

[Today, Uganda – the Pearl of Africa – becomes the third of the five East African Community (EAC) nations to mark 50 years of its independence. Rwanda and Burundi clocked 50 three months back on July 1, and now Uganda has followed suit. Exactly half a century ago, the British flag – Union Jack – was lowered and the new Uganda flag hoisted to take its place in a historic event that took place at Kololo airstrip in Kampala. That officially marked an end to nearly 70 years of British rule in Uganda and ushered in an era of renaissance for the east African nation.]

BURUNDI:

RWANDA:

Rwanda: Renewed Call for Dialogue on DR Congo

9 October 2012/The New Times

The fourth Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), held in Kampala, Uganda, on Monday, reaffirmed the region's commitment to pursuit of sustainable peace based on home-grown solutions to the recurrent crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The Summit, chaired by President Yoweri Museveni was attended by Presidents Paul Kagame, Joseph Kabila of DRC, President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi and President Salva Kiir of South Sudan.

It acknowledged steady progress and cooperation of member states.

Opening the discussions, ICGLR Executive Secretary, Prof Ntumba Luaba said: "I strongly encourage continued and sustained high-level dialogue at the bilateral and regional level... I welcome the recent progress in strengthening confidence building measures, notably the Joint Verification Mechanism."

At yesterday's Summit, leaders discussed implementation of the regionally driven mechanisms, which in three months since the first Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, have seen notable advances, including the cessation of hostilities in Eastern DRC.

The expanded Joint Verification Mechanism and the Military Assessment team, launched in Goma in September, are operational with all members from the 11 ICGLR member states now on the ground fulfilling their commitment to bringing peace to Eastern DRC.

President Museveni, the current ICGLR chair, was, again, tasked with "continuing dialogue with belligerents as well as ensuring support from all member state for the implementation of a neutral force."

By press time, a join communiqué was yet to be issued at the end of the meeting.

ICGLR is a regional grouping of 11 countries, whose leaders have met at least four times in a space of three months to try and find lasting solution to the crisis, which broke out in April when elements

in the Congolese army mutinied accusing the government of reneging on a March 2009 peace deal under which the former CNDP and PARECO rebels had been integrated in the official army.

But the M23 rebellion is just a fraction of DRC's chronic woes, with the country infested with more than 40 armed groups, including local and foreign militias who have visited untold suffering on the local population.

Among these groups is the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) terrorist outfit composed of elements largely blamed for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in which more than a million people were slaughtered.

The Kampala meeting comes just days after UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hosted a high-level summit on the Congo - on the sidelines of the 67th UN General Assembly - in New York, which rallied support for the region's DRC peace roadmap, but fell short of cooling tensions caused by the latest conflict.

UN experts and Kinshasa have accused Kigali of backing the M23 rebels, but the latter has strongly denied the allegations, and instead blamed the Congolese government of provoking the mutiny and integrating FDLR militants in their ranks.

Rwanda has also accused Kinshasa of fuelling anti-Rwanda sentiments, which have led to targeted attacks, torture and killings of Congolese of Rwandan origin.

The M23 rebels, who have previously called for talks with the government, last week threatened to expand their territory accusing the latter of failing to protect civilians - which would effectively end a two-month lull in fighting.

The group had declared a unilateral ceasefire, citing a request by President Museveni, who was asked by the last ICGLR summit to continue engaging the two warring parties with a view of reaching a political settlement.

The regional grouping has clearly stated it prefers a political solution to a military option even as it has taken preliminary steps towards deploying a proposed African neutral force to help return peace to eastern DRC.

Meanwhile, President Kagame will today attend Uganda's 50th Independence Day ceremonies in Kampala.

RDC CONGO:

Pour une paix durable en RDC et dans la région des Grands Lacs

le 09/10/2012/jolpress.com

M. Joseph Kabila est président de la République depuis 2001. Pour Gaspard-Hubert Lonsi Koko, force est de constater qu'il n'est parvenu, onze années plus tard, à sécuriser le territoire national ni à pacifier la partie orientale de la République Démocratique du Congo. Pis encore, la présence étatique n'est pas assurée dans certaines contrées. Cela risque de porter préjudice à l'unité nationale, au point de rendre de plus en plus crédible l'hypothèse du démembrement de la région du Kivu. Dans ce contexte défavorable à la cohésion nationale, le plan de sortie de crise préconisé par M.

Vital Kamerhe, le président de l'Union pour la nation congolaise (UNC), a certes le mérite de mettre les pieds dans le plat. Malheureusement, il pêche sur plusieurs plans, comme nous l'explique Gaspard-Hubert Lonsi Koko.

Il est des moments où une crise doit aller jusqu'au bout de son paroxysme. Ainsi est-il inutile de vouloir systématiquement contourner un obstacle. Il faudra au contraire avoir le courage de s'appuyer dessus.

Un négociateur impartial

D'aucuns connaissent le rôle néfaste joué par l'Ouganda, le Rwanda et le Burundi en vue de la déstabilisation de l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo. Accepter le président ougandais, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, comme négociateur entre le gouvernement congolais et les rebelles du M23 ne pourrait que relever de la naïveté, de l'impuissance et de la complicité. En effet, l'Ouganda, qui mise, comme ses alliés locaux, sur la désintégration de son grand voisin, sera a fortiori juge et partie. Sa partialité ne pourra que renvoyer dos-à-dos les belligérants, et cautionner l'impunité en faveur des criminels réclamés par la Cour pénale internationale.

La République Démocratique du Congo étant un pays souverain, le Rassemblement pour le développement et la paix au Congo (RDPC) milite pour que l'oubli n'efface à jamais les crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'Humanité commis par les bourreaux des grands lacs. En conséquence, aucun pays impliqué d'une manière ou d'une autre dans les actions relatives aux violences sexuelles, aux violations des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine, à l'enrôlement de force des enfants dans les groupes armés et au génocide congolais[1] ne doivent faire partie de la médiation. Ainsi, le RDPC demande-t-il au président Joseph Kabila de solliciter ses pairs francophones en vue d'une diplomatie susceptible de convaincre le Rwanda, le Burundi et l'Ouganda de cesser toute implication, directe ou indirecte, dans la région du Kivu. La Francophonie en particulier, et la communauté internationale en général, devront mener à leur rencontre la politique de la carotte et du bâton.

Une assistance militaire aux FARDC[2]

Le malheur des populations de l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo résulte de l'opération Turquoise[3]. La France ayant de ce fait une responsabilité morale au regard des crimes et des violations des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine à l'encontre des autochtones congolais, le RDPC incite le président Joseph Kabila à demander à son homologue François Hollande pour que la France pèse de tout son poids au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies. L'objectif consiste à ce que la Monusco reste la force neutre et puisse assister les FARDC dans leur tâche ayant trait à la pacification de la région du Kivu.

Le rôle néfaste des multinationales

D'aucuns savent que le Rwanda, l'Ouganda et le Burundi ne sont que des bras séculiers de multinationales qui sont intéressées à moindre coût par les richesses dont regorge la République Démocratique du Congo. La non-ingérence de ses entreprises étrangères privera leurs faire-valoir de la région des grands lacs de moyens qu'ils mettent à la disposition des rebelles qui sévissent dans la région du Kivu.

Le RDPC souhaite que le législateur congolais adapte quelques lois nationales aux divers plans anti-corruption, comme la loi américaine contre les pratiques de corruption à l'étranger (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act)[4] et la loi anglaise[5] concernant les poursuites à l'encontre des multinationales dont les maisons-mères n'ont aucun dispositif de prévention adéquat.

L'illégitimité du pouvoir politique

On ne peut continuer d'ignorer l'illégitimité du pouvoir politique en place à Kinshasa, qui ne cesse d'hypothéquer la cohésion nationale. En effet, les conséquences de la crise due aux élections bâclées de 2011[6] ne peuvent qu'encourager le recours aux armes pour sanctionner ceux qui se sont maintenus aux commandes des institutions étatiques indépendamment de la volonté populaire. Sans pour autant sombrer dans les erreurs du passé, allusion, entre autres, au système « 1 + 4 »[7] ayant été mis en place avant l'élection présidentielle de 2006, le RDPC est favorable aux solutions idoines. Ainsi les Congolais de l'étranger doivent-ils être impliqués, au même titre que les acteurs locaux, dans toute initiative relative à la cohésion nationale.

[1] La mort de six millions de Congolais est reconnue par les Nations Unies (voir rapport du Projet Mapping 2010 concernant les violations des droits de l'homme 1993-2003).

[2] Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo.

[3] Cette opération fut mandatée par les Nations Unies, par le vote de la résolution 929, et menée et par l'armée française – sous le commandement du général Jean-Claude Lafourcade du 21 juin au 24 août 1994 – pour le maintien de la paix au Rwanda. La résolution onusienne avait prévu un déploiement français avec des objectifs humanitaires en coopération avec la Mission des Nations Unies au Rwanda (MINUAR). Un pont aérien fut donc réalisé entre Paris et Goma, ayant projeté hommes et matériels à l'Est de la République du Zaïre (l'actuel République Démocratique du Congo).

[4] Elle a été utilisée de manière agressive par des juges américains contre des multinationales, lors de pratiques de dessous de table avérées dans le monde.

[5] Une nouvelle loi anti-pots-de-vin au Royaume-Uni, peut-être la plus dure en l'espèce dans le monde, peut avoir des effets sur la lutte contre la corruption à un niveau global. Votée à la fin de l'année 2010, elle est en principe entrée en vigueur en avril 2011.

[6] Lors de la présentation officielle de son rapport final sur le déroulement des élections du 28 novembre dernier, la Voix des sans voix (VSV) a proposé l'organisation de nouvelles élections. Selon cet ONG, la République Démocratique du Congo connaît une crise de légitimité de pouvoir à cause des irrégularités constatées lors de ces élections. Elle a donc proposé l'instauration d'un dialogue entre Joseph Kabila et l'opposant Étienne Tshisekedi, le président d'Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS), pour la gestion consensuelle du pays en vue de l'organisation des nouvelles élections. (In La VSV demande l'organisation de nouvelles élections en RDC).

[7] Le pouvoir devait être partagé entre un président : Joseph Kabila et quatre vice-présidents. Le gouvernement d'union nationale, formé le 30 juin 2003, était chargé de mettre en œuvre le processus électoral dont le référendum constitutionnel, organisé les 18 et 19 décembre 2005, constituait la première étape, suivie par les élections présidentielle et législatives en juillet et octobre 2006. Le gouvernement avait aussi pour mission de rétablir l'autorité de l'État dans toutes les provinces, autorité bafouée par les belligérants qui s'étaient répartis leur contrôle administratif et militaire, au gré de leurs alliances et de leurs intérêts économiques.

Internationale - Kinshasa, capitale de la République démocratique du Congo, est dans la fièvre du 14ème Sommet de la Francophonie. Il en a rêvé depuis la 2ème République. Aujourd'hui, le Congo à l'insigne honneur d'accueillir sur son sol, les pays ayant le français en partage, la France en tête de peloton. Le président Joseph Kabila a promis de faire de cet événement une vitrine pour vendre l'image d'un pays en reconstruction. Rien n'a donc été laissé de côté. Le gouvernement s'est investi à fond pour ne pas rater le pari.

Le compte à rebours a commencé.

Plus qu'une semaine avant la tenue à Kinshasa du 14ème Sommet de la Francophonie. Kinshasa, capitale de la République démocratique du Congo, a fait peau neuve pour accueillir ses hôtes de marque. Le 14ème Sommet de la Francophonie représente une opportunité exceptionnelle non seulement pour la RDC, mais aussi et surtout pour toute la région de l'Afrique centrale qui accueillera, pour la toute première fois, une activité diplomatique et politique de cette envergure, après que d'autres pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest tels que le Sénégal, le Burkina Faso, le Bénin l'ont accueilli chez eux.

En marge du Sommet de Kinshasa, la RDC n'a ménagé aucun effort pour impressionner autant le monde que les pays de l'espace francophone. Rien n'a donc été laissé de côté pour que ce rendez-vous historique marque le grand retour du Congo de Lumumba dans le giron international.

Au Commissariat national d'organisation du 14ème Sommet de la Francophonie (CNO), l'on se dit confiant en la réussite de ce grand événement historique. « La ville de Kinshasa est prête », a fait savoir son commissaire général, le professeur Isidore Ndaywel. C'est dire qu'à Kinshasa, c'est déjà la dernière ligne qui est abordée. Le gouvernement joue sa crédibilité - tous les moyens ayant été mis à sa disposition pour passer avec succès ce cap.

Du 12 au 14 octobre 2012, Kinshasa rêve d'être véritablement cette capitale de la Francophonie. Le pari est, certes, ambitieux. Mais, Kinshasa se préparait en conséquence pour ne pas décevoir, note avec assurance le commissaire général au CNO.

A moins d'une semaine de la tenue du sommet, l'heure est aux derniers réglages. Mandaté par le président de la République, le Premier ministre, Matata Ponyo Mapon, s'est mis aux commandes des opérations pour éviter tout effet de surprise.

A la Primature, des réunions se succèdent autour du chef du gouvernement et des ajustements sont apportés au quotidien dans le dispositif mis en place au niveau du CNO. Deux ans après le Sommet de Montreux (en Suisse), Kinshasa n'a pas droit à l'erreur. Il ne peut pas non plus aller dans l'approximatif. Tout doit être réglé au millimètre prêt pour éviter des fissures dans l'organisation.

Le thème choisi pour ce 14ème Sommet de la Francophonie donne toutes les raisons à Kinshasa de s'investir à fond pour son succès. Pays aux immenses potentialités naturelles, la RDC a tout à gagner de ce sommet. La Francophonie passe, d'une certaine manière, pour une nette opportunité lui offerte pour se vendre à travers le monde. Avec son immense flore, Kinshasa a une belle part à jouer alors que le monde tente de trouver la solution au lancinant problème de réchauffement climatique. Ce n'est pas par hasard qu'on ait choisi un thème touchant à la fois aux enjeux environnementaux qu'économiques.

Un thème évocateur

Placé sous le thème « Francophonie : enjeux environnementaux et économiques face à la

gouvernance mondiale », le monde a aussi les regards rivés sur la déclaration qui sortira des assises de Kinshasa. Le Sommet de Kinshasa devait marquer un grand tournant dans l'effort international en matière de lutte contre le réchauffement climatique.

Enjeu politique majeur et opportunité diplomatique rare, le Sommet de Kinshasa se prépare à réunir les chefs d'État et de gouvernement de l'espace francophone pour débattre des questions d'une brûlante actualité en rapport avec la régulation environnementale, économique et de la gouvernance mondiale. Questions actuelles, mais en même temps d'importance stratégique pour tous les États du monde, car le débat autour de la régulation des défis environnementaux, économiques et de la gouvernance mondiale ne font pas toujours l'unanimité, au motif que les intérêts des États sont très divergents à ce sujet.

Deuxième massif forestier mondial après l'Amazonie au Brésil, la RDC a une carte à jouer dans la mise en oeuvre du dispositif mondial de lutte contre l'effet de serre. Avec ce sommet, la RDC a le champ libre pour libérer tout le temps perdu en cette matière. S'il parvient à obtenir à Kinshasa le soutien des pays de l'OIF, il aura déjà gagné une bonne partie de la bataille.

Pour la RDC, la priorité c'est aussi la situation de guerre dans l'Est du pays. Un sujet qu'elle compte bien mettre sur la table du sommet. Ainsi, au-delà de sa dimension linguistique, le Sommet de Kinshasa aura un impact politique et diplomatique certain sur des enjeux qui se jouent en RDC. L'on s'attend également à ce que les pays ayant le français en partage fassent bloc autour du drame humanitaire qui s'abat sur la partie Est de la RDC.

Pays dépositaire de la langue française, la France a aussi sa partition à jouer pour faire entendre sa voix. Alors que la situation s'enlise dans l'Est de la RDC, le Sommet de Kinshasa tombe à point nommé. Il s'agit de défendre et surtout de réaffirmer l'identité congolaise, alors que la langue anglaise gagne du terrain à travers le monde. Sauver la RDC d'une débâcle, c'est aussi protéger la langue française en péril. La France et tous les autres pays francophones n'ont aucun intérêt de laisser la RDC s'effondrer. Car, c'est en Afrique, et plus particulièrement en RDC, premier pays francophone en termes de superficie, que se joue l'avenir de la Francophonie. Travailler pour le retour à la grandeur de la RDC, c'est aussi travailler dans une certaine mesure pour l'élévation de la langue française sur le continent.

Autant d'opportunités que Kinshasa se doit de capitaliser en mettant tout en oeuvre pour garantir le succès du Sommet de Kinshasa.

Du 12 au 14 octobre 2012, la RDC a non seulement un rendez-vous avec les pays de l'espace francophone, mais aussi avec le monde qui attend juger de son degré de maturité. C'est l'occasion ou jamais de prouver à la face du monde que dans l'effort de lutte contre le réchauffement ou de redressement économique de l'Afrique, le monde peut compter sur une RDC, plus qu'enthousiaste et pleinement engagée dans la voie du progrès.

UGANDA:

Independent Uganda finally clocks 50

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Today, Uganda – the Pearl of Africa – becomes the third of the five East African Community (EAC) nations to mark 50 years of its independence.

Rwanda and Burundi clocked 50 three months back on July 1, and now Uganda has followed suit.

Exactly half a century ago, the British flag – Union Jack – was lowered and the new Uganda flag hoisted to take its place in a historic event that took place at Kololo airstrip in Kampala.

That officially marked an end to nearly 70 years of British rule in Uganda and ushered in an era of renaissance for the east African nation.

And by that very event, Uganda was placed into a historical line of some 30 other African states to have achieved their autonomy from foreign rule at that time.

The late Milton Obote became the country's first Prime Minister and was given the instruments of power by a Queen's representative.

Fast-forward to today, and the stage is once again set for a no-ordinary Independence anniversary for Uganda.

Today, Ugandans within and those living in the Diaspora are celebrating their country's Golden Jubilee!

And there sure is a general irresistible air of euphoria to take in everywhere you go within and around the country's capital, Kampala – and further beyond the borders.

"I feel so blessed that I will witness such an important day in my country's history. At least I will live to tell my grandchildren about it," the excitement of Martin Kyagulanyi almost chokes him.

He is wearing a faded black T-shirt with the words 'I Love Uganda' emblazoned on it. The words fill out across almost three-quarters of his shirt in a black, yellow and red colour combination.

It is the same colour blend that adorns a hand-made miniature Uganda flag that sticks through a Sombrebro-like hat that hides half of his face.

"I can't wait to celebrate this day together with my family and countrymen," he beams.

The 35-year-old explains that he has always "wanted to be a part of history, somehow," and that he sees his country's Golden Jubilee as his best opportunity.

Like many Ugandans today, Kyagulanyi is limited to second-hand experience of the October 9, 1962 history.

With Uganda's illiteracy rate standing at an average 73.3, many people who have gone to school have only had a more intimate feel of their country's history through books, the Internet and through several other resources.

Such is the kind of experience Kyagulanyi has had.

As the clock ticks away, a sense of patriotism blankets the atmosphere, especially here in Kampala.

Take a walk along the main street of Kampala and right in the middle of the two main street roads is a long stretch of lawn with a décor of red, black and yellow all over. A sprinkle to this beauty are the multi-coloured pockets of flowers blossoming out of the fresh green grass.

In the past couple of weeks, Kampala Capital Council Authority (KCCA) has been very busy doing major repairs on especially the Kampala main in-city road.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the KCCA workers during that time, the middle road pavements have been replaced and painted.

Buildings along the streets have placards that speak a similar language: “Congratulations Uganda!”, “Golden Jubilee Anniversary!”, “ Congs UG! Congs!”

Balloons – the most common symbol of celebration – also hang loosely in a variety of formats on buildings and some street structures.

‘Lift him higher!’

A walk up Speke Road in Kampala, right opposite Standard Chartered Bank leads you to the majestic Independence Monument.

Formerly a dull original cement-grey colour, the symbolic structure has finally been given a brush – now a more lively smoother grey – so much to the relief of many concerned Ugandans.

The work of art turned exactly 50 years old a few days back, as it was officially unveiled on October 5 by then Prime Minister Milton Obote.

It illustrates a man unwrapping a [newborn] child and raising it with its hands stretched skywards, clearly signifying a newborn country let free from the bondages of colonization.

Some art critics have their own interpretation of the sculpture.

According to Dr Rose Namubiru Kirumira – a design lecturer at Makerere University School of Art and Design – the monument signifies that Britain had done her part of raising the child [Uganda], and that it was then up to its people to take it to further heights.

Indeed, it is said the art piece was funded by the British colonial government in the days leading to Uganda's inaugural Independence Day.

And, don't forget that it was built by Gregory Magoba, one of Uganda's first professional sculptors.

Musaazi, Kakoma, Ibingira ... and more

Sadly, Uganda has reached an important part of its journey without a long list of key figures that were pivotal in its road to and after its independence.

Ignatius Kangave Musaazi who formed the first political party in Uganda – Uganda National Congress (UNC) – passed on in 1990 is regarded a national hero.

Despite the controversy that still surrounds over who actually designed the Uganda national flag, Grace Ibingira is popularly known to have been its designer.

The national anthem composer, Prof. George Wilberforce Kakoma died only a few months ago, in April this year following a long spell of illness, thought by many to have been as a result of his old age.

These and several others who left different legacies and a mark in the hearts of many will be remembered for their roles in Uganda's history.

Several Faithful are attending national Jubilee prayers at Namboole Stadium that started Monday evening.

The Warid clock tower at the Jinja road roundabout near the internal affairs ministry headquarters is another spectacle to behold.

Strips of cloth in the national flag colours run systematically from the top of the tower down to the bottom in a pyramid-like fashion. For a motorist stuck in the usually heavy traffic around that tower, it is easy to get lost into the colour-rich beauty.

All is set, leaders here

Kololo airstrip is more than ready to host the event, with quite a number of foreign dignitaries expected to attend.

Remember the man who handed over the instruments of power to Premier Milton Obote on October 9, 1962 on behalf of the Queen of England?

Yes, that one. That fine white gentleman whose name you are trying to recall – Prince Edward, or as most people know him, the Duke of Kent.

He is in the country for the Golden Jubilee fete, his first visit to Uganda since 1962.

Born on October 9, 1935, the Duke of Kent coincidentally celebrates his 77th birthday today. Interesting!

Some heads-of-state and other diplomatic officials are also already in the country ahead of the main ceremony for later in the day.

Among the leaders and representatives that jetted into the country are South Sudan president, Salva Kiir; president of Burundi Pierre Nkuruziza; DRC's Joseph Kabila; Somali president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud; Italian foreign Minister Affari Esteri,

Rwandan president Paul Kagame and his Kenyan counterpart Mwai Kibaki also touched down at Entebbe Airport on Monday.

In whole, fifteen presidents and several other dignitaries are expected to attend the landmark event.

Security has been beefed up to keep in check foreseen characteristic incidents that an event of such magnitude can attract.

Traffic officers will be deployed around town to control flow of traffic, traffic police chief, Lawrence Niwabiine has said.

Traffic guidelines on how to access Kololo airstrip – the ceremonial grounds – have already been made public.

I have heard that there will be free food at Kololo. I am not in any way sure about that though, so

don't take my word on that.

Personally, I stopped believing in the invisible principle that 'free things are free', so I wouldn't spring onto the above-mentioned but unverified opportunity.

But for the food enthusiasts out there, it's a free deal worth wishing for, afterall we are all celebrating, "innit"?

Well, here is a day worth celebrating. A day worth remembering. A day worth being a part of, and a day well-deserved for all Ugandans and those who support and believe in Uganda.

For God and my country!

Ugandan President Museveni and Aga Khan Inaugurate Bujagali Hydropower Plant

Oct 08, 2012/renewablesbiz.com

JINJA, Uganda, Oct 08, 2012 -- BUSINESS WIRE

--Completion of project showcases successful public-private partnership for infrastructure development, bringing together the Government of Uganda, Industrial Promotion Services (IPS - the infrastructure and industrial development arm of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development) and Blackstone Portfolio Company, Sithe Global.

--The 250MW hydropower plant has nearly doubled Uganda's electricity supply and virtually eliminated power shortages and blackouts

--The total project cost is approximately \$900 million

Uganda's President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, today inaugurated the 250MW Bujagali Hydropower Plant in the presence of the Aga Khan and project partners Sithe Global, a company majority owned by a fund managed by Blackstone on behalf of its investors. The ceremony, which took place on the eve of celebrations marking 50 years of Uganda's independence, was attended by government officials, heads of State from across Africa, international dignitaries and members of the diplomatic community.

The plant, constructed at a cost of approximately US\$900 million, was jointly funded by Industrial Promotion Services (IPS), the infrastructure and industrial development arm of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, Sithe Global Power LLC (USA), a company majority owned by Blackstone Capital Partners IV, L.P., a fund managed by Blackstone on behalf of its investors, and the Government of Uganda. It has eliminated Uganda's previous energy shortage by nearly doubling the country's effective generation capacity (it currently meets 49% of the country's energy requirements) and provides clean, reliable power at lower costs than existing power generating facilities. Construction of the plant commenced in August 2007. It comprises five units of 50MW each, commissioned in phases between February 2012 and June 2012.

Bujagali represents one of the largest privately-funded power sector investments ever made in Sub-Saharan Africa and sets a unique precedent for public-private partnerships. The plant will be operated by Bujagali Energy Limited (BEL), a company established by the project partners to operate and manage the plant, for a 30 year period, following which it will be transferred to the government of Uganda for a nominal price of US one dollar.

Uganda's electricity demand has been growing by 10% every year, while supply prior to the commissioning of Bujagali has remained stagnant. Frequent power shortages and blackouts accounted for between 1 to 1.5% loss to Uganda's GDP, thereby slowing the country's economic development. Since the first unit became operational in February 2012, Bujagali has provided a reliable solution to Uganda's power demands, serving as a catalyst for economic growth and replacing emergency thermal generation costs, thereby saving US\$ 9.5 million per month in government subsidies.

Commenting on the role of the Aga Khan Development Network, His Highness the Aga Khan, said, "But let me emphasize that this has also been a global story. As we try to count up the key participants, we find that they come from at least 37 different countries - a truly international network of partners. Those of us who represent the Aga Khan Development Network are proud to have been associated with so many fine allies in this work, including our close, central partnership with Sithe Global and Blackstone."

The project serves as an example of a highly successful public-private partnership model, ideal for replication throughout the region.

Speaking at the event, David Foley, Senior Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Blackstone Energy Partners, said, "Bujagali showcases how successful partnerships between the public and private sectors can create development opportunities for growing economies. Blackstone is proud to have played an important role, together with our partner the Aga Khan, in the development of Bujagali, the successful completion of which is a credit to the leadership of President Museveni and the commitment of the Government of Uganda. Africa is a resource rich continent and is primed for the development of hydroelectric power generation facilities like Bujagali. On behalf of our investors, Blackstone has committed billions of dollars of equity capital to build energy businesses on four continents around the globe and will continue to invest in emerging market countries to provide them with the affordable, safe and reliable energy to sustain their economic growth."

The Bujagali Hydropower Project has already impacted the surrounding communities with the creation of approximately 3,000 new jobs for Ugandan workers during peak construction; improved community services such as clean water supply, education and health facilities in nearby villages; the provision of micro-credit funds to surrounding rural populations and the enhancement of infrastructure.

"That a project of Bujagali's size and complexity has been completed on time and within budget whilst adhering to the highest technical as well as social and environmental standards is a huge testimony to the quality and experience of the sponsor, development and construction teams, with whom I am truly proud to be associated. The Bujagali experience is invaluable and we will certainly draw from it when developing future projects in the region," observed Mr. Nizar Juma, the Chairman of Bujagali Energy Ltd.

Bruce J. Wrobel, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Sithe Global who was also present at the commissioning said, "We believe that projects like Bujagali, which has both impacted the energy sector in Uganda in a far-reaching positive way and mitigated the ecological footprint of a generation, is the key to sustainable development. We are proud to have joined our partners, the lenders and the Government of Uganda in bringing this project to a reality and it is gratifying to see the impacts the project is already having, not only by making available ample, clean, renewable energy, but also by having a positive effect on the lives of the people living in the community and region around this project."

The Project has also been registered as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), making it the largest project ever registered in a Least Developed Country. Bujagali will yield an average of 900,000 Carbon Dioxide Emission Reductions (CERs) annually, putting it at the forefront of clean energy efforts.

The project was also made possible by support from a number of other lenders: International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), the European Investment Bank, African Development Bank ("AfDB"), Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. ("FMO"), Societe de Promotion et de Participation pour la Cooperation Economique ("Proparco")/Agence Francaise de Development ("AFD"), DEG-Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft MBH ("DEG") and KfW. Barclays/ABSA Capital and Standard Chartered Bank are providing commercial debt under an International Development Association ("IDA") Partial Risk Guarantee, while MIGA is providing insurance guarantee cover for Sithe Global's equity.

-Ends-

Uganda: Ministry of Public Service

9 October 2012/The New Vision

The Political Leadership, Management and Staff of the Ministry of Public Service congratulate His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the people of Uganda on this Auspicious and Historic occasion as we celebrate the 50th Independence Anniversary.

Our Mandate: To develop, manage and administer human resource policies, management systems, procedures and structures for the public service. Our Vision: A loyal, professionally competent, well motivated and facilitated Public service that supports the transformation of Uganda into a modern state.

Our Mission: To provide policies, systems and structures that facilitate efficient and effective public service performance for national development and improved quality of life in Uganda.

The Ministry is committed towards transforming Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within the next 30years.

TANZANIA:

Tanzania: Violence Hinders Girls' Education - NGO

By Anthony Tambwe/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/ 9 October 2012

VIOLENCE against girls in and out of schools is one of the major hindrances to access and complete quality education in Tanzania.

This was said in Dar es Salaam by the Programme Support Manager (Operations) of Plan International Tanzania, Paul Lusato in preparation of the United Nations International Day of a Girl Child to be marked globally on October 11.

He said that girls face discrimination and violence every day across the world, therefore the international day will focus on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls'

empowerment and the fulfillment of human rights.

"The day seeks to draw the attention of all actors involved in improving the condition of children on the continent and to unite their efforts to combat the ills that plague the daily lives of girl children," he said. He said that girls with low level of education are more likely to be married early, and child marriage has been shown to virtually end a girl's education.

Mr Lusato said further that girls with secondary schooling are up to six times less likely to marry as children, making education one of the best strategies for protecting girls and combating child marriage. He said that according to UNICEF's Violence against Children Survey carried out in Tanzania in 2009, sexual, physical and emotional violence are common for children growing up and the perpetrators are often near and known to the children.

Plan International Tanzania Child Rights and Gender Advisor, Wilbert Muchunguzi said that governments, civil societies, and UN agencies are working together to end child marriage, but said that further commitment and resources are required to accelerate action that will empower girls and scale up successful interventions.

He said that while girls and boys have the same entitlements to human rights, Plan International recognizes that discrimination against girls and women is one of the main underlying causes of child poverty. "Plan's campaign dubbed 'Because I am A Girl' aims to create an environment free of gender based violence for girls both in and out of schools," he said.

He said among other things, the campaign will work to increase skills, knowledge and awareness of girl's vulnerability to gender based violence within family, school and communities.

Tanzania: Renowned Chef to Support Tourism

By Rose Joseph/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/ 9 October 2012

TANZANIA Tourist Board (TTB) plans to produce and film an international travel and food show titled Out of the World to be aired in an Indian television channel popularly known as Food Food.

TTB Managing Director, Dr Aloyce Nzuki said that the programme will be filmed in the country and feature places like the Magogoni Ferry Fish Market, Kariakoo market and the artisan village in Dar es Salaam, some places in Zanzibar, Ngorongoro crater and the Serengeti National park.

Dr Nzuki said that the shooting of the film is part of efforts to intensify tourism marketing and promotion campaign in the Indian market and TTB is collaborating with Performance Limited, Flight Link and Serena Hotels.

The show will also star famous celebrity chef from India, Mr Sanjeev Kapoor, who owns the food television channel and has already arrived in the country. "The film will contribute a lot on economic growth and increase tourists from India and other countries in the Indian sub-continent," said Dr Nzuki.

Mr Kapoor said that the film would explore the culture and tourism potential of Tanzania because it will be shown on the first few episodes of the international food show Out of the World. The show that airs on the channel with a viewership of over 35 million people across 40 countries worldwide will allow Tanzania traditional foods to be seen all over the world.

"The Out of the World series commence in Tanzania and will begin with culinary adventure into

many other countries around the world," he explained. Mr Kapoor has over 150 culinary books to his name and flourishing restaurant business.

He is the first chef across the world to start his own television channel and has more than 7,000 proven recipes which attract more than 7 million page viewers per month and nearly 450,000 fans follow him on Facebook. Apart from filming, Chef Kapoor and his wife Alyona will bring a humanitarian touch to support "Tanzanian Heart Children Project" at a fund raising event to be held at Serena hotel.

Tanzania: Cross Border Smuggling of Cereals Must End

9 October 2012/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

editorial

LATEST statistics show that cross-border trade has been on the increase in the past few years with the government coffers getting almost nothing from such transactions.

A report by Cross Border Trade Bulletin 2001, a market analysis publication, indicates that between October and December last year, over 50,000 tonnes of cereals, or 39 per cent of the food traded in the East African region were sourced from Tanzania through illegal channels commonly known as "panya" routes.

The report shows that the Namanga border market between Kenya and Tanzania was the most notorious with the highest volume of trade of about 80 per cent of the smuggled food. Other border towns which are notorious for smuggling of cereals include Kasumulu (Mbeya) and Holili (Kilimanjaro).

This shows that Tanzania still commands the agriculture sector in the region due to its arable land and favourable climatic conditions. However, proceeds from such business don't reach the government coffers. This is because some markets in the neighbouring countries fetch better prices; a factor that fuels smuggling.

From such malpractice which the government has been fighting for the past 50 years, it is evident that smuggling will never stop if prices are lower than those offered in the neighbouring countries. Persistent droughts in Southern Somalia and Kenya as well as low food production in South Sudan are also other factors that will always keep prices of cereals high in the region.

It is against this backdrop that the government should review its ban on grain exports or offer an alternative solution so that such business is conducted in designated areas to discourage smuggling.

Construction of the international cereals market in Himo, a town located a few kilometres from the Kenya-Tanzania border, should be a trendsetter towards achieving goals in fighting cross border smuggling and ultimately beef up the government coffers. Chasing smugglers has never been an easy task.

In fact; no tangible result has ever been recorded in the history of this country as far as cross border smuggling is concerned. So, policy makers must fully support this idea, which will not only benefit Tanzanian poor peasant farmers but also raise the country's bar as a grain exporter in the region.

KENYA:

Kenya: MRC Spokesman Charged As Crackdown Begins

By Bernard Momanyi/Capital FM (Nairobi)/ 8 October 2012

Nairobi — Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) Spokesman Rashid Mraja was on Monday charged with being in possession of materials advocating for the secession of the Coast province from the rest of the country.

Police had raided Mraja's home earlier in the morning but failed to find him until he surrendered hours later, accompanied by his lawyer.

Detectives then took him to the Shanzu Law Courts where he denied the charges and was freed on a Sh2m bond by Mombasa Senior Resident Magistrate Timothy Olesanju.

Charges read to him indicated that he was in possession of T-shirts and pamphlets advocating for secession. His case was fixed for hearing on October 30.

He turned himself in after the government announced that it had launched a major crackdown on members of the MRC who are accused of leading a vicious gang in the coastal region.

"We will not spare them... the security operation against the criminal gang in Mombasa has started," Internal Security Permanent Secretary Mutea Iringo said. "We are starting from the top going down, they will have to face justice."

"We will arrest all the leaders and their members and they will have to go to court because we have evidence showing the gang is responsible for a series of criminal activities in the coast," the PS said, even as the MRC spokesman protested innocence.

He accused police of raiding his house and taking away his belongings - including his mobile phone.

Mraja's wife was briefly detained for questioning before being freed.

Iringo said politicians and religious leaders who have links with the criminal gang will also not be spared in the crackdown that started on Monday.

"We are not going to spare anyone. We are also targeting politicians and religious leaders. The politicians will face justice regardless of their position in government," Iringo said when he officiated the launch of a crime prevention seminar at the Kenya School of Government in Nairobi.

The crackdown on MRC members follows a series of criminal activities in the coastal region lately - including last week's attack at a rally organised by Cabinet Minister Amason Kingi.

The minister escaped unhurt in the attack but four people - including his bodyguard were killed.

"We are not going to spare anyone. We are also targeting politicians and religious leaders. The politicians will face justice regardless of their position in government," Iringo said when he officiated the launch of a crime prevention seminar at the Kenya School of Government in Nairobi.

Reports indicate that the three killed were MRC members who were killed by members of the

public after they hacked the minister's bodyguard who later succumbed to injuries.

The Internal Security PS has announced that his office is working closely with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to ensure the forthcoming general election is held in a secure environment.

The MRC has lately threatened to rally coast residents to boycott the general election due on March 4 next year.

Internal Security Minister Katoo ole Metito revealed last week that the criminal gang is also planning to disrupt national KCSE and KCPE examinations due later next month.

The minister said the government will be moving to court to appeal a ruling that legalised MRC activities.

Kenya: Kaul Insists Post-Election Violence Cases Don't Merit ICC Hearing

By Nzau Musau/The Star (Nairobi)/ 8 October 2012

ICC pre-trial judge Hans Peter Kaul has maintained that the two Kenyan cases currently awaiting trial have no merit being at the court.

Kaul who has dissented on the Kenyan cases thrice on the basis that the court lacks jurisdiction, cut off discussion on the matter saying he did not wish to appear as though he was making a political statement.

"As far as I am concerned those cases have no merit and I have made my position clear before. Now I do not wish to be seen as though I am making a political statement," Kaul curtly said and walked away.

The German judge spoke at the sidelines of International Justice conference in Nuremberg where Attorney General Githu Muigai led experts in bashing the legacy of former prosecutor Louis Moreno Ocampo.

Muigai complained that the ICC had chosen to treat Kenya with mistrust despite efforts by Kenya to cooperate with the court. He said the court has also refused to accept the unique nature of the Kenyan cases.

Muigai said it was difficult to sustain a professional relationship with Ocampo whom he found "downright, discourteous, patronising and disrespectful."

"I was shocked at what appeared to be the former prosecutor's self promotion using the Kenyan cases yet the situation as it were, indeed as it is even now, demands the greatest possible caution," Muigai told delegates among them ICC judges Sang-Hyun Song (president) and Kaul.

Elham Saudi, a director of Lawyers for Justice in Libya, concurred with Muigai saying Ocampo made pronouncements in the Libyan situation which worked against the court. She said she once confronted him.

"I asked him; 'grafitti's of your name are splashed allover Tripoli and you have let Libyans down'. His response was; 'did you take a photo of them?' she said.

International law scholar William Schabas of Middlesex University in London also took on Ocampo for "backing off" on the Palestinian issue after sitting on it for three years. He agreed with Muigai that Ocampo made certain statements which he too "trembles to imagine to date."

Participants led by Max du Plessis of University of KwaZulu Natal and Tiyanjana Maluwa of Pennsylvania State University said it was imperative for ICC to stretch its cases outside of Africa to solve the credibility crisis facing it.

They also called on the US to join the court. Ugandan minister for justice Fredrick Ruhindi said Uganda will not be party to any attempts by African Union to pull out of ICC en masse.

He however defended the idea of expansion of jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice to supplement ICC in punishing international crimes.

Kaul said the ICC needed comprehensive support. He warned against attempts to micromanage the court in guise of support.

"People at the court are trying to do their best under the circumstances. Of course we have done mistakes, we are human beings," Kaul said.

Kaul dissented on the two Kenyan cases in admitting the situation in March 31, 2010, in summoning the suspects on March 15, 2011 and in confirming the charges in January 23, 2012. All through he insisted that the court had no jurisdiction on the cases.

Kenya: Annan, Mkapa Visit Kenya Ahead of 2013 Polls

By Olive Burrows/Capital FM (Nairobi)/8 October 2012

Nairobi — Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and ex-Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa were expected to arrive Kenya later on Monday for a four day visit.

The two will be in the country as members of the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities to offer encouragement to the Kenyan people and the country's institutions ahead of the March 4, 2013 elections.

A statement from the Kofi Annan foundation said: "The objective of the visit by Mr Annan and Mr Mkapa is to give support and encouragement to the Kenyan people and the country's institutions as Kenya prepares for an important transition in 2013."

Their programme includes meetings with government officials, independent and constitutional commissions and other major stakeholder groups including business leaders, civil society, religious leaders, media and the international community.

"The priority that the Panel of Eminent African Personalities places on the successful conduct of the forthcoming general elections mirrors the aspirations of the Kenyan people, who see the next poll as an opportunity to move beyond the dark days of 2007/8," Kofi Annan said in August this year on the second anniversary of the promulgation of the new Constitution whose review formed an integral part of the peace negotiations.

The two diplomats together Graca Machel, wife of former South African president Nelson Mandela, were instrumental in bringing the warring sides of the Orange Democratic Movement and the Party of National Unity to the negotiating table following the hotly contested December 27, 2007

election.

The March 2013 general elections will be the first following the post-election violence and will bring to an end the coalition government which President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga entered into on February 28, 2008 ending months of bloodshed.

An estimated 1,300 people were killed in the violence, a further 3,500 injured and over 650,000 displaced. A number of those displaced still occupy camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

A statement from the Kofi Annan foundation said: "The objective of the visit by Mr Annan and Mr Mkapa is to give support and encouragement to the Kenyan people and the country's institutions as Kenya prepares for an important transition in 2013."

Chief mediator Annan is thought to have succeeded where others before him failed. The then African Union Chairperson John Kufuor preceded him, as did Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Mozambican President Joachim Chissano in trying to broker peace.

In August this year, Annan said on Kenya: "The effectiveness of the new Constitution in addressing the long-standing issues which were behind the post-election violence in 2007/8 face no greater litmus test than preparations for and the conduct of the next general elections."

The visit by Annan comes at a time when the country is witnessing cases of violence, especially in the Coast region in which it is suspected that politics is a key factor in the conflict.

Already, a commission of inquiry is investigating the clashes in the Tana Delta that left over 100 people dead following attacks on villages in August and September.

Annan also comes into the country against a backdrop of an incomplete Truth, Justice and Reconciliation process with the truth commission now seeking a nine-month extension.

The extension of the commission's tenure has met opposition in Parliament with questions being raised on the justification for the additional time.

ANGOLA:

Angola: New Portuguese Immigration Law to Hamper Stay of Convicted Angolans

8 October 2012/AngolaPress

Lisbon — The stay of Angolan convicted citizens in Portugal will be difficult on account of the new Portuguese immigration law that is coming into force on Monday, as it orders the expulsion of individuals serving sentences of more than one year.

The new Portuguese law on entry, stay, exit and expulsion of foreigners from the territory orders that foreigners in Portugal sentenced to imprisonment of more than one year, shall not have their temporary and permanent residence extended.

The new law expects the expulsion of foreigners in the referred conditions and criminalisation of hiring illegal immigrants.

Angop learnt that over 200 Angolan inmates are receiving legal aid from the general consulate of Angola in Lisbon, after they were sentenced for drug dealing, document forgery, violence and others.

AU/AFRICA:

Un nouvel Eldorado pour le blé en Afrique

Afp / 09 Octobre 2012

La flambée des cours mondiaux et les nouveaux modes de consommation urbains en Afrique rendent la culture du blé, longtemps négligée au profit du maïs, de nouveau rentable pour le continent où la demande explose.

"La demande de blé croît plus que n'importe quelle autre", assurent les organisateurs d'une conférence internationale réunie jusqu'à vendredi à Addis Abeba sur le thème: "Du blé pour la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique".

En 2012, l'Afrique va dépenser environ 18 milliards de dollars pour répondre à une consommation passée de 25 kilos par personne et par an dans les années 60, à plus de 50 kilos aujourd'hui.

Une étude présentée mardi par le Centre international pour l'amélioration des cultures du blé et du maïs à Nairobi (CIMMYT) portant sur la production de blé dans 12 pays d'Afrique subsaharienne, estime que leur production ne représente que "10 à 25% du potentiel biologique et économique de leurs terres". Outre le CIMMYT, les co-organisateur de cette conférence sont notamment l'Union africaine et l'Institut International de Recherche sur les Politiques Alimentaires (IFPRI).

Rien qu'avec l'eau de pluie, sans irrigation mais avec les apports en fertilisants appropriés, "20 à 100% des terres arables" seraient propres à la culture du blé en Angola, Burundi, Ethiopie, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzanie, République démocratique du Congo, Ouganda, Zambie et Zimbabwe, affirment les auteurs de cette étude.

"Terres disponibles, sols et climat adaptés, main d'oeuvre bon marché, population urbaine et revenus en hausse": l'Afrique dispose de nombreux atouts pour faire du blé, résume pour l'AFP Bekele Shiferaw, directeur du programme socio-économique du CIMMYT.

"Il ne s'agit pas pour l'Afrique de se lancer sur le marché mondial, mais notre étude montre qu'aux prix actuels, il serait plus compétitif pour de nombreux pays de cultiver plutôt que d'importer", explique-t-il. "La production domestique ne couvre encore que 40% de la demande totale du continent et bien moins encore si on ne regarde que l'Afrique sub-saharienne" (30% environ).

Or, poursuit M. Shiferaw, "un investissement indicatif de 250 à 300 dollars par hectare, en comptant le travail, les semences et les fertilisants, assurerait un revenu net de 200 dollars par hectare".

La modélisation des cultures dans les 12 pays considérés laisse envisager un rendement de 1,2 à 3 tonnes/ha pour la majorité des pays d'Afrique centrale et orientale, dépassant même 4 t/ha sur les plateaux tempérés du Rwanda, Burundi et d'Ouganda - même si, reconnaît le chercheur, ces projections sont "probablement supérieures aux réalités du terrain".

(Par comparaison, le rendement mondial moyen tourne autour de 3t/ha selon le Centre international

des céréales).

La production de blé en Afrique sub-saharienne a plongé dans les années 80 avec l'afflux d'une aide alimentaire massive et des subventions accordées aux importations - "Beaucoup de pays qui financent l'aide au développement de l'agriculture en Afrique sont aussi de grands exportateurs de blé" (Amérique du Nord, Union européenne, Australie), note Bekele Shiferaw.

Mais c'est aujourd'hui l'une des denrées de base pour lesquelles la demande croît le plus vite, poursuit-il, alors que les prix n'ont cessé d'augmenter depuis 2007: dépassant les 400 USD/t en 2007-2008, la tonne de blé est passée de moins de 100 USD en 2000 à près de 300 USD aujourd'hui.

Pour les auteurs, aucun doute que les pays à faible densité démographique ont tout intérêt à en développer la culture, même si ceci requiert "des investissements en route, système d'irrigation, de stockages et de commercialisation", à l'intégrer aux pratiques déjà existantes, ou, pour l'Ethiopie, déjà grand producteur (3,3 Mt en 2012 selon la FAO) à intensifier et de moderniser ses pratiques.

Le président égyptien amnistie les partisans de la "révolution"

8/10/12 / Source: belga.be

Le président égyptien Mohamed Morsi a décidé lundi d'amnistier toutes les personnes soutenant la "révolution" et arrêtées depuis le début du soulèvement qui a renversé Hosni Moubarak l'an dernier jusqu'à juin 2012, date de son accession au pouvoir.

Dans un décret publié sur sa page officielle sur Facebook, la présidence annonce l'amnistie pour les faits "commis dans le but de soutenir la révolution et réaliser ses objectifs dans la période allant du 25 janvier 2011 au 30 juin 2012, à l'exception des crimes d'homicide volontaire".

La "révolution du 25 janvier", pendant laquelle des centaines de milliers d'Egyptiens ont manifesté sans relâche pour exiger le départ du régime dictatorial de Hosni Moubarak, a obligé ce dernier, au pouvoir depuis 1981, à démissionner.

L'amnistie englobe les personnes déjà condamnées par la justice et celles qui font toujours l'objet d'une enquête ou sont en cours de jugement, selon le texte. Ce décret intervient 100 jours après l'accession au pouvoir de M. Morsi, premier président égyptien à être librement élu. Il est aussi le premier chef d'Etat islamiste et civil, tous ses prédécesseurs étant sortis des rangs de l'armée.

Cette décision intervient aussi à la veille de la commémoration du premier anniversaire des événements dits "de Maspero", pendant lesquels une vingtaine de manifestants avaient été tués lors d'affrontements avec les forces de l'ordre lors d'un rassemblement de Coptes (chrétiens d'Egypte) qui protestaient contre l'incendie d'une église.

Nauffrage à Mayotte: bilan revu à la hausse avec 6 morts et 10 disparus

Afp / 08 Octobre 2012

Six personnes ont péri et dix autres sont portées disparues lundi dans le naufrage d'un bateau d'immigrants clandestins au large de l'archipel français de Mayotte, dans l'océan Indien, selon un nouveau bilan communiqué dans la soirée par la préfecture.

L'embarcation, de type "kwassa kwassa", venait d'Anjouan, île comorienne située à une centaine de

kilomètres de là, avec 24 personnes à son bord, selon la même source. Huit personnes sont rescapées, six sont décédées et dix ont disparu.

Les recherches d'éventuels survivants ont été suspendues en raison de la tombée de la nuit, a ajouté la préfecture de Mayotte.

L'embarcation a chaviré vers 2H30, dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi, à 300 mètres des côtes, au large de Dapani au sud de Petite-terre, une des deux îles de l'archipel, a indiqué la préfecture.

Ce nouveau drame de l'immigration clandestine dans l'océan Indien survient un mois jour pour jour après un autre dans lequel six personnes avaient trouvé la mort et 27 avaient été portées disparues.

Les "kwassa kwassa" - du nom d'une danse qui évoque leur balancement dans la houle - sont des pirogues à moteur qui naviguent au ras des flots. Les accidents surviennent souvent au passage de la barrière de corail qui ceint Mayotte.

Venant pour la plupart de l'île voisine d'Anjouan, des milliers de Comoriens tentent chaque année de débarquer illégalement sur l'archipel pour travailler ou se faire soigner.

Sur les 200.000 habitants de Mayotte, 40% seraient des clandestins.

EN BREF, CE 09 Octobre 2012... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 09/10/2012