebo peut elle être prouver ? De plus, cela pose la question du PROCESSUS D’HOMOLOGATION D’UN VACCIN AU BURUNDI ET D’UN PLAN DE VACCINATION DES BURUNDI ! De nombreux parlementaires burundais se posent beaucoup de questions à ce sujet. Cela ne leur a jamais été évoquée de manière précise au Parlement [ <http://assemblee.bi/spip.php?article2071>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZi5ecBziqs> ]. Par ailleurs, il n’y a pas eu un débat parlementaire pour avaliser ou non cette efficacité du vaccin Ervebo au Burundi [ <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2019/08/1049591> ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/le-burundi-veut-vacciner-preventivement-contre-ebola/> ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/afrique/les-vaccins-dit-anti-ebola-vsv-ebov-arrivent-au-burundi/> ].

D’après de nombreuses sources de l’OMS, le Burundi a une “grande expérience dans l’introduction de nouveaux vaccins”. Ce pays sert de “cobaye pharmaceutique”.

Au Burundi, c'est le Ministère burundais de la Santé Publique et de la lutte contre le Sida, en sa Direction des Projets et Programmes de Santé qui s'occupe en programme élargi de vaccination, de présenter un PLAN D'INTRODUCTION D'UN VACCIN. Où se trouve ce plan ? Les députés des Commissions s'occupant des questions de sécurité ou de santé publique l'ont il déjà vu ?

Pour ces députés et sénateurs Burundi : "La corruption des âmes est un grand problème. Un véritable danger d'ordre sécuritaire avant tout ! Mais aussi, à cause de celle-ci, les corrompus mangent pendant que l'ont sali gratuitement l'image du pays. Par exemples, il y en a marre du qualificatif "un des pays les plus pauvres du monde" attribuer gratuitement au Burundi. Qui cache l'idée qu'il n'y a pas d'Etat et de véritables "Homme Politique" pour s'occuper des citoyens Burundi. C'est du "racisme anti-africain" ! Cette histoire d'Ebola est une mauvaise image pour le Burundi. En tous cas pour le secteur économique, les touristes qui voulaient se rendre au Burundi ont désormais un argument pour ne pas s'y rendre. Le Burundi doit cesser de nuire à son image - gratuitement – pour le bien de quelques âmes corrompus".

Autrefois, à l'époque d' – INGOMA Y'UBURUNDI – , pour être GESTIONNAIRE au Burundi, il fallait d'abord être JUSTE. C'est à dire avoir été initié comme UMUSHINGANTAHE. Soit être reconnu par les siens ou citoyens de sa localité d'origine comme un ÊTRE ( UMUNTU ) porteur de VERTUS ( cfr. UBUNTU – <http://burundi-agnews.org/ubuntu> ). On parlait de "GESTIONNAIRE JUSTE". Pas de GESTIONNAIRE seulement !

A quelques mois des ELECTIONS DEMOCRATIQUES DE 2020, pour ces parlementaires burundais, aujourd'hui, surtout dans ce contexte de globalisation, il faudrait être plus vigilant sur ce type de questions. Il en va de la disparition pure et simple de notre cher pays : Le Burundi et de ses Burundi. On l'a vue en 2015 ! Il a fallu de peu ! Désormais pour être MINISTRE ou FONCTIONNAIRE au Burundi, responsable de la GESTION d'une des politiques de la PLANIFICATION DES BURUNDI, il faudrait que l'"individu choisi pour sa compétence" soit d'abord un ÊTRE JUSTE.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 17 Février 2020 | Photo : Assemblée.bi , JIMBERE

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TANZANIA :

Tanzania's gold, dollar reserves reach \$5.5b

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Tanzania-gold-dollar-reserves/2560-5460852-awadysz/index.html>

Wednesday February 19 2020 By BEATRICE MATERU

Tanzania accumulated \$5.5 billion worth of gold and dollar reserves by the first half of 2019/2020, covering more than six months of imports.

The country's benchmark is at least four months' reserve of imports cover, while for EAC is four and a half months and SADC six months of import cover.

The Bank of Tanzania, in its Monetary Policy Statement Mid-Year Review released last week, attributes the good run to the increase in value of exports specifically from the non-traditional goods counter of minerals and manufactured goods.

"The value of exports of goods and services increased by 25.5 per cent to \$5.554 billion from the level registered in the first half of 2018/2019, due to increase in the value of export of non-traditional goods," said BoT.

By the end of the first half of 2019/2020, data shows the value of non-traditional goods exports increased by 39.3 per cent to \$2.363 billion, largely driven by manufactured goods and gold.

Exports of manufactured goods increased by 19.2 per cent to \$518.6 million from \$435.2 million in the same period in 2018/2019. The increase is attributed to a rise in exports of iron and steel products, glass and glassware, manufactured tobacco, sisal yarn and twine.

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We want 50pc of homes use gas in cooking: Tanzania Government

Tuesday February 18 2020 - Environment minister Mussa Azzan Zungu

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/1840340-5460050-af059y/index.html>

Environment minister Mussa Azzan Zungu displays an alternative carrier bag bearing name of the manufacturer and certification of the Tanzania Bureau of Standard when he visited Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL) head-quarters at Tabata Relini yesterday. Left is MCL managing director Francis Nanai.

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Tanzania set to review law on mediation for investors

<https://www.cnbcfranca.com/videos/2020/02/18/tanzania-set-to-review-law-on-mediation-for-investors/>

Tanzania is set to review the contentious arbitration law. The draft Bill comes on the back of new arbitration announcements filed in January by several multinational mining companies over cancelled retention licenses. Madeline Kimei, Founder & Principal at iResolve joins CNBC Africa for more.

February 18, 2020

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Turkish-Tanzanian relations gain momentum in every field, Turkish envoy says

<https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2020/02/18/turkish-tanzanian-relations-gain-momentum-in-every-field-turkish-envoy-says>

Ankara's declaration of 2005 as the Year of Africa gave an impetus to the political, commercial and cultural relations between Turkey and African countries. That year, Turkey also gained observer status in the African Union, which strengthened bilateral ties with the African states.

Ankara has attached importance to enhancing ties with Tanzania as this East African country has a young workforce, spectacular natural habitat and a wide range of resources.

"We have had numerous high-level bilateral visits by different delegations in recent years, including President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's in 2017, which have significantly contributed to the development of bilateral ties in every field," Ali Davutoğlu, Turkey's ambassador to Tanzania, told Daily Sabah in an exclusive interview.

Turkish-Tanzanian relations gain momentum in every field, Turkish envoy says

Turkey's Ambassador to Tanzania Ali Davutoğlu (R) with Daily Sabah's Mustafa Kırkçioğlu.

In a meeting of the Turkey-Tanzania Business Council in January 2017, Erdoğan highlighted the aim to raise bilateral trade volume, which was \$150 million at the time, to \$250 million during the first stage and then to \$500 million later on. The president had also announced that Turkey would further strengthen bilateral ties with the country with new projects in the sectors of the economy, trade, railway, tourism, agriculture, industry and construction.

"We have already reached a \$250 million bilateral trade volume thanks to quickly developing economic ties, and I think we will reach \$500 million in a short time," Davutoğlu expressed.

With developing economic ties, more Turkish companies are seeking business opportunities in the African country. One such construction giant, Yapı Merkezi, launched a \$3.1 billion railway construction project in 2017, which constitutes the initial two phases of a greater five-stage project that aims to link Tanzania to the Indian Ocean.

"This is the largest construction project in Tanzania currently. What we see is that Turkish businesspeople went beyond the 2005 Africa opening; now it is time to switch to a partnership with Africa," Davutoğlu said.

The completion of the five-stage railway line linking Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo with Tanzania will mark the launch of the fastest train in East Africa.

The ambassador also highlighted Turkish Airlines' daily flights to three different location – Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar – which boosts the tourism sector. "A significant part of tourists, especially from Europe and the U.S., also prefer Turkish Airlines for their visit to Tanzania," he said.

Education pioneers cultural interaction

Turkey's increasing interest in Tanzania is not limited to politics and economics, as cooperation in education has also become a priority in recent years. While some universities have signed memorandums for student exchanges, Turkey's Maarif Foundation, which provides education from kindergarten to high school, continues its activities in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar with nearly 2,000 students.

"They are among the most distinguished private schools in Tanzania. For example, in Zanzibar, demand for Maarif schools is much more than our capacity. Unfortunately, we couldn't accept every student applying to the school," Davutoğlu said.

Every year at least 30 students from Tanzania are awarded scholarships by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). The ambassador said that they asked YTB for a special quota for students from Zanzibar due to high demand from the island.

He also touched upon schools belong to Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ) in the country, saying that the Tanzanian government is aware that these educational institutions are not deemed suitable by the Turkish government.

"The officials are affirmative on the opening of more Maarif schools. Even though the government has not handed over FETÖ schools yet, they expressed that once Maarif schools are stronger, the situation of FETÖ schools will weaken," Davutoğlu said.

Alongside opening new schools worldwide, the Maarif Foundation has been taking control of FETÖ-linked educational institutions after the group orchestrated a coup attempt against the Turkish government on July 15, 2016, killing 251 people and injuring nearly 2,200.

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First Group of Over 1,400 Stranded Ethiopian Migrants Arrive from Tanzania

February 18, 2020

<https://www.cnbc.com/africa/apo/2020/02/18/first-group-of-over-1400-stranded-ethiopian-migrants-arrive-from-tanzania/>

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The costs of dangerous, sometimes lethal passages some irregular migrants make in Africa can be measured in many ways: in currencies, even in lives. Tamrat and Debebe – two young men newly returned to their native Ethiopia – measure their hardships in years.

They're not alone. In fact, they're among 463 Ethiopian migrants already brought home this month thanks to the cooperation of the Governments of Tanzania and Ethiopia, working together to facilitate their release and return while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with the European Union (EU) provided the post arrival assistance. The most recent return flight arrived Monday.

Since childhood, Tamrat had dreamed of becoming a doctor or an engineer. As he did not make it to college, he decided to migrate and try working in South Africa instead.

A smuggler promised the 26 year-old he would travel to Kenya by bus and then fly the rest of the way south. Like most migrants on Africa's so called Southern Route, Tamrat paid between 100,000 and 180,000 birr (USD 3,150 and 5,600) for the journey.

Encouraged by more successful peers, many Ethiopian migrants – most hailing from the southern part of the country – dream of going to South Africa for work.

But Tamrat's dream was shattered when the lorry in which he was being smuggled – along with 65 others – attracted the attention of authorities.

Even at that, he conceded, he considers himself lucky. "If we had not been intercepted by the police, some of us would have died of suffocation," the young man said.

Still, he regrets his choice. "I was in prison for three years after the truck I was smuggled in was intercepted by the police," he explained.

Debebe, another returnee from southern Ethiopia, spent four years in a Tanzanian detention. He was a street cobblestone carver before leaving Ethiopia, also to chase his dream working in South Africa. Debebe paid 150,000 Birr (USD 4,500) to a smuggler, explaining he took 100,000 birr from his savings, borrowing the remaining 50,000 birr from his family.

Tamrat and Debebe are among the first of a total of 1,400 who are scheduled to be returned this way—all Ethiopians being brought home from Tanzania in the coming weeks.

The returns are supported by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (the EU-IOM Joint Initiative), with migrants being flown from Dar es Salam to Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport on three Ethiopian Airlines flights. The Government of Ethiopia covered the cost of the returnees' airfare.

The programme that brought these men home is part of the larger EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration which facilitates orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration management through the development of rights-based and development-focused policies and processes on protection and sustainable reintegration. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative, backed by



the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa covers, and has been set up in close cooperation with 26 African countries.

IOM provided fitness to travel medical screening as well as clothes and shoes prior to the returnees' departure from Tanzania. Upon arrival in Addis Ababa, IOM also provided further medical assistance, psychosocial support, temporary accommodation at its Migrant Transit Centre, and onward transportation to their communities of return.

Commissioner General of the Tanzanian Immigration Service Department, Dr. Anna Makakala, and Ethiopia's Ambassador to Tanzania Yonas Yosef Sanbe were present during pre-departure formalities conveying words of support and encouragement to returning migrants.

The tripartite roadmap contained recommendations for a road map to address detention conditions and to consider alternatives to detention, as well to prevent irregular migration and to support sustainable approaches to return and reintegration, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.

"Irregular migration is not only costing many Ethiopians their savings or those of their family, but also their lives," said Hugo Genest, IOM Ethiopia's Programme Coordinator for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration and Immigration and Border Management.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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RWANDA :

Rwanda : le RIB, instrument de harcèlement des opposants

Alfred Antoine U. , février 15, 2020 - <https://www.jambonews.net/actualites/20200215-rwanda-le-rib-instrument-de-harcelement-des-opposants/>

Être convoqué par l'organe étatique d'investigation et répondre à la convocation ne devrait pas être un problème ; ça ne le devient que lorsque cet organe recourt au harcèlement, à l'intimidation, à la concoction d'accusations, à la torture, à la détention illégale, sans oublier l'assassinat des citoyens qu'il est censé protéger. Tous ces actes illégaux continuent de ternir la réputation du Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB).

Mis en place depuis près de 3 ans, officiellement comme organisme officiel chargé de l'application de la loi, le RIB est vite devenu synonyme de terreur dans le cœur des Rwandais. Il a été à plusieurs reprises auteur de nombreux cas de kidnapping, de torture, de détention illégale, de disparition forcée, d'assassinats et d'enquête sans conclusions. L'agence est également connue pour son inaction face aux récurrents cas de fusillades et autres violations de droits humains régulièrement commises par les membres de la police rwandaise. En moins de trois ans, le RIB a réussi à s'imposer en véritable outil du contrôle total de tout un peuple.

Au moment où l'on constate que les opposants au régime du FPR continuent d'être assassinés, emprisonnés ou contraints à l'exil, la dictature militaire dirigée d'une main de fer par le général Paul Kagame est en train d'utiliser le RIB pour intimider et réduire au silence trois des rares dernières voix des sans-voix qui restent au Rwanda.

Victoire Ingabire, la présidente du parti d'opposition Dalfa-Umurinzi emprisonnée pendant huit ans, entre 2010 et 2018, reçoit très régulièrement des convocations du RIB auxquelles elle n'a d'autre choix que de répondre. Elle a récemment dénoncé la torture mentale qui lui est infligée à chaque fois qu'elle répond à ces convocations. Obligée de se présenter au RIB dès le matin, elle est ensuite confinée plusieurs heures seule dans une pièce, sans rien à boire ni à manger, pour enfin être interrogée pendant 30 minutes en fin de journée seulement. « Pourquoi avez-vous créé un nouveau parti politique ? » ; « Nous t'interdisons de tenir des réunions », sont les sujets qui reviennent régulièrement au cours de ces interrogatoires.

Malgré ces intimidations, elle a promis au peuple rwandais de ne pas céder aux provocations et au harcèlement. Pour elle, « la lutte non violente pour le changement et la démocratie demande des sacrifices et de rester courageux ».

Fred Barafinda Sekikubo, président du parti d'opposition RUDA, affirme de son côté avoir subi des enlèvements et des tortures depuis qu'il a publiquement dénoncé l'injustice cumulée à laquelle le FPR soumet le peuple rwandais. Très récemment il dit aussi avoir miraculeusement échappé à plusieurs autres tentatives de kidnapping orchestrées par des agents du RIB.

Dans son discours d'indignation Barafinda interroge : « Vous dites que le Rwanda a des ennemis, mais pourquoi les Rwandais fuient-ils le pays alors qu'il n'y a pas de guerre ? Pouvez-vous nous dire où sont allés les gens qui habitaient les quartiers de Rusororo, Muhima, Kiyovu et autres ? Pouvez-vous nous dire où sont allés ces gens qui ont été récemment expulsés de leurs habitations sous prétexte de les protéger contre les inondations ? Qui connaît réellement leur sort, qui s'en soucie ? Personne ! Allez voir en Ouganda, il y a actuellement des nouveaux réfugiés rwandais qui se sont enfuis très récemment ! Quelle est la cause de leur fuite ? Il ne faut pas maltraiter l'être humain. Vous me voyez parler seul mais je représente beaucoup de victimes. Malgré des tortures qu'ils m'ont fait subir je reste toujours debout. Vous savez, ils m'ont enlevé et détenu plus de cinq fois ! Ils me menottaient les bras et les pieds puis me plaçaient dans un cercueil, c'est une torture inimaginable. »

Le 12 février 2020, le RIB annonçait l'avoir interné à l'asile psychiatrique Caraes de Ndera. Me Bernard Ntaganda, lui aussi président d'un parti d'opposition, le Parti socialiste Imberakuri, serait la dernière victime du RIB après avoir récemment effectué un comeback politique en s'associant avec Victoire Ingabire pour une activité qui consistait à rendre visite aux personnes dont les maisons ont été détruites afin de leur apporter soutien moral et aide matérielle, une activité notamment entravée par la police rwandaise. Ntaganda a lui aussi été convoqué par le RIB le matin du 12 février à 10h. Alors qu'il s'est présenté à l'heure indiquée, son entretien a été retardé puis ajourné au 26 février.

Ces persécutions contre des rares voix qui s'expriment au Rwanda restreignent, jour après jour davantage, une liberté d'expression déjà réduite depuis plusieurs années à peau de chagrin par l'un des régimes les plus répressifs du globe. Alfred Antoine Jambonews

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13 Rwandans released ahead of Museveni-Kagame meeting

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Uganda13-Rwandans-Rwanda-Museveni-Kagame/688334-5460368-111c54/index.html>

Tuesday February 18 2020 By EPHRAIM KASOZI

Government has released 13 Rwandan nationals who had been in detention on charges of espionage and other security related offences.

The decision to release the suspects came as President Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame prepare to meet at Katuna border on Friday to discuss an end to the diplomatic row between the countries.

Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa Tuesday handed over a group of men and women for deportation to Rwanda. They were handed over to immigration authorities in the presence of the First Counsellor at the Rwandan High Commission to Uganda, Mr Noel Mucyo.

The release of 13 Rwandan nationals brings the number to 22. They were all facing similar charges including illegal entry and infiltration.

Mr Kutesa, however, explained that "the withdrawal of the charges against these people, just as with the nine that were released on January 8, does not in any way suggest that the accused are innocent of the charges for which they were being tried.

"It is simply an option that government has chosen in order to facilitate normalisation of relations in the context of the Luanda process," he said.

Asked about the number of people remaining in Ugandan detention facilities, the minister explained that many have since been deported and only 39 others are remaining in custody and serving sentences.

He said the persons handed over include those who were rearrested after they had been deported for espionage and security related offences in 2019 but they came back to Uganda.

READ: Museveni and Mr Kagame are set to meet at Katuna border [ <https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ministers-Museveni-Kagame-border-Katuna-meeting/688334-5448238-dccdb4z/index.html> ]

The suspects include Ntirushwa Maboko and his wife Ukwitegestse Ansiira, Jean Bosco Habomugisha and his wife Christine Mukamazima, Ukwigezi Narcise and Ms Hycinthe Dusangeyezu, the wife to Rene Rutagungira, who is among the nine deported in January.

Those released last month were arrested between 2017 and 2018 in Kampala and Mbarara districts over accusations of possession of illegal firearms and ammunitions.

Speaking on behalf of Kigali, Mr Mucyo said the Rwandan government is fully committed to implementing the Luanda agreement.

"I am not aware of the negative comments to Uganda of recent. The Rwandan government has clearly stated that deaths on Rwandan side were those killed while smuggling through ungazetted territory," Mr Mucyo said.

Rwanda has since released Peter Egessa, a Ugandan Information Technology (IT) expert based in Kigali, Rwanda, who had disappeared in December last year.

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Kizito Mihigo: Singer found dead in Rwandan police cell

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51528526>

17 February 2020

Rwandan gospel music artist Kizito Mihigo has been found dead in a police cell, officers say.

It comes three days after he was arrested near the border with Burundi.

Police accused him of attempting to flee the country and join rebel groups fighting against Rwanda.

He is banned from leaving Rwanda due to a previous conviction.

Mihigo was best known for the songs Inuma (pigeon) and Igisobanuri cy'urupfu (the meaning of death).

A statement shared on social media by police spokesman JB Kabeera said Mihigo's body was found during a routine check by officers at Remera police station on Monday morning. The spokesman gave no further details.

Mihigo had been charged with corruption and illegal border crossing, local media report.

The Rwanda Investigation Bureau accused the singer of attempting to bribe people who had seen him.

A resident in the south-western Nyaruguru district told BBC Great Lakes that on Thursday villagers had stopped the musician, who was carrying a heavy bag, and handed him over to police.

"I was there, I saw him. Villagers who stopped him said he was trying to cross to Burundi using illegal roads. From here to the border it's less than five minutes' walk," the resident, who declined to be named, said.

'Targeted because of his music'

Some of Mihigo's fans took to social media demanding answers from the government about his death.

Activists in the diaspora have dismissed the statement from the Rwandan police. They say Mihigo had no intention of joining rebels in Burundi but he in fact wanted to get to Belgium where he had lived before.

They also do not believe he killed himself in the police cell and think he was murdered.

In 2015, the singer was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted of planning to kill President Paul Kagame and inciting hatred against the government.

He was pardoned by the president in 2018 on condition that he only leave the country with judicial permission.

But government critics think he was targeted because of his music.

In one song he suggested everyone killed during the 1994 genocide should be remembered whether they were ethnic Hutus or Tutsis. The authorities saw this as openly challenging the official narrative that it was a genocide of the Tutsis.

Mr Kagame is a Tutsi, who came to power as head of a rebel group which forced from power the Hutu extremist government behind the mass killings.

Mihigo was once close to Mr Kagame's governing Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). He is a survivor of the 1994 genocide and is well known for his reconciliation work and religious songs.

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RDC CONGO :

Ten killed in attack in eastern DR Congo's Beni region

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/02/18/ten-killed-in-attack-in-eastern-dr-congos-beni-region/>

By Nyawira Mwangi

Ten people died in an attack by a notorious militia late Monday in Beni in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a local official and military officer said.

An AFPTV reporter was quoted saying, "Hundreds of people were fleeing the area on Tuesday the assault by foot, motorcycle and truck."

"Eight civilians, an intelligence agent and a soldier were killed in the attack on the village of Manzahalo," local leader John Kambale told AFP on Tuesday.

Ten houses were burned down during the attack.

A military officer confirmed the toll and claimed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) are responsible for the attack.

The militia group started as an Islamist-rooted rebel group in Uganda that opposed President Yoweri Museveni but fell back to North Kivu, DRC's border province with Uganda, during the Congo wars of 1990s.

After the army launched a crackdown on the militia group in October the group embarked on a series of massacres.

A total of 393 people have died since the end of October, many of them hacked to death, according to a toll done by the Kivu Security Tracker (KST), an NGO that monitors human rights violations in eastern DR Congo.

Reports from the Congolese army say they have taken ADF's headquarters and that five out of the group's six senior commanders have been killed.

The UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO also reported last Wednesday that the Congolese troops had captured 40 ADF soldiers.

The ADF is one of numerous militias which plague the area — a legacy of two wars that dragged the Democratic Republic of Congo's neighbors into a regional conflict.

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RDC : pas de rétrocession, les provinces asphyxiées depuis près d'un semestre

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e4c0719640bdf0004d239f7/>

Kinshasa 18-02-2020 Politique - Le cri de cœur est venu du gouverneur du Lualaba, Richard Muyej, lundi 17 février 2020, à l'issue d'une rencontre entre les gouverneurs et le Premier ministre, Sylvestre Ilunga. Cette absence de rétrocession fait notamment manquer aux provinces les frais de fonctionnement.

« Depuis un certain temps, presque un semestre, il est très difficile de travailler en provinces. Les gouverneurs ont tenu à rencontrer le Premier ministre pour présenter leurs revendications. Ils ne reçoivent plus la rétrocession, les frais de fonctionnement et les droits des ETD. », a déclaré Richard Muyej, au nom de ses pairs gouverneurs. Avant d'indiquer que les gouverneurs « ne savent plus fonctionner et ça fait longtemps qu'on a parlé de la mise en œuvre de la caisse nationale de péréquation. Jusque-là, rien du tout. Ça a été clairement présenté par le rapporteur du groupe, le gouverneur de la Tshuapa, Pancras Boongo. »

A l'issue de cette rencontre avec le Premier ministre, Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba, Richard Muyej a insinué qu'ils ont reçu des explications claires en rapport avec cette situation. L'exécutif national, dévoile-t-il, s'est engagé fermement à apporter des solutions de manière progressive.

Mais ce cri d'alarme des gouverneurs ne date pas d'aujourd'hui. Depuis plusieurs mois, les gouverneurs se plaignent de la non-exécution de certaines dispositions constitutionnelles leur garantissant le meilleur fonctionnement. Les Assemblées provinciales, dans leur ensemble, connaissent des graves difficultés (matérielles et financières) de fonctionnement, dues principalement aux irrégularités de dotation des recettes à caractère national par le Gouvernement Central, se plaignaient les gouverneurs lors d'un séminaire-atelier.

Ces recettes susceptibles de couvrir notamment les dépenses de fonctionnement devant leur permettre d'assurer une liberté d'action dans l'exercice des contrôles parlementaires, les rémunérations (les émoluments des députés provinciaux et les salaires du personnel administratif des Assemblées provinciales) et les investissements ; mais aussi de la dotation du charroi automobile.

Ils évoquaient aussi la non-application du principe constitutionnel qui fixe le volume de rétrocession, à 40% des recettes nationales, réalisées dans chaque province, mais qui sont inexplicablement sous-évaluées, ramenant ainsi l'exécution des budgets de certaines provinces autour de 30% de leurs prévisions.

Ils avaient rappelé également « la non-application, 13 ans après la promulgation de la Constitution, des dispositions devant permettre la mise en œuvre effective de la Décentralisation en tant que mode de gestion politico-économique conférée à notre pays par le législateur, à la suite du Référendum constitutionnel de 2006 ».

Dido Nsapu

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Une délégation de l'union monétaire de la Sadc en mission à Kinshasa

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e4bfb58640bdf0004d239f3/>

Kinshasa 18-02-2020 Politique - Cette délégation a prévue dans son agenda qu'il devrait visiter plusieurs institutions de la Rdc, entre autres, la Banque centrale du Congo.

Une délégation des experts de la communauté de développement de l'Afrique australe(Sadc) séjourne dans la capitale congolaise pour une série de consultation avec des officiels du pays.

Ces consultations s'inscrivent dans la perspective de la mise en place à l'horizon 2025, de l'union monétaire au sein de la Sadc.

Depuis leur arrivée, ces experts ont déjà échangé avec le ministre des Finances.

Au menu de leur entretien, les efforts entrepris par la Rdc dans la perspective de la convergence macroéconomique de la Sadc.

Sele Yalaghuli a indiqué que les discussions restent focalisées sur les différents instruments de politique monétaire et budgétaire, ainsi que le niveau des réserves de change.

Au sein de la Sadc, la Rdc passe pour le meilleur pays en termes du taux de change, a précisé le ministre des Finances.

Par ailleurs, la délégation de la Sadc a également échangé avec le ministre d'Etat, ministre de la Coopération internationale, intégration régionale et francophonie, Me Pépin Guillaume Mandjolo.

Le programme de convergence macroéconomique a été au cœur de leur discussion.

La délégation conduite par le directeur en charge d'études et marchés, Joé Ranearoandro qui, au sortir de l'audience a précisé devant la presse qu'il était question d'évaluer la revue période qui a été décidée dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du protocole sur les finances et l'investissement, qui est un mécanisme important pour vérifier la convergence macroéconomique de chaque pays membre.

Il sied de relever que le programme de convergence macroéconomique de la Sadc est basé sur la mesure d'un certain nombre d'indicateur macroéconomique.

En Rdc, le processus est piloté au sein du gouvernement par le comité national chargé du suivi de l'implémentation du protocole sur la finance et l'investissement.

La Rdc fait partie de trois pays devant être évalués en ce premier semestre 2020, dans le cadre du processus de convergence macroéconomique, la Rdc avait respecté un total de six critères sur un total de neuf.

Cette évaluation est la deuxième du genre après celle entreprise en 2017. Gisèle Tshijuka

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\*\*\*\* L'AFRIQUE DU SUD \*\*\*\*

## SOUTH AFRICA :

Pompeo says South Africa land seizures would be 'disastrous'

By ELIAS MESERET <https://apnews.com/144533277241402735ad0b70b5ee91b1>

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — America's top diplomat on Wednesday asserted that South Africa's plan to allow expropriation of private property without compensation would be "disastrous" for the country's economy and its people.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the comments in an address in Ethiopia on the final day of an Africa visit largely aimed at countering China's influence on the continent of more than 1.2 billion people.

"Be wary of authoritarian regimes and their empty promises," he said, without naming names. "They breed corruption, dependency and instability."

There was no immediate government response in South Africa to Pompeo's comments.

Land is a sensitive issue in South Africa, which is one of the world's most unequal countries in part because of the legacy of the former racist system of apartheid that ended in 1994.

Some members of the ruling African National Congress and the populist opposition Economic Freedom Fighters have pressed for redistribution of land, arguing that it will help right past wrongs in which many black people were forced off their property.

Critics have warned against what happened in neighboring Zimbabwe, where sometimes violent land seizures from white farmers scared away some investors and deepened that once-prosperous country's economic collapse.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa last week in his state of the nation address said the government plans to accelerate land redistribution this year. The government also plans to table an expropriation bill "that outlines the circumstances under which expropriation of land without compensation would be permissible," he said.

Ramaphosa has called land redistribution necessary to "redress a grave historical injustice." South Africa's government calls the dispossession of land by the 1913 Natives Land Act "apartheid's original sin," and one which continues to shape land ownership today.

The president also has attempted to soothe investors by saying there will be no chaotic or illegal land grabs, mindful of the need to not scare away business in a country with unemployment at a decade high of 29%.

This is not the first time the Trump administration has spoken out on South Africa's moves to redistribute land.

In 2018, President Donald Trump claimed that South Africa was seizing farms and that many farmers were being killed. In fact, farmers have been killed for more than 20 years in what is widely seen as part of the country's high crime rate, and experts say white farmers have not been the target. The secretary of state is the first Cabinet official to visit Africa in 18 months. He also stopped in Senegal and Angola on a trip that seeks to reassert U.S. interests on a continent that many have accused the Trump administration of largely neglecting.

China, Africa's top trading partner for a decade now, is a major U.S. concern. Numerous other global powers have turned their focus to the continent of more than 1.2 billion people, many of them young.

Analysts have said a key task for Pompeo is countering the recent messaging out of Washington. New visa restrictions target Nigerians, Sudanese, Tanzanians and Eritreans, and the Pentagon is considering cutting the U.S. military presence on the continent even as Islamic extremism spikes in West Africa's Sahel region.



“Peace in Africa will be won by Africans,” Pompeo told reporters Tuesday.  
Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

South Africa's Nedbank client data hacked

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-14 00:33:54|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/14/c\\_138781424.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/14/c_138781424.htm)

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- Nedbank service provider's IT systems have been breached, exposing personal information of up to 1.7 million clients, said the bank on Thursday.

Computer Facilities, which does direct marketing for Nedbank by sending short messages and email marketing information on behalf of the bank, was breached. The bank said there was some "potentially compromised data" which included names, identity cards numbers, telephone numbers, physical and/or email addresses.

"We regret the incident... and the matter is receiving our urgent attention. The safety and security of our clients' information is a top priority," said Nedbank CEO Mike Brown, adding that the bank systems or client accounts were not impacted.

"We are communicating directly with affected clients. We are also taking the necessary actions in close cooperation with the relevant regulators and authorities," said Brown.

Nedbank group Chief Information Officer Fred Swanepoel said they have secured and destroyed all their client information held by Computer Facilities.

Last year the City of Johannesburg's system was hacked and some payment in bitcoins were demanded. In 2017 South Africa's insurance company Liberty was hacked and demanded ransom.

Infrastructure development crucial to AfCFTA success: South Africa President

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-10 20:13:14|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/10/c\\_138771528.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/10/c_138771528.htm)

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 10 (Xinhua) -- Developing a robust infrastructure is crucial to make the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) a success, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday.

"The success of the AfCFTA depends on Infrastructure development," said Ramaphosa at the opening of the 33rd ordinary session of the assembly of the heads of state and government of the AU being held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

"We are going to drive the implementation of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, so that priority and high impact projects act as catalysts for the AfCFTA," said Ramaphosa.

In addition to infrastructure development, streamlining regulatory framework can fulfill the promise of AfCFTA, Ramaphosa said.

"We have to level the playing field for African businesses, so they are able to operate in a large-scale market unfettered by regulatory fragmentation. This is an integral part of rebalancing global trade relations," Ramaphosa told the AU gathering.

The South African President also pledged to promote the potential of AfCFTA during his one-year chairmanship of the AU, a boost to the continental free trade initiative.

Ramaphosa took over the one-year chairmanship of the AU from the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Sunday.

"Our collective work to ensure political and economic unity, good governance, and peace should be strengthened by supporting integration, industrialization, economic development, trade and investment," said Ramaphosa.

"In pursuit of this priority, we will host the Extraordinary Summit of the AfCFTA to be held back-to-back with the Extraordinary Summit on the silencing of the Guns in May 2020," said Ramaphosa.

The South African President further said AfCFTA has the potential to reignite industrialization and pave the way for Africa's integration into the global economy as a significant player.

"The AfCFTA that we adopted last year will enable us to work together through intra-Africa trade, as it will reignite industrialization and pave the way for Africa's integration into the global economy as a player of considerable scale" said Ramaphosa.

In March 2018, African countries signed an agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area in Kigali, Rwanda.

The AfCFTA, being one of the biggest trade agreements in recent years in the world, aims to create a single market among the countries in the African continent.

According to the AU, the AfCFTA will bring together African countries with a combined population of more than 1 billion people and a combined GDP of more than 3.4 trillion U.S. dollars.

## BOTSWANA :

Botswana, Namibia to continue cooperation on defense, security: officials

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138798949.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138798949.htm)

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 18:18:54|Editor: xuxin

GABORONE, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- Botswana and Namibia will continue to cooperate and collaborate in critical areas of defense and security, the permanent secretary of Botswana's Ministry of Defense, Justice and Security, said here Tuesday.

Matshidiso Bokole made the remark at the 28th session of the Botswana/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defense and Security.

Noting there is concrete evidence that criminals have resorted to cyberspace to advance their illegal motives, she said the two countries must be alive to the ways through which criminals exploit technology.

"It is therefore incumbent upon us to do all we can to mitigate their efforts, reverse their gains and remain steps ahead. We can only be successful if we continue working together," she said, encouraging the commission to devise new strategies and review resolutions to ensure robustness and resilience in response to preventing and combating transnational organized crimes.

For his part, Peter Vilho, executive director of Namibia's Ministry of Defense, said the people and governments of Botswana and Namibia have both met economic and legal challenges since the last session was held in Namibia's capital of Windhoek in October 2018.

Despite some financial challenges, a considerable number of resolutions adopted at the previous session were implemented, he added.

"The economic downturn and drought, notwithstanding, we managed to improvise and prioritise where we could. I am impressed by the progress made on the border affirmation and demarcation process. I am equally heartened by the continuous efforts of the public security officers in ensuring the safety and security of our peoples," Vilho said.

He urged the commission to have foresight and demonstrate commitment to ensure that peace, security and stability continue to prevail in both countries.

## ZIMBABWE :

Zimbabwe central bank says encouraged by positive de-dollarization process

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 19:55:09|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138799200.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138799200.htm)

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya presents the 2020 monetary policy statement in Harare, Zimbabwe, Feb. 17, 2020. (Xinhua/Shawn Jusa)

Zimbabwe's central bank said that it is encouraged by the positive de-dollarization process and it could take up to five years for the country to completely de-dollarize.

HARARE, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- Zimbabwe's central bank said Monday it is encouraged by the positive de-dollarization process that has been taking place since the country banned use of multiple currencies in June last year.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya said it could take up to five years for the country to completely de-dollarize, noting that foreign currency deposits as a proportion of money supply went down from about 50 percent to 37 percent by Dec. 31, 2019.

He was presenting the 2020 monetary policy statement.

"The bank believes that the macro-economic signals that include fiscal and monetary discipline, prospects of positive economic growth and lower inflation are improving to support a gradual de-dollarization process within a timeframe of five years. This is in line with other countries' experiences on de-dollarization," said Mangudya.

He said use of local currency for transacting purposes had also continued on an upward trend, reaching 459.6 billion Zimbabwe dollars this year from 189 million transactions for the whole of 2019.

"These measurements of the proportion of the use of the local currency in the economy show that the country is on a right trajectory to de-dollarization.

"The bank shall therefore continue to provide incentives to promote and defend the use of the local currency within the economy in order to support the de-dollarization," Mangudya said.

The 2020 monetary policy statement meeting was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, Feb. 17, 2020. (Xinhua/Shawn Jusa)

Zimbabwe in June last year banned use of nine foreign currencies, including the dominant U.S. dollar which had been in use in the country since 2009, and re-introduced the Zimbabwe dollar that had been discarded in 2009.

At the official inter-bank market, the Zimbabwe dollar debuted at 2.50 against the U.S. dollar, but it has since devalued to 17 against the greenback.

Some businesses and individual traders continue to charge for their goods and services in U.S. dollars, against government policy on the ban of the U.S. dollar.

Meanwhile, the governor said the bank had imported an additional 150 million Zimbabwe bank notes and coins in the last quarter of last year to alleviate acute cash shortages in the economy.

This had given a total of 1.1 billion Zimbabwe dollars cash in circulation as at Dec. 31, representing about 3.2 percent of total banking sector deposits of 34.5 billion dollars.

Mangudya said the bank will gradually increase notes and coins to the desired optimum proportion of bank notes and coins in circulation of up to 10 percent of deposits.

"Moreover, the bank will gradually introduce notes in larger denominations to improve efficiency and convenience to the public," he said.

Zimbabwe FDI declines sharply in 2019

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 00:37:28|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138792875.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138792875.htm)

HARARE, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) - Zimbabwe's foreign direct investment (FDI) declined sharply from 717.1 million U.S. dollars in 2018 to 259 million dollars in 2019, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) said Monday.

Similarly, net portfolio investment inflows declined significantly from 54 million dollars in 2018 to 3.7 million dollars in 2019, RBZ Governor John Mangudya said in the 2020 monetary policy statement.

Mangudya said FDI, in particular, was projected to remain low in the short-term due to perceived country risk profile.

"The decline in both FDI and portfolio investment was, in large part, due to heightened perceived country risk," he said.

He said the country's total foreign currency receipts in 2019 amounted to 6.88 billion dollars, compared to 7.21 billion received in 2018.

This represented a 4.4 percent decline in foreign currency supply, he said.

Zimbabwe's economy contracted by 6.5 percent in 2019 but is expected to recover and grow by three percent in 2020 on the back of improved agriculture performance. Enditem

Zimbabwe gold output down 17 pct in 2019

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-17 21:50:07|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c\\_138792625.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c_138792625.htm)

HARARE, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- Zimbabwe's gold output fell 17 percent in 2019 to 27.66 tonnes, down from 2018's 33.29 tonnes, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya said on Monday.

The central bank governor attributed the decline to electricity shortages, gold leakages and inadequate equipment for small-scale miners, who have in recent years become major producers of the precious metal.

Of the 27 tonnes, major gold producing mines contributed 10.181 tonnes while small-scale miners contributed 17.478 tonnes, Mangudya said.

He said future efforts to increase gold deliveries to the sole gold buyer, Fidelity Printers and Refiners, will include enhanced capacitation of gold producers and formalization of artisanal miners, coupled with rigorous monitoring of gold production and marketing.

Gold is one of Zimbabwe's major foreign currency earners.

Zimbabwe diaspora remittances up 2.6 pct in 2019

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-17 21:40:06|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c\\_138792606.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c_138792606.htm)

HARARE, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- Zimbabwe received 635 million U.S. dollars in diaspora remittances in 2019, up 2.6 percent from 619 million dollars in 2018, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya said on Monday.

International remittances received through normal banking channels on behalf of international organizations amounted to 521 million dollars in 2019, down 9 percent from the previous year's 570 million dollars, he said.

Zimbabwe is facing severe foreign currency shortages that have curtailed imports of essential commodities like fuel and electricity, contributing to an economic decline.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 6.5 percent in 2019. Enditem

ZAMBIA :

Zambia to host Innovation Africa 2020 Summit

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 20:46:16|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138799303.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138799303.htm)

File photo shows guests pose for a group photo during the Huawei Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competition award ceremony in Lusaka, capital of Zambia, March 5, 2019. (Xinhua/Peng Lijun)

Zambia will host the Innovation Africa 2020 Summit in November following the cabinet approval, a spokesperson said.

LUSAKA, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- Zambia will host the Innovation Africa 2020 Summit following a cabinet approval, a spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya said during its sitting on Monday, February 17, cabinet approved the hosting of the summit to be held in Lusaka, the country's capital from 17th to 19th November, 2020.

She said in a release that the summit aims to support investment in education and Information Communication Technology (ICT) innovation in line with the government's efforts to transition to a digital economy.

Between 700 and 1,000 delegates from 40 countries across Africa are expected to attend the summit, she added.

Innovation Africa started in 2012 with the aim of bringing together leading international ICT and education investors to meet and discuss business with education from across Africa.

Africa's economic growth is tied to science, tech, says expert

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 19:26:22|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138795890.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138795890.htm)

LUSAKA, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- It is practically impossible for Africa to register meaningful economic gains while still lagging behind in the area of science and technology, a Zambian specialist said on Tuesday.

Michelo Moonga said despite the massive economic potential and abundant natural resources that much of Africa is endowed with, the continent has not been able to convert these resources into tangible economic benefits because it lacks the technological capacity to do so.

Moonga, who is Zambia National STEM Foundation Chief Executive Officer, said science, technology, engineering and mathematics are key elements of economic growth and that countries that are considered wealthy have long been investing in science and technological advancements.

"The application of modern and advanced technological tools has great bearing on economic growth because it helps increase productivity and enhances lives. While Africa has made notable strides in this area, more remains to be done to ensure that we catch up with the rest of the world," Moonga told Xinhua.

He revealed that in an effort to raise awareness and foster growth of science and tech in Africa, Zambia National STEM Foundation will be conducting the first annual All-Africa STEM awareness Conference in May 2020, which is expected to attract both local and international delegates.

The conference, which has been scheduled to take place on the 5th and 6th of May this year will attract speakers from Japan, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya.

Also in attendance will be representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), government agencies and local entities concerned with the promotion of science and technology.

"The conference will essentially serve as a space for sharing ideas on how Africa can utilize opportunities existing in the science and tech to exploit its potential and lift many people on the continent out of the doldrums of poverty," Moonga said.

Zambia arrests 7 people for trafficking over 4 tons of cannabis, including foreigners

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-13 21:28:28|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c\\_138781225.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c_138781225.htm)

LUSAKA, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- Anti-drug authorities in Zambia on Thursday arrested seven people for trafficking in over 4 tons of cannabis.

The seven were arrested in the eastern part of the country and included, three Zimbabweans and some Zambians.

Theresa Katongo, Drug Enforcement Commission Spokesperson said the Zimbabweans were found to have been using fake Zambian identification cards that were fraudulently obtained. The spokesperson said the suspects were arrested at a police checkpoint on a truck that was traveling from Malawi.

MALAWI :

4 Malawi men jailed for 15 years over albino attacks

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-15 23:34:52|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c\\_138787216.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c_138787216.htm)

ZOMBA, Malawi, Feb. 15 (Xinhua) -- Principal Resident Magistrate Court in Malawi Friday sentenced 4 men, including a police officer, to a 15-year jail term for possessing human bones believed to be of persons with albinism.

The four, aged between 29 and 53, were arrested in April 2018 in the eastern border district of Machinga where they were found with bones believed to be of persons with albinism.

They were charged with being found in possession of human tissues, and selling or buying human tissues.

Local pathologist Charles Dzamalala, testified in court that upon examination, found that the bones were human bones and belonged to two different male persons.

The court convicted the four describing the offences as "heinous and immoral", before slapping them with the 15-year jail term.

Cases of ritual attacks and killings of persons with albinism for their body parts have been common in Malawi since 2013.

Over the years, more than 20 persons with albinism have been killed in Malawi with over 165 reported cases of attacks, abductions and exhumation of graves of remains of persons with albinism.

Fresh elections to cost Malawi 60 mln U.S. dollars

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-12 22:27:53|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/12/c\\_138778296.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/12/c_138778296.htm)

Justice Jane Ansah (C), the chairperson of the electoral body, announces the results of the presidential election in Blantyre, Malawi, on May 27, 2019. (Xinhua/Peng Lijun)

The fresh election in Malawi is to cost Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) about 60 million U.S. dollars, MEC chair has said.

BLANTYRE, Feb. 12 (Xinhua) -- The fresh election in Malawi is to cost Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) about 60 million U.S. dollars, MEC chair has said this week.

In her appeal statement, MEC chair, Jane Ansah said that holding of the polls in July this year, as directed by the Constitutional Court, could be impossible, saying there is need to gather enough resources and preparations for it to be successful.

She further proposed that the elections to happen within 261 days, not 150 days as directed by the court earlier this month.

She further argued that the statutory periods for procurement, transport challenges and all other necessary exercises would make it not feasible to have the polls within the stated period.

The development came after the constitutional court directed that MEC should conduct fresh elections because of irregularities that were involved during the voting process and counting of votes, including the use of Tipp-ex without proper direction and supervision.

Malawi president, Peter Mutharika, has described the constitutional court's nullification of last year's presidential election results as flawed and an attack on the country's democratic systems.

Mutharika was declared the winner in the May 21 presidential elections in 2019 after garnering 38.5 percent of the vote following a stiff competition from the opposition.

NAMIBIE :

China provides alternative market for Namibian goods:central bank governor

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138798956.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138798956.htm)

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 18:25:55|Editor: xuxin

WINDHOEK, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- China has provided an alternative market for Namibian goods creating an opportunity for diversification of trade in Namibia, the Namibian Central Bank governor Ipumbu Shiimi said Wednesday.

Shiimi told Xinhua that they are impressed with the swelling trade between Namibia and China.

"It is impressive to see diversification of Namibian trade with China. We are very happy to have our meat access that market," he said.

Shiimi added that more impressive is the increase of Namibian goods accessing the Chinese market creating a fair balance of trade.

"It is even more important when we see our goods going to China not just us receiving so the trend is indeed commendable," he said.

Namibia has become the first African country to export beef to China, over 3,000 tonnes of meat have already been exported to China since last year.

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## UGANDA :

Uganda to export maize grain to Zimbabwe to address food shortage

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 19:28:23|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138795892.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138795892.htm)

KAMPALA, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- Uganda is to export maize grain to Zimbabwe to help address the food shortage in the southern African country, a top government official said Tuesday.

Bright Rwamirama, Uganda's minister of state for agriculture told Xinhua that an agreement has been reached to supply maize grain to Zimbabwe, under the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) protocol.

"The request by Zimbabwe to buy maize from Uganda is healthy. We are members of COMESA," said Rwamirama.

"It's good news for Uganda. Here we do farming as a business. If our farmers can sell maize to Zimbabwe, it is good news," he added, noting that whatever quantities raised can be sold off.

About half of Zimbabwe's population, 7.7 million people, face starvation and will need assistance in 2020 as the country grapples with severe drought and economic meltdown, according to the UN World Food Program.

Uganda to build US \$1.4bn hydropower plant on the Nile

By Fidelis John - Feb 20, 2020

<https://constructionreviewonline.com/2020/02/uganda-to-build-us-1-4bn-hydropower-plant-on-the-nile/>

A Chinese firm has applied for a license in Uganda to develop a US \$1.4bn hydropower plant that could potentially expand the country's generation capacity by 40%. Mr. Julius Wandera, spokesperson for State-run power regulator, Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) disclosed that the authority has already called for comments from the public on the proposed project.

The Ayago hydroelectric power station

According to its license application, the firm, POWERCHINA International Group Limited (PIGL), wants to develop the Ayago Hydroelectric Power Station, located on a section of River Nile between the lakes Kyoga and Albert. ERA licences all power generators in the country and is also responsible for setting generation and end-user power tariffs. The Ayago power plant will have a capacity of 840MW and, when successfully developed, would be Uganda's largest power plant.

The Karuma hydroelectric dam, upstream of Ayago and due to be completed early this year by China's Sinohydro Corporation, is currently Uganda's largest power project. Wandera explained that alongside the solicitation of public views on the project, ERA would also conduct its own due diligence on POWERCHINA International to ascertain whether it has the financial and technical capacity to execute the project.

Also Read: Mali to build solar and thermal power plants in Diema

"By April we should be communicating our final decision on their application to them," he said. According to their application, the firm plans to raise funds for the project through a 25%/75% mix of equity and debt.

Increased generation capacity

The project could potentially ramp up Uganda's generation capacity by 40% to about 2 800MW according to calculations from data available from the energy ministry. In recent years, Uganda has been wooing private-sector energy investors and taking loans from China and other sources to help boost power production to meet fast-growing demand.



To make the sector attractive to foreign investors, the government abolished subsidies for consumers and introduced a tariff-setting system that is benchmarked on movements in key parameters such as inflation, foreign exchange and oil prices. Uganda is one of the six countries that signed the 2010 Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) that allows upstream Nile basin countries to develop projects along the river without Egypt's consent as it was in a previous colonial-era agreement on use of Nile waters.

Uganda-Rwanda relations: From bad to good

[https://www.newvision.co.ug/new\\_vision/news/1515219/uganda-rwanda-relations-bad](https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1515219/uganda-rwanda-relations-bad)

Added 20th February 2020 07:01 AM

The two Presidents Yoweri Museveni and Paul Kagame whose histories are intrinsically linked are slated to have another set of talks this week after more than one year of soured relations.

POLITICS

It was back in March 2018 when African Union Chairperson and Rwandan President Paul Kagame unveiled the Africa Free Continental Trade Area (AfCFTA), making Africa the largest free trade area in the world.

This great turning point for the African continent guaranteed a merger of over 55 countries into a single market of more than 1.2 billion people that would culminate into trillions of dollars for the African people.

Truly, Paul Kagame's actions had finally catapulted the African continent in the spotlight and for the right reasons, this time. While speaking to the world media, a stern but soft-spoken Kagame said, "it was all possible because of the willingness of other African leaders."

Away from the cameras, a storm was quietly brewing and it was soon to spill over for the entire world to see. Neighbouring Uganda and Rwanda were at loggerheads again.

Despite sharing borders and belonging to the same economic bloc Uganda and Rwanda have often harboured hard feelings towards each other often ensuing from economic and political differences.

Presidents; Yoweri Museveni and Paul Kagame, whose histories are intrinsically linked are slated to have another set of talks this week after more than one year of soured relations.

So what went wrong?

8th March 2019 – Rwanda decides to close its busiest border crossing with Uganda disrupting trade and increasing tension between both countries.

The Kigali Government issues a statement saying it needs to carry out road repairs at the Katuna (Gatuna) border post.

All Rwandan travellers to Uganda from that point onwards were strongly advised by Rwandan Immigration not to cross over to Uganda, warning that they might be arrested.

Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister Richard Sezibera said that, while "no one is stopped from travelling to Uganda," Rwandans were advised against it.

Uganda Government Spokesperson Ofwono Opondo in a tweet, responds "government has yet to establish whether there is another reason beyond the road construction work"

Katuna border Post in Kabale district and Cyanika in Kisoro district remained closed and largely deserted as heavy trucks carrying goods from Uganda braved the Ntungamo- Mirama Hills road to kagitumba border point.

According to the latest World Bank Data from 2017, Rwanda was Uganda's fifth biggest export market, selling about \$180m worth of goods. Rwanda meanwhile exported \$10m worth to Uganda.

Ugandan Junior Minister for EAC Affairs, Julius Maganda Wandera says following the border closure, both Countries are counting staggering losses.

Bad to Worse

27th March 2019- 37-year-old Pregnant Rwandan woman collapses and dies while escaping Rwandan soldiers patrolling Kyanika Border.

The deceased who was identified as Elizabeth Mukarugwiza was a resident of Kinigi village, Nyamirima parish in Musanza district, Rwanda.

It is believed she crossed over into Kisoro district in search of food.

28th November 2019- 23 Ugandans working in Rwanda are expelled over the weekend under unclear circumstances and are dropped off at Kyanika Border Post.

The Ugandans were working with road construction companies and many of them were from Nebbi and Tororo districts.

November 2019- 32 Rwandan Nationals deported back to Rwanda.

December 2019 – Follow up meeting on Uganda Rwanda Relations held in Kampala at Commonwealth Hotel Munyonyo.

Uganda's delegation was led by Uganda's foreign Minister Sam Kutesa while the Rwandan delegation was led by Minister of Internal Affairs Patrick Nyamvumba.

The meeting that had been earlier scheduled for 18th November was pushed forward at the request of the Rwandan Government.

August 21st 2019- President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame hold the second round of talks in Luanda, Angola to find the last solution to mild existing differences between the Uganda and Rwanda.

January 20th 2020- Ugandan National and resident of Kabingo Village, Chahafi parish, Murora sub county in Kisoro district identified as Teojen Ndagijimana aged 26 is shot and killed together with his two visiting cousins from Rwanda.

Erike Bizimana and Emmanuel Mbabazi both Rwandans crossed into Uganda to visit their relatives in Kabingo village through the un-gazetted border entry of Kabingo Trading Centre and on return, their cousin Ndagijimana opted to escort them.

After crossing into Rwanda for about 3km at Kumugu Trading Centre in Musanze district, Rwanda, they were shot dead by Rwandan security officials that suspected them to have been smugglers.

January 20th 2020- Four Policemen who were arrested over kidnap of former bodyguard to Rwandan President Paul Kagame are released on bail pending trial.

The court chaired by Lt. Gen. Andrew Gutti ordered for the release on bail of the former commandant of Police Professional Standards Unit, Joel Aguma, Assistant Superintendent of Police James Magada formerly attached to the Police Flying Squad and detective Corporal Amon Kwarisima formerly attached to Crime Intelligence.

January 30th 2020- President Museveni visits the family of Late Ndagijimana in Kisoro district and gives the family sh10m as condolence money.

14th February 2020- The Ad Hoc Commission on the implementation of the Luanda Memorandum of Understanding between Rwanda and Uganda meet in Kigali, Rwanda for the third time.

18th February 2020- Uganda releases 13 more Rwanda nationals and dropped criminal charges against them.

The 13 were paraded before the media in Kampala on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.

Compiled by Alex Keith Gahima

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KENYA :

Feature: Kenyan farmers in dilemma as planting season nears amid climate change, locust invasion

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 18:32:57|Editor: Xiang Bo

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138798965.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138798965.htm)

NAIROBI, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- About this time a few years ago, George Ambuche, a maize farmer in Kitale of western Kenya, would be busy tilling his land in preparation for the planting season, which began at the onset of the rain season in March.

However, it is about 10 days to March and Ambuche is not bothered about preparing his farm yet. "Until I see the rains, that is when I will till the land," he said on phone on Tuesday.

"Last year, I lost money I had spent on fertilizer, hiring tractors and seeds because I had to replant since the rains delayed. Once bitten, twice shy," he added.

His predicament is shared by thousands of farmers across the east African nation as the country grapples with the effects of climate change. In the past, Kenyan farms would have been full of activity about this time of the year.

Tractor owners would now be as busy as bees, moving from one farm to another, ploughing or harrowing the land in readiness for planting maize as they charge at least 2,000 shillings ( about 20 U.S. dollars) per acre.

Not anymore. Only the hard-nosed optimists, who are few amid the climate crisis, are daring to do early ploughing.

A majority of farmers have adopted a wait-and-see attitude due to the unpredictable rains. Last year, instead of March, the rains started in May and lasted for about a month instead of three, according to the Meteorological Department.

And for the second season, which runs from October to December, rains were so heavy that they extended to January 2020, destroying crops.

"The weather has become too erratic that no one is getting it right, not the Meteorological Department, nor the traditional rainmakers. This is because of climate change," said Beatrice Macharia of Growth Point, an agro-consultancy.

The unpredictability has left millions of farmers in dilemma as Kenya's agriculture is rain-fed, added Macharia.

"I don't know whether I should plant maize this season or not because the locusts are just next door in Embu and spraying has not helped," said Martin Kariuki, a farmer in Nyeri, adding that he will wait and see.

Climate-related pests like fall armyworms and locusts exacerbate the situation for Kenyan farmers.

Kenya is currently grappling with locust invasion, the worst in 70 years, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The insects have ravaged crops and vegetation in 18 counties, a majority of them semi-arid.

Efforts to contain them in the last two months have borne little fruit, with the Minister of Agriculture Peter Munya on Monday appealing to Kenyans to be patient as the government steps up aerial and ground spraying.

Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, noted that Kenya and the entire eastern African region is vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change thus the country must prioritize mitigation measures.

To harvest about twenty 90-kg bags of maize in Kenya's breadbasket regions, it costs between 200 dollars and 300 dollars, according to agriculture think-tank Tegemeo Institute.

This means it costs an average of 15 dollars to produce a bag of maize. Amid slowdown in economic growth, this is money Kenyan farmers are not willing to lose amid the unpredictability of the rains.

With Uganda and Tanzania also struggling with erratic weather and locust invasion, east Africa may be staring at a food crisis.

## SOUTH SUDAN :

News Analysis: Experts say reverting to 10 states will revitalize South Sudan peace process

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138799212.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138799212.htm)

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 20:02:10|Editor: xuxin

JUBA, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- South Sudanese experts said the recent decision by President Salva Kiir to cut the number of states from 32 to 10, demonstrates the much-needed political will to push the peace process forward.

The peace process had stalled over the disagreement on the hitherto contentious issue of states and their boundaries.

President Kiir last week took the region and international community by surprise, when he dissolved the former 32 states he decreed in 2015.

The main opposition group, Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) led by former First Vice President Riek Machar had disagreed on several occasions with the government over the number of states.

The SPLM-IO prior to the latest compromise was in favor of reverting to the previous 10 states which had been in existence before the outbreak of conflict in December 2013 while the government insisted on having the 32 states.

Machar's group, despite welcoming Kiir's gesture on the current 10 states, protested the creation of additional three administrative units which include Abyei, Ruweng and Pibor areas.

Jacob Chol, professor of politics at University of Juba, told Xinhua in Juba that the return to the 10 states is a popular demand of the people.

"The opinion poll that was conducted by the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) sampled about 2,000 South Sudanese and out of these, about 1,500 South Sudanese indicated that they want to return to the 10 states. That option was brushed aside because some hardliners in the government had wanted just to use a national euphoric and sort of tribalized presentation to show that people are for the 32 states," said Chol.

He said the unprecedented move will help redeem President Kiir's image within the region and international community.

"It's a decision that has helped President Kiir to change or brush away the image as President of South Sudan who was not moving to compromise on certain important things in the peace process," he said.

"The president will be relieved from the international pressure, and will also change his own image from the global view on how they used to look at him to be a president who decides without listening to other people," disclosed Chol.

He noted that Machar should be very happy with this latest development, after the former warring parties failed twice to form the transitional unity government on time, due to disagreements on the states and security arrangement.

"This gesture by President (Kiir) is going to build trust and confidence during the negotiations although there will be challenges on the security arrangement. But if they work together they can easily address those challenges," added Chol.

James Okuk, lecturer of political science at the University of Juba, said the decision to revert to 10 states has set the political will which had been missing to move the peace process to its conclusion.

"It is the right choice, because that has now reset the political will that has been missing all along. So from here, things will move positively toward the formation of the transitional unity government. They may not meet the deadline on Saturday, but they may meet it partially, meaning they could now pass the constitution and sign it into law within a few days," said Okuk.

"Based on that constitution, the president can now appoint himself, first vice president and the rest of the four vice presidents," he noted.

He said the issue of the newly created administrative areas is just being used as a decoy for negotiation purposes but the main issue is the 10 states.

"The administrative areas have been attached only for negotiation purposes by these politicians because, in the end, they are benefiting. If they compromise it means they compromise with something in their interests, that's why it's not a big deal. The big deal is the 10 states," he said.

Abraham Awolich, senior political analyst at the Juba-based Sudd Institute think tank, said the issue of the number of states has not been the major problem in the South Sudan crisis.

"I don't think this will change much. Surely if they change things the government may be formed but the formation of the government does not guarantee peace, they have to do a lot more than that," he said.

"There are issues of security arrangement, and there is a power struggle. Those are the real issues. The issue of the number of states, came later on in the middle of the game while the country was already in the war. When the peace agreement broke down in 2016, it didn't have anything to do with the number of states," said Awolich.

Awolich said that if the parties still feel the security arrangement is not sufficient, they could still have a problem despite having reduced the number of states.

"I think to the international community they will be happy, they will consider the decision of the president (Kiir) as significant. But, to the supporters of the president, the decision is not that great, because it only will be great if it brings peace. If it does not bring peace, it can backfire. It is not a popular decision within Kiir's political base," he said.

South Sudan descended into conflict in December 2013, after President Salva Kiir sacked his deputy Riek Machar leading to fighting between soldiers loyal to the respective leader.

The two leaders are currently implementing the 2018 revitalized peace agreement but have twice failed to form the unity government due to disagreement on the outstanding issues.

The forming of the transitional unity government is slated on Feb.22.

S. Africa lauds breakthrough in S. Sudan peace process

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-15 22:50:48|Editor: yhy

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c\\_138787197.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c_138787197.htm)

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 15 (Xinhua) -- South Africa on Saturday lauded the resolution of a contentious issue surrounding the number of states and their boundaries in South Sudan.

This came after President Salva Kiir of South Sudan resolved to return the country to 10 states plus three administrative areas.

This progressive decision was made in the best interest of peace and unity in South Sudan, said David Mabuza, South African Deputy President, a special envoy to South Sudan.

"This revolutionary decision by President Kiir sets the tone for the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity before or at the end of the current extended period ending in a week's time," Mabuza said.

This will ensure that the guns be silenced in South Sudan as the country moves towards forming the transitional government, said Mabuza.

"We further congratulate the people of South Sudan for the patience and resilience they have shown during this difficult period," he said.

The matter of states and their boundaries has been a matter of contention blocking the formation of the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity.

Mabuza has undertaken several peace missions to South Sudan, seeking to bring the warring parties together and agree on the number of states during the pre-transitional period.

The special envoy recommitted himself to continue supporting the process towards lasting peace and development in South Sudan.

He also called upon other special envoys to South Sudan who have been working with him in facilitating the peace process, to continue their support to the government and people of South Sudan.

"Finally we encourage all the parties to work together to build South Sudan towards her sustainable development and prosperity,"he added.

Shortly after its independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan plunged into civil war. At least 300,000 people are estimated to have died since late 2013, some 1.8 million people are displaced internally and 2.5 million others have fled to neighboring countries.

In 2018, all parties involved in the conflict signed the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the country, seen as a milestone toward a peaceful resolution.

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ANGOLA :

U.S. secretary of state visits Angola

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 03:03:39|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138792968.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138792968.htm)

LUANDA, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Luanda Sunday for a 24-hour working visit aimed at reinforcing cooperation between the two countries.

In Luanda, Pompeo met with Angolan President Joao Lourenco on Monday, and they discussed the diplomatic and cooperation relations between the two countries.

At a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pompeo reaffirmed his country's support for the ongoing reforms in Angola.

His agenda also included participation in a roundtable with business leaders.

Before Angola, Pompeo visited Senegal.

Pompeo left the Angolan capital for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Enditem

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Angola spends US\$235 million on clothes in 2019

20 February 2020 | Angola

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/02/20/pt-angola-despende-235-milhoes-de-dolares-com-a-compra-de-roupa-em-2019/>

Angola spent US\$170 million on new imported clothes and US\$65 million on used clothing (bales) in 2019, resources that could be saved if the country's textile industry was in operation, said the Angolan secretary of state for industry.

Ivan do Prado, who was providing information to the President of the Republic, João Lourenço, during a visit to the Nova Textang II factory, with the recovery of the three main factories in the country (Satec, África Têxtil and Textang II), the textile companies would be able to produce 20 million items of clothing per year.

New Textang II has a monthly production capacity of 250,000 linear meters of fabric, following an investment of US\$251 million spent on the recovery of the facilities and machinery.

The factory was part of the package to recover three major textile units in the country, an initiative which was provided with funding from Japan of US\$1.2 billion.

In 2009, acting on a proposal from the Ministry of Industry, an Executive Programme for the Industrial Sector was approved for the 2009-2012 period, which included the rehabilitation projects of the former Satec, África Têxtil and Nova Textang II

After its recovery and modernisation, Nova Textang II and the other two factories were, in September 2013, sold to the private sector, as part of a process affected by a number of irregularities.

Since the three factories were handed over to private companies, África Têxtil has produced less than 10% of its capacity, Nova Textang II less than 5.0% and former Satec has produced 0.0%, according to figures provided by the Institute of State Asset and Stake Management (IGAPE).

In March 2017, the Government, after analysing the situation of the textile factories, decided to remove them from the private companies that were responsible for them, after which it decided on a gradual privatisation of the units, subject to prerequisites that the previous companies had not met. (macauhub)



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## US to Invest \$2 Billion in Angola's Oil and Gas Projects

By Sihle Qekeleshe, Junior Sub-Editor

<https://www.africaoilandpower.com/2020/02/20/us-to-invest-2-billion-in-angolas-oil-and-gas-projects/>

The United States Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo has confirmed that several American firms operating in the oil and gas sector are willing to invest more than \$2 billion in Angola's oil and gas projects.

The US State Secretary attended a meeting organized by the US Angola Chamber of Commerce, with Angola's Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Manuel Domingos Augusto, where the US diplomat mentioned that America wanted to be a good partner to the people of Angola.

The State Secretary also commended President João Lourenço's fight against corruption and his drive for economic transparency in Angola, and added that this agenda needs to be supported.

"We want to help hold responsible all who have embezzled Angolan money as we do in other countries," said Pompeo.

President Lourenço said that his government's goals were private investment, regional health, fighting corruption and restoring the country's assets.

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\*\*\*\* AFRIQUE DU NORD \*\*\*\*

EGYPTE :

Egypt says final deal on Ethiopian dam to be signed by end of February

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-14 21:17:07|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/14/c\\_138784385.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/14/c_138784385.htm)

CAIRO, Feb. 14 (Xinhua) -- The final agreement on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will be concluded by the end of February, Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

"The final deal will be submitted by the U.S. side in cooperation with the World Bank to Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan within the coming few days in order to finalize and sign the agreement before the end of February," the statement said.

Negotiations on the rules regulating the filling and operation of GERD have been wrapped up in Washington, it added.

"The negotiations discussed the coordination mechanism among the three countries that would be responsible for following up the implementation of the deal on filling and operating the dam," according to the statement.

The talks also touched upon the items specifying technical data and information that shall be circulated to verify the implementation of the agreement.

The negotiations, sponsored by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, were attended by foreign and water ministers of the three countries and representatives of the World Bank.

The GERD that has been constructed since 2011 on the Blue Nile in the northern Ethiopia highlands is expected to produce over 6,000 megawatts of electricity and become Africa's largest hydropower dam upon completion.

However, Egyptian officials are concerned that filling the reservoir behind the dam too quickly could significantly reduce the amount of Nile water available to Egypt.

Ethiopia wants to fill the reservoir whose total capacity is 74 billion cubic meters in five to six years, while Egypt seeks to prolong the period to avoid the negative effects of water shortage, which is a main point of the talks.

Egypt condemns deadly terrorist attack on border army barracks in Algeria

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-13 04:55:27|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c\\_138778535.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c_138778535.htm)

CAIRO, Feb. 12 (Xinhua) -- Egypt condemned on Wednesday a recent terrorist attack that targeted an Algerian army barracks near its border with Mali and left one soldier dead.

In a statement, the Egyptian foreign ministry expressed Cairo's solidarity with the Algerian people and government, extending condolences to the family of the deceased soldier.

The ministry also highlighted Egypt's rejection of terrorism and extremism of all forms.

On Feb. 9, a bomb-laden car raced to a military barracks in the Algerian town of Timiaouine before exploding at the entrance, killing a soldier.

In 2019, the Algerian army killed 15 terrorists and arrested 25 others, while 44 surrendered to authorities.

The North African nation deployed tens of thousands of troops along the border with Mali and Libya to thwart intrusion of terrorists and arms.

Tests for Egypt's only coronavirus case come negative

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 21:17:20|Editor: xuxin

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138799386.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138799386.htm)

CAIRO, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- A foreign national who was recently announced to be Egypt's first case with novel coronavirus has tested negative for the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Egypt's Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

In a joint statement, both health bodies announced that the RT-PCR results of the foreigner came back 48 hours after the person was admitted to a hospital for quarantine.

The person suspected of having contracted the virus had undergone six RT-PCR tests during a period of three consecutive days, the statement said, adding that the results of the tests came back negative each time.

"The health status of the person was monitored by medical teams around the clock ... the person did not show any symptoms during the isolation period," the statement read.

Dr. Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative in Egypt, said that all the measures taken to monitor the situation were carried out in full coordination with the WHO and in accordance with its scientific and technical guidelines, especially with regard to laboratory procedures, according to the statement.

On Friday, the Egyptian Health Ministry announced the first case of the novel coronavirus has been confirmed in Egypt.

The identity and the nationality of the patient were not revealed.

The ministry also said that the patient was transferred in a self-sterilized ambulance to a hospital and kept under mandatory quarantine, adding that the health ministry has tested those who had been in contact with the person, affirming they had all tested negative for the virus.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, Egypt has adopted an integrated plan, which covers early detection, quarantine and treatment measures, as well as raising public awareness.

Egypt, France air forces carry out drills in Red Sea, Mediterranean

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 06:27:38|Editor: Mu Xuequan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138796690.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138796690.htm)

CAIRO, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- Egyptian and French air forces conducted military drills in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, Egyptian military spokesman said on Tuesday.

A number of Egyptian Rafale and F-16 jetfighters and France's aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle, participated in the exercise.

During the training, both sides carried out search and rescue missions inside and outside the Egyptian territorial waters, in addition to training on defense and attacking a vital sea target.

The exercise in the Red Sea witnessed an air-to-air refueling training as well as attacking naval pieces, according to the statement.

## ALGERIE :

Algeria stresses no military solution to Libyan crisis

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 03:34:23|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138796554.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138796554.htm)

TRIPOLI, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum on Tuesday stressed that there is no military solution to the current Libyan crisis.

Boukadoum made his remarks during a meeting with the UN-backed Prime Minister Fayez Serraj in the Libyan capital Tripoli, the prime minister's information office said in a statement.

The Algerian minister renewed his country's support for the Government of National Accord and its rejection of the attack on Tripoli, saying Algeria will spare no effort to stop the war, according to the statement.

The east-based army has been leading a military campaign since April 2019 in and around the capital Tripoli, attempting to take over the city and topple the UN-backed GNA.

The fighting killed and injured thousands of people and forced more than 150,000 civilians to flee their homes.

The rivals have agreed to cease-fire on January 12, but both sides exchanged accusations of breaching the truce. Enditem

Algerian gov't meets with local governors to build "new Algeria"

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-16 22:13:44|Editor: Xiaoxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/16/c\\_138789265.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/16/c_138789265.htm)

ALGERIA-ALGIERS-GOVERNMENT-GOVERNORS-MEETING

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune attends a meeting of the Algerian government with local governors in Algiers, Algeria, Feb. 16, 2020. The Algerian government started on Sunday a two-day meeting themed "For a new Algeria" with local governors, Algerian official APS news agency reported. (Xinhua)

ALGIERS, Feb. 16 (Xinhua) -- The Algerian government started on Sunday a two-day meeting themed "For a new Algeria" with local governors, Algerian official APS news agency reported.

The meeting in the capital Algiers was attended by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad, other ministers and more than 1,000 central and local executives.

It focuses on improvement of the citizens' living conditions through rational management of economic property, modern management of new cities and the means to reduce road accidents.

During his presentation of his government's Plan of Action before the parliament on Tuesday, Djerad said one of the most important challenges of the government is to restore people's confidence in the country's institutions.

Greece, Algeria call for no foreign military interference in Libyan crisis: minister

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-13 22:43:39|Editor: Shi Yinglun

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/13/c\\_138781343.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/13/c_138781343.htm)

ALGERIA-ALGIERS-GREECE-FM-MEETING

Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum (R) and visiting Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Dendias hold a press conference after their meeting in Algiers, Algeria, Feb. 13, 2020. Visiting Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Dendias said on Thursday that Greece and Algeria agree on a political solution without foreign military interference for the Libyan crisis. (Xinhua)

ALGIERS, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- Visiting Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Dendias said on Thursday that Greece and Algeria agree on a political solution without foreign military interference for the Libyan crisis.

Dendias made the remarks in a press statement after a meeting with his Algerian counterpart Sabri Boukadoum in the capital Algiers.

"The work led by Algeria on settling the Libyan crisis ... aims at reaching a political solution that allows the return to peace and stability in this country and beyond," he said.

Greece and Algeria "highlight the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and all foreign intervention within the framework of the United Nations," the Greek minister added.

Suicide bombing kills 1 soldier in southern Algeria

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-10 04:34:31|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/10/c\\_138768943.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/10/c_138768943.htm)

ALGIERS, Feb. 9 (Xinhua) -- A suicide bomber on Sunday targeted a military barrack in the southernmost area of Algeria, killing a soldier, Algerian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The attack took place at around 10:05 a.m. near the Algerian border with Mali, as a bomb-laden car headed fast to a military barrack before exploding at the entrance, the source said.

In 2019, Algerian army troops killed 15 terrorists and arrested 25 others, while 44 others surrendered to authorities, the source said, adding that 245 individuals charged with offering support to terrorist groups were arrested.

The North African nation deployed tens of thousands of troops along the border with Mali and Libya to thwart intrusion of terrorists and arms.

MAROC :

Morocco foils smuggling of over 2 tons of cannabis

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-20 03:33:02|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/20/c\\_138799741.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/20/c_138799741.htm)

RABAT, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- Morocco foiled an attempt to smuggle 2.06 tons of cannabis near the central city of Fes and arrested one person.

According to a statement by the Moroccan police on Wednesday, the banned substance was concealed inside a Morocco-registered truck at a gas station located in the town of Ain Taoujdate, 30 km western of Fes.

The truck driver, aged 35, was arrested and remanded in police custody to finish the preliminary investigation, it said.

Despite efforts to crack down on cannabis cultivation in the past decade, Morocco remains one of the world's largest producers of the narcotic plant, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Enditem

Morocco removes 4.75-kg cocaine from arrested Ivorians

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-16 01:51:03|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/16/c\\_138787275.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/16/c_138787275.htm)

RABAT, Feb. 15 (Xinhua) -- A total of 4.75 kg of cocaine packed in 795 capsules was removed from the stomach of six Ivorians who were arrested at an airport in Casablanca, the Moroccan police said Saturday in a statement.

The suspects were arrested at the Mohammed V airport on Wednesday when they were preparing to take a flight to the Tunis Carthage airport, the statement said.

The suspects, aged between 27 and 43, were remanded in police custody pending the preliminary investigation, it added.

The police are trying to identify others implicated in the criminal act to determine possible links with international drug trafficking networks outside Morocco, according to the statement.

Morocco, Chile agree to establish dialogue mechanism

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 01:22:32|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138792904.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138792904.htm)

RABAT, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- Morocco and Chile signed on Monday an agreement to set up an instrument for dialogue between the two countries' parliaments.

The agreement was signed by speakers of the Moroccan and Chilean parliaments, Habib Al-Maliki and visiting Ivan Flores Garcia.

The step is poised to enhance dialogue, exchange experiences in the legislative field and boost trade and economic cooperation, Maliki told reporters after the signing ceremony.

Flores Garcia stressed that Chile is aware that Morocco is an important gateway to the African continent while Chile acts as Morocco's gateway to Latin America.

The creation of this parliamentary dialogue mechanism would represent a common platform for work and cooperation between the two countries, he added. Enditem

TUNISIE :

Terrorist camp discovered in western Tunisia: ministry

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 01:24:10|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138796443.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138796443.htm)

TUNIS, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- Tunisia's security units discovered a terrorist camp in the mountains of Kasserine province in western Tunisia, Tunisian Interior Ministry announced Tuesday.

"The regional authority in Kasserine managed to discover a camp where supplies and clothing were found, as well as sophisticated communication equipment," the ministry said in a statement.

Tunisia's security units discovered a terrorist camp in Choabat Oued Addiar in Semmama Mount in Kasserine province last week. During that operation, landmines of various calibres and equipment for the manufacturing of explosives were seized.

Since 2011, the province of Kasserine, located near the border with Algeria, has been known as a main stronghold of armed extremist elements. Enditem

France, Tunisia review military cooperation

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-14 01:47:00|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/14/c\\_138781464.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/14/c_138781464.htm)

TUNIS, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- Interim Tunisian Defense Minister Karim Jamoussi on Thursday met with French Ambassador Olivier Poivre d'Arvor over means to develop military cooperation and security developments in the region.

"Tunisia is experiencing stability thanks to the performance and efforts of its security and military establishments," a ministry statement quoted Jamoussi as saying.

Jamoussi also underlined Tunisian-French cooperation in technology, training, border security and the exchange of expertise.

For his part, d'Arvor affirmed France's resolve to intensify cooperation with Tunisia in various military areas.

LYBIA :

Tripoli-based House of Representatives elects new Speaker, Deputies

February 20, 2020 - 21:44 Posted in: News Written By: AbdulkaderAssad

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/tripoli-based-house-representatives-elects-new-speaker-deputies>

The Tripoli-based Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) elected Thursday Hamouda Sayala as the new Speaker after six months from electing Sadiq Al-Kahili.

The HoR in Tripoli also elected in an on-air session Jalal Shuwaidi as first deputy speaker and Mohammed Lino as a second deputy speaker, besides Mosab Al-Abed as rapporteur and Rahma Abu Bakr as deputy rapporteur.

When Khalifa Haftar's forces led an offensive against Tripoli in April 2019, HoR members who rejected the war moved to Tripoli and started since their first meeting in May issuing resolutions against Haftar and his loyalists for their part in the aggression on Tripoli.

They agreed to establish Audit Bureau in Tripoli and to form revision commissions for the internal rules as well as the HoR's decisions since 2014 as per Skhirat agreement of 2015.

Over the last six months, Sayala was formerly the Tripoli-based HoR spokesman, Mosaab Al-Abed retained his job as rapporteur while Al-Kahili was the Speaker.

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Turkish Foreign Minister says international community cannot move to create a ceasefire in Libya

February 20, 2020 - 13:05 Written by: RabiaGolden

<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/turkish-foreign-minister-says-international-community-cannot-move-create-ceasefire-libya>

The Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that world powers cannot seem to come together to prevent the fighting in Libya.

Cavusoglu added that international governments seem to lack the resolve to consolidate their efforts in assisting a strategy to end the conflict in the war torn country of Libya. This statement was issued through Anadolu News Agency on Thursday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, accused Russia on last Thursday, of being involved in the Libyan conflict at the highest level. He repeated his statement that the private Russian security company, Wagner was in fact, supporting Hefar's militias on the ground in Libya.

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\*\*\*\* AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST \*\*\*\*

CÔTE D'IVOIRE :

SENEGAL :

Egypt, Senegal discuss military industrialization cooperation

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 06:06:37|Editor: Mu Xuequan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138796655.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138796655.htm)

CAIRO, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- Egyptian Minister of State for Military Production, Mohamed al-Assar, and Senegalese Minister of the Armed Forces, Sidiki Kaba discussed on Tuesday joint cooperation in the fields of military and civil industrialization.

In a statement, al-Assar stressed Egypt's interest in cooperating with the Senegalese Ministry of the Armed Forces in the field of supplying military equipment, weapons and ammunition, training technicians and cyber security.

For his part, the Senegalese minister praised the industrial and technical capabilities possessed by the Egyptian Ministry for Military Production, expressing desire to open horizons of cooperation with Egyptian military production companies in various manufacturing fields.

Canadian PM to visit Ethiopia, Senegal, Germany

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-02 06:57:46|Editor: Liu

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/northamerica/2020-02/02/c\\_138748706.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/northamerica/2020-02/02/c_138748706.htm)

OTTAWA, Feb. 1 (Xinhua) -- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will travel to Ethiopia, Senegal and Germany from Feb. 6 to 14, the Canadian Prime Minister's Office said Saturday.

Trudeau will meet with leaders of the three countries. In Ethiopia, he will also meet with world leaders attending the 33rd African Union Summit, and "participate in side events focused on deepening our relationships with African countries," the office said in a statement.

The Canadian prime minister will attend the Munich Security Conference in Germany, the office added.

BURKINA FASO :

French soldier found dead in Burkina Faso: ministry

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-17 19:56:49|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c\\_138792345.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c_138792345.htm)

PARIS, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- A French soldier was found dead in his camp in Burkina Faso where he was on a mission, the French Ministry of the Armed Forces announced on Monday.

The lifeless body of sergeant Morgan Henry was discovered on Sunday, the ministry said in a statement, adding that an investigation was underway to identify the reasons for his death.

Henry joined French forces in the Sahel region in November 2019. Around 4,500 French troops have been poured there since 2014 to back local forces to prevent the region from becoming a safe-haven for Islamist terrorist groups.



Early this month, France decided to send an additional 600 soldiers to reinforce its military operation to uproot Islamist militants and restore security in the Sahel region.

Gunmen kill 24 in Burkina Faso village

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-17 21:23:04|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c\\_138792570.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c_138792570.htm)

OUAGADOUGOU, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- Gunmen killed at least 24 people in an attack on a village in northern Burkina Faso, a regional governor said.

The attack occurred on Sunday in Pansi, a village in Boundou department, Yagha province, in the northern Sahel region of Burkina Faso, regional governor Salfo Kabore said in a statement.

"Provisional death toll stood at 24, of which a pastor of a Protestant church who fell into the trap," the statement said.

"There were also 18 injured and abducted people," Kabore said.

According to the statement, the injured were evacuated to the provincial capital, Sebba, and the city of Dori for appropriate care.

BENIN :

NIGERIA :

2 soldiers killed in Nigeria: police

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 18:27:56|Editor: xuxin

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138798958.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138798958.htm)

LAGOS, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- Two Nigerian soldiers were killed and another one seriously injured following an attack by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen in Barkin Ladi area of central north state of Plateau, police said Wednesday.

Obah Ogaba, the police spokesperson for Plateau State, who confirmed the incident to reporters in Jos, the state capital, said the gunmen ambushed security personnel of Sector Five, killing two soldiers and injuring one on Sunday.

"Soldiers were attacked and two were killed and this is the major concern here," he said.

A security source however added that some soldiers who were angered by the incident gave the community two days to provide their attackers who on Tuesday allegedly raided the area and burnt down scores of houses.

Gunmen kill at least 30 in northwest Nigeria raid: police

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-16 18:31:23|Editor: xuxin

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/16/c\\_138788901.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/16/c_138788901.htm)

ABUJA, Feb. 16 (Xinhua) -- Gunmen on motorbikes killed at least 30 people across two villages during a raid in northwest Nigeria, local police said.

In a statement reaching Xinhua in Abuja on Sunday, the police in the northwestern state of Katsina said the gunmen raided Tsauwa and Dankar villages in Batsari local government area of the state on Friday night.

The gunmen raided the two villages with their motorbikes and shot at residents, said Gambo Isah, spokesman for the police in that state, adding that the majority of the victims were the aged and children who could not run for their lives.

Some 21 people were killed in Tsauwa village where houses were burned down and foodstuffs were also taken away. The gunmen went on to kill nine more in Dankar village, Isah said further.

The police, working in collaboration with the military, have arrested one suspect and recovered nine motorbikes belonging to the gunmen and used during the raid, according to the police's mouthpiece. Additional policemen and military personnel have been deployed to protect the area and neighboring communities, said Sanusi Buba, Katsina's police chief, after visiting the affected villages on Saturday.

Buba added that the security operatives were on the trail of the assailants and combing nearby bushes for them.

Lassa fever deaths in Nigeria hit 70

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-14 12:28:56|Editor: yhy

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/14/c\\_138783184.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/14/c_138783184.htm)

ABUJA, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- The death toll from the latest round of Lassa fever outbreak in Nigeria has risen to 70, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) said Thursday.

A total of 472 confirmed cases of the acute viral hemorrhagic fever, which continued to spread in the most populous African country, had been recorded as of Tuesday, the NCDC said in a statement. At least 23 out of the 36 states in the country have now been affected by the outbreak, with most cases recorded in the southern states of Ebonyi, Edo, and Ondo, it said.

The fatality rate of the outbreak this year stood at 14.8 percent, lower than the 18.7 percent recorded a year ago, it said.

The goal of the NCDC was to have a single-digit case-fatality rate in Nigeria, it added.

Lassa fever is reportedly transmitted when saliva, urine and excreta of rats come into contact with humans. In some cases, it has similar symptoms as malaria.

Recent epidemiological data show that Lassa fever usually occurs in the country during the dry season between January and April.

The latest outbreak erupted in November last year and the first case was reported in the northeastern state of Bauchi.

The NCDC has activated a national emergency operation center to coordinate response activities nationwide.

GHANA :

Ghanaian president named AU's financial institutions champion amid continental resource mobilization aspiration

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-12 21:54:49|Editor: xuxin

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/12/c\\_138778226.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/12/c_138778226.htm)

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 12 (Xinhua) -- Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has vowed to help the African continent towards effectively harnessing African financial institutions as he was named Champion of the African Union (AU) Financial Institutions.

"Ghana believes that the establishment of the African Financial Institutions are critical for enhanced resources mobilization on the continent," an AU statement issued late Tuesday quoted Akufo-Addo as saying, as he emphasized that such continental financial institutions "will drive the continent's financial sector to facilitate its productive transformation and development."

"Today, we have reached a milestone with the successful signing and ratification by 26 state parties," Akufo-Addo after he was named an AU financial institutions champion at the headquarters of the AU in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The AU Financial Institutions (AIFI) initiative, which constitutes one of the flagship projects of the 50-year continental development Agenda 2063, envisaged accelerating the integration and socio-economic development of the African continent.

The Ghanaian president also stressed that the AU financial institutions "are preconditions for the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and achieving Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want."

Noting that African currencies are characterized by volatilities, illiquidity and rarely traded status on the global financial market, Akufo-Addo also argued that the situation has made "trading among African countries difficult."

"The continent has no other alternative but to reduce its dependency on external aid and imported goods, and start mobilizing domestic resources to finance its development and diversify its economy to ensure the successful implementation of the AfCFTA," he said.

According to the Ghanaian president, effective establishment of the AU financial institutions requires bold commitments from African policymakers, as leaders of the continent.

"We need to take urgent actions for the signing and ratification of the legal instruments of the African Investment Bank and African Monetary Fund, in order to get the required number of ratifications to mobilise Member States towards their operationalization," he added.

As the champion for the AIFI, Akufo-Addo will work together with the African Central Bank (ACB), the African Monetary Fund (AMF), the African Investment Bank (AIB) and the Pan-African Stock Exchange (PASE).

The Ghanaian president also expressed his resolve to work with leaders of the host countries that are Cameroon for the AMF, Nigeria for the ACB and Libya for the AIB. He also vowed to reach out to high-level officials and parliamentarians of the AU member states as well as regional economic communities.

He also vowed to lead advocacy missions to key member states, which have not yet signed and ratified the legal instruments of the African financial institutions to expedite the signature and ratification process.

Strengthening African financial institutions is among the AU's major initiatives as the 55-member pan-African bloc envisaged towards its financial independence, which is gaining momentum in recent years amid the African continent's aspirations towards financial autonomy from reliance on outside sources.

West Africa-bound flights diverted to Ghana's Kotoka airport amid dusty, windy weather

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-14 21:14:06|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/14/c\\_138784376.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/14/c_138784376.htm)

ACCRA, Feb. 14 (Xinhua) -- Ghana's main Kotoka International Airport (KIA) has been receiving flights diverted from some neighboring countries due to continuing bad weather in western Africa over the past few days, an official told Xinhua here on Friday.

The diversions, which started on Tuesday, were mainly due to the so-called Harmattan condition -- a very dry, dusty windy condition -- caused by northeasterly Sahara trade winds, that engulfs the sub-region from December to February.

"You can see the hazy condition, which affects visibility both on land and in the air," said Eric Amoaning, spokesman for Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA). "But we have an efficient functional instrument landing system which aids flights to land successfully."

The current Harmattan condition has been on of the most severe, leading to flight diversions to Ghana, the spokesman said.

"If some of the navigation aids are not functioning properly, airlines will not risk it to attempt a landing. But we have well-functioning navigation aid in Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale airports," Amoaning said.

Last October, Airport Council International Kotoka international as the best airport in West Africa and the fourth-best in the world.

Ghana made major investment in upgrading the airports between 2012 and 2017.

## GAMBIE:

Gambian president calls for national unity on 55th independence day speech

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 00:35:06|Editor: Mu Xuequan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138796410.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138796410.htm)

BANJUL, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- The Gambian President Adama Barrow called on citizens to remain united by not succumbing to their ethnicity and partisan differences at the detriment of national development as he addressed thousands at the country's 55th anniversary of independence in Banjul on Tuesday.

He said the status of independence sovereign state means The Gambia is responsible for managing its affairs without any external interference, therefore, it's a moment that should trigger thoughts to guide citizens to define their individual roles in order to re-positioning the country better on the global stage.

"Let us demonstrate that we are capable of managing our affairs by accommodating our differences, celebrating our successes, providing feedback with discipline and expressing our own opinions in respect and dignity," Barrow said, stressing "we must be aware of all divisive speeches, actions, sentiments... that may lead to social division in our communities".

Barrow called for unity and active deliberations on national issues and not on partisan and conflict interest.

"As true sons and daughters of The Gambia, this is a moment to reflect on the implications of independence, not only political independence but also social and economic independence," he indicated.

The Gambia attained its independence on the February 18th, 1965 from the British, ending its decades of colonial rule.

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ETHIOPIE :

Ethiopia says US plans 'substantial financial support'

By ELIAS MESERET February 18, 2020 <https://apnews.com/4f7071a4103d7690d54f2603ae2cae3c>  
ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — America's top diplomat in his final Africa stop on Tuesday discussed dramatic political reforms with Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister, and the U.S. plans to provide "substantial financial support" to strengthen them, Ethiopia said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also spoke about Ethiopia's dispute with Egypt over a massive dam project on the Nile River. "A great deal of work remains but I'm optimistic that over the coming months we can resolve this," Pompeo said. An agreement had been expected this month.

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous nation, with well over 100 million people, and a key U.S. security ally in the Horn of Africa. Abiy is under growing pressure to uphold the reforms that won him the Nobel last year. He took office in 2018 and quickly eased regional tensions, freed political prisoners and welcomed opposition groups home from exile.

But a major test looms in August with an election that the prime minister has repeatedly vowed will be free and fair. Analysts warn that his loosening of repressive measures has unleashed long-held grievances among some of the country's more than 80 ethnic groups. Clashes at times have turned deadly.

"A free and credible vote will show that everyone has a voice," Pompeo told reporters in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. The U.S. says it has mobilized \$37 million to support the country's elections board.

"We have no experience of democracy in the past but we are opening up the space for all," said Ethiopian Foreign Minister Gedu Andargachew.

Separately, the Trump administration has pressed Abiy and his government to find a peaceful resolution to its dispute with Egypt over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which is nearing completion.

Ethiopia says the dam is crucial in helping to pull many of its people out of poverty, while Egypt warns that too-rapid filling of the dam's reservoir in the coming years will imperil its share of Nile waters.

Washington has stepped in to help host several rounds of talks after Abiy warned that his country could muster millions to fight over the dam issue but preferred to negotiate a peaceful solution.

Pompeo on Tuesday also announced that the U.S. would provide another \$8 million to support efforts to fight a massive locust outbreak in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

The secretary of state is the first Cabinet official to visit Africa in 18 months. He also stopped in Senegal and Angola on a trip that seeks to reassert U.S. interests on a continent that many have accused the Trump administration of largely neglecting. China, Africa's top trading partner for a decade now, is a major U.S. concern.

Ethiopia has close business ties with China and has grown closer to wealthy Gulf nations on the other side of the nearby Red Sea as well. Numerous global powers have been turning their focus to the African continent of more than 1.2 billion people, many of them young.

Analysts have said a key task for Pompeo is countering the recent messaging out of Washington as the Pentagon considers cutting U.S. military presence in Africa and new visa restrictions target Nigerians, Sudanese, Tanzanians and Eritreans.

"Peace in Africa will be won by Africans," Pompeo told reporters. \_\_\_ Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed

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Netherlands returns 18th century crown to Ethiopia

'Netherlands did right thing by returning relic to rightful owner -- Ethiopia,' Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed says

Addis Getachew | 20.02.2020 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/netherlands-returns-18th-century-crown-to-ethiopia/1739876>

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

The Netherlands has returned a presumably stolen ceremonial crown from the 18th century to Ethiopia on Thursday.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed received the artifact from Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch minister for foreign trade and development cooperation.

"The Netherlands did the right thing by returning the relic to the rightful owner -- Ethiopia," Abiy said.

Sirak Asfaw, an Ethiopian man who came to the Netherlands as an asylum seeker, found the crown in 1998 in the suitcase of a visitor.

Sirak did not want to return the relic to the then government in Ethiopia fearing that it might have been involved in the theft and kept the crown hidden in his Rotterdam home for over two decades.

The office of the prime minister also appreciated Sirak for the role he played in the process of return of the precious relic to Ethiopia.

Details on how, why and by whom the treasure had been taken out of Ethiopia remains unclear.

Sirak has lived in the Netherlands for 41 years.

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\*\*\*\* AFRIQUE CENTRAL \*\*\*\*

CAMEROUNE :

Cameroon: Two suspected cases of Coronavirus tested negative

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/cameroon-two-suspected-cases-of-coronavirus-tested-negative/>

Published on 20.02.2020 at 15h49 by journalduCameroun

Two people suspected of having contracted the deadly Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Cameroon have been tested negative, Public Health Minister has indicated.

In a release issued Wednesday February 19, 2020, Public Health Minister, Dr Malachie Manaouda says the two people were tested negative after they were isolated at the Yaounde Central Hospital and their status checked.

“Both cases were safely transported to the isolation rooms of the Yaounde Central Hospital, specimens were collected and analysed at the Pastoral Care Centre in Cameroon, fortunately, the results were negative for Covid-19...” the release partly reads.

The suspected cases were reportedly investigated by technical services of the Ministry of Public health on February 15, 2020 after rumours spread on the presence of coronavirus in Cameroon.

Public Health Minister Malachie Manaouda took this opportunity to reiterate his calls to the population to be more vigilant and observe hygiene rules as recommended.

Besides that, he urged Cameroonians traveling abroad, especially into countries affected by the virus to identify themselves to competent health authorities for monitoring.

The Public Health boss further reassured Cameroonians stringent measures have been taken at the ports to prevent importation of the Coronavirus.

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Cameroon: World Catholic Bishops urge Biya to dialogue with separatists to end Anglophone crisis

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/cameroon-world-catholic-bishops-urge-biya-to-dialogue-with-separatists-to-end-anglophone-crisis/>

Published on 18.02.2020 at 16h35 by journalduCameroun

Some sixteen Catholic Bishops from around the globe have written to Cameroon’s Head of State, urging him to accept the proposed Swiss-led negotiations to put an end to the Anglophone crisis rocking the North West and South West regions of the country.

In the letter dated Monday February 17, 2020, the sixteen Bishops applaud the Government of Cameroon for organising the Major National Dialogue but hint it was not enough to stop the violence that continue rocking the regions.

As such, they urge the Head of State to engage in the proposed Swiss-led dialogue and be sure to come up with appropriate political solutions to the crisis which is in its fourth year.

“There will be no military victory for any side. A lasting solution to Cameroon’s problems must come from a mediated process that includes Anglophone armed-separatist groups and nonviolent civil-society leaders. If all parties treat each other as they wish to be treated, a solution is possible”

The Bishop tell President Biya in the letter.

“We believe the proposed Swiss-led talks offer the best path to an appropriate political solution through inclusive negotiations.”

“The success of these talks will be critical in Cameroon’s journey towards ensuring pace and your legacy as an effective leader in a troubled region.” They further say.

At the start of the letter, the bishops indicate they were motivated by their concern about the plights of the unarmed civilian population caught up in the violence between Government security forces and separatists as well as the stability of Cameroon.

“Violence and atrocities on all sides have forced 656,000 Anglophone Cameroonians from their homes, kept 800,000 children from school (including 400,000 from Catholic schools), caused 50,000 people to flee to Nigeria, destroyed hundreds of villages and resulted in a death toll of at least 2,000”.

“Each of these lives is precious, and we mourn their suffering and wish to prevent more loss of life and innocence”.

This open letter comes in the wave of widespread condemnations over the reported massacre of fourteen children and other civilians in the locality of Ngarbuh in Ndu, Donga Mantung Division of the North West region of Cameroon



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## UNION AFRICAINE :

Pan-African Parliament gives S. African president thumbs up as AU chair

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-15 00:49:38|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c\\_138784669.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c_138784669.htm)

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 14 (Xinhua) -- The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on Friday said there are confident the African Union (AU) would make progress under South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's chairship.

PAP said they have confidence in Ramaphosa steering the continental body in the right direction.

"The election of South Africa as the incoming chair in Feb. 2019, raised our hopes as direct beneficiaries of the Host Agreement between the African Union and the Government of South Africa," said PAP President Roger Nkodo Dang.

He said the optimism of the continental Parliament stems from President Ramaphosa's recent pronouncement of his approach, which will focus on building a "politically stable Africa, empowerment of women and an economically growing continent".

Nkodo Dang stated that Africa continues to draw inspiration from South Africa's institutions of governance and a functional parliamentary democracy. He pointed out that they will learn from South Africa as they try to make PAP a "prime institution of governance on the African continent".

Ramaphosa officially became the AU chair last week at the the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Pan-African Parliament is one of the legislative body of the AU which is based in South Africa.

AU launches inter-departmental taskforce on Libya

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 22:26:49|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138796276.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138796276.htm)

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- The African Union (AU) on Tuesday announced that it has launched the AU Inter-Departmental Task Force on Libya to support the implementation of the decisions of heads of states on the situation in the country.

The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui, launched the Task Force composed of different departments of the AU Commission to support the implementation of the decisions of heads of state and government, according to an AU statement on Tuesday.

The Task Force was launched on Sunday, Feb. 16, in line with the recommendations of the trilateral meeting held in Addis Ababa on Feb. 8 between the Chair of the AU High-level Committee on Libya, President Sassou Nguesso of Congo, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, and the Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat.

It was launched at a meeting on Sunday, which comes on the heels of the AU Peace and Security Council Summit, the 33rd AU Assembly and the International Follow-up Committee on Libya (IFCL) meeting held in Munich on 16th Feb, according to the statement.

The Task Force will be in continuous interaction with the UN and monitor the developments in Libya, in particular, the talks around the ceasefire, the Libyan political Forum, prepare the participation of the AU in the different subcommittees as outlined by the Berlin Conference communique and work closely with the AU High-level Committee to prepare for the inter-Libyan reconciliation dialogue.

In addition, the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) has been charged to begin preparations for the deployment of a multidimensional mission once a ceasefire agreement is reached between the Libyan parties.

The situation in Libya remains a priority for the AU, the statement said, adding that the AU Commission looks forward to working with its Member States to ensure a full engagement and to promote a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned durable solution to the crisis.

Libya has been suffering escalating violence and political instability ever since the fall of its leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

AU beefs up preparedness for coronavirus outbreak

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-15 14:02:47|Editor: zyl

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c\\_138786245.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c_138786245.htm)

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 14 (Xinhua) -- The Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) of the African Union (AU) has announced that enhanced efforts are underway to prepare for any possible outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19).

At his weekly press briefing on Friday at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, Dr. John Nkengasong, Africa CDC director, said the center is coordinating efforts and activities on the continent's preparedness and response for any possible outbreak of the COVID-19.

Although there is no confirmed case in Africa, Nkengasong said, a continental taskforce on coronavirus has been established among other activities to enable Africa to be prepared for and capable of responding to the disease if any outbreak occurs.

"There have been 51 suspected cases reported and all of them have tested negative by the standard test that has been used. We continue to be very active in this process, to prepare our continent," said the director.

The continental taskforce, which comprises experts across Africa, is coordinated from five African countries -- Senegal, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa -- to oversee five major areas of surveillance, infection prevention and control, clinical management of patients with severe coronavirus infection, risk communication and community management.

"The uniqueness of this taskforce is that the ownership and leadership is shared by the AU, its member states and the World Health Organization," Nkengasong said.

Stressing that efforts are well underway to enhance the diagnostic capacity of AU member states, the director said: "More than 16 countries now have the capacity to test (the coronavirus). And by the 28th of this month, another 20 labs will have the capacity to test. So, we are scaling up very rapidly across the continent in terms of diagnostics."

The Africa CDC arrange daily emergency operation center meetings with AU member states as well as video conferences with representatives of national public health institutes, and produce and circulate a weekly update on the outbreak.

"We conduct daily emergency operation activities right here at the Africa CDC headquarters. We will link member states and discuss what has occurred in the previous day and prepare our response activity then," he said.

Optimism grows on Africa's security situation as continent embarks on "Silencing Guns"

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-13 16:25:43|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c\\_138780703.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c_138780703.htm)

2020 is the year of "Silencing the Guns in Africa". African leaders vow to end all wars across the continent at the 33rd AU summit.

2020 is the year of "Silencing the Guns on the Continent" for Africa. It "is supposed to be a landmark year" for the 55-member pan African bloc, as the AU endeavors "ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and preventing genocide in the continent by 2020."

by Habtamu Worku and Wang Shoubao

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- Only few could be more excited than Young Nial, a South Sudanese refugee currently residing in Ethiopia, as the African continent embarks on "Silencing the Guns" to end all wars, which continue wreaking havoc on the resource-rich, yet less-stable continent.

Being one of the major flagship aspirations of Africa's 50-year continental development Agenda 2063, dubbed "The Africa We Want," Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 has been everything that the 16-year-old South Sudanese refugee has been yearning for, as the extended civil war in his home country forced him to seek refuge in South Sudan's neighbor Ethiopia, along with his four family members.

"No war in my country means we will be able to return to our home and start a normal and peaceful life once again," Nial told Xinhua.

As African leaders vowed to end all wars across the continent during their latest meeting as part of the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit that was held at the headquarters of the AU in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa from Feb. 9 to 10, Nial and millions of conflict-affected children across the continent have been given a boost of hope that they will be able to embrace continental peace and stability, a major prerequisite to a prosperous Africa.

The 33rd African Union (AU) summit of heads of state and government is held at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Feb. 9, 2020. (Photo by Michael Tewelde/Xinhua)

#### LONG WAY TO GO

Amid the greater need to end all wars across the continent, Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said that the year 2020 has been proclaimed the year of "Silencing the Guns on the Continent" while addressing the continental leaders' summit.

"How to succeed in this feat in a continent grappling with significant phenomena such as terrorism, inter-community conflicts, pre and post electoral crises or even disputes between states?" the chairperson of the 55-member pan African bloc asked African heads of state and governments on Sunday.

Mahamat also emphasized the need to exert concerted efforts to realize the continental aspiration of silencing the guns across the African continent.

"By acting concretely on all these issues and their root causes, by giving ourselves the political, military and diplomatic means, the challenge of silencing the guns can be won," he added.

While progress has been made in reducing state-driven conflicts across the continent, many also argue that recurring conflicts are rolling back gains already made in achieving lasting peace in several regions of the continent.

African leaders adopted the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for "Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020" back in January 2017 as part of AU's 50-year continental development Agenda 2063, which envisaged ending all conflicts in Africa by 2020 with the provision of specific timelines and streamlined division of targets.

The 33rd African Union (AU) summit of heads of state and government is held at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Feb. 9, 2020. (Photo by Michael Tewelde/Xinhua)

Ramtane Lamamra, special envoy of the AU Commission chairperson on Silencing the Guns, argued that while respect for national sovereignty is paramount, "this should not undermine the efforts to scale up conflict prevention and, if and when necessary, take collective action in the name of the principle of non-indifference as enshrined in the Constitutive Act."

"Cognizant of the fact that civil conflicts are triggered by series of disagreements, disparities within or between individuals, communities and factions, we are faced with the challenges of being more creative in conceptualizing and implementing innovative solutions to conflicts," Lamamra said on Monday.

"In this perspective, our focus should primarily be to ensure the preservation of national unity, functioning of state institutions and overall sovereignty of the people," said Lamamra.

He said a significant proportion of conflicts across Africa have been predominantly driven by ethnic rivalry over political succession, disagreement over modalities for the conduct or outcome of national elections, and power struggles within the state.

Conflicts have also arisen due to struggle over control and access to natural resources and their benefits, Lamamra added.

"While we continue to deploy conventional methods of conflict resolution through processes that involve the use of wise Pan-Africanist, international and regional organizations, the involvement of neighboring countries, peace support operations and civil society organizations, we should be cognizant of the nature, scope and cultural settings of these conflicts," he said.

#### CALL TO REPEAT UNITY

As African leaders join hands to tame conflicts that are wreaking havoc on the continent's development aspirations under the AU umbrella, experts are also calling on the continent's policymakers to repeat the unity achieved on Africa's Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA), which was launched in July 2019.

Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat (C) announces the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement during the launching ceremony in Niamey, capital of Niger, July 7, 2019. (Str/Xinhua)

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), an African non-profit organization, in its recent publication "Conflict is Still Africa's Biggest Challenge in 2020," stressed the imperative for African leaders to "repeat the show of unity achieved on continental free trade to silence the guns."

According to the institute, 2020 "is supposed to be a landmark year" for the 55-member pan African bloc, as the AU endeavors "ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and preventing genocide in the continent by 2020."

Noting that Africa's pattern of "new conflicts bubbling up alongside existing ones is likely to repeat itself," the ISS also emphasized that the Sahel region is of particular concern.

According to the institute, a surge of violence in both Burkina Faso and Mali this year underscored the fragility of the governments in both countries, while conflicts in and around the Lake Chad Basin area have also continued.

Noting that South Sudan's peace deal "is hanging by a thread," the institute also indicated that new fighting between ethnic groups in central South Sudan had left at least 79 people dead and forced the deployment of UN peacekeepers.

"The prospects of a resolution to this (South Sudan's) long-running conflict in 2020 look slim," the institute argued.

It also noted that the situation has resulted in "widespread communal violence and tensions within the ruling party."

The institute also argued the need to tame regular flare-ups of violence in the Central African Republic, the conflict in the Ebola virus-affected Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as Nigeria's entrenched long fight against Boko Haram, saying the phenomenon necessitates further attention during the just-started 2020.

Child soldiers rescued from Boko Haram by Nigerian army attend a handover ceremony in Maiduguri, Borno state, Nigeria, on Oct. 3, 2019. (Photo by Makama Sule/Xinhua)

African experts have also emphasized the magnitude of expected continental engagements that would help end all wars and conflict in Africa.

"While no one can argue with that laudable goal, the continental body and its member states will have to work miracles to achieve it by the end of this year, especially when the trend seems to be heading in the other direction," Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, who served as an economic advisor to the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, told Xinhua.

#### GROWING OPTIMISM

As articulated by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is also the current chair of the AU for the year 2020, the ambition of Silencing the Guns will help the African continent to fully capitalize on the continent's natural resource as well as human capital.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks during the opening of the 33rd African Union (AU) summit of heads of state and government at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Feb. 9, 2020. (Photo by Michael Tewelde/Xinhua)

"We are rich in natural resources yes, but also in history, in intellectual output, in culture, in a sense of humanity and in human capital," Ramaphosa said, adding that "as Africans living in this new era, we shoulder the greatest of responsibilities to ensure that our wealth does not become our poverty; that our blessing does not become our curse, and that our endowment does not become our downfall."

"It is to us that the task has fallen to build an Africa that is prosperous and at peace with itself," the South African president said.

According to Ramaphosa, the South African government will work together with the AU Commission's Peace and Security Council to "focus our efforts on conflict resolution across the African continent, especially those experiencing protracted conflicts."

Despite growing concern that silencing the guns would be a mammoth task, given the nature of ongoing and recurrent conflicts across the continent, some have also expressed optimism regarding the continent's potential and capabilities to do so.

According to Lamamra, repeating recent achievements made in promoting peace and security in Africa would help realize the major objective behind the continental aspiration of ending all wars.

"Looking at the achievements made in promoting peace and security in the continent in recent decades ... the noble objective of silencing the guns and ending wars in the continent is achievable," Lamamra said.

He also noted that from around 30 active conflicts in 2004, Africa must celebrate the fact that it is now addressing fewer conflicts than in the past.

"Africa has a robust blueprint for promoting peace, security and stability, as well as advancing good governance, respect for human and people's rights and constitution," he said.

(Video reporters: Liu Ruijian, Wang Shoubao, Shiferaw Tadesse, Addis Zenebe)(Video editor: Ma Ruxuan)

AU eyes engagement in tourism sector as transformative tool for Africa

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-11 00:32:50|Editor: yan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/11/c\\_138771952.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/11/c_138771952.htm)

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 10 (Xinhua) -- The African Union (AU) is eyeing the tourism sector as a transformative tool for Africa's economic development, an AU official said on Monday.

"For the first time we're seriously addressing the sector of tourism. Tourism is a fantastic sector when it comes to employment and income generation to everyone at all levels," said Abou-Zeid Amani, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, at the sidelines of the 33rd ordinary session of the assembly of the heads of state and government of the AU being held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

"The AU has developed and adopted last July, the strategic framework for tourism. We started already the work to establish the African tourism organization within the strategy," said Amani.

Amani said the development of tourism in the continent is crucial to change the image of the continent and showcase it in a positive light.

"We're focusing on branding of the continent, intra-African tourism and also showcasing Africa in a different light to the whole world," said Amani.

"We started this brand-new activity in 2019, with the purpose of establishing the African Tourism Organization. By the end of this year we expect to report on where we are with this new specialized AU organ," said Amani.

The AU eyes tourism as one key pillar to achieve its ambitious Agenda 2063 goals of transforming the political, social and economic prospects of African countries.

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CHINE :

China provides alternative market for Namibian goods:central bank governor

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138798956.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138798956.htm)

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 18:25:55|Editor: xuxin

WINDHOEK, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- China has provided an alternative market for Namibian goods creating an opportunity for diversification of trade in Namibia, the Namibian Central Bank governor Ipumbu Shiimi said Wednesday.

Shiimi told Xinhua that they are impressed with the swelling trade between Namibia and China.

"It is impressive to see diversification of Namibian trade with China. We are very happy to have our meat access that market," he said.

Shiimi added that more impressive is the increase of Namibian goods accessing the Chinese market creating a fair balance of trade.

"It is even more important when we see our goods going to China not just us receiving so the trend is indeed commendable," he said.

Namibia has become the first African country to export beef to China, over 3,000 tonnes of meat have already been exported to China since last year.

China's Huawei strives to promote innovation among youth in Malawi

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 19:52:08|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138799186.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138799186.htm)

Students awarded by Huawei's Seeds for the Future Programs attend a launch ceremony in Lusaka, Zambia, on Oct. 4, 2019. (Xinhua/Peng Lijun)

China's tech giant Huawei has pushed its strides in promoting innovation through technology empowerment among the youth in Malawi.

BLANTYRE, Malawi, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- China's tech giant Huawei has pushed its strides in promoting innovation through technology empowerment among the youth in Malawi.

Huawei is sponsoring a coding project in Malawi which sees young adults as priorities. During the project, learners are getting advanced computer lessons for programming.

According the project coordinator Petro Kubwaro, the project is aimed at promoting innovation through the use of technology in Malawi and equipping the up and coming generation with practical knowledge that can make Malawi a better place

In an interview with Xinhua, Kubwaro said that a brief research has revealed that many countries are making leaps through the use of information communication technology (ICT).

He said, it is for this reason that they have started teaching the youth at a very young age some few simple basics of computer language so that they have a solid foundation to the digital education.

Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Li Jie (2nd R, Front) and permanent secretary of Zambia's Ministry of Communications and Transport Misheck Lungu (2nd L, Front) attend a launch ceremony in Lusaka, Zambia, on Oct. 4, 2019. (Xinhua/Peng Lijun)

One of the beneficiaries to the project, Joseph Nyirenda, said that he is grateful with the effort that Huawei Malawi has putting in to enrich the the youth with this scientific knowledge.

"With the coming in of this project, I am now able to develop short animated videos and am able to design personal websites", he said.

The project is to continue in phases, and the first phase is taking place in the commercial city of Blantyre. Organisers will extend the project to all regions in Malawi. Huawei has been providing end-to-end communication solutions for customers in Malawi since 2008. and it's products and services are currently serving about two-thirds of the country's population.



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USA :

Pompeo says South Africa land seizures would be ‘disastrous’

By ELIAS MESERET <https://apnews.com/144533277241402735ad0b70b5ee91b1>

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — America’s top diplomat on Wednesday asserted that South Africa’s plan to allow expropriation of private property without compensation would be “disastrous” for the country’s economy and its people.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the comments in an address in Ethiopia on the final day of an Africa visit largely aimed at countering China’s influence on the continent of more than 1.2 billion people.

“Be wary of authoritarian regimes and their empty promises,” he said, without naming names. “They breed corruption, dependency and instability.”

There was no immediate government response in South Africa to Pompeo’s comments.

Land is a sensitive issue in South Africa, which is one of the world’s most unequal countries in part because of the legacy of the former racist system of apartheid that ended in 1994.

Some members of the ruling African National Congress and the populist opposition Economic Freedom Fighters have pressed for redistribution of land, arguing that it will help right past wrongs in which many black people were forced off their property.

Critics have warned against what happened in neighboring Zimbabwe, where sometimes violent land seizures from white farmers scared away some investors and deepened that once-prosperous country’s economic collapse.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa last week in his state of the nation address said the government plans to accelerate land redistribution this year. The government also plans to table an expropriation bill “that outlines the circumstances under which expropriation of land without compensation would be permissible,” he said.

Ramaphosa has called land redistribution necessary to “redress a grave historical injustice.” South Africa’s government calls the dispossession of land by the 1913 Natives Land Act “apartheid’s original sin,” and one which continues to shape land ownership today.

The president also has attempted to soothe investors by saying there will be no chaotic or illegal land grabs, mindful of the need to not scare away business in a country with unemployment at a decade high of 29%.

This is not the first time the Trump administration has spoken out on South Africa’s moves to redistribute land.

In 2018, President Donald Trump claimed that South Africa was seizing farms and that many farmers were being killed. In fact, farmers have been killed for more than 20 years in what is widely seen as part of the country’s high crime rate, and experts say white farmers have not been the target. The secretary of state is the first Cabinet official to visit Africa in 18 months. He also stopped in Senegal and Angola on a trip that seeks to reassert U.S. interests on a continent that many have accused the Trump administration of largely neglecting.

China, Africa’s top trading partner for a decade now, is a major U.S. concern. Numerous other global powers have turned their focus to the continent of more than 1.2 billion people, many of them young.

Analysts have said a key task for Pompeo is countering the recent messaging out of Washington. New visa restrictions target Nigerians, Sudanese, Tanzanians and Eritreans, and the Pentagon is considering cutting the U.S. military presence on the continent even as Islamic extremism spikes in West Africa’s Sahel region.

“Peace in Africa will be won by Africans,” Pompeo told reporters Tuesday.  
Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

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U.S. secretary of state visits Angola

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 03:03:39|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138792968.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138792968.htm)

LUANDA, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Luanda Sunday for a 24-hour working visit aimed at reinforcing cooperation between the two countries.

In Luanda, Pompeo met with Angolan President Joao Lourenco on Monday, and they discussed the diplomatic and cooperation relations between the two countries.

At a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pompeo reaffirmed his country's support for the ongoing reforms in Angola.

His agenda also included participation in a roundtable with business leaders.

Before Angola, Pompeo visited Senegal.

Pompeo left the Angolan capital for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Enditem

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ONU / UN :

Sudan, UN agree on presence of UN political mission in Sudan

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-13 13:16:17|Editor: Yurou

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/13/c\\_138780131.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/13/c_138780131.htm)

KHARTOUM, Feb. 12 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations (UN) on Wednesday agreed on Sudan's request to provide a political mission to help Sudan's transitional government and support Sudan's institutions to achieve sustainable development, said Sudan's foreign ministry in a statement.

Sudan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Omar Gamar-Eddin Ismail on Wednesday met United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo in Khartoum, according to the statement.

"It has been agreed on future presence for the United Nations in Sudan through a special political mission aimed at helping the government with peacebuilding and supporting the country's institutions to achieve sustainable development in all parts of Sudan," the ministry said.

It noted that the duration of the presence of the special UN mission ends with the elapse of the transitional period, set at 39 months.

According to the statement, Gamar-Eddin reiterated the Sudanese government's commitment to make the transitional period successful to achieve the aspirations of the Sudanese people for freedom, peace, justice and equality in cooperation with the regional and international community.

Earlier, Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok sent a letter to the UN and the UN Security Council, demanding provision of a UN mission under Chapter (VI) to assist Sudan's transitional government in peacebuilding, consolidating democracy and supporting the transitional period institutions.

In August last year, Sudan began a transitional period of 39 months that will end with conduction of general elections.

UN hopes Libyan talks resumed soon

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 22:36:30|Editor: Mu Xuequan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c\\_138799530.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/19/c_138799530.htm)

TRIPOLI, Feb. 19 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Wednesday expressed hope the second round of the Libyan Joint Military Commission talks will resume soon.

The UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) had announced it suspended its participation in the talks due to the east-based army's attack on a seaport in the capital Tripoli.

"The UNSMIL hopes the commission talks will be resumed and meanwhile strongly condemns the bombing of Tripoli seaport on Tuesday by the Libyan National Army, which resulted in casualties and could have led to a real disaster had the vessel transporting liquefied gas been hit," the Mission said in a statement.

The east-based army led by General Khalifa Haftar has been leading a military campaign since April 2019 in and around Tripoli, attempting to take over the city and topple the UN-backed GNA of Fayeze al-Sarraj.

The fighting killed and injured thousands of people and forced more than 150,000 civilians to flee their homes.

The rivals have agreed on a cease-fire on Jan. 12 but both sides exchanged accusations of breaching an already-tenuous truce.

UN condemns killing of aid worker in South Sudan

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-19 04:39:30|Editor: Mu Xuequan

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c\\_138796596.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2020-02/19/c_138796596.htm)

JUBA, Feb. 18 (Xinhua) -- The UN humanitarian agency on Tuesday condemned the brutal killing of an aid worker in South Sudan's Pibor County.

"I strongly condemn the killing of aid workers and ask that those responsible for this act be brought to justice," Matthew Hollingworth, humanitarian coordinator ad interim in South Sudan, said in a statement issued in Juba.

He called on the government, all parties and communities to step up efforts to protect humanitarians who are working tirelessly to provide much-needed assistance and improve the lives of people living in isolated areas.

Pibor County was heavily affected by the 2019 floods emergency and has recorded severe humanitarian needs over the past years.

According to the UN, at least 116 aid workers have been killed since the start of the conflict in December 2013. Most have been South Sudanese nationals.

UN chief condemns attack on churchgoers in Burkina Faso

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-18 07:42:59|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c\\_138793531.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/18/c_138793531.htm)

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the attack on churchgoers in Burkina Faso, which reportedly killed 24 people on Sunday, his spokesperson said on Monday.

"The secretary-general strongly condemns the attack that reportedly targeted churchgoers in Pansi, in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, on Feb. 16," said Eri Kaneko, associate spokesperson for the secretary-general.

"The secretary-general extends his deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those killed. He wishes a speedy recovery to the injured. He stresses that the perpetrators of this horrendous crime, and the series of others that have preceded it, must be brought to justice," she said.

"The secretary-general reiterates the commitment of the United Nations to support Burkina Faso in the fight against violent extremism and the achievement of sustainable peace and development," the spokesperson added.

Gunmen reportedly killed at least 24 people on Sunday in Pansi, a village in Boundore department, Yagha province, in the northern Sahel region of Burkina Faso.

UN chief confident in China's "gigantic" effort to fight epidemic

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-17 11:12:43|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c\\_138791026.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/17/c_138791026.htm)

Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres makes a special talk on sustainable development and climate change in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Feb. 16, 2020. (Xinhua/Liu Tian)

It is always difficult to have a quick solution, but China has made a "very strong and very impressive response," said Guterres.

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 17 (Xinhua) -- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed confidence in China's great efforts to combat the current outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, or COVID-19, here on Sunday.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres answers questions after a special talk on sustainable development and climate change in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Feb. 16, 2020. (Xinhua/Liu Tian)

The measures put in place by the Chinese government "is a gigantic effort and we are very confident that efforts will allow for the progressive reduction of the disease," the UN chief told Xinhua during his joint press conference with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Highlighting the huge challenge the coronavirus outbreak is posing, he said that it is always difficult to have a quick solution, but China has made a "very strong and very impressive response."

Staff members work in a laboratory in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, Feb. 9, 2020. (Photo by Liu Yucai/Xinhua)

Guterres is on his first official visit to Pakistan since he took office on Jan. 1, 2017. During his four-day stay here, he will also attend an international conference on Afghan refugees. ■

E. African countries suffer worst locust infestation in decades: UN

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-15 03:38:51|Editor: Shi Yinglun

KENYA-LOCUST INFESTATION

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c\\_138784780.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/15/c_138784780.htm)

Photo taken on Feb. 4, 2020 shows a cloud of locusts flying in Mwingi North, Kenya. A number of East African countries are suffering serious locust infestation, with Kenya experiencing its worst in 70 years, which, if left unchecked, could grow 500 times in scale by June, a UN spokesman said Friday. Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said besides Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia are undergoing their worst locust infestation in 25 years, and that Djibouti, Eritrea, Uganda and Tanzania are also experiencing swarm activity and locust breeding, while the risk of spread to South Sudan is high. (Xinhua/Fred Mutune)

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 14 (Xinhua) -- A number of East African countries are suffering serious locust infestation, with Kenya experiencing its worst in 70 years, which, if left unchecked, could grow 500 times in scale by June, a UN spokesman said Friday.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said besides Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia are undergoing their worst locust infestation in 25 years, and that Djibouti, Eritrea, Uganda and Tanzania are also experiencing swarm activity and locust breeding, while the risk of spread to South Sudan is high.

Left unchecked, and with expected additional rains, he said, the scale of the locust upsurge could grow 500 times by June. "This would have a devastating impact on food security and livelihoods in the affected countries with knock-on effects on health, nutrition, education and protection."

Humanitarian needs are high in the affected and high-risk countries, and more funding is urgently needed so that control operations can be massively scaled up, Dujarric said, adding however, only 20 million U.S. dollars of the Food and Agriculture Organization's appeal for 76 million dollars has so far been pledged.

"The window to contain the crisis is closing. We only have until March to bring this infestation under control, and that is when the rain and planting season begins," Dujarric warned, adding that taking swift action now will cost the international community far less than waiting to respond to a complex, expensive crisis in several months' time.

UN warns increasing desert locust in east Africa, calls for concerted efforts

Source: Xinhua| 2020-02-13 20:57:24|Editor: huaxia

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c\\_138781179.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/13/c_138781179.htm)

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned that the desert locust breeding has continued in the Horn of Africa (HoA), causing locusts to increase further in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya with new swarms forming in the coming two months.

"Breeding continues in the Horn of Africa, which will cause locusts to increase further in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya with new swarms forming in March and April. Consequently, there is an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods in the region," the FAO said in its desert locust outbreak update issued late Wednesday.

In Ethiopia, maturing swarms were present in eastern and southern areas and additional swarms moved into the Rift Valley from the south and the north. Egg-laying and hatching are likely to be underway but so far it has not been detected. Aerial and ground control operations continue in most areas, the FAO said.

Noting that the "widespread hatching and band formation of desert locust will occur in the coming weeks in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia," the FAO also stressed that there remains a risk of a few small swarms appearing in northeast Uganda, southeast South Sudan and perhaps northern Tanzania in the coming days.

According to the FAO, above-normal desert locust breeding also continued along both sides of the Red Sea coast where hopper groups, bands, adult groups and a few swarms are forming on the coastal plains, in which desert locust swarms have continued to appear in the highlands and interior of Yemen amid ongoing progress in control operations in Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia.

The FAO also stressed that numerous immature and mature swarms have continued to move throughout northern and central areas of Kenya as mature swarms reached within 50-km of the Uganda border on Feb. 6 and other mature swarms nearly reached the Tanzania border on the Feb. 7.

In Somalia, second to fourth hopper bands are present in the northeast of near Somalia's Garowe, while other infestations are likely to be present in the northwest, central and southern areas where breeding is expected to be in progress.

Amid growing desert locust-inflicted food insecurity concern across Horn of Africa countries, mainly Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, experts and policymakers are calling the international community to exert concerted efforts to contend the dangerous pest.

On Saturday, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had also called for intensified international efforts to deal with a locust outbreak that has affected large parts of the African continent.

"The UN has issued an urgent appeal for assistance. I ask the international community to respond with speed and generosity to ensure an effective response and control the infestation while we still have the chance," Guterres said on the sidelines of the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit at the headquarters of the AU in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The UN chief stressed that the locust swarms affecting many parts of Africa are unprecedented in size and scope, with climate change playing a big part in aggravating the locust crisis.

"Today locust swarms are as big as major cities and it's getting worse by the day. There is also a link between climate change and the unprecedented locust crisis plaguing Ethiopia and East Africa," Guterres said, "warmer seas mean more cyclones generating the perfect breeding ground for locusts."

As part of the concerted efforts to control the spread of desert locust infestation in the region, the 55-member pan-African, AU, had also last week disclosed that it is working with the FAO to mitigate the effect of desert locust that has significantly affected the East African sub-region, particularly countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

"We have our own regional center for phytosanitary counsel, and we are also working directly with FAO," said Josefa Sacko, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, told a press conference on Friday, as she emphasized that the AU is working with FAO to address the problem and also contain its spread to other countries in the region and beyond.

"We really want to make sure that there is no spread in another country like Tanzania, even the other region apart from the East African region, like Uganda. We are really addressing this issue very seriously and on timely because when we had a Fall Army worm, we do not address it immediately," the AU Commissioner added.

The desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), which is considered as the most dangerous of the nearly one dozen species of locusts, is a major food security peril in desert areas across 20 countries, stretching from west Africa all the way to India, covering nearly 16 million square kilometers, according to the UN.

**DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Jeudi 20 Fevrier 2020**