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IMAGES : Commission Vérité Réconciliation (CVR) du Burundi | Reuters | monitor.co.ug | lanationbenin.info | digitalcongo.net | africa.cgtn.com | news.un.org

BURUNDI :

Genocide 1972 : CVR - Total de 1.751 restes de corps sortis des 4 fosses de MASHITSI, à GIHETA - GITEGA / BURUNDI

[<http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide/burundi-genocide-1972-total-de-1-751-restes-de-corps-sortis-des-4-fosses-de-giheta-gitega/>]

GEOPOLITIQUE GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, GENOCIDE, HISTOIRE – GITEGA, Samedi 14 Mars 2020 – La Commission Vérité Réconciliation (CVR) du Burundi a présenté son bilan du travail d'excavation des 4 fosses communes de MASHITSI (GIHETA – GITEGA). Un total de 1.751 restes de corps des victimes du Génocide Régicide de 1972.

En 1972, on parle de 500.000 morts lors de ce crime impérialiste et néocolonial . Toute la cheville ouvrière du Burundi, les (BA)HUTU [<http://burundi-agnews.org/hutu>], ont été décimés en 1 mois entre fin avril et début juin 1972.

Le Burundi a subi un GENOCIDE REGICIDE entre 1965-66 à 2005, sous la DICTATURE DES REGIMES HIMA BURUNDAIS (MICOMBERO, BAGAZA, BUYOYA) [<http://burundi-agnews.org/hima>] . Cette DICTATURE MILITAIRE a fait plus de 4,5 MILLIONS DE VICTIMES BURUNDI [<http://burundi-agnews.org/genocide.htm> ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/ccburundi.htm> ; http://burundi-agnews.org/agnews_refugees.htm] . Pour comprendre l'ampleur, la population burundaise aujourd'hui est de plus de 9 Millions d'âmes.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Dimanche 15 Mars 2020 | Photo : CVR Burundi

TANZANIA :

Tanzania confirms first Coronavirus case in Arusha

[<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Tanzania-confirms-first-coronavirus-case/1066-5493038-5nxvhaz/index.html>]

Monday March 16 2020

The Tanzanian Ministry of Health announced the country's first case of the deadly coronavirus on Monday.

The patient, a 46-year-old woman, returned from Belgium on March 15 aboard a RwandAir plane, which landed at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA),.

Health minister Ummu Mwalimu said the thermo scanner at the airport did not detect any high temperature.

The minister said the woman left the country on March 3 and visited Sweden and Germany before travelling to Belgium and then returning to her home country.

She went into self isolation but samples tested positive for the Covid-19 disease.

Tanzania: Envoy - My Priority Is to Take Tanzania-Israel Ties to Greater Levels

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202003160132.html>

15 March 2020 The Citizen (Dar es Salaam)

Israel has in the last four years made remarkable diplomatic comeback into Africa and pursued initiatives to widen and deepen diplomatic and economic relations on the continent a number of aspects ranging from political, trade, security, military to economic ones. In this interview, the newly appointed Israel ambassador to Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and The Seychelles, Oded Joseph, shares with The Citizen Reporter about his priorities in Tanzania and what business opportunities are available in Israel for Tanzanians to grab.

Question: What is your immediate tasks and priorities as you take this new job?

Answer: My immediate task is to do my utmost to work with partners here in Tanzania, the government and people of Tanzania to take our relationship to a greater level. Both countries enjoy a very good relationship.

From the very beginning of the establishment of Tanzania as an independent state, there have been very good contacts and engagements between Israelis and Tanzanians.

We feel attached to Tanzanian people because we share many similarities in our histories. These two nations had to find their way out for their independence. Both countries have good respect for the Bible and the values of the bible. So my immediate task is to make sure that we deepen and advance our relations in all spheres.

Q: Israeli has in the last few years seen to reestablish relationship with Tanzania and penetrate the East Africa region with a new impetus. What are the plans to boost investment and trade between the two countries?

A: The plan is to boost relations in all spheres. One of the areas where our cooperation is going on very well, and we want to deepen it, is the area of agriculture. Because of our unique environment, weather and climate, we were challenged to find and develop technologies that allow us to grow our own food in the desert, and we managed to do so.

And this experience forms one major area of our cooperation with Tanzania because we share with Tanzania this experience and technologies on how to develop in the field of agriculture.

There is a program that is designated for agriculture students from Tanzania who come to Israel for eleven months to learn agriculture techniques. This is one of the better programs we have in terms of our cooperation. In fact, we have doubled the number of Tanzanian students who come to Israel for that program.

One of my immediate task is to work very closely with the government of Tanzania and relevant institutions in Tanzania to make sure when these students come back home after the eleven months program they also becomes entrepreneurs who are able to address challenges of food security in this country.

I would want to see them become entrepreneurs not only for their own gain but also become source of employment to others young Tanzanians.

I think the focus should be to work together to ensure we increase the number of agriculture students who come to Israel and become good entrepreneurs back in Tanzania. This is one important task that has to be done.

Israel has been investing a lot in these youngsters while in Israel. We are very confident that they will increase the chances of economic growth and give answers to the challenges of food security. Of course, we do also hope they will continue to use Israel's technology in farms here in Tanzania which is the only natural way to continue cooperation with Israel.

Another area to put more effort and energy is the area of tourism.

This is one of the key areas of enhancing cooperation between our two countries. I think the start of direct flights from Tel Aviv to Kia works very well to enhance tourism and our cooperation in general.

But this work well not only in boosting tourism, but also in having more business people coming here in Tanzania and more political engagements. More and more Israelis are discovering Tanzania and its beautiful tourist sites; whether along the shores, or unique safari destinations or the Ngorongoro Crater.

We are very well known for our historical sites but beyond them there are other good things to view in Israel--to enjoy the seashells, to enjoy the friendly people and find their ancestors. So, this is one thing we are going to encourage. We have seen the number of tourists growing in both sides and we want to see much more.

Healthcare is also one important field of our cooperation. We already have cooperation with hospitals in Dodoma and here in Dar es Salaam.

In Dodoma, for example, we were involved in the establishment of an emergency care unit at Benjamin Mkapa Hospital. We are also happy to cooperate with local doctors and nurses in capacity building.

This is one thing we are going to do. Here in Dar es Salaam we have cooperation with heart surgeons. Heart surgeons from Israel come to Dar es Salaam to work with their Tanzanian counterparts. There is a great work that is being done by an NGO called Save the Child Heart that has been organizing the coming of Israel doctors to conduct heart surgeries here in Tanzania.

There are much more areas but I think the bottom line is that we have enjoyed a very good relationship but the potential is still there to do more. So, I am here to work very hard with the government of Tanzania, with the people of Tanzania to take our relationship to the next level.

Q: So, what business opportunities are there in Israel for Tanzanians to grab?

A: All the areas of business opportunities that I have mentioned are open opportunities for Tanzanians to do in Israel too.

We want to see more businesspeople from Tanzania arrive in Israel. Looking at potential investment in Israel, the area of infrastructure and food processing are potentials that businesspeople from both countries can grab and cooperate.

Q: Your predecessor was quoted by this paper as saying that business relationship between Israel and Tanzania is very much limited Israel has no much it can export to Tanzania and vice versa. What's your take on this?

Q: Well, I can't talk on behalf of the Tanzanian government or what Tanzania should expect from Israel but I am sure there are areas of business we need to discover.

When we talk about business, it is not all about the physical goods or services. We can do much more business in the area of culture and tourism. On the other side, what Israel could export from here is really continued cooperation in technology in the manner that we create solutions and environment that benefits both sides.

Q: Tanzania and the East African region have increasingly faced threats and terrorism threats in recent years. What Tanzania and the region learn from your country in addressing these problems?

A: Unfortunately, Israel, from its very first days of its establishment, had to encounter military threats from its immediate neighbours who at that time did not want to accept us as an independent state.

Terrorism is a problem Israel had to face even before independence. It is an ongoing threat. And also attempts by terrorist organisations here in Africa to try and neutralize countries so that they penetrate easily in order to achieve their own goals.

What are the lesson? First, do not disregard the threats. Be aware. Secondly, address them as soon as possible whatever small they are.

Don't let them go and thirdly make sure you build your own capabilities to address those threats. As much as I cherish it, international cooperation is crucial in fighting terrorism. I think at the end of the day every country has to build its own capacity to address these types of challenges on its own.

Q: But there is a feeling that Israeli's support for African countries in fighting terrorism has on the other side won more enemies of those countries, particularly those who hate Israel. How far Is this true?

A: On the contrary, I think there is only one way to fight terrorism; that is to show a united front. Those who do so will always find an excuse; they could say because you are related to Israel, they could say because you are a Christian, they could say because you are a Muslim! Good excuses are always there for terrorists to act. We should ignore the voices that try to convince us not to cooperate because of the fear of our own security.

I think the only way to fight terrorism is to face challenges by showing solidarity and confronting it. Terrorists do not respect the sovereignties of other countries, they do not shy from finding those excuses. We should not accept that and we should continue to fight for our own peace and security.

Q: US President Donald Trump has released his Middle East peace plan that lay out the foundation for a solution to end the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Palestinians have rejected the plan for being heavily weighted in favour of Israel. As things turn out now, what options do you think Israel has in ensuring a lasting solution to the conflict?

A: First and foremost it is in the interest of Israelis and Palestinians to reach an agreement. It is our interest, they are our immediate neighbours.

I think terrorist organisations within the Palestinian community are hijacking the agenda. They are not ashamed of taking their own people as a shield when they fight against Israel rather than investing resources in improving their lives.

As long as they continue to threaten Israel by terrorist actions, and as long as they do not have control over their territories, they wouldn't be able to reach a peace agreement.

What is also important is to find partners who understand that in order to reach an agreement with Israel, compromise is necessary and the culture of hate is no longer there, and that terrorism is no longer a tool in reaching a peace solution. We attach weight and importance in negotiations to the United States. We have always been supportive of the course of finding peace in this region.

We also welcome the efforts being made by the United States President, but at the end of the day we will have to reach an agreement together with the Palestinians, and they will have to, as I said earlier, to refrain from the culture of hate, terrorism and to understand that only by reaching a compromise with Israel was necessary and the culture of hate and terrorism is no longer a tool to secure peace with Israel.

We have been through a very long way. Today you see more and more Israel and Arab countries cooperating, sometimes it is upfront and known and sometimes it's behind the scenes.

And the reason to see more cooperation is because there is recognition that the stability of Middle East is not all about the Israel versus Arab affair.

That's not the issue. Between those countries that are moderate, that seek peace against those countries that continue to use terrorism as a tool and undermine the stability of other states in order to advance their own interests, creating extreme religious regimes in the region. If you analyse Middle East, you will find that in the past we used to divide Israel versus Arab countries. This is no longer the case.

The case today is truly between those governments that seek peace and stability in the Middle East and those which do not care about utilizing other countries to disrespect other countries' sovereignty just to advance their own interests.

RWANDA :

Rwanda confirms four more coronavirus cases

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/1840340-5492560-agv9jf/index.html>

Monday March 16 2020

Ugandan among five coronavirus cases in Rwanda

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ugandan-five-coronavirus-cases-Rwanda-Indian-citizen/688334-5492540-ykhl3vz/index.html>

Monday March 16 2020

By Monitor Reporter

A 22-year-old Ugandan man who arrived in Rwanda from London on March 15, is among the four additional coronavirus cases who were Sunday identified through positive tests in Rwanda.

This brings the number of people who have tested positive with the virus in Rwanda to five.

Rwanda on Saturday confirmed its first case of the new coronavirus -- an Indian citizen who arrived last week from Mumbai, India.

According to a Sunday statement by the country's Health Ministry, all the patients are currently under treatment in stable condition and isolated from other patients.

Other patients include two Rwandan brothers aged 34 and 36 who arrived from Fiji via USA and Qatar on March 8.

A 30-year old Rwandan man, a resident of Kigali who has no recent travel history also tested positive.

RDC CONGO :

Le Coronavirus s'invite à l'ouverture de la session parlementaire au Sénat : Thambwe Mwamba appelle le Dr Muyembe à se préparer à la riposte

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e6f6e0b68569800044a1fce/>

Kinshasa 16-03-2020 Politique - Le président du Sénat a, dans son allocution d'ouverture de la session de mars dans son institution, appelé à la mobilisation contre la propagation du Coronavirus en RDC.

Le Coronavirus s'est invitée ce lundi 16 mars dans le discours d'ouverture de la session parlementaire du même mois au cours duquel le président du Sénat, Alexis Thambwe Mwamba a appelé le directeur de l'Institut National de Recherche Biomédical (INRB) et secrétaire technique du Comité multisectoriel de la riposte à l'épidémie à la maladie à virus Ebola (CMRE), le Dr Muyembe à une préparation rigoureuse contre cette maladie.

Le président du Sénat a notamment relevé : « Nous avons certes vaincu l'épidémie d'Ebola pour l'instant et rendons hommage au gouvernement et particulièrement au service de santé et aux équipes de docteur Muyembe que je salue.

Nous lui demandons encore une préparation rigoureuse sortie de son expérience qui limiterait l'arrivée de ce virus sur notre territoire ».

Pour Thambwe Mwamba, « La dangerosité de ce virus devrait nous pousser à réfléchir sérieusement, sur certains de nos habitudes comme à titre d'exemple les embrassades et les accolades ». Boni Tsala

Tshisekedi et Kabila pensent dépolitiser le portefeuille de l'Etat

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e6b9a04e961eb000419e158/>

Kinshasa 13-03-2020 Politique - Le chef de l'Etat, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi et le sénateur à vie, Joseph Kabila, respectivement autorités morales du CACH et FCC, ont opté pour la dépolitisation du portefeuille de l'Etat. Les deux personnalités qui se sont retrouvées, hier jeudi à la N'sele, privilégient désormais les compétences.

Dans un compte-rendu lu par Vital Kamerhe, directeur de cabinet du président de la République, l'ancien président Joseph Kabila et son successeur Félix Tshisekedi ont abordé la question de nomination des mandataires à la tête des entreprises du portefeuille de l'Etat. Cette décision implique que les nominations en vue des mandataires publics soient la conséquence d'une sélection des compétences dans le respect du principe de l'égalité de chances et l'apolitisme consacré par la Constitution de la République. « Les deux personnalités ont, enfin, dans le cadre de l'évaluation de l'accord, abordé la question de nomination des mandataires à la tête des entreprises du portefeuille de l'Etat », affirme Vital Kamerhe.

A en croire ce compte-rendu, les deux personnalités sont convenues de « privilégier les critères de compétence et de moralité à celui de l'appartenance politique pour éviter la politisation du Portefeuille de l'Etat, outil important pour la bonne gouvernance du pays », a indiqué le directeur de cabinet du chef de l'Etat, Vital Kamerhe.

Les deux personnalités clé de la coalition FCC-CACH étaient réunies, jeudi 12 mars 2020, dans le domaine présidentiel de la N'sele. Depuis que les discussions ont commencé entre les délégués des deux familles politiques en coalition pour « le partage des responsabilités » au sein des entreprises publiques, des voix n'ont cessé de décrier cette pratique illégale privilégiant les arrangements et clientélisme politiques en vue de la nomination des nouveaux mandataires. L'église catholique notamment avait décrié cette pratique.

Par ailleurs, Félix Tshisekedi et Joseph Kabila ont aussi reconnu le malaise qui existe au sein de la coalition FCC-CACH. Ils ont également évoqué le cas de la mort brutale du général-major Delphin Kahimbi, chef d'Etat-major adjoint des FARDC chargé du renseignement militaire. Ils disent attendre la conclusion des enquêtes sur ce décès intervenu le 28 février 2020. Dido Nsapu

RDC : l'ancien chef de guerre Thomas Lubanga libéré de prison après avoir purgé une peine de 14 ans

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-16 à 07:10

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/16/c_138881128.htm

KINSHASA, 15 mars (Xinhua) -- Thomas Lubanga, l'un des anciens chefs de guerre de l'Ituri, dans le nord-est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), a été libéré dimanche de la prison centrale de Makala à Kinshasa, après avoir purgé une peine de 14 ans.

L'ancien chef de milice congolais - l'Union des patriotes congolais (UPS) - a été reconnu coupable, par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), de crimes de guerre pour avoir enrôlé et utilisé d'enfants-soldats durant la guerre civile en Ituri entre 2002 et 2003. Il a été arrêté et incarcéré le 19 mars 2005, au centre pénitentiaire de Kinshasa, avant d'être transféré en mars 2006 à la CPI.

A La Haye, aux Pays-Bas, le procès de Thomas Lubanga s'est ouvert le 26 janvier 2009 et s'est achevé le 26 août 2011. Il a été condamné à 14 ans d'emprisonnement par la CPI le 14 mars 2012.

Le 19 décembre 2015, cet ancien chef de guerre congolais a été transféré à Kinshasa pour purger le reste de sa peine dans la prison centrale de Makala.

A peine sorti de la prison ce dimanche, il s'est rendu à une messe célébrée à l'occasion de sa libération à Kinshasa.

Les affrontements interethniques et les violences entre milices pour prendre le contrôle de l'Ituri, riche en mines d'or et d'autres ressources naturelles, ont provoqué la mort de plus de 60.000 personnes depuis 1999, selon des organisations humanitaires et les autorités de la RDC.

Le gouvernement provincial du Nord-Kivu décide de reconduire au Sud-Kivu les 1400 Burundais entrés illégalement en RDC

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e6f599f68569800044a1fc7/>

Kinshasa 16-03-2020 Politique - Les autorités provinciales du Nord-Kivu viennent d'annoncer la mesure de ramener dans le Sud-Kivu voisin le groupe de Burundais entrés illégalement en RDC présents sur leur territoire.

Les 1400 burundais entrés illégalement en RDC présents dans le Nord- Kivu seront retournés dans le Sud Kivu.

Ainsi en a décidé le comité provincial de sécurité du Nord-Kivu. C'est le gouverneur de cette province, Carly Nzanzu Kasivita qui a lui-même annoncé cette décision le samedi 14 janvier dernier.

Il a notamment déclaré : « Nous allons trouver, très vite, la réponse des autorités de Kinshasa (...). Nous voudrions disponibiliser même deux bateaux pour les prendre. Les ramener vers la province du Sud-Kivu, parce que c'est par là où ils sont entrés. Nous ne souhaiterions pas garder 1 400 Burundais en situation irrégulière dans la province du Nord-Kivu ».

Et d'indiquer : « Mais, nous sommes un Etat qui a ratifié les lois internationales, nous sommes un Etat qui a une diplomatie. Et nous sommes en discussion avec toutes les autorités pour que les choses se passent selon la norme. Pour l'instant, vous constatez qu'il y a des gens qui ont séquestré des enfants, les ont exposés à des intempéries et peut-être même sans avoir mangé depuis le matin, nous allons envisager comment les assister, donner à manger ».

Le gouverneur de la province qui avait échangé avec eux, en compagnie des autorités provinciales sécuritaires est contre cette démarche de ces hommes.

« Non seulement elle n'a pas respecté la norme en matière de demande d'asile, elle crée une psychose dans la ville de Goma », soutient-il.

Ce groupe de sujets burundais en situation irrégulière sont confinés dans une parcelle privée du quartier Lac vert dans la périphérie sud de la ville de Goma.

Ces Burundais, constitués en majorité des femmes et enfants de bas âge sont arrivés par petits groupes, selon le service de la presse présidentielle.

La population a été appelée à la vigilance et ce campement reste cerné par les services de sécurité. Ils ont expliqué que certains de leurs compatriotes seraient éparpillés dans la ville de Goma.

La dernière vague de plus d'un millier de personnes aperçue vers 1 h 00 du matin dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi, indique la même source, avait attiré l'attention des habitants des quartiers périphériques de la ville de Goma, qui avaient d'emblée alerté les autorités compétentes.

Les agents de la Direction générale de migration (DGM) qui ont procédé à leur identification depuis les premières heures de la journée de samedi, ont déclaré que tous sont porteurs des laissez-passer CPGL ayant expiré il y a 1 an, donc en situation irrégulière, indique l'Acp.

Par ailleurs, certains d'entre eux disent se réfugier en RDC et particulièrement au Nord-Kivu pour des raisons politiques. Ils fuient l'insécurité politique. Tandis que d'autres disent se réfugier à Goma pour un but social et religieux. Ils seraient en pèlerinage.

Toutefois, ces derniers portent des insignes religieux catholiques chapelets et autres pagnes frappés d'effigie de la Vierge Marie mais ils organisent des cultes religieux aux contours flous, selon la même source.

Les habitants du quartier Lac vert ont manifesté devant l'enclos où ils sont confinés pour exiger leur expulsion immédiate. Il convient de noter que c'est depuis plus de 3 mois qu'un afflux des sujets burundais s'observe dans la ville de Goma et dans le territoire de Nyiragongo. Ces derniers viennent s'ajouter à plus d'un millier d'autres qui se sont d'ores et déjà dispersés dans la ville. Boni Tsala

RDC-Israël : signature de l'acte de réaffirmation des liens entre les deux peuples

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5e6f5cc268569800044a1fc9/>

Kinshasa 16-03-2020 Politique - La réaffirmation des liens séculaires d'amitié et de fraternité entre les chrétiens de la R. D Congo et d'Israël a été scellée à l'issue de la tenue, dimanche 15 mars 2020, d'un culte œcuménique au Fleuve Congo Hôtel à Kinshasa.

Le Chef de l'Etat, Félix Tshisekedi Tshilombo, a pris part dimanche 15 mars 2020 au Fleuve Congo Hôtel, à un culte œcuménique de réaffirmation des liens d'amitié et de fraternité entre les chrétiens de la RDC et d'Israël.

Organisé sous-haut patronage du Président de la République, ce culte a connu la présence de Albert Guigui, attaché au Consistoire central israélite de Belgique depuis 1980 et grand-rabbin de Bruxelles depuis 1987.

Il y a eu également la présence des protestants et quelques fidèles venus pour sceller ce que l'on a qualifié de réconciliation entre les chrétiens congolais et les Juifs.

Trois messages tirés des livres de Genèse, de 2 chroniques et d'Esaië ont été lus par les pasteurs Muinda, Daniel Kawata et Rabbijn juif afin d'expliquer la raison de cette cérémonie inédite.

Pour sa part, le révérend Jaques Kangudia a eu à circonscrire ladite cérémonie par une courte prière qui a mis en exergue « Le maître des temps et des circonstances » Lui qui a permis que cet événement exceptionnel aille lieu en ce jour dominical du 15 mars 2020.

Pour marquer cet événement, des cadeaux ont été remis à la représentation juive et par les initiateurs de ce culte notamment un palmier qui sera planté en Israël au nom de peuple congolais. Profitant de l'occasion, Albert Guigui a remis au Président de la République, Félix Tshisekedi une bible d'Ancien Testament en hébreux venue d'Israël et le symbole codifié juif ont été donnés. « Cette bible vous est offerte en hommage et admiration pour votre action au quotidien. Puisse la parole du seigneur vous guide dans votre voie. Que le Tout Puissant bénisse l'œuvre de vos mains et couronne vos efforts de succès », a-t-il déclaré, en poursuivant, « Que l'Eternel vous garde de tout le mal, que le nom du Dieu de Jacob vous protège. Puisse t-il vous accorder ce que votre cœur désire et accomplir tous vos vœux.

Que soient heureux ceux qui vous aiment. Que la paix règne dans vos deux peuples. Aux noms de mes frères et de mes amis, je vous offre tous mes vœux de bonheur. Au nom de la maison de l'Eternel, je vous souhaite paix et prospérité à vous Monsieur le Président, à vos familles, à ce beau pays et à tout son peuple (...), a-t-il renchérit.

Il sied de rappeler que ce culte est la concrétisation du vœu de Félix Tshisekedi, exprimé le 1er mars dernier à Washington DC, à la conférence de l'American Israël Public Affairs Committe (AIPAC), d'approfondir les rapports avec Israël.

C'est à cet occasion, que le chef de l'Etat, Félix Tshisekedi avait annoncé l'arrivée à Kinshasa de Albert Guigui pour « le renforcement des liens » entre la RDC et Israël sur « le plan spirituel » Sachiez par ailleurs que, Félix Tshisekedi prépare une visite en Israël pour cette année. Gisèle Mbuyi

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

SOUTH AFRICA :

Coronavirus Outbreak

South Africa: 'National State of Disaster,' President Says

By VOA News / March 16, 2020 03:51 AM

<https://www.voanews.com/science-health/coronavirus-outbreak/south-africa-national-state-disaster-president-says>

South Africa has declared a “national state of disaster” because of COVID-19.

“Given the scale and the speed at which the virus is spreading, it is now clear that no country is immune from the disease or will be spared its severe impact,” South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Sunday.

South Africa has 61 cases of the disease. Ramphosa said 50 of the cases were contracted by people who had traveled abroad, but the rest were contracted within South Africa. “It is concerning that we are now dealing with internal transmission of the virus,” he said.

The president said the disease could have a “potentially lasting” effect on South Africa.

In an effort to limit South Africans’ exposure to the coronavirus, South Africa has imposed a travel ban on foreign nationals from high-risk countries. Those countries include Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and China. The ban will begin March 18, the president said.

In addition, South Africa closed 35 of its 53 land ports Monday.

South African coronavirus cases rise to 62

<https://www.capetownetc.com/news/south-african-coronavirus-cases-rise-to-62/>

Just as the COVID-19 outbreak has been declared a national state of emergency in terms of the Disaster Management Act, the National Department of Health has confirmed 62 cases in South Africa as of Monday, March 16.

Along with these confirmed cases the Department says there are a number of additional cases that are yet to be verified.

The Department of Health has also confirmed that two cases of local transmission have been presented to the NICD and that they are currently under investigation. Processes are underway to conduct tests and confirm the direct contacts of the patient. One of the cases took place in KwaZulu-Natal where a 3-year-old learner contracted the virus from her mother.

Details of the new confirmed cases are as follow:

Gauteng

- A 33-year-old male who travelled to Spain
- A 68-year-old female who travelled to Austria
- A 30-year-old male who travelled to India
- A 43-year-old female who travelled to the US
- A 50-year-old male who travelled to France and the UK
- A 37-year-old male who travelled to the US, Dubai and Mexico

Western Cape

- A 39-year-old male who travelled to Canada
- A 15-year-old male who travelled to France

Limpopo

- A 29-year-old male who travelled to France and Netherlands

Mpumalanga

- A 55-year-old male who travelled to France

BOTSWANA :

Botswana : le gouvernement et la fédération de football en symbiose contre le Covid-19

Par Serge Ouitona - 14 mars 2020

<https://www.afrik.com/botswana-le-gouvernement-et-la-federation-de-football-en-symbiose-contre-le-covid-19>

Depuis que la pandémie du Covid-19 se répand dans le monde, plusieurs pays prennent toute une batterie de mesures pour s'en prémunir. Au Botswana, la fédération de football et le gouvernement travaillent de concert pour garder le pays protégé de la pandémie.

Le Botswana fait partie des pays n'ayant enregistré, à ce jour, aucun cas de personne infectée par le nouveau Coronavirus. Pour maintenir cet état et éviter tout risque de contamination, les autorités botswanaises ont pris plusieurs mesures. Gouvernement et fédération de football font front commun contre le mal. Ainsi la fédération botswanaise de football a décidé, au cours de cette semaine, de se ranger sur la même ligne que la Premier League ou encore la Ligue 1, en mettant fin aux poignées de mains qui se donnaient généralement avant l'entame des matchs de football.

De son côté, le gouvernement a tout simplement annulé le voyage de l'équipe féminine U-17 qui devrait croiser les crampons avec son homologue du Maroc, le 14 mars. « Le Botswana n'honorera pas le rendez-vous. Nous avons constaté que la propagation du virus est désormais endémique et se propage à une vitesse alarmante, c'est pourquoi le gouvernement a pris la décision de ne pas envoyer l'équipe au Maroc », a déclaré Tumiso Rakgare, ministre botswanais de l'Emancipation de la jeunesse, du Sport et du Développement culturel.

L'inquiétude s'est, en effet, accrue dans le pays après l'annonce des différents cas de décès liés au Coronavirus. La décision d'annuler la participation des sportifs aux compétitions à l'étranger est donc venue s'ajouter à une mesure qui concernait déjà les fonctionnaires botswanais. « Cette décision ne concerne pas uniquement le sport. Même les autres fonctionnaires du gouvernement ne sont pas censés voyager à l'extérieur du pays », a laissé entendre le ministre.

Si les voyages officiels sont interdits, les frontières avec l'Afrique du Sud, pays de plus en plus touché par le Covid-19, ne sont, elles pas fermées, et pour cause. « Le Botswana est un importateur net de produits. Vous pouvez imaginer si nous fermons nos frontières. Nous ne sommes pas autosuffisants dans un certain nombre de domaines. Donc, tout en étant conscients que nous ne voulons pas que le virus entre dans notre pays, nous devons aussi être conscients du fait que nous dépendons d'autres pays pour faire des affaires », a confié Lemogang Kwape, ministre botswanais de la Santé et du Bien-être, tout en appelant la population à ne pas céder à la panique.

ZIMBABWE :

La Chine va moderniser la principale installation de traitement du coronavirus du Zimbabwe
French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-06 à 04:18
http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/06/c_138847489.htm

HARARE, 5 mars (Xinhua) -- Le gouvernement chinois s'est engagé jeudi à moderniser le principal centre d'isolement du Zimbabwe destiné aux patients suspectés d'être atteints du coronavirus, situé dans la capitale Harare.

En outre, le gouvernement zimbabwéen a annoncé qu'il intensifiait sa préparation après que l'Afrique du Sud voisine a confirmé jeudi son premier cas, le premier de ce type en Afrique australe.

S'adressant aux médias après avoir visité l'hôpital Wilkins de Harare, qui a été désigné pour traiter le virus, l'ambassadeur de Chine au Zimbabwe, Guo Shaochun, a déclaré que la Chine soutiendra le Zimbabwe et d'autres pays africains dans leur lutte contre le coronavirus, qui a été signalé à ce jour dans sept pays africains.

"Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a pas de cas confirmé de coronavirus au Zimbabwe et ce n'est pas parce que nous avons de la chance. C'est le résultat de la coopération entre la Chine et le Zimbabwe. Nous allons aider le gouvernement du Zimbabwe à adopter les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher la propagation du virus".

"Cet après-midi, j'ai visité l'hôpital Wilkins et j'ai maintenant une idée approximative de l'installation. La Chine souhaite aider les pays africains en particulier à lutter contre le coronavirus", a déclaré M. Guo.

M. Guo a indiqué que le gouvernement chinois fournira des fonds et du matériel pour moderniser l'hôpital Wilkins afin qu'il puisse offrir de meilleures conditions aux patients suspectés d'être atteints du coronavirus.

De son côté, le ministre zimbabwéen de la Santé, Obadiah Moyo, a remercié la Chine pour son geste de bonté, affirmant que non seulement cela renforcerait la capacité du pays à lutter contre le virus, mais que cela assurerait également un environnement propre et propice au personnel médical et aux patients, et qui répond aux exigences de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé.

Le centre a jusqu'à présent traité deux cas de coronavirus présumés depuis sa création en janvier.

M. Moyo a déclaré qu'après la détection du virus en Afrique du Sud, le Zimbabwe devait intensifier son état de préparation et continuer à renforcer ses mécanismes de réponse, notamment en rendant toutes ses frontières et points d'entrée infaillibles.

"Il est vraiment effrayant qu'il (le coronavirus) soit proche. Nous devons être prêts", a-t-il dit.

Parallèlement, le ministère britannique du Développement international (DFID) a fait don jeudi à l'hôpital Wilkins d'équipements de protection contre le coronavirus d'une valeur d'environ 100 000 livres sterling (129 390 dollars).

Virus 'god's punishment' of west, says Zimbabwe minister

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/World/Virus-god-punishment-west-Zimbabwe-minister-Muchinguri/688340-5491954-4rv7jd/index.html>

Sunday March 15 2020

By AFP

Zimbabwe's defence minister has called the coronavirus pandemic a "punishment" of the US and Europe for imposing sanctions against members of the ruling regime over human rights abuses. Coronavirus has infected more than 150,000 people worldwide and killed almost 6,000 since it was first detected in China last December.

"Coronavirus is the work of god punishing countries who imposed sanctions on us," said Zimbabwe's defence minister Oppah Muchinguri on Saturday, speaking at a rally in the northern town of Chinhoyi.

"They are now staying indoors. Their economies are screaming just like they did to our economy." The United States and the European Union first imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe during the despotic rule of the country's late ex-president Robert Mugabe, ousted by the military in November 2017.

The measures were aimed at high-ranking officials and government institutions, including travel bans on Mugabe and his inner circle.

ZAMBIA :

President Lungu calls for prayers amid coronavirus

16 March 2020 07:01

<https://www.zambiawatchdog.com/president-lungu-calls-for-prayers-amid-coronavirus/>

President Edgar Lungu has urged Zambians to be prayerful amidst the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

President Lungu says government is committed to bringing health care facilities closer to the people but urges Zambians to take preventive measures against the disease.

President Lungu has also emphasized that anyone with the symptoms of fever or cough should seek medical help immediately but also isolate themselves until medical help is rendered.

President Lungu said this during the disjunction ceremony for Reverend Daniel Daka at Reformed Church in Zambia Kamwala congregation in Lusaka.

Should Zambian ConCourt judges be recalled for reasons that they are not constitutionally qualified?

By Dr. Munyonzwe Hamalengwa on March 16, 2020

Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, the father of the concept of “Checks and Balances” and “Separation of Powers” once stated that “No tyranny is more cruel than that which is practised in the shadow of the law and with the trappings of justice: that is, one would drown the unfortunate by the very plank by which he would hope to be saved”.

Is this the case in Zambia where you hope for judicial salvation only to be kicked in the groin because the judiciary is not there for the purpose for which it was installed? That those appointed to sit in judgment are not qualified and must be recalled. This is the subject matter of this column: should our ConCourt judges be recalled for the reason of being constitutionally unqualified?

A law lecturer citing our constitution Article 118(1) recently posited thus: “The Judicial authority of the Republic derives from the people of Zambia and shall be exercised in a just manner and such exercise shall promote accountability”. A former magistrate in Zambia responded this way: “That is the Legal fiction. In reality it derives from the political party in power. ...I don’t believe in the practical reality of that legal fiction. In fact, the judiciary is only answerable to themselves and the politicians as opposed to the people”. The former magistrate excited me to no end when he concluded, “I have radical views on making the judiciary operate by the rule of law”. The law lecturer responded, “I wonder why we adopt provisions that we have no intention of respecting. Perhaps the people are to blame for not taking back this power that ‘they have given themselves”.

The Law Lecturer is not me. I have not talked to the former magistrate whom I don’t know.

This article discusses how the people can possibly take back the power that they gave themselves through the judiciary. But since Zambians have never taken back this power, I can only discuss this by looking at how other countries have tried to take back this power, to make judges accountable to the people who gave them power and on whose behalf they are supposed to exercise that power. I will go about it the long way first by looking at how we the people never had or now have the power to give to the judiciary to account to us. The power was given by us or those who drafted the constitution, to the President to nominate and appoint the judiciary. The current constitution gives so much power to the executive to do almost anything and whatever he wants and the President can also do that through the legislature which he controls. The President controls both the legislature and the judiciary. Through current Bill 10, the President even wants further and more powers than he already has.

How we appoint our judiciary in Zambia is so different from how the judiciary is appointed in the US, UK, Canada, Kenya and South Africa. There is a measure of people-input in judicial appointments in those and other countries. In Zambia, people have no or little in-put in drafting and approving the constitution either. Examine how the 2016 amended Zebra-stripped constitution came about in Zambia and how Bill 10 is being bludgeoned through the resisting throats of Zambians and compare how the Kenyans and South Africans came about their current constitutions and how their judiciaries are appointed, there is a world of difference. Theirs are people-driven and ours is not but executive-driven.

Our President literally controls both the legislature through his majority in Parliament and the Judiciary through the power of appointment. The innovation of checks and balances and separation of powers that de Montesquieu fostered in constitutional democracy is currently foreign in Zambia. That is the fiction the former magistrate is referring to: it is fictional to claim that the people gave the judiciary powers to exercise on behalf of the people. There is no such thing according to the magistrate who states that the judiciary is only accountable to itself and to the political party in power and the appointing authority being the President. It is fictional to believe that in Zambia there is Separation of Powers and that there are Checks and Balances. I am submitting that in Zambia, it is more like a Pyramid of Power with the Executive controlling the other two branches and the other two branches never fight back. In the US, sometimes the Legislature fights back and the judiciary has a history of fighting back. In Zambia, the inherited colonial judiciary fought back initially and one Chief Justice even resigned. That was the end of judicial resistance since. In South Africa, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng fought back by demanding to see President Zuma to reign-in his cadres who were volubly criticizing the judiciary for doing its job. In Kenya, Chief Justice Maranga fought back when President Uhuru Kenyatta threatened the judiciary after it nullified the fraudulent election of August 2017. In Malawi recently, the judiciary fought back by annulling another African fraudulent election. The judiciary fought back by openly stating that some politicians offered bribes to them to rule in their favour. In Old Burma recently, a judge walked off the bench in resignation after ruling against the repressive government. In Canada, then Chief Justice Beverley MacLaghlin publicly answered back at Prime Minister Harper when he tried to blame her for the crises that developed after his candidate for appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada was rejected by the Supreme Court of Canada.

These and other examples demonstrate the spirit in which de Montesquieu proposed the concepts of checks and balances and separation of powers to be operative. It is a fiction in the modern world to state that the judiciary cannot speak for itself. I have just given provable and recent examples where the judiciary has spoken for itself. In Zambia, it is because of the existence not of separation of powers but the Pyramid of Power that the judiciary cannot speak for itself. President Lungu warned the judiciary at an airport in Solwezi not to be adventurous by following the example of the independence of the judiciary of Kenya that had nullified a fraudulent election in the exercise of its powers. The Zambian judiciary never answered back at this attack on the concepts of Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances.

Let's go back to the former Zambian magistrate who called the stipulation in Article 118 of our constitution as legal fiction. Even President Trump has come to the aid of the magistrate by pointing out when he lost a case that the decision was made "by an Obama Judge" earning him the rebuke of the SCOTUS Chief Justice John Roberts who retorted that there is, "no Obama Judge, or Bush Judge or Trump Judge but simply judges of the United States of America trying to do their best to bring about justice..." This is yet another example where the judiciary speaks for itself and answers back rather than through their decisions or through the equivalent of the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ). Of course, the judiciary in answering back directly does not preclude LAZ or equivalent or their decisions speaking on their behalf. In the instant case of Trump, he had insisted in a crude but deeply troubling truthful projection that any court case losses he endures would be corrected by the Supreme Court of the United States where he has already placed by appointment two extreme conservative justices now making the majority of the complement of judges. Like in Zambia's Constitutional Court where the President has not lost any meaningful case, so far, Trump has not lost any case in which his interests were directly implicated in the Supreme Court of the United States. But as I wrote in the *Zambian Daily Mail* years ago in 2017, there is always "Judicial Rebellion Against Trump" in the lower courts until so far in the Supreme Court. But as I also have written severally elsewhere, there is more unpredictability in the SCOTUS than in the ConCourt of Zambia where one can predict with almost absolute certainty how the Court will rule. There is no justice when the judiciary becomes predictable. In the US, the Chief Justice or another Justice usually steps up to the plate to uphold national values of justice rather than the political embellishments of Trump or the party in power as the case may be. The point here is that Trump has

expressed the view that the judiciary is accountable to him as the appointing authority. Trump has demanded that two female justices who have issued decisions and statements against him must recuse themselves any time an issue implicating him comes before the SCOTUS. He has accused these two justices of having incurable reasonable apprehension of bias against him. He wants the judiciary to be totally beholden to him and should not exercise judicial independence and judicial autonomy. He is so different from almost all presidents that have graced that magnificent office. He is behaving like most African Presidents but one.

Enter Nelson Mandela. At the beginning of his Presidency, he received a subpoena to attend Court in a case in which he had been sued on an issue of national importance. He was urged to ignore the subpoena by his party and many people. Mandela obeyed the subpoena and he lost the case. He went on to obey the court decision. He later wrote in his book, "Dare Not Linger: The Presidential Years" why he obeyed both the subpoena and the court decision: "I have to be bossy and establish that I obeyed the subpoena out of strength and not weakness. These two examples clearly demonstrated that in the new South Africa there is nobody, not even the President, above the law, that the rule of law generally, and in particular the independence of the judiciary should be respected".

Can you expect Presidents Magufuli of Tanzania, President Lungu of Zambia, and President Museveni of Uganda or President Kagame of Rwanda to obey a court subpoena, let alone a court order? Despite Trump's intransigence, he obeys court orders albeit huffing and puffing. In Zambia the ministers have not paid back the monies ordered by the Constitutional Court four years ago in 2016 and they all point to the President for their position in not paying and the President has not ordered them to pay back. The government also ignored the order of the Tax Appeals Tribunal to hand over back The Post newspaper to the Post in 2016.

In Kenya, President Kenyatta has disobeyed over ten judicial orders in favour of Kenyan politician and lawyer Miguna Miguna. In the US, there are Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers pursuant to the spirit of de Montesquieu. In Africa from the examples of Zambia and Kenya, there is legal fiction in these areas where leaders disobey court orders. American, Canadian and British leaders fear being cited for contempt of court but not in Africa where no court dares cite a President or Minister for contempt of court.

Zambia falls further down on the totem pole in relation to the judiciary not fighting back against political power or those accusing some branches of the judiciary of being unqualified to be judges or of being incompetent. John Sangwa, SC has openly stated that President Lungu has never answered his accusation that he appointed unqualified judges to the Constitutional Court, neither has the Court refuted his claim that the judges of that court are unqualified. He stands unrefuted. His position remains unchallenged. We have seen that it can no longer be stated that the judiciary cannot speak for itself. The judiciary does speak for itself in the US, Canada, UK, Kenya, South Africa, Old Burma and elsewhere. While LAZ can speak and defend the judiciary, the judiciary can also speak and defend itself.

The unrefuted accusation by Sangwa SC cannot be wished away by merely stating that accusing the judiciary of such will bring the reputation of the judiciary into disrepute. What kind of thinking is that? The reputation of the impugned branch of the judiciary would be in disrepute if the accusation is not refuted. Logic abhors circular thinking.

As a result of the unrefuted accusation which stands credible until credibly demolished, should our Constitutional Court judges be recalled because they were appointed in disregard of the constitutional requirements of Article 141 of the 2016 constitution as amended? It would help the reader to actually actively read that article. At the time our judges were appointed, did they qualify? If they were, it is the end of this discussion. If they were not qualified as per constitutional requirements, why were they appointed and did the appointing authority knowingly appoint unqualified people and should a President who violates the constitution knowingly be impeached? In a constitutional democracy, the judiciary especially that branch tasked with constitutional interpretation carries more weight in the scales of the balance of power, separation of powers and in the scheme of checks and balances, than in a scheme where there is no constitutional court.

Knowingly appointing unqualified judges in violation of the constitution is a weakening of democracy and destruction of the principle of separation of powers ab initio. It is a presidential power grab from the beginning. Judges appointed in such a scenario must be recalled, especially where there is ample un refuted and un refutable evidence as here deployed by John Sangwa. There is no provision for recalling of judges except through impeachment for discreditable conduct. Sangwa alludes to the fact that the judges accepted these appointments knowing they were not qualified. Is this discreditable conduct. Can that charge be disputed? The President and the ConCourt remain mute. Instead they indirectly criticize the messenger but not the message. In the US, judges in states where judges are elected rather than appointed can be recalled. There are mechanisms for recalling judges. Judges in Zambia are not elected so there is no mechanism to initiate a recalling petition. In South Africa, there was wholesale reorganization and transformation of the judiciary after the defeat of apartheid. That process was possible because of the fundamental transformation and transplantation of a settler colonial state to another character of state and society. Zambia is not in that state. This route of judicial transformation through lustration of the apartheid judiciary and deliberate judicial choices by a totally different regime is not available in Zambia. One avenue of brilliant genial innovation for judicial accountability in South Africa is the twelve-year term of service for judges of the Constitutional Court. That ensures perpetual renewal by supply of new blood. It also prevents atrophy and setting-in of permanent corruption. Zambia does not have term limits for Supreme Court and ConCourt or any other judges. It is life tenure during good behaviour until retirement.

The closest to recalling the judiciary Zambia can get to is the Kenyan one after the fundamental constitutional and judicial reforms of 2010. The process required the vetting of old judges to determine if they were fit and qualified to be reappointed into the judiciary. Those that were found wanting were not redeployed. What made this possible was the new constitution and the new method of appointing the judiciary. This is what will be on the table in future in Zambia: vetting and jettisoning of unqualified judges. Call it a judicial revolution never seen in Zambian history. John Sangwa, SC will be tasked to head this judicial revolution. He is a treasure to Zambian society. Dr. Munyonzwe Hamalengwa is a Law Lecturer and the Author, among other works, of “The Politics of Judicial Diversity and Transformation”.

MALAWI :

Embattled Malawi President Dissolves Cabinet

March 13, 2020, at 3:35 p.m.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-03-13/embattled-malawi-president-dissolves-cabinet>

LILONGWE (Reuters) - Malawi President Peter Mutharika dissolved his cabinet on Friday ahead of a possible presidential election in May.

The Constitutional Court last month annulled Mutharika's victory in the May 2019 presidential election, ordering a re-run within 150 days after opposition parties said there were irregularities in the vote.

Mutharika has appealed the Constitutional Court decision.

In a statement announcing Mutharika's decision to dissolve cabinet, the chief secretary to government said the president would assume all cabinet duties until new ministers were appointed. The statement did not give a reason for the decision.

Local news reports have speculated that Mutharika wants to appoint members of an opposition party, the United Democratic Front (UDF), to his cabinet. Mutharika's party recently entered into an alliance with the UDF.

(Reporting by Frank Phiri; Editing by Alexander Winning and Daniel Wallis)

British national arrested for entering Malawi illegally

Mar 14, 2020 Archangel Nzangaya Top News

<https://malawi24.com/2020/03/14/british-national-arrested-for-entering-malawi-illegally/>

Immigration authorities with assistance from Police in Mwanza have arrested a British national for illegal entry into Malawi.

Confirming the development to Malawi24 was Mwanza border public relations officer, Pasqually Zulu who identified the suspect as Cheryl Ann Dee who got nabbed on Saturday March 14th, 2020. Zulu said Ann Dee, 60, born at Brisbane in Britain admitted to have entered Malawi fraudulently on a motorbike using uncharted routes though she did not mention who helped her to do so.

It is reported that the lady showed authorities at the border her photocopied passport saying she lost the original whilst in South Africa.

Joint investigations by key stakeholders including port healthy officials are underway on the reasons behind her coming to Malawi and also to know the culprits who aided her to enter Malawi illegally.

Officials at the border will also check her health status as a precaution to dealing with the deadly coronavirus.

In a related development, Ms Rose Banda aged 35 from Namalamba village T/Authority Kapichi in Thyolo district has been refused exit to South Africa at Mwanza border on Saturday March 14th. The woman who wanted to board a South Africa bound bus, revealed that the passport wasn't hers but belongs to her niece, Loveness Namusanya.

Meanwhile, authorities at the border have launched investigations on the issue.

Chilima blasts MEC for hiring South African lawyers

<https://malawi24.com/2020/03/16/chilima-blasts-mec-for-hiring-south-african-lawyers/>

Vice President Saulos Chilima has faulted the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) for hiring South African lawyers to represent the commission in the presidential elections appeal case.

Speaking at a UTM rally at Njamba Park in Blantyre on Saturday, Chilima said the K580 million which the commission is paying the lawyers could have been used for social services had MEC hired local lawyers.

“We reject MEC’S decision to hire lawyers from South Africa, this is a waste of taxpayers’ money,” said Chilima.

Last week, MEC chairperson Jane Ansah justified the hiring of the South African lawyers, Mboweni Maluleke Inc Attorneys, saying most senior lawyers are already handling other cases and some who are available refused to represent the commission.

In the elections appeal case, MEC wants the Supreme Court of appeal to overturn a Constitutional Court ruling that nullified the 2019 presidential elections and ordered the commission to hold fresh presidential elections.

The Constitutional Court ruling came after Chilima and Malawi Congress Party leader Lazarus Chakwera challenged the outcome of the 2019 polls over irregularities.

During the rally, Chilima assured his supporters that the Ansah-led MEC commission will be fired.

“The current commissioners will be replaced by new and competent commissioners,” said Chilima. Last month, the Public Appointments Committee of Parliament found that the MEC commissioners were incompetent in their management of the 2019 elections.

The committee advised President Peter Mutharika to fire the commissioners but the president is yet to act on the recommendation.

NAMIBIA :

No Covid-19 cases in Namibia

News - National | 2020-03-12 Page no: 3

<https://www.namibian.com.na/89148/read/No-Covid-19-cases-in-Namibia>

Health minister Kalumbi Shangula (right) alongside health executive director Ben Nangombe (left) during a media briefing in Windhoek on Wednesday. Photo: Henry van Rooi

NDANKI KAHURIKA and ARLANA SHIKONGO

NO CASE of Covid-19 has been confirmed in Namibia yet, as most suspected cases have tested negative for the virus, health minister Kalumbi Shangula has announced.

So far the country has nine tested cases, eight of which tested negative while results are awaited on a suspected case at Onandjokwe State Hospital at Ondangwa.

Shangula said this during a media advisory meeting yesterday morning held in Windhoek at the ministry's head offices.

Between 5 and 11 March, nine suspected cases were recorded at various places around the country. Two cases were recorded at Lüderitz, two at Rehoboth, four in Windhoek and one at Onandjokwe at Ondangwa State Hospital.

There were also false alarms at Oranjemund and Okahandja.

Neighbouring South Africa has so far recorded 13 confirmed cases of Covid-19, all who had been to Europe, which has spiked fears because the country shares borders with Namibia.

Only Egypt, Algeria and Cameroon have reported cases that were locally transmitted.

In a bid to allay fears among the public, Shangula said the country is well prepared, as all 14 regions have participated in the training for Covid-19 preparedness. The training was done with collaborative efforts from other stakeholders for trainers to be deployed to train the health workers, he said.

He said, personal protective equipment was also dispatched to the regions in addition to introducing a toll-free number (0800100100), while the emergency operations centre is ready and operational.

“Namibia continues to benefit from training, jointly organised by Centres for Disease Control Africa and WHO, to help countries in Covid-19 preparedness and response. Two of our doctors are being trained in Zambia on case management,” said Shangula.

The minister said the military field hospital at the airport is also ready and even though it lacks staff, the building will be used to isolate any suspected cases.

Namibia Institute of Pathology acting chief executive officer Dr David Uirab said all the tests for Covid-19 are conducted by the institute and only two of the suspected cases were tested in South Africa because they were sent there privately and not through the state.

Uirab said they already had the basic testing equipment such as that used for testing HIV and TB.

He said additional accessories

were needed to complete a kit that would test for Covid-19.

Because NIP has a footprint in all 14 regions, Uirab said all staff has been trained to handle the specimen when testing and how it should be transported to central labs.

Executive director Ben Nangombe cautioned the public to practise good rigorous hygiene and to seek medical attention when they have a fever and a dry cough. He urged people to wash hands with soap and to use alcohol-based hand sanitisers.

UGANDA :

Museveni, Zewde condemn assassination attempt on Sudan's Prime Minister

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Museveni-Zewde-assassination-attempt-Sudan-Prime-Minister/688334-5490288-2fth8dz/index.html>

Friday March 13 2020

By Monitor Reporter

Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia was on Friday in Uganda on a one-day working visit to President Museveni at State House Entebbe.

Ms Zewde was invited by Mr Museveni, according to a Friday joint statement.

The two Heads of State, according to the statement, exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual interest.

On the Nile Basin, Sahle-Work, Ms Zewde welcomed Uganda's ratification of the Cooperative Framework Agreement. She said that that with Uganda's ratification, an additional two ratifications would facilitate the entry into force of the Agreement.

Ms Zewde briefed Mr Museveni on the negotiations regarding the GERD.

President Museveni reiterated the importance of ensuring the equitable and sustainable use of the River Nile waters.

The two leaders recognised the strategic importance of the Nile for all the Riparian Countries and the livelihood of their peoples and the need to solve any issues among the countries within the framework of African solutions to African problems.

Gen Tumukunde arrest: His lawyer speaks out

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Gen-Tumukunde-arrest--His-lawyer-speaks-out/688334-5489298-vfbk75z/index.html>

Friday March 13 2020

By RITAH KEMIGISA

The lawyer of the presidential aspirant Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde has questioned the charges that government has preferred against his client.

According to police, Gen Tumukunde faces treason charges following the utterances he made in a series of radio and television interviews where he is alleged to have called on the support of a neighbouring country to support him in removing the current leadership with or without the ballot.

His lawyer Mr Alex Luganda, however, says the utterances made by Gen Tumukunde are clear and are within the confines of the law and do not in any way tantamount to treason.

He says Gen Tumukunde has never called for war in any of the utterances he made, adding that the state has its own motive.

"It is based on his appearance on NBS TV on March 4, where in his interview said in his opinion that if he was Rwanda, he would support people seeking for change in Uganda. He never at any one time called for war, but it is the police and other agencies that are creating their offence which is clear and known," said Mr Luganda.

He said his legal team is confident that Gen Tumukunde has not committed any crime, and are now waiting for police's next course of action.

Water central to Uganda's industrialization journey

<https://www.independent.co.ug/water-central-to-ugandas-industrialization-journey/>

The independent March 16, 2020

Kampala, Uganda | ALFRED OCHWO | Sam Cheptoris, the Minister of Water and Environment says this year's water and environment week—an annual event now in its third year— will focus on the centrality of water and environment resources in Uganda's quest for sustainable industrialization, employment and wealth creation.

The water and environment week is slated for March 23-27 and will focus on the intrinsic link between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Uganda's quest to achieve middle income status using its third national development plan which focuses on the structural transformation of the country through increased industrial activity with emphasis on manufacturing.

While addressing a press conference on March 07, at the ministry's headquarters in Luzira, a Kampala suburb which neighbours the northern shores of Lake Victoria, Cheptoris, said since its inception in 2018, the event seeks to contribute towards the attainment of sustainable socio-economic transformation of Uganda.

“This (water and environment week) will provide an interface between sector actors and other stakeholders for knowledge exchange, dialoguing, learning for improvement of Uganda's water and environment resources,” he said.

The event to be commemorated under the theme: “Water and Environment resources for inclusive-growth, employment and wealth creation,” will be celebrated with the annual commemoration of World Forest Day (March 21), World Water Day (March 22) and World Meteorological Day on (March 23).

The theme for the International Day of Forests is Forests and Biodiversity while the theme for World Water Day 2020 is Water and Climate Change. The theme for World Meteorological Day 2020 is Climate and Water which aligns with the theme of World Water Day 2020, focusing on climate change and water.

This year's commemoration will assess the centrality of water and environment resources in increasing household incomes, improved quality of life of the population and achievement of ‘Sustainable Industrialization for Inclusive growth, Employment and Wealth Creation.’

KENYA :

How coronavirus pandemic impacts Kenya's economy

<https://www.nation.co.ke/business/Economic-cost-of-coronavirus-Kenya/996-5492854-gnf7jh/index.html>

Monday March 16 2020

By PAUL WAFULA

More by this Author

Kenya has started assessing the impact of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) that is devastating cities and causing an economic meltdown across the world.

Kenya's economy largely depends on the agricultural sector, with tea and coffee exports being the most important drivers.

The second most important engine of Kenya's economy is the tourism, hospitality and the entire service sector, which relies on people moving and getting services in restaurants, hotels and shopping malls, among others, and a shutdown has a direct hit.

LOCKDOWN

Although it is not yet clear how big the blow will be, the private sector is now coming to terms with the lockdown announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Sunday.

The Covid-19 nightmare is threatening to cause a global recession whose impact will be felt in Kenya in weeks to come.

Kenyan delegation on trade mission to Tanzania

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001364365/kenyan-delegation-on-trade-mission-to-tanzania>

Standard Correspondent 16th Mar 2020 00:00:00 GMT +0300

A Kenyan delegation was on a trade mission to Tanzania.

Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania Dan Kazungu (pictured left) last week hosted a delegation from Nairobi on a trade mission to the country.

The delegation was led by Kenya Export and Branding Agency Chief Executive Peter Biwott to hold talks with key Tanzanian trade and investment promotion bodies aimed at increasing bilateral trade between the two countries.

Kenya confirms two more cases of coronavirus, Uganda intensifies screening

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Kenya-confirms-2-cases-coronavirus-Uganda-intensifies-screening/688334-5492170-136ctmjz/index.html>

Sunday March 15 2020

By DAILY NATION & MONITOR TEAM

President Uhuru Kenyatta has confirmed two more cases of the coronavirus in Kenya.

The President on Sunday gave the country an update on the coronavirus pandemic following a confirmed case and the isolation of 22 people in Kenya.

In its briefing on Saturday, the Health ministry said the 22 were in close contact with the patient who is undergoing treatment at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) in Nairobi.

Samples collected from them are being tested at laboratories at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri).

The ministry further said that 23 people of mixed nationalities who travelled with the patient were traced and advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Earlier on Saturday, the Judiciary issued several instructions for members in a bid to prevent spread of the virus within the country.

Chief Justice David Maraga told a press briefing that court activities will be reduced for two weeks effective Monday to allow further consultations on the matter and the design of appropriate response measures.

CJ Maraga said prisoners and remandees will not be presented to court for the two weeks.

“All conferences, workshops, colloquia and training programmes are suspended until further notice. There will be no foreign travel for the next 30 days for staff of the justice sector institutions, whether official or private, save for exceptional circumstances,” he added.

Relatedly, Uganda has intensified screening of all passengers for COVID-19 at Entebbe International Airport.

As of today (Sunday) Uganda has no confirmed case of case of the virus as the worldwide death toll rises to 6,036, with 159,844 infections after 105 died in Spain.

While China remains the country with the most deaths with 3,199, the pandemic is now spreading more rapidly in Europe, with 1,907 deaths in the continent's worst-hit country Italy.

According to Uganda's Health Minister, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, the success in fighting the virus lies largely in self-awareness and taking extra precautions.

“Wash hands at all times, don't shake hands, use alcohol sanitisers at all times, avoid public places if you have flu like symptoms,” the minister said.

SOUTH SUDAN :

Kiir urges South Sudanese to take precautions against coronavirus

Sunday March 15 2020 GARANG A. MALAK

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/South-Sudan-precautions-against-coronavirus/4552908-5491866-1258q0d/index.html>

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has urged all citizens to avoid handshakes and hugging each other as a protective measure against Covid-19.

He encouraged non-physical contact but said that citizens could opt for elbow and foot bumps as greetings if they have to make physical contact.

President Kiir spoke in Juba on Friday at the funeral of the late Dr John Garang De Mabior's brother.

South Sudan has not reported any coronavirus cases but neighbouring countries Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan have confirmed cases.

A foreign national in Juba who had been isolated after showing signs of coronavirus was discharged on Saturday after he tested negative.

South Sudan announces Cabinet for unity government

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/south-sudan-announces-cabinet-for-unity-government/1764222>

Salva Kiir's side gets 20 ministries while Riek Machar's group has 9 ministries in coalition government

Benjamin Takpiny | 12.03.2020 JUBA, South Sudan

South Sudan's president on Thursday announced the Cabinet for the transitional coalition government formed last month in line with a revitalized peace agreement reached in September 2018.

According to a decree read on state-run South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation, President Salva Kiir's side has 20 ministries in the unity government.

His aides in the Cabinet include Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Beatrice Kamisa Wani, Interior Minister Paul Mayom, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Ruben Madol Arol, Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth, and Finance and Planning Minister Garang Mabiordit.

First Vice President Riek Machar's party -- Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) -- has nine ministries.

His wife Angelina Teny has been appointed Defense and Veterans' Affairs Minister, while his aide Puot Kang will serve as Petroleum Minister.

The South Sudan Opposition Alliance has been given three ministries while the SPLM-Former Detainees group has two ministries.

One ministry has been given to other political parties.

South Sudan's rival leaders officially started the process of forming a transitional coalition government in late February.

The new structure was formed in accordance with a peace deal agreed in September 2018.

Under the deal, Kiir has five vice presidents, with former opposition leader Machar as first vice president.

South Sudan slid into crisis in December 2013 when Kiir sacked Machar as vice president on suspicion of plotting a coup, followed by a protracted civil war that claimed tens of thousands of lives and forced 4 million people to flee their homes.

The formation of the coalition government and subsequent full implementation of the peace accord is widely hoped to end the suffering of the people of South Sudan, a young nation that has faced years of conflict.

SUDAN :

Le PM soudanais a survécu à la tentative d'assassinat

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-09 à 20:36

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/09/c_138859554.htm

KHARTOUM, 9 mars (Xinhua) -- Le Premier ministre soudanais Abdalla Hamdok a survécu lundi à une tentative d'assassinat ratée dans la capitale Khartoum, a rapporté la télévision officielle.

La chaîne n'a pas donné plus de détails sur cette tentative d'assassinat.

En parallèle, l'agence de presse officielle SUNA a rapporté que M. Hamdok "va bien et est dans un endroit sûr" après que son cortège a été victime de l'explosion d'une voiture piégée.

L'incident s'est produit à l'entrée du pont de Kober (pont de l'armée soudanaise) au moment où M. Hamdok se dirigeait comme d'habitude vers son bureau.

Des témoins ont par ailleurs déclaré qu'un certain nombre de véhicules ont été endommagés en raison de l'explosion.

Un policier a été blessé dans l'explosion, a indiqué la police.

Sudan will mediate Egypt-Ethiopia dam dispute

By CGTN Africa -7 hours ago

<https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/03/16/sudan-will-mediate-egypt-ethiopia-dam-dispute/>

A top Sudanese general on Sunday said his country would mediate a deal on an escalating dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt over Ethiopia's controversial dam on the Nile River.

The deputy head of Sudan's Sovereign Council, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, said his country would work to bridge the gap and "reach an agreement" in the years-long dispute.

Tensions are rising in east Africa because of the impasse between Ethiopia and Egypt over the \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. It's around 71% complete and promises to provide much-needed electricity to Ethiopia's 100 million people. Egypt fears the project — set to be Africa's largest hydraulic dam — could reduce its share of the Nile, the main source of freshwater for Egypt's population, also more than 100 million people.

Dagalo's remarks, which were carried by Egypt's official news agency Sunday, came at the end of two-day visit to Cairo where he met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. Sudan sits between Egypt and Ethiopia along the Nile's route.

There has been public disagreement between Cairo and Addis Ababa after Ethiopia did not attend the latest round of talks over the dam on Feb. 26 in Washington. Ethiopia said it didn't go because it needed further domestic consultations before signing a deal with Egypt.

The deadlock over the dam became increasingly bitter in recent weeks, with Egypt saying it would use "all available means" to defend "the interests" of its people.

Last week, Ethiopia's top military officers visited the site of the dam and issued a statement vowing to "retaliate if there are any attacks on the dam," a veiled warning to Egypt not to try to sabotage the structure.

Sudan authorizes direct flights to Israel over its territory

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Sudan-authorizes-direct-flights-to-Israel-over-its-territory-621090>

The move comes after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Sudanese leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan in February and announced that they would take steps towards normalization.

LATAM, Latin America's largest airline group, will be able to fly over Sudan in its direct flights between South America and Israel, after Egypt's southern neighbor authorized direct flights to Israel over its territory for the first time.

The move by Sudan comes after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Sudanese leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan in February and announced that they would take steps toward normalization.

Khartoum's authorization to use the country's airspace is expected to significantly shorten flights between Israel and Latin America. Flights to or from Brazil, for example, will be two hours shorter. The airline normally operates direct flights from Tel Aviv to Sao Paulo in Brazil and Santiago de Chile three times a week, but its operations have been scaled back due to the spread of the coronavirus.

LATAM announced on Thursday that it will cut international flights by up to 30% in light of the outbreak.

ANGOLA :

Africell Holding expected to be the fourth telecommunications operator in Angola
<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/03/03/pt-africell-holding-devera-ser-o-quarto-operador-de-telecomunicacoes-de-angola/>
3 March 2020

Africell Holding has passed to the next stage of the tender for the fourth telecommunications operator in Angola and in the next few days is expected to submit its technical and financial bid, said on Wednesday in Luanda the Interministerial Working Group.

The applications process started on 30 September 2019 and ended on 22 January 2020, and three companies – South Africa's MTN, Africell Holding of Lebanon and Angola's BAI Investimentos, purchased the tender documents, with Africell submitting its proposal via the electronic platform of the National Service for Public Procurement.

The Evaluation Committee, after formal examination of the application documents submitted by Africell Holding, decided unanimously on its qualification and was invited by the public entity contractor to submit its proposal.

Africell is an international operator, with 18 years of activity in the telecommunications sector, and is present in four African countries: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

In the next stage, the qualified candidate will be given a reasonable time to submit its technical and financial bid, which will be analysed and assessed by the Evaluation Committee, taking into account the award criteria laid down in the tender documents and in the terms of reference.

The granting of a 4th Unified Global Title for the provision of Public Service Communications will bring greater competition to the telecommunications sector in Angola, improve the quality of products, services and prices, thus making relevant contributions to economic growth and improving the well-being of citizens. (macauhub)

MOZAMBIQUE

Financial difficulties of Petróleos de Mozambique resolved in 2021

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2020/03/03/pt-dificuldades-financeiras-da-petroleos-de-mocambique-resolvidos-em-2021/>

3 March 2020 / | Mozambique

Mozambican oil company Petróleos de Mozambique (Petromoc) could climb out of its “financial struggles” in 2021, and its operational results may already improve in 2020, said a source from the Institute of State Shareholding Management (Igepe).

The source also told daily newspaper Notícias that the company’s liabilities had already been “successfully” restructured with the banks, adding that, “we are gradually improving the financial situation and therefore, if all goes well, we will solve the problem in 2021.”

The chairman of Petromoc, Hélder Chambisse, confirmed to the newspaper that several measures had been implemented to carry out the internal restructuring of the company, ranging from cost reduction, increased sales and finding new customers in order to improve the performance of the state company.

In February the Council of Ministers discussed and on Tuesday adopted two resolutions that ratify the terms of guarantees issued by the government to banks that operate in the country so that Petromoc can have access to financing for importing fuel.

The spokesman for the Council of Ministers, Filimão Swazi, said that the guarantees were issued in favour of the Millennium bim and Banco Comercial de Investimentos banks although he did not disclose the amounts involved.

The board of Petromoc said in August 2019 it needed “several million dollars” to be able to normalise the company’s activities on the Mozambican market.

Petróleos de Moçambique, a public company founded in 1977, two years after the country’s independence, has as its shareholders the Mozambican state, with 60%, IGEPE with 20%, while the remaining 20% is in the hands of technicians and workers of the company. (macauhub)

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

EGYPTE :

L'Egypte va utiliser les stations de lancement de satellites d'une institution chinoise

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-12 à 23:23

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/12/c_138871354.htm

LE CAIRE, 12 mars (Xinhua) -- Le gouvernement égyptien a approuvé la demande de l'agence spatiale du pays de conclure un contrat avec une institution chinoise afin d'utiliser ses stations de lancement de satellites, a rapporté jeudi l'agence de presse officielle MENA.

L'Agence spatiale égyptienne a été autorisée à signer un contrat avec China Great Wall Industry Corporation, selon MENA.

En septembre dernier, l'Egypte et la Chine ont signé un accord pour démarrer la construction en Egypte d'installations consacrées à l'assemblage, l'intégration et les essais de satellites, avec le développement du satellite égyptien MisrSat-II financé par la Chine.

En novembre, l'Egypte a lancé le satellite TIBA-1, un satellite de communication civile appartenant à l'Etat.

ALGERIE :

L'Algérie réitère à Oyo sa disponibilité à abriter la conférence inter-libyenne de réconciliation

Par ABDEL Fakry - 15/03/2020

<https://algerie7.com/lalgerie-reitere-a-oyo-sa-disponibilite-a-abriter-la-conference-inter-libyenne-de-reconciliation/>

Le Premier ministre, Abdelaziz Djerad, a réitéré, jeudi à Oyo, la disponibilité de l'Algérie à abriter la conférence inter-libyenne de réconciliation, prévue au mois de juillet prochain. J'ai l'honneur d'annoncer la disponibilité de l'Algérie à accueillir la conférence de réconciliation inter-libyenne prévue au mois de juillet prochain sous l'égide de l'UA en collaboration avec les Nations Unies, a-t-il déclaré lors de l'ouverture de la 1ère réunion du groupe de contact de l'UA sur la Libye.

M.Djerad qui représente le président de la République, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, à cette réunion, a affirmé que l'Algérie s'engage à apporter toutes les facilités et à réunir toutes les conditions nécessaires pour la réussite de cet important événement visant à mettre un terme à la crise dans ce pays. Il a réitéré, à l'occasion, la détermination de l'Algérie à poursuivre ses efforts pour contribuer au règlement de la crise en Libye dans le respect de la souveraineté et de l'indépendance de ce pays voisin, à œuvrer pour la préservation de son intégrité territoriale" et à permettre aux Libyens de s'approprier le processus politique.

Le Premier ministre a souligné, une nouvelle fois, le rôle pivot que doivent jouer les pays voisins de la Libye dans ce processus visant à un règlement politique de la crise qui secoue ce pays, conformément aux résolutions de la conférence des ministres des Affaires étrangères des pays voisins de la Libye, organisée le 23 janvier dernier à Alger.

M.Djerad a exprimé, dans ce contexte, la volonté de l'Algérie à accompagner les efforts des Nations Unies et contribuer efficacement à la réussite du processus de dialogue libyen auquel doivent participer tous les protagonistes libyens qui doivent prendre leur destin en mains suivant un agenda national.

L'Algérie est prête à coopérer avec le nouvel envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour la Libye", a-t-il ajouté, exprimant le vœu de voir le nouvel émissaire de l'ONU "nommé prochainement" afin de pouvoir "maintenir la dynamique du processus de règlement de la crise en Libye et préserver les acquis réalisés jusque là.

Il a appelé, en outre, la communauté internationale à associer l'UA aux pourparlers de la Commission militaire conjointe parrainés par l'ONU, entre les parties en conflit. Notre organisation jouit d'une importante expérience en matière de médiation et de règlement de conflit et pourra contribuer aux succès de ces pourparlers, a-t-il expliqué.

Le Premier ministre a affirmé, à l'occasion, que l'Algérie suit avec une très grande préoccupation la situation en Libye, marquée par les violations répétées de la trêve et la poursuite de la livraison d'armes aux parties en conflit", en violation flagrante de l'embargo de l'ONU sur les armes en Libye. Il a souligné, à cet égard, que l'Algérie insiste sur la responsabilité du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU pour imposer la paix et la sécurité en Libye en mettant un terme aux ingérences étrangères et à la livraison d'armes aux parties en conflit".

Il a estimé, à ce titre, que la communauté internationale a le devoir de créer un climat politique propice à même de permettre aux belligérants libyens de se réunir afin de trouver des solutions nationales à la crise que traverse leur pays, de manière à garantir l'intégrité territoriale de la Libye, sa souveraineté, et à préserver le tissu social du peuple libyen.

Pour le Premier ministre, la 1ère réunion du groupe de contact de l'UA sur la Libye confirme la détermination de l'UA à accompagner le processus du règlement de la crise en Libye et à assumer pleinement son rôle dans ce dossier qui concerne un Etat membre de l'UA.

Selon M. Djerad, cette réunion "permettra d'apporter une nouvelle et importante pierre à l'édifice" et devrait également permettre l'adoption de décisions importantes et d'un plan d'action pour l'organisation de la conférence de réconciliation inter-libyenne qui regroupera toutes les parties, toutes les factions et toutes les forces en Libye afin de contribuer à la mise en place d'un gouvernement d'entente nationale capable de gérer la période de transition. Le Premier ministre a salué, par ailleurs, les décisions du dernier sommet de l'UA qui a placé le dossier libyen à la tête des priorités du continent.

MAROC :

Coronavirus: nouveau cas au Maroc, le bilan passe à 29 cas confirmés

<https://www.medias24.com/cronavirus-nouveau-cas-au-maroc-le-bilan-passe-a-29-cas-confirmes-8383.html>

Le ministère de la Santé annonce ce lundi 16 mars que le bilan des cas confirmés de coronavirus passe à 29 au Maroc, sur 135 cas suspects analysés. Pas de communiqué pour l'instant.

Le 16 mars 2020 à 09:45 / Modifié le 16 mars 2020 à 10:30

Aucune précision n'a été donnée pour l'instant sur la nationalité ou la provenance du nouveau cas.

L'info a été diffusée par le service communication du ministère de la Santé auprès de la presse.

Aucun communiqué n'a été publié.

Rappelons que sur les 29 cas confirmés, on compte un décès et une personne guérie.

La propagation du virus s'est accélérée durant le weekend, passant de 8 cas vendredi à 28 cas confirmés dimanche 15 mars, soit 10 nouveaux cas enregistrés samedi et 10 autres dimanche.

TUNISIE :

La Tunisie tient à renforcer et diversifier sa coopération avec la Chine dans tous les domaines
French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-13 à 04:16

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/13/c_138871688.htm

TUNIS, 12 mars (Xinhua) -- Les moyens de faire développer la coopération tuniso-chinoise dans plusieurs domaines économiques et technologiques ainsi que l'avancement des projets en cours de réalisation par un financement chinois ont été à l'ordre du jour d'une réunion, ce jeudi, entre le ministre tunisien des Affaires étrangères, Nouredine Erray et l'ambassadeur de Chine, Wang Wenbin.

A cette occasion, tient à préciser le ministère tunisien des Affaires étrangères, le chef de la diplomatie tunisienne a réaffirmé "l'intérêt que porte la Tunisie à ses liens avec le partenaire chinois et sa ferme détermination de raffermir davantage cette coopération fructueuse, notamment dans les domaines de l'économie, de la technologie et de la culture".

"Une coopération, peut-on lire dans un communiqué officiel, qui serait certes renforcée au niveau bilatéral tout comme dans le cadre des échéances régionales, à savoir le Forum de coopération tuniso-chinoise, le Forum de coopération afro-chinoise, l'initiative 'La Ceinture et la Route', à laquelle la Tunisie faisant partie depuis 2018.

Le chef de la diplomatie tunisienne a saisi l'occasion pour "réitérer la solidarité de la Tunisie avec le peuple chinois ami dans ses efforts pour lutter contre la propagation du nouveau coronavirus, saluant les efforts colossaux consentis par le gouvernement chinois pour maîtriser cette épidémie".

"La Tunisie aspire à renforcer la coopération avec la Chine en matière d'échange d'expertises et consolider la coordination entre les autorités compétentes des deux pays, dans le cadre des efforts internationaux de lutte contre le COVID-19", a-t-il affirmé.

Cité par le site officiel de la diplomatie tunisienne, l'ambassadeur de Chine en Tunisie, Wang Wenbin, "a souligné la volonté chinoise à continuer de hisser les relations d'amitié et de coopération avec la Tunisie dans tous les domaines, en particulier l'infrastructure, l'agriculture et le tourisme".

"La Chine est prête à soutenir la Tunisie dans ses efforts pour faire face aux défis économiques et inciter davantage les entreprises chinoises à booster leurs investissements en Tunisie", a dit M. Wang.

A noter, dans ce sens, que les deux responsables ont souligné l'importance de poursuivre la coordination et la consultation entre les deux pays en matière de divers dossiers régionaux et internationaux d'intérêt commun.

LYBIA :

Libye: la conférence de réconciliation entre Haftar et Serraj prévue en juillet à Addis Abeba

La déclaration a été faite lors d'une réunion à Oyo, au Congo, en présence notamment de trois chefs d'Etat africains et du président de la commission de l'Union ...

<http://afrique.le360.ma/autres-pays/politique/2020/03/13/29803-libye-la-conference-de-reconciliation-entre-haftar-et-serraj-prevue-en-juillet-addis-abeba>

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

CÔTE D'IVOIRE :

(COVID-19) Trois nouveaux cas confirmés en Côte d'Ivoire

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-15 à 19:43

ABIDJAN, 15 mars (Xinhua) -- Trois nouveaux cas confirmés de maladie à coronavirus ont été enregistrés en Côte d'Ivoire, portant à quatre le nombre de personnes infectées dans le pays, selon le ministère ivoirien de la Santé.

"Le samedi 14 mars, trois nouveaux cas de maladie à coronavirus ont été enregistrés en Côte d'Ivoire", a annoncé le ministre de la Santé, Dr Eugène Aka Aouélé dans un communiqué.

A en croire le ministre, il s'agit de patients de nationalité ivoirienne dont deux de sexe masculin âgés de 33 ans et de 49 ans et une troisième de sexe féminin, âgée de 56 ans.

"Les deux premiers cas sont des patients qui ont séjourné en Europe, précisément en Italie et en France mais, la dame, elle, qui est un agent de santé dans une école, n'a jamais voyagé hors de la Côte d'Ivoire depuis le début de l'épidémie", a indiqué le ministre.

D'après lui, cette dame aura été "probablement contaminée lors des soins par un contact infecté non dépisté ayant importé la maladie de retour des vacances scolaires en février en France".

La patiente, tous comme les deux autres cas détectés, présente des symptômes essentiellement de fièvre, de toux et de rhume.

"Ces trois cas portent à quatre le nombre d'infectés en Côte d'Ivoire qui n'enregistre aucun décès pour le moment", a souligné Dr Eugène Aka Aouélé.

Les malades découverts sont "bien pris en charge" par le service des maladies infectieuses et tropicales du Centre hospitalier universitaire (CHU) de Treichville à Abidjan et "leur état de santé est satisfaisant et ne suscite aucune inquiétude", a assuré le ministre ivoirien de la Santé qui a réitéré son appel au calme et à l'application des mesures de prévention en vigueur.

Côte d'Ivoire-AIP/ Coronavirus : Fin de la formation des experts africains en prévention et contrôle des infections à Abidjan

<https://aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-coronavirus-fin-de-la-formation-des-experts-africains-en-prevention-et-contrôle-des-infections-a-abidjan/>

Abidjan 15/03/2020 à 12:15

Abidjan, 15 mars (AIP)- Les lampions se sont éteints vendredi soir à Abidjan sur la formation des experts africains de la santé en prévention et contrôle des infections et en surveillance sanitaire aux frontières dans le cadre de la préparation et de réponse à l'épidémie Coronavirus. Cette formation ouverte mercredi, a été initiée par l'Union africaine dans le cadre de ses missions de santé publique en collaboration avec le ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène publique ivoirien. A l'occasion de la cérémonie de clôture, Dr Tochi Joy Okwor du centre du contrôle (NCDC) du Nigéria a félicité les experts africains d'avoir pu travailler ensemble dans le cadre de l'épidémie de Coronavirus pour une Afrique plus solidaire face aux enjeux...

SENEGAL :

Coronavirus: le Sénégal en route vers l'isolement

https://www.pressafrik.com/Coronavirus-le-Senegal-en-route-vers-l-isolement_a213182.html

Le nombre des personnes infectées du Covid-19 grimpe du jour au jour au Sénégal. Selon le bilan publié par le ministre de la Santé, hier-dimanche 15 mars 2020, vingt-six (26) personnes ont été testées positives de la maladie du Coronavirus dont deux (2) guéris.

De loin, le Sénégal devient ainsi le pays le plus touché de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. En effet, cette situation alarmante, risque de le mettre en mal avec les autres pays de la sous région. Pour cause, les moins impactés du continent africain, qui font tout de même face au risque d'une propagation du Covid-19, en prenant leurs dispositions, ont décidé de couper les ponts avec le Sénégal. Ce, en procédant à la fermeture de leurs frontières aériennes et terrestres. Les pays comme la Mauritanie et le Maroc ont lancé l'assaut depuis samedi 15 mars 2020, en fermant respectivement les frontières et en suspendant des vols à destination du Sénégal. Air Sénégal a répliqué en mettant fin à ses vols à destination et en provenance de ces deux pays.

Et à ce rythme où évolue la pandémie, d'autres pays risquent de suivre ces mesures d'isolements. A cela s'ajoute, les mesures draconiennes, prises par le chef de l'Etat sénégalais, à la suite de la réunion de crise, tenue samedi dernier, au palais de la République, dans le cadre de la lutte contre le coronavirus. Interdiction des manifestations ou rassemblements pour une durée de 30 jours, et l'arrêt des cours pour une durée de trois semaines, entre autres. Le Sénégal s'éloigne de moins en moins du monde.

Au Sénégal, le nombre de cas de coronavirus grimpe à 19

<http://www.financialafrik.com/2020/03/14/au-senegal-le-nombre-de-cas-de-coronavirus-grimpe-a-19/>

Par Rédaction - 14 mars, 2020

Le nombre de cas de coronavirus au Sénégal a bondi de 8 à 19 après qu'un émigré rentré d'Italie le 8 mars ait transmis le virus aux membres de sa famille et à son entourage. Venu assister à une manifestation religieuse, le malade a occasionné onze nouvelles infections dans la ville religieuse de Touba, capitale du Mouridisme, peuplée de 1,5 millions d'habitants. Le ministère sénégalais de la Santé a diagnostiqué ces 11 nouveaux cas sur une liste de 71 personnes en observation et ayant été en contact avec le malade.

En réaction à ce pic soudain de malades, le pays a décidé de bâtir un hôpital de campagne dans la ville de Touba, épicerie de la contamination. Des mesures exceptionnelles allant de la fermeture d'écoles et à l'interdictions de rassemblements pourraient être prises dans cette ville du centre pays. « J'appelle mes collègues africains à agir ensemble. L'Afrique ne doit pas être le nouveau foyer de la maladie », déclarait, jeudi sur Twitter, le chef de l'Etat sénégalais, Macky Sall, très prudent jusque-là sur le sujet sensible de la suspension des manifestations religieuses. Particulièrement exposée au mouvement de ses ressortissants en Europe, Dakar vient de fermer ses consulats à Milan et à Madrid jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

BURKINA FASO :

(COVID-19) Burkina Faso : le coronavirus est devenu une question de sécurité sanitaire (président Kaboré)

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-15 à 11:08 http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/15/c_138879579.htm

OUAGADOUGOU, 14 mars (Xinhua) -- Au Burkina Faso où sept cas du nouveau coronavirus ont été confirmés depuis lundi, la maladie est devenue une question de sécurité sanitaire, a déclaré samedi soir le président burkinabè Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

M. Kaboré a présidé un Conseil supérieur de la Défense nationale qui a examiné les enjeux nationaux et mondiaux de COVID-19, la situation sécuritaire nationale et le document de politique nationale de sécurité.

"Depuis l'apparition des premiers cas dans notre pays, le coronavirus est devenu une question de sécurité sanitaire. Notre combat actuel est de prendre en charge les personnes atteintes, mais aussi d'éviter la propagation de la maladie", a indiqué le président burkinabè dans une note.

"Je demande à toute la population de se soumettre à toutes les mesures d'hygiène et de restriction temporaires, pour une lutte efficace contre la maladie. La lutte contre le coronavirus engage notre responsabilité individuelle et collective", a-t-il ajouté.

Face à la pandémie, le Burkina Faso a annoncé la fermeture des écoles et universités, ainsi que l'interdiction des regroupements de plus de 50 personnes.

Burkina Faso. Après 15 mois de captivité, deux otages sont libres

<https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/burkina-faso/burkina-faso-apres-15-mois-de-captivite-deux-otages-sont-libres-6781895>

La Canadienne Edith Blais et son ami italien Luca Tacchetto avaient été enlevés en décembre 2018. Les conditions de leur libération, ou de leur fuite, sont encore floues.

Leurs yeux sont cernés mais le sourire est là. Samedi 14 mars, la Canadienne Edith Blais et son ami italien Luca Tacchetto ont foulé le tarmac de l'aéroport de la capitale malienne Bamako après quinze mois de captivité dans le nord du pays.

Enlevés en décembre 2018 au Burkina Faso voisin, ils sont réapparus vendredi en début d'après-midi à un barrage installé par les casques bleus proche de la ville de Kidal, au nord-est du Mali. C'est après avoir décliné leur identité auprès des soldats de la paix qu'ils ont été pris en charge au sein du camp de la Mission des Nations unies au Mali (Minusma)

« Par leurs propres moyens »

A priori en bonne santé, les deux Occidentaux semblent avoir été bien traités lors de leur captivité, et ils ne présentaient pas de signes d'amaigrissement.

Les conditions de leur libération, ou de leur fuite, demeurent encore floues aujourd'hui. Mais selon le président de la République malienne, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, qui a reçu les deux ex-otages quelques heures après leur arrivée, "ils ont réussi à se libérer par leurs propres moyens, ce qui est exceptionnel »."

Tiébilé Dramé, le ministre malien des Affaires étrangères qui les a salués d'un coup de coude, coronavirus oblige, a assuré à la presse que son gouvernement n'avait rien à voir dans cette libération. En effet, les ravisseurs du couple n'avaient jamais revendiqué l'enlèvement, rendant compliqué leur identification pour toute forme de négociation.

Sans qu'un lien ne soit établi, la réapparition des deux ex-otages coïncide avec le début des tractations officielles entre le gouvernement malien et le Groupe de soutien à l'Islam et aux musulmans (GSIM), principal groupe djihadiste au Mali.

(COVID-19) Le Burkina Faso ferme les établissements scolaires et interdit les regroupements de plus de 50 personnes

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-15 à 09:04

OUAGADOUGOU, 14 mars (Xinhua) -- Le Burkina Faso a annoncé samedi soir la fermeture des établissements scolaires et l'interdiction des regroupements de plus de 50 personnes après l'enregistrement de quatre nouveaux cas.

Selon un communiqué publié samedi soir par le gouvernement, au regard de l'évolution de la pandémie de COVID-19 au Burkina Faso, toutes les écoles et universités sont fermées jusqu'au 1er avril 2020 et les regroupements de plus de 50 personnes dans le pays sont interdits, à l'exception des lieux de culte, des cérémonies coutumières et des marchés.

Néanmoins, l'évolution de la situation sanitaire pourrait, après évaluation, exiger de nouvelles mesures, a-t-il prévenu.

Le gouvernement invite les populations au respect des mesures de prévention et d'hygiène contre le COVID-19 préconisées par le ministère de la Santé.

Le Burkina Faso a signalé samedi soir quatre nouveaux cas de COVID-19, ce qui porte le nombre total de cas confirmés dans ce pays à sept.

BENIN :

Bénin: un premier cas confirmé de Coronavirus

Société A la Une / Par Cochimau S. Hounbadji Mis à jour le 16 Mar 2020 à 14:52

<https://beninwebtv.com/2020/03/urgent-benin-un-premier-cas-confirme-de-coronavirus/>

Le Bénin a enregistré un premier cas de Coronavirus Covid-19, ce lundi 16 mars 2020. Selon le Ministre de la Santé, Benjamin Hounkpatin, le sujet concerné est de nationalité burkinabé, de sexe masculin et âgé de 49 ans. Il est rentré sur le territoire béninois le 12 mars 2020.

Selon la déclaration du ministre de la santé, Benjamin Hounkpatin, il s'agit d'un sujet de nationalité burkinabé, de sexe masculin âgé de 49 ans, qui est rentré sur le territoire béninois le 12 mars 2020.

« En retraçant l'itinéraire suivi par le sujet, il est apparu qu'il a quitté le Burkina Faso le 21 février 2020 et a séjourné durant 11 jours en Belgique. Il est retourné au Burkina Faso le 04 mars et y est resté durant 8 jours jusqu'au 12 mars 2020, date à laquelle il est rentré sur le territoire béninois par voie aérienne. », indique la note du ministre.

Ce dernier, après avoir vaqué à ses occupations professionnelles les jeudi 12 et vendredi 13 mars 2020, sans respecter les mesures d'auto-isolement prescrites à l'aéroport, a présenté des signes cliniques a type de rhume, toux et fièvre, signes l'ayant motivé à réaliser des bilans biologiques dans une clinique le 14 mars 2020. Devant l'absence d'éléments biologiques objectivables, il s'est rendu sur le site d'isolement et de prise en charge de Cotonou le 15 mars 2020 à 9h30 où un prélèvement naso-pharyngé a été immédiatement réalisé.

C'est ainsi, q'aux premières heures de ce lundi 16 mars 2020, les analyses effectuées au Laboratoire de référence des Fièvres Virales Hémorragiques de Cotonou, ont confirmé le diagnostic du COVID-19 sur un échantillon provenant du suspect suivi sur le site d'isolement et de prise en charge de Cotonou. Le Bénin vient ainsi d'enregistrer un cas d'infection au Coronavirus COVID-19.

Notons qu'il y a quelques jours, des personnes ont été mises en quarantaine après la découverte d'un cas au Togo. En effet, la patiente du Togo a séjourné au Bénin, et a eu des contact avec au moins 4 personnes.

Projet de construction de l'échangeur de Vêdoko: Le Bénin signe un accord avec le Japon

Par Isidore Alexis GOZO (Stag), 16 mars 2020

<https://lanationbenin.info/projet-de-construction-de-lechangeur-de-vedoko-le-benin-signe-un-accord-avec-le-japon/>

Aurélien Agbénonci, ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération et Kiyofumi Konishi, ambassadeur du Japon près le Bénin, ont procédé, vendredi 13 mars dernier à Cotonou, à l'échange de notes qui consacre la signature de l'accord portant sur le projet de construction de l'échangeur du carrefour Vêdoko. D'un coût global de 123 millions Yen japonais, soit 615 millions F Cfa, ce projet s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'aide financière non-remboursable du Japon au titre de l'année fiscale 2020.

D'un coût global de 123 millions Yen japonais, soit 615 millions F Cfa, les travaux de construction de l'échangeur de Vêdoko vont bientôt démarrer. En témoigne la cérémonie d'échange de notes entre Aurélien Agbénonci, ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération, et Kiyofumi Konishi, ambassadeur du Japon près le Bénin, vendredi 13 mars dernier. Ce projet permettra non seulement de rendre fluide le trafic entre Cotonou et Abomey-Calavi mais surtout d'améliorer les conditions de gestion de l'économie béninoise.

Kiyofumi Konishi, ambassadeur du Japon près le Bénin, a affirmé que les infrastructures routières jouent un rôle important dans le développement socio-économique d'un pays. Ainsi, souligne-t-il, le manque d'infrastructures routières cause tous les jours l'embouteillage insoutenable dans la circulation, fait perdre beaucoup de chiffres d'affaires et entrave ainsi le développement économique d'un pays. L'ambassadeur note qu'à travers ce projet, le gouvernement du Japon, soucieux de l'amélioration des performances économiques du Bénin, témoigne une fois encore son amitié et sa solidarité au peuple béninois. Selon lui, cet important projet sera réalisé par des entreprises japonaises qui travailleront conjointement avec des entreprises béninoises afin d'assurer également le transfert de compétences et de savoir-faire.

Dans son allocution, Aurélien Agbénonci, ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération, a fait observer que les populations qui font le trafic Cotonou-Calavi souffrent un véritable calvaire du fait de l'absence de planification urbaine et d'organisation des espaces de vie. Selon lui, le gouvernement a pris l'engagement de corriger tous ces dysfonctionnements et surtout de rendre plus agréable la vie des populations. Aurélien Agbénonci a tenu à saluer la coopération entre le Japon et le gouvernement béninois.

Il est à rappeler que les travaux de construction de l'échangeur de Vêdoko prennent fin en mars 2023.

NIGERIA :

How 15 died in Lagos explosion

<https://guardian.ng/news/how-15-died-in-lagos-explosion/>

Amid horrid reminiscences of the January 27, 2002 bomb explosion in Lagos State, which occurred on a Sunday, panic and confusion ripped through the heart of the city as news broke of a suspected pipeline explosion in the Abule Ado area of Amuwo Odofin Local Council Development Area (LCDA) yesterday.

In an instant, a loud bang shattered the serene Sunday morning. It shook the foundations of the earth as far as 15 kilometres from the scene of the incident. And in a wild melee, a thick black smoke bellowed towards the sky as fragments flew across space.

Plumes of smoke billowed into the air as people watched, while firefighters tried to quench the flames. Some buildings collapsed while many rooftops were ripped apart.

Many people were feared dead and over 50 houses were burnt. A lot of residents were trapped in the explosion, which left many people homeless and injured. The explosion happened at about 9:00 a.m. when churches in the area were holding services.

As emergency workers toiled to rescue persons trapped amid the rubble, it was confirmed that the death toll had risen to 15, as at press time yesterday evening. According to acting Zonal Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye, the bodies recovered included those of a family of four believed to be heading to church when they were caught in the explosion.

Oil crash: Nigeria may lose \$8.63bn in six months
<https://punchng.com/oil-crash-nigeria-may-lose-8-63bn-in-six-months/>
Okechukwu Nnodim

Nigeria's economy may slide into another recession as the sudden crash in crude oil prices is set to wipe \$8.63bn from the expected earnings accruable to the country in six months. Already, the nation has lost over \$335.7m after the crude oil price plunged last week, hovering between \$30 to \$36 per barrel. This is based on the 2020 budget benchmark of \$57 per barrel [...]

Nigeria earns N400b from solid minerals in 12 years
<https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria-earns-n400b-from-solid-minerals-in-12-years/>

Despite being blessed with a lot of solid minerals, the sector has only contributed N400 billion to the Nigerian economy in 12 years.

A Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) report yesterday showed that the industry posted N69.47 billion to the Federation Account in 2018, the highest during the period under review.

A further breakdown revealed that taxes to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) accounted for N65.69 billion, while fees and royalties to the Mines Inspectorate Department (MID) and Mining Cadastre Office (MCO) totalled N2.21 billion and N1.57 billion.

"Nigeria has published eight cycles of solid minerals audit reports since it signed up to the EITI," the document noted.

The sector has contributed N416.32 billion in revenue to the federation in 12 years. Over half of this figure or N279.0 billion was earned between 2015 and 2018," the document noted.

Nigerian government shuts Chinese restaurant for discriminating against Nigerians
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/381854-nigerian-government-shuts-chinese-restaurant-for-discriminating-against-nigerians.html>

Nigerian authorities Saturday shut down a Chinese restaurant in Lagos over its alleged discriminatory policy against Nigerian citizens.

The restaurant, identified as Haufei, is located at 33 Aboyade Cole, Victoria Island. The facility also houses a supermarket also owned and operated by the Chinese nationals.

The restaurant owners, it is alleged, do not sell food and drinks to Nigerians. Nigerians are said not to have been allowed to buy from the supermarket as well.

The operatives of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) shut down the restaurant and the supermarket after secretly collating evidence of their alleged discriminatory practices against Nigerian citizens, PREMIUM TIMES learnt.

The operation was led by the head of FCCPC, Babatunde Irukera.

Mr Irukera, who confirmed the development to PREMIUM TIMES, said he directed two persons to walk in separately into the restaurant, before he personally walked in too. The restaurant declined the three of them service, he said.

“Two different people who went with me went in first and it was very clear that they declined them service,” he said.

“In fact, the chief security officer and the cashier at the restaurant admitted that it is their policy not to sell to Nigerians.”

The FCCPC would determine what sanctions to apply against the Chinese business at the end of investigation, Mr Irukera said.

“Our law prohibits obnoxious practices. It is obviously obnoxious to discriminate. They are a range of options that regulators have, prosecution being the topmost of it depending on the full context whether it was the first time or repeat, whether there are other complex issues. We will decide within the spectrum.

“It might be that we will penalise them administratively and ask them to take corrective measures and then put them under supervision for a period of time to keep watching and see that they follow through the corrective measures.

“But if their conduct is a pattern and something that is very egregious then certainly we would consider prosecuting,” Mr Irukera said.

Mr Irukera said there was an attempt to obstruct the agency’s operatives at the restaurant and the supermarket and that those responsible for it would be prosecuted.

It is unclear how long the alleged practice has been going on in the restaurant and the supermarket.

PREMIUM TIMES could not immediately reach the owners of the Chinese business for their reaction.

GHANA :

Coronavirus: 181 contacts traced to confirmed cases in Ghana

Date: Mar 15 , 2020 , 16:48 BY: Zadok Kwame Gyesi Category: General News

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/coronavirus-181-contacts-traced-to-confirmed-cases-in-ghana.html>

A total of 181 people who have come into contact with four of the six confirmed patients of the novel Coronavirus disease in Ghana have so far been traced by the Ghana Health Service (GHS) in collaboration with other state agencies.

Ghana has so far confirmed six cases of Coronavirus disease [COVID-19] as of March 14, 2020, in two [Ashanti and Greater Accra] regions.

Contacts to two of the confirmed cases, which was confirmed Saturday night are however yet to be traced.

Speaking at a media briefing in Accra on Sunday, March 15, 2020, the Director of Public Health at the GHS, Dr Badu Sarkodie, said all those traced had been advised to do self-quarantine. He explained that the number traced were in relation to the first four confirmed cases, explaining that processes were ongoing to identify all persons who might have come into contact with the confirmed cases.

He said in relation to the first two cases, involving a Ghanaian and a Norwegian, 32 and 107 contacts had been traced respectively.

Dr Sarkodie said with the third and fourth cases, involving a student and a Ghanaian who travelled to Obuasi in the Ashanti Region, a total of 12 and 30 contacts had been traced respectively.

He explained that although Ghana had opted for self-quarantine instead of compulsory state quarantine, the Ghana Health Service with its allied agencies would keep a close eye on those who had been traced.

“We are keeping close eye on them (contacts traced),” he said, pointing out that all the patients of the six confirmed cases were in stable conditions.

He, however, warned that if any of those doing the self-quarantine refused to comply with established protocols, GHS and its collaborators would step in to ensure that the right protocols were followed.

Ghana is anchor of security in West Africa – German Ambassador

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Ghana-is-anchor-of-security-in-West-Africa-German-Ambassador-895192>

Mr Hans-Helge Sander, the Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Ghana, has touted Ghana as the anchor of security in the sub-region.

“Ghana has shown leadership in border security which is one of the key areas in national security”, he said.

This was contained in a statement signed and copied to the Ghana News Agency by superintendent Michael Amoako-Atta, the Head of Public Affairs, of the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS).

The Deputy Ambassador, according to the statement made the remarks on Wednesday, when the Federal Police of Germany donated state-of-the-art document fraud detection equipment to the Training Centre of the Document Fraud Expertise Centre (DFEC) of the GIS.

The equipment included electronic microscope, modular stereo microscope and mobile microscope, among others which would aid in document forensic training of Officers of the GIS.

Mr Sander, the statement said, lauded the Service for achieving significant successes in the area of border security, saying: “The Embassy is happy to support Ghana in the fight against document fraud.”

He advised the GIS not to renege on its capacity building of Officers towards effective scrutiny of travel documents.

Mrs Judith Dzokoto-Lomoh, the Deputy Comptroller-General of Immigration (DCGI) in charge of Finance and Administration, who received the items on behalf of the Comptroller-General of Immigration, expressed gratitude to the German Government and the Federal Police of Germany for the kind gesture.

She gave an assurance to the donors that the equipment would be put to good use for the benefit of Ghana, the comity of nations and other stakeholders in the migration industry.

“It will help bolster activities of the Training Centre,” she added.

The DCGI, according to the statement, indicated that the donation was just on time to help arrest the dynamism in migrant crime, adding that the support was a demonstration of international cooperation in tackling transnational crime.

“More needs to be done to ensure neighbouring countries receive only desirable immigrants”, she added.

She called on the personnel to go beyond just detecting fake documents and prosecute offenders and secure conviction.

She also advised personnel to take good care of the equipment and utilise it to deliver positive results.

Superintendent of Immigration Frank Apronti, the Second-in-Command of Document Fraud Expertise Center, explained that all migration-related crimes, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling and terrorism, were rooted in fraudulent documents, the statement said.

“These devices will simplify document examination and their mobility will prove very useful in training officers across the borders”, he added.

Present at the ceremony were DCGI in charge of Command Post and Operations, Mr Laud Kwesi Afrifah, Officer-in-Charge of DFEC, and Chief Superintendent of Immigration (CSI) Kwabena Somuah Amponsah.

Others were Regional Capacity Building Officer, Alistair Rushton, Police Liaison Officer of the Federal Police of Germany, Dirk Kattlun and the Visa and Document Advisor at the Federal Police of Germany, Frank Dukpe, the statement added.

GAMBIE:

Gambia suspends overseas travels for public officers

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/gambia-suspends-overseas-travels-for-public-officers/1765518>

'The relevant government authorities are actively monitoring this global health menace,' say authorities

Mustapha K Darboe | 13.03.2020 Gambia, BANJUL

Gambian authorities have suspended overseas travels for public officers, effective immediately, to prevent coronavirus from entering the West African country of about 2 million people.

Gambia is surrounded by Senegal in all its three sides. Senegal has already reported six cases of the COVID-19. Gambia is yet to report any new case.

“The decision to suspend all overseas travels is due to the rapid spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) throughout the globe,” Gambian authorities said in a statement published on the official Facebook page of the presidency.

“The relevant government authorities are actively monitoring this global health menace and will advise Office of the President accordingly to review the suspension at the appropriate time.”

After emerging in Wuhan, China last December, the virus, officially known as COVID-19, has spread to at least 123 countries and territories.

The global death toll is now nearly 5,000, with more than 132,500 confirmed cases, according to the World Health Organization, which declared the outbreak a pandemic.

Gambia United Society in London donates 40 wheelchairs to GISPD

africa » gambia » Show Map / Monday, March 16, 2020

<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/gambia-united-society-in-london-donates-40-wheelchairs-to-gispd>

Global Initiative for the Support of People with Physical Disabilities (GISPD), through the Department of Social Welfare has benefited from a donation of 40 wheelchairs by Gambia United Society (GUS) in London, United Kingdom. The handing of the equipment was held in Brikama on Thursday.

Bunja Kebbeh, GUS country representative explained that the society was conceived in 1997, by a group of Gambians with the aim of supporting the needy and creating awareness amongst Gambians, especially those living abroad.

Mr. Kebbeh commended the GUS women members for their tireless efforts in raising funds for the procurement of the donated wheelchairs.

Deputy governor of West Coast Region, Musa B. Susso, praised the donors for the gesture and commended the department of social welfare in its role in the socio-economic development of the country.

Mr. Susso described the donation as a clear testimony of the love Gambia United Society has for people living with disabilities.

Country coordinator of Global Initiative for the Support of People with Physical Disabilities (GISPD) Ansumana Sanno, explained that GISPD is a charitable foundation providing support in the areas of education and health, among others.

Executive secretary of National Agency for Legal Aid, Ahmed Kemo Ceessay said his Agency recognises people living with disability and have been providing access to justice for them.

Sarjo Bajinka, education officer at the special needs education said the government attaches great importance to the education of people with disabilities. He thanked GISPD for their concern and love for The Gambian child.

Citizens Alliance party is Gambia's saviour -says Party Leader

africa » gambia » Show Map Monday, March 16, 2020

<http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/citizens-alliance-party-is-gambias-saviour-says-party-leader>

Dominic Mendy, chairman and interim party leader of the Citizens' Alliance has stated that his party is the unquestionable political course of change in The Gambia which has come to bring solutions to the problems in The Gambia.

Mr. Mendy was speaking on Friday, during the party's press conference held at a local hotel in Kololi.

Citizens' Alliance is a political party founded on the ideals of democracy, civil liberties, social cohesion and social justice. The party according to its founders was set up to respond to the country's desperate need for a new and effective political leadership.

According to the party leadership, a Citizens' Alliance-led government will strategically focus on economic prosperity, decent jobs, empowerment of Gambian citizenry; governance and transparency and sustainable peace and stability.

The party's chairman Mr. Mendy further said that the differences between their party and others is because they are called the Citizens' Alliance and that their party was constituted as a result of concerns by citizens of The Gambia for their welfare and development.

"We are a party that has recognised The Gambia as a sovereign state that has existed since 1965 and has been ruled by three governments. We also recognised like every other citizens of the country that we have had false start in development despite what may numerically be constituted as interesting economic growth rate, Gambia still continues to languish in poverty and deprivation," he noted

He added that they now need people with solutions who can deliver and sustain development as well as change in the quality of the life of people, adding that they setup the party to bring 'unique solution that will transform the lives of people' in the country.

"The difference Citizens' Alliance party will bring in The Gambia is unique solutions that will transform the lives of the people, using the people themselves because we all know that capacity exists in the country; and for that to be done we need to engage the Gambian people," he said

He also revealed that the Citizens' Alliance party congress is scheduled for 5th, 6th and 7th of June 2020 in Brikama where they will unveil their executive committee, flag bearer, manifesto as well as validate the party's constitution.

Other speakers included Alhagie Suso, secretary general, Raffie Diab, Fundraising chair and Neneh Freda Gomez, a member. They all spoke on the importance of setting up the Citizen's Alliance party.

They all spoke with one voice, saying that Citizens' Alliance party came to bring solutions to many problems faced in The Gambia.

According to the party interim executive members, they will include all the youth and young people in their development agenda as well as improve agriculture.

Author: Arfang M.S. Camara

ETHIOPIE :

Number of Ethiopia coronavirus cases rises to four

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/scienceandhealth/Ethiopia-reports-more-coronavirus-cases/3073694-5492582-14yrdis/index.html>

Monday March 16 2020

By TESFA-ALEM TEKLE / Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia on Sunday reported three new coronavirus cases, raising its total number of patients to four.

The Health ministry said one of the patients was a 42-year-old Ethiopian and the other two Japanese nationals aged 44 and 47.

It said the three had been in close contact with the first patient, also a Japanese national.

The ministry said the three, who had been working together, were in good condition.

After confirming its first case, Ethiopia has quarantined 117 locals, including people believed to have had contact with the first patient.

(COVID-19) L'Ethiopie suspend les cours universitaires, les grandes réunions et les événements sportifs pendant 15 jours

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/16/c_138884226.htm

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-16 à 21:05

ADDIS-ABEBA, 16 mars (Xinhua) -- Le Premier ministre éthiopien Abiy Ahmed a ordonné lundi la suspension immédiate des cours universitaires, des grandes réunions et des grands événements sportifs pendant 15 jours en raison des préoccupations liées au COVID-19.

L'Ethiopie a jusqu'à présent signalé cinq cas confirmés de COVID-19.

Ces mesures entreront en vigueur lundi, a déclaré M. Ahmed dans un communiqué de presse envoyé aux médias d'Etat.

"Les étudiants universitaires doivent rester à l'intérieur pendant 15 jours. Les chefs religieux devraient également mettre en place des mécanismes pour réduire le nombre de programmes religieux dans les 15 prochains jours", indique le communiqué.

Ethiopia is adding four more official languages to Amharic as political instability mounts

Addis Ababa March 3, 2020 / By Samuel Getachew

<https://qz.com/africa/1812085/ethiopia-adds-afan-oromo-somali-afar-tigrigna-languages-to-amharic/>

Ethiopia has approved a policy to introduce four additional working languages alongside Amharic, which has been the working language of the nation. Going forward, Afan Oromo, the most widely

spoken language in Ethiopia, Afar, Somali, and Tigrigna will all be adopted as official languages of government.

The new policy is among a series of reforms being introduced by Ethiopia's reformist prime minister Abiy Ahmed, who received the Nobel Peace Prize last year. It also comes just a month ahead of a national legislative election. Oromo-born Abiy, 43, who founded the Prosperity Party, is seeing his political honeymoon winding down, including in parts of Oromia and in the Tigray regions.

"Introducing additional working languages is a commendable action. In fact, it is long overdue," says former political prisoner Befeqadu Z. Hailu, who now heads the Centre for Advancement of Rights and Democracy in Ethiopia.

According to the latest census, Afan Oromo speakers account for 34.4% of the population, while Somali and Tigre speakers account for 6%. The share of Afar people is just 1.7%, and the Sidama and Wolayita each have twice as many people.

"Amharic (has) played a big role in facilitating communications among Ethiopians. But in order to build a society that is integrated both politically and economically, introducing new working languages is very important," said Abiy in a statement. "The new languages would play a big role in uniting the country and further improve cultural ties among Ethiopians."

The language policy of Ethiopia adopted during the past two successive regimes of Ethiopia prioritized Amharic as the state's sole official language. While there is no official reason for Amharic to be the dominant language of the federal government, history shows it was reinforced during the era of emperor Haile Selassie (1930-1974), who made it the lone working language under the "andinet" (unity) law.

Critics have pointed out that under the Prosperity Party (formerly the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front), some regions have been allowed to make a local language their working language, but there has been little change to reflect the diversity of the population at the national level. This has become increasingly important because of the growing instability in the country along political and ethnic lines.

In the past year there have been numerous reports of people killed as a result of ethnic conflicts, resulting in the displacement of more than 1 million people, according to the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix, in a nation of approximately 110 million. Ethiopia is Africa's second-most populous country, with ethnic groups spread across nine autonomous states.

While acknowledging the impact of the new development, some are doubtful Ethiopia has the budget to make it an instant reality.

"The addition of the new working languages is expected to reduce ethnic extremism and play a role in our state-building endeavor. However, I do not think it is possible to achieve it in the near future. It might take more time considering the financial obligation the commitment requires," a prominent member of the Prosperity Party who wanted to remain anonymous told Quartz.

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a political party that was once labeled as a terrorist group, had a wait-and-see reaction. "We still doubt the execution of the new policy and how is it going to be put into practice," it said in a statement.

****** AFRIQUE CENTRAL ******

CAMEROUN :

(COVID-19) Un quatrième cas de contamination au coronavirus détecté au Cameroun

French.xinhuanet.com|Publié le 2020-03-16 à 05:39

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2020-03/16/c_138881030.htm

YAOUNDE, 14 mars (Xinhua) -- Le Cameroun a enregistré un nouveau cas de coronavirus, portant le nombre de contaminations au COVID-19 à quatre, selon un communiqué publié dimanche soir par le ministère camerounais de la Santé publique.

Il s'agit d'un Camerounais âgé de 34 ans, arrivé samedi dans la capitale camerounaise Yaoundé à bord d'un vol de Brussels Airlines. Il a été repéré lors d'un contrôle sanitaire à l'aéroport et testé positif au coronavirus plus tard.

Avant son retour au Cameroun, l'intéressé avait séjourné pendant un mois en Belgique où il a été en étroit contact avec un ami ayant des symptômes similaires à ceux de COVID-19, selon le communiqué.

Jusqu'ici, le Cameroun a signalé quatre cas d'infection au COVID-19 dont trois cas importés.

UNION AFRICAINE :

La Commission de l'Union africaine condamne fermement l'attentat qui a visé un convoi du Premier ministre soudanais

<https://www.2m.ma/fr/news/la-commission-de-lunion-africaine-condamne-fermement-lattentat-qui-a-vise-un-convoi-du-premier-ministre-soudanais-20200309/>

09/03/2020 à 18:13 - La Commission de l'Union africaine a «condamné avec la plus grande fermeté» l'attentat qui a visé lundi 9 mars un convoi du Premier ministre soudanais Abdallah Hamdok.

«Je condamne avec la plus grande fermeté l'attentat contre le convoi du Premier ministre soudanais, Abdallah Hamdok», écrit le président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Moussa Faki Mahamat dans un tweet.

Le Premier ministre soudanais a été la cible lundi d'une tentative d'assassinat à Khartoum, avait annoncé la télévision soudanaise.

Le Premier ministre a été visé par une tentative d'assassinat mais il se porte bien et a été transporté dans un lieu sûr, avait précisé la télévision d'Etat, qui a diffusé les images de deux véhicules endommagés par l'explosion.

Une bombe a explosé lors du passage du convoi de M. Hamdok au niveau de la zone de "Kober", au nord-est de la capitale soudanaise, ont indiqué, pour leur part, les médias locaux et des témoins.

CHINE :

COVID-19) Les responsables botswanais saluent les efforts de la Chine pour lutter contre le coronavirus

http://french.china.org.cn/foreign/txt/2020-03/15/content_75816732.htm

French.china.org.cn | Mis à jour le 15-03-2020

Les responsables botswanais ont salué samedi les efforts continus de la Chine pour lutter contre le COVID-19, à la fois à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur de ses frontières, exprimant leur confiance de voir bientôt la fin de la pandémie du nouveau coronavirus.

Le président du Botswana Mokgweetsi Masisi a loué les mesures de prévention et de traitement que la Chine a mises en place pour combattre cette maladie virulente dans le monde entier.

"La propagation du virus est en déclin en Chine, principalement grâce aux mesures de réponse énergiques qu'elle a mises en place", a déclaré M. Masisi en s'adressant aux responsables de la santé à Francistown, la deuxième plus grande ville du Botswana.

Lemogang Kwape, le ministre de la Santé et du bien-être, a confié à Xinhua dans une interview téléphonique que le déclin spectaculaire des cas suspects et confirmés dans la province chinoise du Hubei est un témoignage clair que la bataille est sur le point d'être remportée.

Lors d'une conférence de presse en ligne vendredi, l'ambassadeur de Chine au Botswana Zhao Yanbo a indiqué que son pays avait lancée une série de politiques financière, fiscale et matérielle visant à promouvoir la reprise du travail et de la production des entreprises afin d'atteindre ses objectifs de développement socio-économique.

Le diplomate chinois a dit que la Chine enverra des experts médicaux dans un plus grand nombre de pays et de territoires qui en ont besoin et renforcera encore la communication et la coordination avec la communauté internationale.

Suivez China.org.cn sur Twitter et Facebook pour rejoindre la conversation.

Source: Agence de presse Xinhua

USA :

Breaking: FBI arrests 13 Nigerians over \$30m cyber fraud On March 16, 2020:06 pm In News, Politics

Read more at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/03/breaking-fbi-arrests-13-nigerians-over-30m-cyber-fraud/>

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, has arrested thirteen Nigerians, over alleged \$30 million money laundering scheme in the United States. Disclosing this in a statement obtained by Thecable, the US department of justice said federal agents arrested 24 suspects for their involvement in the large-scale fraud which targeted citizens, corporations, and financial institutions throughout the country [...].

USA/Coronavirus: Donald Trump déclare l'état d'urgence face à l'épidémie

<https://www.i24news.tv/fr/actu/international/ameriques/1584128199-usa-coronavirus-donald-trump-declare-l-etat-d-urgence-face-a-l-epidemie>

i24NEWS - AFP / 13 mars 2020 à 20:36 - dernière modification 15 mars 2020 à 07:16

"Les huit semaines à venir seront cruciales"

Le président américain Donald Trump a déclaré vendredi l'état d'urgence pour faire face à la crise du coronavirus.

"Pour déclencher la pleine puissance des ressources du gouvernement, je déclare officiellement une urgence nationale", a-t-il dit, évoquant ce dispositif qui permettra à l'Etat fédéral de débloquer jusqu'à 50 milliards de fonds.

"J'appelle chaque Etat (du pays) à mettre immédiatement en place des centres d'urgence" et les hôpitaux à activer leurs plans de préparation d'urgence "pour répondre aux besoins des Américains", a-t-il ajouté lors d'une conférence de presse dans les jardins de la Maison Blanche.

"J'ai également demandé au secrétaire à l'Energie d'acheter à très bon prix de grandes quantités de pétrole brut", a-t-il déclaré.

"Nous allons remplir les réserves stratégiques jusqu'au sommet, faire économiser des milliards aux contribuables américains, aider notre industrie pétrolière", a tenu à rassurer M. Trump.

Interrogé sur les ratés de la réponse américaine, en particulier sur la lenteur de la mise à disposition des tests, Donald Trump a été catégorique.

"Je ne me sens en aucune manière responsable", a-t-il lancé, affirmant avoir hérité d'un système qui n'était pas adapté pour faire face à une épidémie d'une telle ampleur.

M. Trump, qui a été en contact la semaine dernière avec un membre de la délégation du président Jair Bolsonaro testé positif au coronavirus, a expliqué ne pas avoir lui-même fait de test, car il ne présente "aucun symptôme".

ONU / UN :

RCA : un Casque bleu tué par des anti-balaka, l'ONU condamne un « acte odieux »

<https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/03/1064062>

15 mars 2020 - Paix et sécurité

Un Casque bleu burundais de la Mission des Nations Unies en République centrafricaine (MINUSCA) a été tué dimanche dans le centre du pays alors qu'il tentait avec ses collègues de stopper une attaque menée par des anti-balaka.

Dimanche après-midi, des éléments armés anti-balaka sous le commandement direct du dénommé Dimitri Ayoloma ont lancé une attaque contre la ville de Grimari, à l'ouest de Bambarim dans la préfecture de la Ouaka.

Les anti-balakas ont immédiatement ouvert le feu sur les domiciles du sous-préfet et du maire, semant la panique au sein de la population.

Conformément au mandat de protection des civils de la MINUSCA, les casques bleus du poste militaire avancé de la Mission sont immédiatement intervenus pour mettre fin à l'attaque.

« L'un d'entre eux a été mortellement touché par les anti-balaka, qui ont délibérément ouvert le feu sur les soldats de la paix », a indiqué la MINUSCA dans un communiqué publié le jour de l'attaque. Le Représentant spécial du Secrétaire général de l'ONU en RCA, Mankeur Ndiaye, a fermement condamné cet « acte odieux » qui coûté la vie à un casque bleu.

« Cette attaque contre la ville de Grimari et les casques bleus est inadmissible et constitue un crime grave relevant de la compétence des juridictions nationales et internationales », a déclaré M.

Ndiaye. « Le leader de ces éléments armés, Dimitri Ayoloma, ainsi que tous les auteurs et complices de l'attaque devront répondre de leurs actes devant la justice », a précisé le Représentant spécial.

M. Ndiaye, qui dirige également la MINUSCA, a rappelé que toute atteinte à la vie d'un soldat de la paix peut être considérée comme un crime de guerre et est passible de poursuites par la justice nationale ou internationale.

« Ce crime ne doit pas rester impuni », a, pour sa part, déclaré le chef des opérations de paix de l'ONU, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, sur Twitter.

La Force de la MINUSCA a renforcé les patrouilles à Grimari pour sécuriser les populations et prévenir d'autres incidents.

M.M. Lacroix et Ndiaye et tout le personnel de la mission onusienne en RCA ont présenté leurs condoléances à la famille du casque bleu tué ainsi qu'au peuple et au gouvernement burundais.

Il s'agit du deuxième membre de la MINUSCA tué au mois de mars par un groupe armé en RCA.

Le 7 mars, le corps sans vie, criblé de balles, d'un employé du bureau de la Mission onusienne, à Ndélé, (nord-est du pays) a été retrouvé tôt dans la brousse par la population.

L'employé de l'ONU avait été tué par des présumés combattants du Front populaire pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique (FPRC).

UN condemns Zambia for persecuting Lawyer Sangwa

15 March 2020 13:20 7

<https://www.zambiawatchdog.com/un-condemns-zambia-for-persecuting-lawyer-sangwa/>

UN Special Rapporteur condemns authorities in Zambia over Sangwa

Diego García-Sayán, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers under the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) has condemned the authorities in Zambia for arbitrary action against lawyer, John Sangwa SC.

The United Nations condemned the Zambian government for the suspension of Sangwa saying basic principles were violated.

This follows an outcry from many quarters over how the state handled the matter. The Judiciary had barred Sangwa from appearing on any court in Zambia accusing him of having issued disrespectful remarks against Judges during his Television discussion program.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges & Lawyers, Diego García-Sayán, condemned the suspension.

“I strongly condemn blatant violations of human rights against Mr John Sangwa. Lawyers must be independent and preserve his lawyer’s professional and intellectual independence with regard to the courts and professional colleagues,” he said.

Meanwhile, the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights (ABA justice defenders) says a hearing should have been carried out to determine the lawyer’s fate.

“Suspension of Zambia lawyer John Sangwa without a hearing raises serious due process and freedom of expression concerns,” says the defenders for justice.

Sangwa has been a strong critic of the proposed constitutional amendment especially Bill number 10. He has also publicly stated that incumbent President Edgar Lungu does not qualify to run in 2021 polls because he has already twice elected as provided by the Constitution.

“The UN Basic Principles on Lawyers stipulates that lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression and to take part in matters of public interest. International standards also provide that only in exceptional circumstances must a lawyer be immediately suspended,” says ABA.

Sangwa was suspended for alleged misconduct. “This serves to inform all the Hon. Addressees that by the direction of the Judiciary Mr John Sangwa S.C, an advocate practising under the firm of Simeza, Sangwa and Associates will not longer be allowed to appear before any court in Zambia until further notice.

“This action has been taken following a complaint of professional misconduct made by the judiciary to the Law Society of Zambia against the said Mr Sangwa, SC,” reads the letter signed by Boniface Mwiinga, acting registrar and director of court operations.

Meanwhile, section 29 on disciplinary powers of Court or judge apart from inquiry by disciplinary committee states that:

“Nothing in this Act contained shall supersede, lessen or interfere with the powers vested in the Chief Justice or any of the Judges of the Court to deal with the misconduct or offences by practitioners.”

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers is one of the thematic special procedures overseen by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The mandate holder examines the link between the weakening of safeguards for judges and lawyers and the gravity and frequency of human rights violations.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 16 Mars 2020