

[No peace is to be found on Rustenburg's platinum belt - tensions are rising at Amplats, where a worker was shot dead by police last week and 12,000 workers got sacked. Strikers said they'd die before allowing new labour on site, while police demanded that workers get permits for gatherings. But leaders of the wildcat strike say conditions for permission to assemble are impossible to comply with, and add that labour will gather in defiance of any ban. The situation looks increasingly dangerous.]

BURUNDI:

RWANDA:

Rwanda: Govt Must Investigate Unlawful Detention and Torture By Military Intelligence
8 October 2012/Amnesty International (London)/allafrica.com

press release

Rwanda's military intelligence department known as J2 has illegally held scores of civilians in military detention without charge or trial amid credible claims of torture, Amnesty International states today in a new report.

Rwanda: Shrouded in Secrecy: Illegal Detention and Torture by Military Intelligence reveals unlawful detention, enforced disappearances, as well as allegations of torture by J2.

The report details credible accounts of individuals being subjected to serious beatings, electric shocks and sensory deprivation to force confessions during interrogations.

"The Rwandan military's human rights record abroad is increasingly scrutinized, but their unlawful detention and torture of civilians in Rwanda is shrouded in secrecy," said Sarah Jackson, Amnesty International's Acting Deputy Africa Director.

Hidden from view by J2, scores of men languished in incommunicado detention for months and some alleged they were tortured.

Between March 2010 and June 2012, Amnesty International documented 45 cases of unlawful detention and 18 allegations of torture or ill-treatment at Camp Kami, Mukamira military camp, and in safe houses in the capital, Kigali.

The men were detained by J2 for periods ranging from 10 days to nine months without access to lawyers, doctors and family members.

Most had been rounded-up by the military from March 2010 onwards after grenade attacks in Kigali, the departure of the former army chief, Kayumba Nyamwasa, and in the run-up to the August 2010 presidential elections. Many of these detainees were later charged with threatening national security.

Some stated in court that they had been tortured and coerced to confess. In violation of international

law, judges typically asked them to prove torture, rather than ensuring that the allegations are investigated. The failure of judges to probe confessions that defendants claimed to have been coerced undermines the credibility of the Rwandan justice system.

Two individuals - Robert Ndengeye Urayeneza and Sheikh Iddy Abbasi - are still missing since their enforced disappearance in March 2010.

At the United Nations Committee against Torture in Geneva in May 2012, the Rwandan authorities denied these cases of unlawful detention, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

The Committee against Torture called on the Rwandan government to investigate reports of secret detention places and provide information on enforced disappearances.

Individuals and even lawyers are afraid to raise allegations of unlawful detention and torture in Rwanda, fearful for their safety. One family took their case to the East African Court of Justice in Tanzania instead. The Court found that the detention of Lieutenant Colonel Rugigana Ngabo, without trial or charge for five months violated Rwanda's obligations under the Treaty.

Following its obligation under the Convention against Torture, Rwanda has recently criminalized torture in its Penal Code.

Rwandan authorities have taken some positive steps to combat torture, including agreeing to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and inviting the Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit Rwanda. However, no official has yet committed to investigating these cases.

"Donors funding military training must suspend financial support to security forces involved in human rights violations," said Jackson.

The Deputy Prosecutor General told Amnesty International that "there is no torture in our country and we can't investigate on a false allegation."

The number of new cases has declined over the last year, but the Rwandan authorities' failure to prosecute those responsible makes it likely that J2 could revert to these practices in response to actual or perceived security threats.

RDC CONGO:

RDC : Pierre Chalupa condamné à 4 ans de prison pour faux et usage de faux
le 8 octobre, 2012/radiokapi.net

Le Tribunal de paix de Kinshasa/Ngaliema a condamné, samedi 6 octobre, à 4 ans d'emprisonnement l'ancien député Pierre-Jacques Chalupa. Le président du parti de l'opposition Action pour la démocratie et le développement au Congo (ADD Congo) était poursuivi pour détention d'une fausse attestation d'acquisition de la nationalité congolaise, d'une fausse carte d'électeur et d'un faux passeport congolais.

Les avocats de l'accusé contestent cet arrêt du tribunal affirmant qu'il s'attendait à un acquittement parce que les faits ne reposaient sur aucun élément fiable. Ils estiment que cette peine est lourde et ne peut être justifiée que par sa position politique. Ils promettent d'interjeter appel.

Au cours de l'audience foraine du jeudi 2 août, un des avocats de Chalupa, Me Kabengela Ilunga, a également affirmé que le ministère public n'a pas pu prouver que Chalupa détient un faux passeport congolais et une fausse carte d'électeur.

Le tribunal de paix de Ngaliema a inculpé le directeur des services de chancellerie au ministère de la Justice, Selumbe, pour faux. Selon le ministère public, c'est lui qui aurait délivré à Pierre-Jacques Chalupa l'attestation déclarative de la nationalité congolaise. Document qui lui a permis d'obtenir un passeport et de se présenter aux législatives de 2006 et 2011.

64 ans, Chalupa est emprisonné à la prison centrale de Makala depuis le 2 février 2012, après les élections législatives et présidentielle. Il a été élu député en 2006 avant d'être invalidé en 2007 après recomptage des voix. En 2011, il a de nouveau été élu. Il a perdu son mandat après son inculpation dans l'usage des faux documents.

L'ONG de défense de droits de l'Homme, la Voix de sans voix (VSV) qualifie cette arrestation de « harcèlement des opposants » en RDC. L'épouse de Chalupa, Mireille Akamia Chalupa, a déclaré que son époux a été arrêté à cause de ses convictions politiques. Elle a affirmé que son époux est un Congolais né en RDC de parents congolais et n'a jamais contracté une double nationalité.

UGANDA:

Kagame joins Ugandans in Kigali to mark 50 years

Publish Date: Oct 07, 2012/By Eddie Ssejjoba/newvision.co.ug

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has said that there is no reason whatsoever why Rwanda and Uganda cannot work together.

He said the two countries ought to move together through the challenges ahead in the next 50 years, adding that regional integration is something the two nations should continue to pursue.

Kagame made the remarks at the Uganda's 50th Independence anniversary celebrations of Ugandans living in Rwanda.

The function took place at Serena Hotel in Kigali on Saturday where the President was invited by the association of Ugandans living in Rwanda.

At the occasion, the New Vision managing director, Robert Kabushenga donated to the President a book entitled, 'Uganda: Building of a nation' published by Vision Group.

"And the reality is beginning to happen, the movement of Ugandans to Rwanda and Rwandans to Uganda is shooting up every day and that is how it should be, and that is how it should have been in the first place," Kagame explained.

"We want to encourage it to the extent that our people should take it for granted," he added.

Kagame who is scheduled to join Uganda's 50th Independence celebrations at Kololo on October 9th said that joining Ugandans in Rwanda and attending the national celebrations in Kampala 'indicates that we have started the journey for the next 50 years'.

“There are many lessons and experiences we can pick from each other by following the famous saying that United we stand, divided we fall, but we don’t want to fall,” the President said.

Kagame said Rwanda recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as well as many African countries because they got independence almost at the same time.

“But the question is; 50 years on, what lessons have we learnt and what does the future hold for you as Ugandans, which was the same question for Rwandans a few months ago,” he remarked.

Though there is a tendency of always looking back and focus on what has gone wrong, the President said, ‘it is even true to say that in some areas Africa has not made significant progress.’

He however added, “Africans should learn from past mistakes and ensure that though the past has not been so glorious, it was time to focus on the future”.

“By large and small, we can’t deny the fact that Africa is on the move, it is true for Uganda, Rwanda and many African countries,” he explained.

According to Kagame, there is a task ahead as Ugandans and Rwandese to make sure that they have learnt from weaknesses and mistakes and ‘that we are ready to move from the fast with our people in the next 50 years.’

Top jubilee gifts to Ugandans

Publish Date: Oct 08, 2012/By Carol Natukunda/newvision.co.ug

For decades, we were in the dark. Whether you had paid your bills or not, electricity in our houses was hardly on.

So the completion of Bujagali power project was a Godsend. In an era where we are using everything with power — cooking, washing, hairdressing — the demand keeps growing. Bujagali contributes 250 Mega Watts (MW) to the national grid.

Until late July this year, power demand during peak hours (7:00pm – midnight), was at 443MW, yet available electricity was about 330MW, which ensured the economy continued to suffer from power blackouts.

Electricity supply has now increased to 580MW, thanks to the timely completion of the Bujagali hydropower project. Dr. Benon Mutambi, the Electricity Regulatory Authority chief, says power demand is growing at 10% per annum.

“It means that every year we should be able to commission a 50MW project online if we are to avoid going back to the situation we were in a few months ago,” Mutambi said.

Karuma, which has stalled for some time, is expected to be completed in a few years. But Uganda is an endowed country and experts see no reason why we should not tap renewable options like solar, wind power and biomass.

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

For 50 years, we have done things manually. You needed to line up for months or even years to secure a proper land title. Now, the independence gift cannot be any better than going digital.

Chasing a land title will now take minutes instead of weeks when the digitalisation of the lands office is completed next month, according to the lands ministry spokesperson Sam Obbo.

In the health ministry, there is an initiative to digitise the country's health management systems, including birth and death certificates, and patients records. In the internal affairs departments, we shall see more computerised driving permits.

FREE AT LAST

The inmates are upbeat. The Uganda Prison Services has submitted a list of over 1,000 prisoners who qualify to benefit from the presidential pardon.

Those who qualify to benefit from the pardon include those on death row, minor offenders who have surpassed 50% of their sentence, pregnant women, the terminally sick, breastfeeding mothers and the elderly.

No doubt, pardoned inmates will have a story to tell for generations to come.

NEW CURRICULUM

Indeed we cannot shape future generations if we have an out-dated school system. That is why the best jubilee gift we could ever get in the education sector is the new curriculum.

Students joining S1 in 2015 will have seven instead of the 43 subjects that they have been doing since 1962.

National Curriculum Development Centre deputy director, Grace Baguma, says the current O'level curriculum was overloaded and outdated.

"For instance, during Physics lessons, the students are taught about vacuum tubes, yet the technology has long been phased out in electronics," she notes.

The new curriculum lays emphasis on mathematics, science, social studies, languages, technology, life education and creative arts.

Meanwhile, vocational education has a new face now. With a programme dubbed, 'Skilling Uganda,' you can study "hands-on" courses in any institute and still earn a degree or diploma, depending on what you want to do. One can choose to be a hair dresser, mechanic, agriculturalist, florist, fashion designer, architect, chef and plumber, among others.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Maternal health is still a huge problem in Uganda. An estimated 6,000 women die every year due to birth-related complications. A women-only hospital is expected to be ready in two years and hopefully end the deaths.

CHEAP HOUSING

Uganda boasts of several plush housing estates. But they only target the affluent class. Daudi Migereko, the lands and housing minister, says once the new housing policy is adopted, it will streamline and ensure affordable and decent houses for the middle class people, including those who are renting.

The high cost of mortgages and construction materials will also be checked. The policy will also enable government to directly construct houses for medical workers, teachers and other public

servants in the country.

Uganda: Give The Govt Total Support

By Prof. Semakula Kiwanuka/The New Vision/7 October 2012

column

I write to thank President Museveni for standing firm with Musisi in her efforts not only to beautify but also to bring order and sanity to the capital city.

It is a herculean and risky task because of the huge vested and powerful interests.

Now that the Centenary Park has become a contentious issue, let me give a background to its origins and the intentions of those of us who started it.

As one of the people who created the Centenary Park I am saddened because the Park has been turned into a built up area, totally contrary to the intentions of those of us who set it up.

It was in the early days of the NRM government when Christopher Yiga was Chairman (Mayor) of KCC and I was Chairman of Makindye Division and, therefore, a councillor of KCC.

The then Council had many upright and patriotic Ugandans such as the late Justice Mulenga (Nakawa), the late James Sinabulya (Kampala Central) etc.

At that time, the newly rehabilitated Sheraton Hotel had cordoned off Kampala City Park. That was one of the challenges we faced as councillors because the Capital City had been deprived of the only green environment of reasonable size where Ugandans could stroll and relax with their families.

Some of us gave examples of great cities like London whose beauty and fame are enhanced by their numerous parks such as Hyde Park, the Green Park, Kensington Gardens, St. James's Park etc.

That was the origin of the decision to create the Centenary Park. It was never our intention that the Centenary Park would be converted into a built up area.

In pursuance of creating a green environment, we also had plans to landscape the banks of Nakivubo River. That never happened because there came a new breed of mayors and councillors for whom the idea of a beautiful city with beautiful parks was totally alien.

Then came the mad days of CHOGM when an unholy alliance of Lands, Local Government, and KCC decided to sell whatever they could lay their hands on.

I remember making a spirited pro-green, pro-park speech in an important forum when a distinguished lady tabled the sale of City Square. I did not even know who the purchaser was until last year 2011.

Beautiful cities are magnets to investors:

Worldwide, beautiful cities with world class infrastructures are magnets to investors and tourists.

At onetime some of us had dreams and ambitions to make Kampala a regional hub with

headquarters of international corporations, banks, United Nations Agencies etc.

Because their presence gives the host cities and host countries international clout and status.

Besides, they have huge pockets and are big money spenders all of which boosts national economics.

KCCA:

What Jennifer Musisi is trying to do is to recapture what has been lost. Needless to say Ugandans want and deserve a beautiful city.

The creation of KCCA headed by a non-political Executive Director with a powerful mandate was intended not only to reduce the politicisation and the kavuyo in the management of the city.

It was also intended to restore order and sanity and to embark on Kampala's rehabilitation.

My appeal, therefore, which is shared by many Ugandans is to support Musisi, not only to beautify the city but also to reclaim the whole of Centenary Park to its original status as a complete green environment for people to stroll, sit and enjoy their city.

Let us not support Musisi selectively. When she stood up to the mighty and powerful who had illegally acquired KCC's prestigious buildings she was applauded.

Similarly those who obtained Centenary Park and other contracts through influence peddling and abuse of office to turn the park into a built up area should not be protected to perpetuate the vandalisation of a public good.

The late Nobel Lauriet Mathai Wangari stood up against the mighty and powerful in Kenya to protect Nairobi city's Uhuru Park.

I appeal to Ugandans to support Jennifer to restore the beauty of Kampala and to bring chaos to an end.

The writer is Uganda's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

Uganda@50: Solution to our challenges

By Muniini K. Mulera/monitor.co.ug/Monday, October 8 2012

In Summary

I join you in celebrating our great country's achievements of the last 50 years. I celebrate the beauty and wealth of our land.

Dear Tingasiga:

The independence celebrations on October 9, 1962 left a 10-year-old Ugandan boy intoxicated with a joy he did not understand. My father, a political activist who did not mince words about the pain of colonial rule, was on cloud nine as the Union Jack was replaced by the Crested Crane. The possibilities were endless. Uhuru was here.

Of course things did not prove as inviting as the fireworks that cracked all over the land that glorious night. Therefore, one understands those who see no reason to celebrate our 50 years of independence. However, I disagree with them.

Uganda is our country, a great country that is worth celebrating and thanking God for. We celebrate Uganda, not its temporary rulers. We celebrate our freedom to govern ourselves, complete with the right to make our own mistakes. We celebrate Uganda's survival in spite of the errors and horrors of its rulers.

We celebrate the achievement of those who took up the challenge to govern our complex country. We celebrate their dreams, encapsulated by Prime Minister A. Milton Obote as he ended his speech to Parliament on Wednesday October 10, 1962: "We are determined to succeed in the trials that lie ahead. I know we shall succeed."

Obote and many others would not survive the trials of which he spoke. Millions of Ugandans would flee from their land. Tens of thousands of Ugandans of Asian descent would be expelled from their country. The unlucky citizens would be slaughtered or tortured by their own governments. Many patriots would give their lives as the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Yet as I reflect on Uganda@50, I agree with Obote's prediction that we would succeed. We continue to succeed. Yes it has been a rollercoaster ride. We have had our highs in our efforts at modernisation. We have had our hopes raised through violent defeat of dictatorships promised return to democracy. We have had our lows with massive abuse of human rights, stolen elections, decay and collapse of our cherished institutions and services, civil wars, military coups, rivers of blood and other consequences of state violence.

We have taken up arms to liberate ourselves from dictatorships. We have replaced them with new dictatorships. We have brought Uganda back from the dark pit into which she had sunk under the stewardship of some of the most incompetent and ruthless rulers.

We have regained our pride among nations. We no longer walk with our heads bowed in embarrassment. We are happy to fly our national flag in every corner of the World. Yet this success against the odds is threatened by widespread moral collapse, greed and corruption; misuse of power; a regime determined to subvert the democratisation process; state violence against citizens; and an enormous national debt and foreign interests that may lead to re-colonisation. However, as Obote said, even these trials will be overcome.

There is hope for our country. That hope does not reside in retention of the current rulers or in replacing them with new ones. Uganda's hope rests on the resetting of individual and collective moral compasses towards a genuine patriotism that puts Uganda above self and above partisan interests.

This is a patriotism founded on humility, on tolerance and on honest dealings with each other and with our motherland. It is a patriotism that recognises that every Ugandan has an equal stake in our country, with the right to think and to act freely within the law and to enjoy the resources that God has given us.

Independence must not be some abstract idea that is meaningless to the majority of the citizens. It must be the independence of all 35 million of us, free to think, free to choose, free to enjoy all rights and privileges of citizenship, free from poverty, free from preventable disease, free from hunger and free from backwardness.

I join you in celebrating our great country's achievements of the last 50 years. I celebrate the beauty and wealth of our land. I salute my fellow countrymen whose resilience has brought us thus far.

However, the Bible tells us that after King Solomon had built the Great Temple of the Lord, he and his people threw an enormous party as sacrifice to God, similar to that which Uganda will throw tomorrow.

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14.)

Yes, Tingasiga, even as we seek the practical solutions to our current trials and as we seek our common interests and direction over the next 50 years, we must get on our knees and seek the saving power of Jesus Christ – not through the rituals of Sunday worship, not through the prosperity gospel and such, but through the genuine transformation of our hearts. Uganda's greatest problem has been and remains the non-partisan evil within our hearts. May God uphold our land!

Dr Mulera is a Daily Monitor columnist based in Canada.

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Uganda: The IFJ Strongly Condemns the Police Violence Inflicted Upon Two Journalists in Uganda
7 October 2012/allafrica.com/International Federation of Journalists (Brussels)

press release

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) today strongly condemns the harassment inflicted upon a photojournalist and a television reporter in Uganda on 4 October 2012.

"We are deeply concerned about the systematic crackdown on journalists in Uganda. We condemn this violence and call on authorities to investigate the case. We will never stop advocating and defending the rights of journalists to conduct their work safely and freely", said Gabriel Baglo, IFJ Africa Director.

According to news reports and independent sources like the Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda (HRNJ-Uganda) freelance photojournalist Isaac Kasimani from the Agence France Press and the private Daily Monitor newspaper and his colleague William Ntege, better known as Kyuma Kya Yesu from the Wavah Broadcasting Service (WBS) were subjected to police force on October 4.

Kasimani told IFJ sources that he was slapped by a policeman while another pushed him downstairs when he refused to end his conversation with the leader of the opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Dr Kiiza Besigye. Kasimani's camera was destroyed in the process and he cannot lay a complaint against the police as the faces of the policemen were covered.

"The growing threat to the safety of journalists and media workers has become a major concern for IFJ. We pledge to the government of Uganda to put an end to the situation," Baglo added.

For more information, please contact IFJ on +221- 33 867 95 87

The IFJ represents more than 600.000 journalists in 134 countries

Uganda @ 50: Unite and heal our wounded history

Monday, October 8 2012 /monitor.co.ug

On September 29, I clocked 50 years and thereby became privileged to celebrate my golden birthday with Uganda's Golden Jubilee. I have often made a joke that I am one of the Ugandans who participated in Uganda's struggle for independence while in my mother's womb. Thank God my struggle was not in vain! Despite Uganda's success story in self-governance, economic development and the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease, the greatest challenge to us, in my view, has and continues to be the wounds of history that were meted out by one group against the other; individual against another based on ethnic, religious, political, social and other sectarian divisions.

While the period preceding nation formation had a fair share of inter tribal or ethnic conflict, the post Independence period has witnessed a resurgence of sectarianism in the public, civil, political and even religious realms. The historical religious political wars of 1880s created wounds of history that were compounded by the period of the formation of political parties prior to Uganda's Independence in 1960. The political parties were characterised by pseudo religious and ethnic ideals and thereby did not squarely address the problem of ethnic and religious identity.

Subsequent Ugandan governments have tried to heal the wounds of history through political programmes of forging unity and harmony but alas, the voices of disquiet and discontent continue. It is not uncommon to hear stories of Ugandans being denied jobs or services in certain public, political or civil service sectors simply because of their ethnicity, political or religious identity. Even in religious circles, within one faith community you often hear the faithful ranking high the issue of ethnicity in the election of a bishop or a district Khadi, let alone Archbishop or Chief Khadi.

Uganda must count itself blessed since despite the simmering ethnic and religious tension, the nation has never plunged into large scale conflict as has been the case with the Nigerian Christian and Muslim standoff, the Kenyan largely ethnic post-election violence and the Rwandan ethnic genocide that also carried religious undertones.

My pastoral visits to Nakivale refugee settlement camp in Isingiro District where there are refugees from countries like Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia has left an indelible mark on my appreciation of how peaceful and welcoming Ugandan has been as a nation in the last 50 years, but equally so, the experience has left a challenging mark on my musing over the country's wounds of history that could be re-opened if not addressed.

During our golden Jubilee celebrations, Ugandans ought to make every effort in healing wounds of history by extending an olive branch to people of other ethnic, political or religious identity, particularly those whom they have considered their avowed enemies. A special appeal goes to all our leaders political, civil and religious to be in the vanguard of preaching and teaching the gospel of love, unity and harmony. A prominent Muslim scholar Abdouljawad Falaturi argues that, 'tolerance is part of human nature but intolerance is part of education'.

As part of efforts to heal our wounded history, an international conference with the theme Healing Wounded History will be held at Lake View Hotel in Mbarara from January 11 to 13, 2013 and this conference will address the issue of healing ethnic, political, social, economic and religious differences. Let have more of such initiatives in order to pacify and unify this country.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa,
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SOUTH AFRICA:

South Africa: Murder and War Talk As the Killing Fields Move to Amplats

By Mandy De Waal/Daily Maverick/8 October 2012

analysis

Johannesburg — No peace is to be found on Rustenburg's platinum belt - tensions are rising at Amplats, where a worker was shot dead by police last week and 12,000 workers got sacked. Strikers said they'd die before allowing new labour on site, while police demanded that workers get permits for gatherings. But leaders of the wildcat strike say conditions for permission to assemble are impossible to comply with, and add that labour will gather in defiance of any ban. The situation looks increasingly dangerous.

"They shot that worker in cold blood. It is nothing more than cold-blooded murder, but the state doesn't have the political courage to own up to this," Mametlwe Sebei, a leader in SA's Democratic Socialist Movement, told Daily Maverick. Sebei is talking about 48-year-old mine worker Mtshunquleni Qakamba, who died after police opened fire on strikers. The workers gathered on a hill adjacent to Anglo American Platinum's Merensky reef near Rustenburg on Thursday 04 October 2012, to get an update on the wildcat strike.

The next day, 12,000 miners were dismissed by Amplats, as management and unions were set to start talks in a move that draw fighting talk from strike leaders. "Despite the company's repeated calls for employees to return to work, we have continued to experience attendance levels of less than 20%," read a statement from Amplats, which has lost some R700 million in revenue since the strike began.

Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) has been hit by an illegal strike since 12 September, when workers downed tools and demanded an increase to R16,070 per month. Workers have told media that R12,500 (the Lonmin strikers' original demand) should be the standard basic pay for miners in South Africa.

But strike leaders say that Amplats hasn't got a hope in hell of bringing replacement labour into the mines. "Nobody will come and operate these mines. If there any people we feel must go, it is them, not us," said Evans Ramokga, who threatened that new labour would only be hired "over our dead bodies."

To add to rising tensions, police have declared any meetings held without consent in the area illegal. "People are living in a state of emergency in Rustenburg, and the police are saying that there is a regulation that we must apply for permits to hold any gathering," said Sebei, adding that workers needed to get a new permit for each meeting, and that law enforcement officers have told them each permit must stipulate a separate and different context for each meeting.

"The police are making it impossible for us to meet, try and update workers on the strike situation, or to get a mandate from the miners to negotiate. Each time we want to gather, the police say we need a separate permit and there are all these conditions. This during a strike where the situation can change dramatically from minute to minute, and we need to communicate effectively with the workers," Sebei - who is helping to co-ordinate independent strike committees in Rustenburg and

beyond - complained.

Sebei said that the workers had decided to continue in defiance of what he called police impositions on the miners' right to gather. "That man (Mtshunquleni Qakamba) was killed because the police and the military are supporting the mining bosses by the command of the government, and are engaging in a savage onslaught on workers and civilians in the township every night. They are throwing tear gas into the shacks virtually every night."

Last week, Sebei says, workers had applied for permits but were getting no response from the police. "First there was a sit-in at the mines underground. We did this for two days, but the management switched off the water and air, and we were forced to come up. We then had to meet with the workers to get feedback from them, which is our democratic right. Workers must get reports from us on a daily basis," the strike organiser said.

The workers went to a place called 'the mountain' near Amplats to gather and discuss strike issues. "The police came and surrounded us on Thursday, like they had done the day before. They said they would give us ten minutes to disperse and then they started to count. But they counted like this: 'Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven ' Even before they got to nought the teargas and bullets came."

After the fire the workers took the body, and wouldn't surrender it to police. "The workers took the body and called us, and we arranged for the media to independently identify the killing. We took photos of the body and we took this to the media. The media called the police but even then the police refused to confirm the death. The media had to come to Rustenburg and to see the body for themselves. The police then came to collect the body the next day in the full view of the media. If it was not for the workers, Mtshunquleni Qakamba would have died in oblivion.

No one would have known about his death."

Police were unable to comment on the death of Qakamba, because the matter had already been referred to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate for investigation. "The cause of the death and all its circumstances are currently under investigation by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) as the incident appeared to have arisen from police action," Colonel Emelda Setlhako told News24.

"The police instructed the mineworkers to disperse, but the instruction was ignored. The crowd began stoning the police who then had to use stun grenades, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse them," she said.

Sebei said that there had been five to six other killings that had not been reported. "The police are killing people, but it is not being reported because the police refuse to confirm when they take bodies.

That is why the workers took that body, so it can become a matter of public attention.

"When we went back to the site yesterday, we saw that there were cartridges on the ground. This showed us that the police used live bullets. This man, he was hit on the body, he was bleeding from the chest. We found cartridges showing that live ammunition had been used," Sebei said.

The strike organiser said that in the middle of September an armoured police vehicle drove over a man at the Sondela informal settlement near Amplats. "That 'hippo' incident - the police never told us what happened to the man, and they refuse to declare his death to the media," said Sebei, who added that strike leaders were conducting a campaign of non-violence, but said the police and mine

bosses were pushing them into a corner.

"We are trying to observe discipline, but the government and the state needs to remember that a man on the edge of the cliff knows no reason.

The management and the police are pushing these people into a corner, and then are telling them to comb their hair, while a noose is being tied around the workers' necks."

Earlier, National Union of Mineworkers' spokesman, Lesiba Seshoka, warned that the strike would turn dangerous. "It is likely to happen now; the strike will get more violent," he said. "You can see the anger.

This is going to take a new dimension." Seshoka said workers' demands were "genuine" even though the strike was illegal. "It's like you can't extinguish a fire with petrol. You have to act in a manner that promotes dialogue."

There are plans for a meeting between management and the unions on Monday 08 October, after which Sebei said workers would be updated at the Blesbok stadium in Rustenburg. "The company has fired 12,000, which is unfortunate. But if Anglo wants to take this to its logical conclusion, it will need to fire the rest, and here we are talking about 70,000 workers because of all the subsidiary companies that have entered the strike. You can't fire that many people without precipitating a civil war, and that is an eventuality we definitely don't wish for, so we are hoping the talks tomorrow will be more constructive," said Sebei.

As strikes ripple beyond Rustenburg's platinum belt to South Africa's greater mining sector and allied industries, what comes next will have a significant impact on the economy.

Mining capital has supported ANC elitism and created massive wealth for the few, and well-connected, while operations sustained living conditions that compare well with those under Apartheid, or earlier when there was no pretence at protecting workers rights.

Workers say they want the mines to be 'democratically nationalised', meaning that they want mining to be put under the control of the working class to alleviate poverty and service delivery failures, while giving labourers a fair wage and reasonable lives.

In the headlong clash of ideologies, what looks almost certain is that mining will never be the same again.

The Daily Maverick is a unique blend of news, information, analysis and opinion delivered from our newsroom in Johannesburg, South Africa. Read us on dailymaverick.co.za.

South Africa: Strike to Expand to Port Workers

8 October 2012/sapa

Johannesburg — A strike by truck drivers is set to spread to rail and port workers this week, the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) said.

Satawu spokesman Vincent Masoga said the union had applied at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration for permission to expand the strike to ports and railways.

Masoga said the union would continue to negotiate with employers, with the next meeting

scheduled for Tuesday.

Satawu has been asking for a 12 percent wage increase but was prepared to negotiate a compromise if the employers, including the Road Freight Employers' Association (RFEA), were willing to also compromise.

"We're prepared to even take 10 percent but the guys are not budging at all," Masoga said.

The unions involved in the truck drivers' strike said action continued on Saturday but they were hopeful an agreement would be reached during negotiations this week.

"We are positive that we might find a solution because there is a lot at stake," the Motor Transport Workers' Union's (MTWU) Dirk White said.

"This strike is not about political play -- people can lose their jobs."

The unions involved are South African Transport & Allied Workers' Union (Satawu), the Professional Transport and Allied Workers' Union SA (PTAWU), the Transport and Allied Workers' Union of SA and MTWU.

Satawu spokesman Vincent Masoga said the strike was continuing and they had received a notice of negotiations.

"We will always be hopeful," he said.

"More importantly, we are hopeful that the employers will play ball this time around."

PTAWU's Pancho Ndevu agreed with the other unions and said they will remain hopeful for the workers.

Africa: Mbeki's Cold Shower On South Africa and the AU

By Khadija Patel/Daily Maverick/8 October 2012

analysis

Johannesburg — The thrust of South African foreign policy over the last 18 months was ostensibly defined by a relentless campaign to have Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma elected to the chair of the African Union Commission. While many doubted the motives influencing the campaign, few doubted Dlamini-Zuma was the right person for the job. Former president Thabo Mbeki, however, begs to differ.

"Expectations will be disappointed."

Former president Thabo Mbeki is doubtful of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's chances of success in her new role as chairperson of the African Union Commission. In basic language, Mbeki believes Dlamini-Zuma is in over her head. He believes the expectations of Dlamini-Zuma are so far removed from the actual functions of the African Union Commission that she cannot but fail. In an interview with The Sunday Independent, Mbeki expressed concern "about people putting a burden on her shoulders; a burden she can't carry."

Mbeki's remarks have tempered with criticism the air of triumph that has marked South African

foreign policy since Dlamini-Zuma was successfully elected to head the African Union Commission. Quite apart from the growing disillusionment and disappointment with the morass of issues plaguing President Jacob Zuma's administration, Dlamini-Zuma's election to the AU Commission was the one thing that went government's way this year. Mbeki's remarks, in other words, are pouring cold water on the one good thing Zuma & Co. have had going for them recently.

Few understand exactly why it was so important to South African foreign policy to sacrifice Dlamini-Zuma to the African Union. Her work rescuing the Department of Home Affairs from the throes of indiscriminate chaos was widely applauded. If anything, she appeared to be needed more urgently in Pretoria than in Addis Ababa. Her candidacy for the AU job was pressed even after the first election last January delivered a mortifying blow to South Africa's ambitions. It had become clear that South Africa's drive to take over the reigns of the AU commission had embittered the continent's other big hitters, like Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia. But even as South Africa was criticised for pursuing the AU Commission chair, few debated Dlamini-Zuma's ability to actually turn the AU Commission around.

This, after all, is an instrument of the AU that has been rendered blunt by ineptitude. Key positions were not filled, reports of corruption were rife and there was little opportunity to hold key stakeholders accountable. Dlamini-Zuma, with a proven track record in domestic governance, appears to be well qualified for the job.

Mbeki, however, feels that the expectations of Dlamini-Zuma are misplaced by a fundamental misunderstanding of the way the AU Commission works and what exactly she will be able to do.

"I think part of this feeling that she is going to change [things] is the failure to understand how the AU operates. People might put a big burden on her shoulders, expecting her to do this and that, and when it doesn't happen, they will blame her, when actually she has no capacity to do these things," Mbeki said.

Clayson Moneyla, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Relations and Co-Operation, declined to comment on Mbeki's remarks, but added that Dlamini-Zuma was not charged with changing anything at the AU. "We and SADEC were not looking to change anything.

Rather we were looking to enhance the everyday functions of the AU Commission," he said.

Mbeki believes the AU Commission would benefit better from a former head of state in the position of chairperson, saying that former Malian president Alpha Konare was once favoured for the job.

"The reasoning was that once you have a former head of state sitting in this position of chair, he will have sufficient influence over his former peers," he said. According to Mbeki, the strength of the AU does not lie in the commission and its policies, but rather in the persuasive powers of one government upon another. Or, as he put it, "You have to be able to intervene with the governments in a manner that encourages them."

Mbeki detractors, however, believe that it is Mbeki himself who coveted the AU Commission's top job. They believe Mbeki was embittered by Dlamini-Zuma's successful election and his comments are a ploy to discredit one of the Zuma administration's foreign policy successes.

From deep within the Zuma camp, Mbeki's comments further indicate that he may well have lobbied against Dlamini-Zuma.

And on the road to Mangaung, such conspiracy theories are par for the course.

The suggestion of skulduggery means that these theories are not altogether irrational, but rather a further demonstration of the bitter clash of interests and ideas warring for the soul of the ANC - and, of course, reign of the country.

The Daily Maverick is a unique blend of news, information, analysis and opinion delivered from our newsroom in Johannesburg, South Africa.

South Africa: DA Welcomes the Public Protector's Investigation Into Nkandlagate

8 October 2012/allafrica.com/Democratic Alliance (Cape Town)

press release

The DA welcomes the decision by Public Protector, Adv. Thuli Mandonsele, to investigate the upgrading of President Zuma's Nkandla home, following my request last week. This is the first of many investigations that will need to be initiated to ensure that the President is held fully accountable for his exorbitant and unnecessary cash splurge of taxpayer's money.

Further reports in the City Press today show that the upgrades at Nkandla are just the tip of the iceberg. It is estimated that a further R981 million will also be spent for upgrades at the ministerial complex at Bryntirion in Pretoria, with R100 million being spent on a new VIP residence alone. I will write to the Public Protector and ask that her investigation be extended to also include these upgrades.

South Africans need to be able to rest assured that when any member of the government, including the president, fails to prioritise spending effectively, that they will be held accountable for their actions.

The DA will also continue to pursue a number of additional steps:

We will request that the Speaker grant a debate of public importance on this matter, to allow for Members of Parliament to discuss and debate the upgrade.

We will again request that the Standing Committees of Public Accounts and Appropriations urgently investigate both the allocation of funds to these projects, as well as how these funds have been spent.

We will continue to petition for Public Works Minister, Thulas Nxesi to appear before Parliament's portfolio committee on Public Works to provide the public with an explanation for this expenditure.

We will write to the Auditor General, Terence Nomembe, and request that he perform a forensic audit into all contracts and renovations forming part of the Department of Public Work's Prestige Projects, of which these upgrades form part.

The extravagant Nkandla upgrade is not only a scandalous waste of public money, but it also creates the perception that President Zuma is above the law. In doing so, it stands in clear contradiction to the values enshrined in our Constitution.

This cannot be left unanswered. The DA will therefore continue to do everything possible to ensure that this blatant abuse of state funds is stopped, and that President Zuma is held responsible for his actions.

Lindiwe Mazibuko, Parliamentary Leader of the Democratic Alliance

South African miners to lay murder charges

AAP/October 08, 2012

REPRESENTATIVES of 12,000 fired Anglo American Platinum workers in South Africa say they plan to lay murder charges against police after a colleague was killed in clashes with the authorities.

"What we want to do tomorrow is to open a case against the SAPS (South African Police Service)," said George Tyobeka, a worker representative at the mine in northwestern town Rustenburg.

The Amplats worker, identified by mine workers as Mtshunquleni Qakamba, 48, was killed on Thursday when police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse a gathering of strikers on a hill.

"They shot against the people ... until they killed one of our colleagues," Tyobeka told AFP on Sunday, adding that the workers wanted to file charges of murder and attempted murder.

"Employees weren't fighting, they were just sitting on the hill," he said.

Authorities have not confirmed the man's identity or cause of death.

An independent police watchdog has meanwhile taken over the investigation "as the incident appeared to have arisen from police action", police said in a statement.

Qakamba is among a growing list of fatalities in the ongoing violence that has gripped South Africa's mining industry.

Since August, thousands of workers in different mines have gone on strike over pay, and police crackdowns have turned violent on some occasions.

In neighbouring Marikana, deadly strikes at platinum mine operated by mining giant Lonmin have left 46 dead, including 34 killed by police in a crackdown in a single day in August.

A union branch leader - who took part in an inquiry into the Lonmin violence - was shot dead in Marikana late Friday. And on Sunday, another fatality was reported.

Both killings were confirmed by police late Sunday.

"An unemployed cousin ... of an NUM shop steward was shot and killed last night (Saturday) at the shop steward's house in what is reported to be a case of mistaken identity," said National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesman Lesiba Seshoka in a statement.

"According to the friend who was seated on a chair at the time the incident happened, gunmen appeared from nowhere at the Marikana hostel and immediately shot the steward's cousin ... who was sitting on a bed," he said.

It appeared that the victim was mistaken by gunmen for his cousin.

The provincial branch of powerful trade union federation Cosatu, which is in an alliance with the ruling African National Congress, said the murders were part of a political conspiracy.

"From the manner in which the secretary of the branch was killed it is clear that the killers were ready for some time," it said in a statement, referring to the Friday killing.

"The poor leader was reportedly shot by seven bullets. This is clearly no longer about wages but a clear attack on the NUM, Cosatu and its members," the union said.

Wildcat strikes have spread across South Africa's mining sector as workers reject their conventional union structures.

Lonmin, the world's third largest platinum producer, gave strikers pay rises of up to 22 per cent in September after six weeks of illegal work stoppages.

But Amplats, the world's top platinum producer, formally dismissed 12,000 of 28,000 striking workers following disciplinary hearings, a day after the crackdown that left Qakamba dead.

Unions have condemned the mass dismissal, insisting the workers be reinstated.

On Saturday about 1500 people gathered at the hill where the clashes occurred to commemorate Qakamba.

Vowing to fight for higher wages, worker representatives will meet with government mediators on Monday about their demands but not to discuss their sacking, Tyobeka said.

"Tomorrow we don't want to mention the issue of dismissal. Dismissal is an issue of management," he said.

TANZANIA:

Tanzania-Oman business forum set to explore opportunities in diverse sectors

AFTAB H. KOLA/timesofoman.com/October 08, 2012

Muscat: A Tanzania-Oman business forum, which will be held on October 16 at Al Bustan Palace Hotel here, will explore business opportunities in the resource-abundant East African country in diverse sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and oil and gas.

Talking to Times of Oman, Ali Ahmed Saleh, ambassador of Tanzania to Oman said, "Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of Tanzania, who will be in Oman next week, will deliver the keynote address at this forum.-"

Emphasising on the long history of relationship between Oman and Tanzania, he observed, "The visit of Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete is aimed at consolidating, strengthening and translating the existing special relationship between Tanzania and Oman through viable economic cooperation.-"

Giving details about the forum, Ali Ahmed Saleh said, "The President will offer personal assurances that the Government of Tanzania will do all it can to offer help for investment into Tanzania from Oman. The Tanzania Investment Centre will give a detailed presentation at this forum. They will highlight on the available economic and investment potential in Tanzania.-" Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) is the primary agency of government to coordinate, encourage, promote and facilitate investment in Tanzania and to advise the Government on investment related matters.

Key investment areas

Talking about the key areas of investments, the ambassador noted, "There is a big potential in the domain of food security. Oman and other GCC countries are soul searching about food security as they are being primarily food importers. And we say the search for food security ends in Tanzania as this is the country which can feed many countries. Tanzania is endowed with 40 million hectares of arable land. It is a huge country encompassing a land of 945 square kilometres blessed with rivers and lakes. There is no cultural shock between the two countries given its long standing historical ties, so it is a natural choice for Omani businessmen to invest in agriculture items like rice, sugar, horticulture and wheat among others.

Incentives to investors

"Tanzania is home to meat ranches and there is good opportunity here as well," he added.

Discussing about incentives, he said, "We have a very standard tax structure for investors who qualify we offer special preferences ."

With the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania being considered one of the most breathtaking sanctuaries, Ali Ahmed Saleh averred, "Tanzania is home to 13 attractive natural reserves and nowhere in the world you will find such amazing biodiversity.

The Ngorongoro Crater, which is considered as the eighth wonder of the world, is among the most eye-catching and breathtaking geographical attractions in the world. The country is also blessed with a picturesque coastline. Old architecture strewn all over the country makes for a visual treat. There is a plenty of opportunities in the hospitality sector like construction of hotels and beach resorts.

Tanzania's Arusha: the 'Geneva of Africa'

October 8, 2012 /daily-mail.co.zm

TRAVELOGUE

By DOREEN NAWA

WHEN former United States President Bill Clinton arrived in the Tanzanian northern city of Arusha in August 2000 to witness the signing of the Burundi Peace Process, he famously remarked that the city is the 'Geneva of Africa'.

The distance between Geneva in Switzerland and Arusha is about 5,513 kilometres. So, why would Clinton refer to Arusha as the Geneva of Africa? Well, like Geneva, Arusha is also a major international diplomatic hub.

For instance, Arusha hosted the signing of the famous Arusha Accord in 1994. It also heads the United Nations Tribunal for Rwanda, the East African Community, the Pan African Postal Union, and the Commonwealth Health Secretariat for East, Central and Southern Africa. The Eastern and Southern African Management Institute is also found in Arusha.

With that scenario, Bill Clinton was left with no option but to call Arusha the 'Geneva of Africa'. And it is not just that; anyone remembers the Arusha Declaration, which is known as Tanzania's most prominent political statement of African socialism 'Ujamaa'. Well, it is here that the declaration which talks about all human beings being equal and the like was declared in 1967. Other than being a major diplomatic hub, Arusha is also known for being a multi-cultural city with a majority African population, Arabs and Indians and many European and American expatriates engaged in diplomatic affairs and a fast-growing local tourism industry.

It is this city that I recently visited. After receiving a number of repeated regrets to my training applications that I had made earlier in the year, one turned up in the positive.

Thanks to the Inter-Press Service (IPS) Africa, the Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), who made it possible for me to board an Ethiopian Airline plane on a Monday afternoon on September 24 at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.

We passed through Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Mombasa and Kilimanjaro before finally arriving in Arusha.

My mission was to attend a training programme that was focused on reporting on how rural communities are responding to climate change, climbing out of poverty and contributing to sustainable development.

The trip was by any standard smooth, thanks to Ethiopian Airlines, a member of the Star Alliance that offers world-class services.

The Star Alliance is a global airline network which was established by five airlines, namely Air Canada, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, THAI and United in 1997. This has since grown to 27 member airlines. Its acceptance by the market has been recognised by numerous awards, including the Air Transport World Market Leadership Award, Best Airline Alliance by both Business Traveller Magazine and Skytrax.

But that is perhaps a story for another day.

Anyway, we had left the former Lusaka International Airport around 15:30 hours and only arrived in Tanzania on Tuesday at 03:10 hours, which is 02:10 hours Zambian time..

Although it was too long a flight, I was not that much fatigued, thanks to the sleep that I had on the plane.

After clearing with customs and collecting my baggage, together with a colleague from Malawi, a driver from Impala Hotel was waiting for us. We took a 45-minute drive to Impala Hotel.

Impala Hotel prides itself in being a luxurious hotel offering an African theme.

Other than the poor internet connectivity in rooms, there was little to complain about Arusha or indeed the hotel. In fact, I knew that I would not be feeling as homesick as I felt earlier in the year when I spent two months in Berlin, Germany.

Other than myself and the colleague from Malawi, we had other journalists from other parts of Africa such as South Africa, DRC, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

The training started on September 26 and coincided with the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) on September 26 to 28.

The expected result of the training was for the journalists to be able to shape media reporting and public and policy-maker understanding of rural strategies towards climate change.

On a Friday, we were divided into groups. The group I belonged to was assigned to visit a cooperative society called Tujikombe, which means we get ourselves out of poverty.

Looking at their activities, this cooperative has managed to do just that especially through agriculture.

We learnt how farmers sell their milk to the Lutheran diocese located in the northern part of Arusha. Afterwards, the church processes the milk into various by-products like yogurt, cheese and cream among others.

With that, we proceeded to visit one of the tourist attractions, the Ndoro Waterfalls, which is hidden at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro.

After hiking and descending through the stunning, green landscape for approximately one hour, we found the waterfalls but not as magnificent as our Victoria Falls here in Zambia.

So, Arusha has so much to offer!

Known to be among the most beautiful cities of Tanzania, the third largest city in the country is nestled on the lush southern slopes of Mount Meru in the north. Like Geneva, it is also an expensive city with housing being a mixture of apartments and villas, although the price difference is minimal; a four-bedroom unit costs between US\$500 (about K2.5 million) and US\$1,000 per month.

Otherwise, the city also distinguished itself with its fast-growing tourism industry. It is actually a gateway to some of Africa's most famous landscapes and attractions such as the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara, Olduvai Gorge, Tarangire National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro

and its own Arusha National Park.

Also, the Masai people with their traditional lifestyle constitute another curiosity for this city of about 1.2 million. I managed to have a close-up with them at the official opening of the Africa Green Revolution Forum 2012.

Not only did I meet the Masai, I also had a close-up with Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and Melinda Gates, wife of Bill Gates.

Other than that, this city was founded by German colonialists when the territory was part of German East Africa in 1900 and is named after the local tribe Wa-Arusha.

They are also known as Larusa in the Maasai language.

Arusha has an interesting museum called Boma Museum located in the old German Boma, the original fortification constructed at the turn of the 20th century.

The museum is actually made up of three small buildings with different exhibits: early human history, Tanzanian plants/animals and colonial era history of the Tanganyika.

The most interesting and historical pictures of the Boma and surrounding area are a fascinating examination of life in colonial East Africa.

For those in love with food or curious about food, there are a number of cuisines around Arusha such as the Nyama Choma, which is a typically Tanzanian meal made up of grilled meat on the barbecue and served with cooked bananas. This meal can be eaten almost everywhere in town.

Other traditional meals include machalari (bananas cooked in coconut sauce and served with vegetables and meat), ugali (nshima), pilau, biriani, masala fish (Arabic and Indian influence, originally found on the coast but now everywhere in the country).

However, you will also find a wide range of world cuisines from Japan, India, Italy as well as gastronomic cuisines.

Still, Arusha, as Bill Clinton said, remains the Geneva of Africa – a diplomatic hub.

UPDATE 1-Aminex, Solo Oil seek partner for Tanzania licence

Mon Oct 8, 2012/Reuters

LONDON Oct 8 (Reuters) - Explorers Aminex and Solo Oil said they were seeking a partner to help pay for their hunt for oil and gas in Tanzania, a country attracting high interest from oil majors who see East Africa as a new hydrocarbon producing region.

Aminex and Solo said on Monday that they had hired an adviser, First Energy, to run a process to sell up to a 50 percent stake in the Ruvuma exploration licence which sits near the border with Mozambique.

Recent gas finds off Tanzania and Mozambique have led to predictions the region could become the third largest exporter of natural gas on the planet, prompting oil majors such as Shell to try to become involved in projects there.

The drilling of a well earlier this year has already enabled the companies to establish that the Ruvuma licence has commercial potential.

Under licence rules Aminex, which has a 75 percent stake, and Solo, which owns 25 percent, must drill another two wells there before the end of 2013.

KENYA:

Rwanda: Kenya Airways Resumes Flights After Strike By Pilots

By Ivan R. Mugisha/The New Times/ 8 October 2012

Kenya Airways resumed normal operations yesterday, bringing to an end a weekend strike by pilots which had left many passengers stranded.

The pilots had earlier withdrawn their "goodwill" with the management of the airline, citing a misunderstanding on on-going Collective Bargain Agreement negotiations with their union and management.

Asked to explain, Kenya Airways said in a statement that "Goodwill" is when pilots are voluntarily available to work for certain hours during off time but within legal limits as approved by the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA).

The situation caused major delays at airports, including Kigali, where the airline operates daily flights.

"Due to the shortage of pilots in the country, Kenya Airways has traditionally negotiated an agreement with KALPA that requires its members to be voluntarily available to work for certain hours during off time, which is known as goodwill, but within legal limits approved by the KCAA.

"The standoff has been caused by a misinterpretation of the rules on working procedures leading to the current disagreement between the Union and Kenya Airways management," reads a statement from the regional giants.

KALPA is the Kenya Airlines Pilots Association.

In the statement the Kenya Airways CEO, Titus Naikuni , noted that: "With the goodwill reinstated by KALPA, we are now working expeditiously to ensure normal services resume and expect all scheduled flights today to be crewed for operations."

"Kenya Airways will continue to operate its flights, we are doing our best to ensure a smooth provision of services and we apologize for any delays," he added.

Kenya Airways operates about 10 flights per week between Kigali and Nairobi.

ANGOLA:

AU/AFRICA:

Crash d'un avion de l'armée soudanaise près de Khartoum, 15 militaires tués

Belga / 07 Octobre 2012

Quinze membres de l'armée soudanaise sont morts et sept autres ont été blessés dans le crash de leur avion dimanche près de Khartoum, ont rapporté les médias officiels en citant l'armée. Le bilan des morts est passé de 13 à 15 après le décès de deux victimes des suites de leurs blessures,

a dit le porte-parole de l'armée, Sawarmi Khaled Saad, cité par l'agence de presse officielle Suna. Il s'agit du bilan le plus lourd d'une série d'incidents meurtriers touchant l'aviation militaire soudanaise depuis début 2011. Le porte-parole de l'armée avait indiqué auparavant que six membres d'équipage et 16 autres membres des forces armées se trouvaient à bord de l'avion. Une équipe d'enquêteurs de l'armée s'est rendue sur le lieux du crash et devrait rendre ses conclusions "bientôt", selon ce porte-parole. L'avion de transport militaire, un Antonov, se rendait dans la région occidentale du Darfour. L'appareil transportait des équipements militaires de Khartoum à El-Facher, capitale de l'Etat du Darfour-Nord. "Le pilote avait informé l'aéroport d'un problème sur un des moteurs", avant la chute de l'appareil à l'ouest de la ville de Jebel Aulia, à quelque 70 km à l'ouest de Khartoum, avait indiqué le porte-parole Saad. Le Darfour est une région de l'ouest soudanais secouée depuis 2003 par une guerre civile opposant des mouvements issus des tribus non-arabes aux gouvernement soudanais, dominé par des Arabes qui a fait au moins 300.000 morts selon l'ONU, 10.000 selon Khartoum. L'ONU et l'Union africaine ont déployé depuis 2007 une force mixte de 23.500 hommes pour faire cesser les hostilités entre les rebelles du Darfour et le gouvernement soudanais. (STR)

L'Algérie rend hommage à l'ancien président Bendjedid

De Abdellah CHEBALLAH (AFP) /07102012

ALGER — L'Algérie a rendu dimanche un hommage solennel à l'ancien président Chadli Bendjedid, considéré comme le "père" du multipartisme dans le pays, et décédé samedi plus de 20 ans après avoir quitté le pouvoir.

Chadli Bendjedid, président de 1979 à 1992, est décédé à Alger à l'âge de 83 ans des suites d'un cancer. Un deuil de huit jours a été décrété.

Sa dépouille a été exposée dans l'après-midi au Palais du Peuple, une résidence officielle à Alger, pour permettre aux corps constitués et à la population de se recueillir, selon la présidence.

Le président Abdelaziz Bouteflika a été le premier d'une série de personnalités et de militaires à se recueillir devant le cercueil recouvert du drapeau algérien, selon des images de la télévision publique qui a retransmis la cérémonie en direct.

Le chef de l'Etat a accompagné la dépouille de Chadli Bendjedid jusqu'au Palais du Peuple, une ancienne résidence -d'architecture ottomane- des gouverneurs d'Alger.

Le Premier ministre Abdelmalek Sellal, de hauts responsables civils et militaires et des chefs de partis politiques se sont également recueillis devant la dépouille de l'ancien chef d'Etat, artisan de la démocratisation des institutions en Algérie.

La population pourra aussi rendre un dernier hommage à l'ancien président en fin de journée.

Ses funérailles officielles sont prévues lundi après-midi au carré des martyrs du cimetière d'El Alia, où sont enterrés ses prédécesseurs Houari Boumediene (1965-1978), le premier président de l'Algérie indépendante, Ahmed Ben Bella (1962-1965), décédé en avril 2012, et son successeur Mohamed Boudiaf, assassiné en juin 1992.

La presse algérienne a salué unanimement le rôle majeur du défunt qui a mis fin en 1989 à 26 ans de règne de l'ancien parti unique du Front de libération nationale (FLN).

"L'Algérie dit adieu à l'homme des réformes", écrit en Une le quotidien arabophone El Khabar tandis que le journal francophone L'Expression salue "le pionnier des réformes".

Chadli Bendjedid, décédé 24 ans presque jour pour jour après les émeutes du 5 octobre 1988 qui ont conduit au multipartisme, a été élu une première fois en février 1979 après le décès de Houari Boumediene.

Il fait libérer rapidement M. Ben Bella, renversé en 1965 par un coup d'Etat mené par Houari Boumediene, et autorise le retour d'opposants exilés notamment l'opposant historique Hocine Aït Ahmed, fondateur en 1963 du Front des forces socialistes (FFS).

Réélu en 1984, Bendjedid est confronté quatre ans plus tard à une révolte populaire contre la vie chère et en faveur de la démocratie qui a fait près de 500 morts. Les émeutes ont entraîné l'effondrement du système du parti unique du FLN.

Il est réélu pour un troisième mandat en décembre 1988 et fait adopter par référendum une Constitution pluraliste en février 1989, qui a permis la création de plusieurs formations politiques dont le Front islamique du salut (ex-FIS, dissous) qui militait pour la création d'un Etat islamique.

La victoire de l'ex-FIS au premier tour des premières élections législatives de décembre 1991 pousse l'armée à interrompre le processus électoral et le président Chadli Bendjedid à la démission le 11 janvier 1992.

"Tout le monde pensait que Chadli Bendjedid a été +débarqué" par les militaires. Je l'ai rencontré deux mois après sa démission, il m'a confié qu'il avait démissionné de son propre chef", a déclaré dimanche à la radio, le célèbre avocat Miloud Brahimi.

L'annulation du second tour du scrutin que l'ex-FIS était en passe de remporter a plongé le pays dans une guerre civile qui a fait près de 200.000 morts, selon des sources officielles.

Chadli Bendjedid vient de publier ses mémoires aux éditions Casbah. Son livre doit sortir le 1er novembre, date anniversaire du déclenchement de la guerre de Libération nationale en 1954.

Gazans fire barrage of mortars at Israel after IAF strike

By JPOST.COM STAFF/10/08/2012

No injuries reported as some 40 mortar shells hit Eshkol region of souther Israel less than 24 hours after IAF strike on Gaza targeting two terrorists in Rafah leaves 10 injured, including 4 children; Hamas: attack in response to strike.

Gazans fired some 40 mortar shells into the Eshkol region of southern Israel Monday morning, less than 24 hours after an IAF airstrike hit the southern Gaza city of Rafah, injuring 10 people.

There were no immediate reports of injuries from the mortar fire Monday morning, although shrapnel lightly damaged one home. Authorities asked residents in the Eshkol region to remain in protected spaces.

On Sunday, the IAF targeted two men it said were involved in previous attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians, including a June 18 attack along the Sinai border that killed one civilian. The two were allegedly planning further attacks in the Sinai, an IDF statement said.

Along with the two terrorists, the IAF strike injured eight civilians, including three children.

The IDF's Spokesperson's Unit identified the terrorists as Talat Khalil Muhammad Jerbi and Abdullah Mohammed Hassan Makawi. One of the terrorists is reported to be critically injured, along with one bystander in the same critical condition.

Residents of the town of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip also said an Israeli tank fired at the area from which the rockets were thought to have been launched, causing minor injuries to four children and damage to a mosque minaret and a water tower.

In a statement released shortly after the attack, the IDF stated: "The IDF will not tolerate any attempt to harm Israeli civilians, and will operate against anyone who uses terror against the State of Israel. The Hamas terror organization is solely responsible for any terrorist activity emanating from the Gaza Strip."

The statement said that Hamas was responsible for the recent events, and that shots were fired at a mosque in Gaza, from which Hamas chose to shoot at Israel, "as part of the organization's use of religion on terrorism."

Hamas' military wing Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades and the Ansar al-Quds group have claimed responsibility for Monday morning's attack on Eshkol Regional Council. They claimed the attack was in response to an air strike that wounded two militants and eight bystanders on Sunday.

"In response to the injury of civilians in the most recent strike on Rafah, the Qassam Brigades and the al-Quds Brigades fired a number of rockets at enemy military positions," Hamas's Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades armed wing said in a statement.

The armed wing of Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist faction that controls the Gaza Strip, said it was involved in the attack together with members of the Islamic Jihad militant group.

During 2012 more than 470 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israel, over 10 in October alone – not count over 20 rockets fired since Monday morning.

Libyan Premier Ousted After Lawmakers Reject Cabinet

By Christopher Stephen and Tarek El-Tablawy/bloomberg.com/ Oct 8, 2012

Libyan lawmakers were to meet today to weigh their options after rejecting a revised Cabinet list submitted by Prime Minister-elect Mustafa Abushagur and firing him from his post.

Abushagur, who earlier presented a "crisis cabinet" of 10 people to lead Libya, was defeated in a no-confidence motion late yesterday, less than a month after he took office. He faced a challenge of appeasing the various political groups in a country where the central government has wielded little authority in the year since Muammar Qaddafi's ouster.

The premier-elect had faced an already-extended Oct. 7 deadline for the new Cabinet after the National Congress rejected his earlier list. Much of the criticism revolved around different groups or factions looking to secure representation for their regions in the Cabinet -- a demand Abushagur said undercut his efforts.

"I was going to form a national unity government, not based on quotas," he told Parliament in Tripoli yesterday. "But then there was pressure on me. People wanted ministers from their regions."

Abushagur called on lawmakers to work quickly to select a new prime minister and form a

government “so the country is not left with a political vacuum during this period.”

The legislature’s head, Mohammed Magariaf, said in televised comments yesterday that the body would meet again today to discuss how to proceed.

No Surprise

The latest rejection and protests by demonstrators who say their regions are unrepresented in the government reflect Libya’s fragile political situation since last year’s bloody uprising. The interim government has pushed to restore order and revive the economy, efforts stymied by factionalism as militias refused to disarm and regional interests predominated.

“The collapse of the Libyan government should have surprised nobody,” said Aaron David Miller of the Washington- based research group Woodrow Wilson Center. “Anybody who believed that Libya was going to be the poster child for easy transitions and good governance wasn’t focused on the tribal and regional divisions that will impede stability.”

Libya in particular has no experience of self-rule because of Qaddafi’s “bizarre one-man cult rule,” Miller said. “The country has too many guns and grievances, militias and malcontents for that.”
Challenges

Christopher Chivvis, a senior political strategist with the Rand Corporation in Washington, called yesterday’s events “another challenge that Libya doesn’t need right now.”

“The thing to watch is how quickly they’re able to try again and potentially succeed, and I have no way of judging whether they’ll be able to do that,” Chivvis said.

Abushagur had earlier proposed that ministries without named heads would be grouped under the premier’s office and supervised directly by the deputy prime minister. He withdrew the initial slate of names on Oct. 4, the same day more than 100 protesters from the western city of Zawiya forced their way into the congress building. Congress must approve Cabinet choices.

The Cabinet selection unveiled on Oct. 3 included largely unknown figures and took little account of demands made by the country’s political groups and regions. The list included three deputy premiers representing the country’s three main regions.

Abushagur struggled to form a government amid attempts by authorities to disband militias following an Sept. 11 assault on the American Consulate in Benghazi that left U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three colleagues dead. The U.S. has blamed the attack, which took place during a protest against a U.S.-made anti-Islamic film, on terrorists.

Libya must overhaul its security industry and tackle economic and political issues, and “until they have a government in place they can’t do it,” Chivvis said.

UN/AFRICA:

US/AFRICA:

CANADA/AFRICA:

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA:

EU/AFRICA:

BNP Paribas upbeat about SA despite Moody's downgrade

October 8 2012 /iol.co.za

Ann Crotty

Despite the downgrading by Moody's Investors Service, BNP Paribas, one of the top five international banks, believes that South Africa is "a very promising country" and that it is necessary for the French bank to have a presence here.

"It is part of our general strategy to be represented in all the main countries [of the world] and South Africa is one of those... we are there not just for our customers but also for South African companies who are now big and are investing in, and exporting around, the world," Philippe Bordenave, the chief operating officer of BNP Paribas, told a media briefing in Paris last week.

The Paris-based bank, which derives over 50 percent of its global profit from retail activities and about 30 percent from corporate investment banking, set up a branch in Johannesburg earlier this year.

Although the bank has an extensive and strong retail operation across Europe, with a large market share in the consumer financing sector, it has no plans to venture into this area in the local market.

Antoine Sire, the head of brand, communications and quality, said that getting into consumer financing required extensive knowledge of that market in South Africa, which BNP Paribas did not have.

Chairman Baudouin Prot indicated that at this stage the bank was not overly concerned about South Africa's downgrade, but said the bank would be tracking the situation.

He spoke of the attractiveness of the African economy with its extensive mineral and energy resources.

Prot's seeming equanimity on the issue of ratings may have something to do with the fact that BNP Paribas has had a presence in emerging markets such as India and Hong Kong for over 150 years. This means that it should have some understanding of the trials and tribulations of growth in developing economies.

But the equanimity with which Prot contemplates South Africa's current challenges may also be influenced by the potentially greater challenges facing the big EU banks.

Last week's meeting between BNP Paribas and members of the media coincided with the release of the Liikanen Report on how EU banks should be reformed in order to make them safer and less likely to require taxpayer bailouts.

While at this stage the findings of the European Commission-appointed report are merely recommendations, the implementation of some of those key recommendations could have significant adverse effects on the EU's biggest banks, such as BNP Paribas, Barclays and Deutsche Bank.

The recommendations, which are in line with those of the UK's Vickers Report, do not go as far as requiring a separation between investment and retail banking along the lines that prevailed in the US ahead of the dismantling of the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999.

However, one of Erkki Liikanen's key recommendations is that all trading activity by banks, of a certain size, be ring-fenced by establishing a separate legal entity.

While such ring-fencing would allow the big banks to retain their "universal banking" approach, it means that their trading divisions would have to hold their own capital and could not rely on the bank's holding of retail deposits.

There are recommendations aimed at tightening up on property lending by retail banks, as well as rules designed to address the politically sensitive issue of bankers' bonuses.

Proposals for banks to create a large amount of "bail-inable" debt are similarly designed to ensure that private funders of bank debts share more of the pain in the event of another taxpayer bailout.

Prot's concern about some of the Liikanen recommendations appear in part to be based on the possible impact that they may have on the bank's ability to provide the sort of universal service that many customers now expect. And while he believes that proprietary trading by banks should be curtailed, he contends that it is important for banks to be involved in market making.

Prot's conservative views on proprietary trading are reflected in the fact that BNP Paribas has had comparatively little involvement in this. Long before it became the fashionable slogan for the industry, BNP Paribas has pushed an image of a bank that is intent on financing the real economy and supporting its customers.

This may have played a significant role in BNP Paribas being comparatively well protected from the crisis that hit many of the big global banks after the Lehman Brothers collapse in 2008. And while it took a hit following last year's write-down of the Greek bonds it held, BNP Paribas is now considered to be one of the best capitalised banks in the world.

That said, the Liikanen recommendations are likely to become more of a distraction than South Africa's downgrading for Europe's big banks in the months ahead.

Ann Crotty was a guest of BNP Paribas in Paris.

Sudan Ready to Accept Abyei's Partition - Russian Envoy
SudanTribune/6 October 2012

Khartoum — Sudan is ready to accept Abyei's partition, to end the dispute over this region with South Sudan, said Mikhail Margelov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for cooperation with African countries.

Margelov who was in a visit to Khartoum, met on Friday evening with the Sudanese President and discussed with him, bilateral relations and regional situation. He also met with presidential assistant Nafei Ali Nafie who will visit Moscow soon.

In statements to the Russian news agency, RIA Novosti, about his visit to Sudan, Putin's envoy said that Bashir informed him about the details of the deals he reached with his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir on some disputed issues and joint cooperation on 27 September in Addis Ababa.

Margelov, according to a report of Novosti released in Arabic language, further said that he discussed with Bashir the issue of the disputed area of Abyei. He went to quote the Sudanese president as saying that he agrees to split Abyei between Dinka Ngok and Misseriya.

Khartoum and Juba say committed to hold a referendum in Abyei where its residents can decide to remain part of Sudan or to join the newly independent state in South Sudan. However the two parties disagree over the participation of Misseriya nomad who resident partly in the area every year.

Bashir last September rejected a proposal made by the African chief mediator Thabo Mbeki to hold a referendum in Abyei in October 2013 where only the Misseriya who reside permanently can participate.

The Sudanese president accused the mediation of backing the position of the South Sudanese government and pointed out that this position contradicts Abyei protocol which " does not provide for 'permanent' abode or residence as a condition for voting in the referendum."

In his letter Bashir's reiterated the position of his government over the dispute saying they adhere to a previous proposal the mediation made in November 2010 providing to divide Abyei by a presidential decree that maintains the northern part of Abyei in Sudan and transferring the southern part to South Sudan.

Mbeki is expected to report to the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and to the UN Security Council (UNSC) about the 27 Septembers deals but and the remaining unresolved issues : Abyei and border demarcations with its disputed areas.

U.S. administration, according to different sources, encourages Mbeki to bring the issue of Abyei to the Security Council following the same procedure of 14 mile, another disputed area, the AUPSC and UNSC forced Sudan to accept as disputed area after long months of refusal.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice expressed last Thursday its support to the proposal of the African mediation saying Mbeki "has tabled a proposal that is consistent with the Abyei protocol and the findings of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. We think that's a worthy and valid proposal and we hope it will remain the basis of the negotiating efforts going forward."

She further underscored that the united position of the 15 member council over Resolution 2046 helped much to achieve the progress made by the two Sudanese and South Sudanese parties in the process. She further vowed to remain united to settle the remaining issues.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH RUSSIA

Margelov, who speaks Arabic language, said that Sudan is much interested to develop economic ties with Russia particularly in the field of mineral resources.

He said Soviet scientists in the 1970s compiled a detailed geological map of Sudan, and that the Sudanese officials are very much interested in accessing that information.

According to Novosti , Sudan's mineral resources minister, Kamal Abdel Latif Abdel Rahim, told Margelov during talks that Sudan has chosen Russia as a strategic mining cooperation partner.

Sudanese presidential assistant Nafie Ali Nafie, during his announced visit to Moscow at the end of October, is expected to discuss ways to enhance economic cooperation with Sudan.

Russia seeks to forge strong ties with countries that reject American influence in Africa and Middle East.

China which has economic interests in Sudan and South Sudan shows a low profile every time it comes to discuss the disputes between the two countries, and Beijing is no longer the solid ally who supported Khartoum during the years of Darfur crisis.

CHINA/AFRICA:

INDIA/AFRICA:

BRAZIL/AFRICA:

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