

[Depuis la création de la rébellion du M23 et le retour de la guerre à l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), de nouveaux groupes armés ont fait leur apparition. Une trentaine de rébellions sévissent actuellement dans les Kivus. La dernière en date se nomme l'URDC pour Union pour la réhabilitation de la démocratie au Congo. Chaque semaine qui passe aux Kivus, voit la création d'un nouveau groupe armé. Depuis la mutinerie du M23, en guerre contre l'armée régulière de Kinshasa, les rébellions se multiplient à l'Est de la RDC.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : des rapports vont influencer les bailleurs de fonds à Genève
(Xinhua)/29.10.2012

A la veille de la conférence internationale qui réunira à Genève le gouvernement burundais et les bailleurs de fonds et porte sur la mise en oeuvre du Cadre Stratégique de Croissance et de Lutte contre la Pauvreté, 2ème génération (CSLP II) au Burundi, l'ancien ministre burundais des Finances Donatien Bihute estime que les bailleurs seront influencés dans leurs décisions par divers rapports de ceux qui suivent de près la situation au Burundi.

"Les rapports de l'International Crisis Group ou de Human Rights Watch peuvent influencer individuellement ou collectivement les Bailleurs de fonds. Individuellement, les pays comme la Chine peuvent dire que ces rapports ne peuvent pas l'empêcher d'aider le Burundi. Les Etats-Unis peuvent dire oui ou non (...). La Conférence ne sera pas tellement influencée par la déclaration du gouvernement, mais par les rapports que les bureaux de ces pays au Burundi leur envoient chaque jour", a déclaré dimanche à l'agence Xinhua Donatien Bihute.

Il a indiqué que le CSLP II contient des besoins de financement dont les uns sont acquis et les autres qui sont à rechercher auprès de ces bailleurs qui financent à plus de 50% les besoins du pays.

Tout en reconnaissant qu'il y aura des bailleurs qui vont accroître leurs financements moyennant des conditions qu'ils vont poser, il craint qu'il ne puisse y avoir malheureusement d'autres qui vont promettre des montants symboliques.

Certains disent que ces derniers "vont faire un défilé de mode uniquement", a-t-il ajouté.

Donatien Bihute se réjouit que la Conférence de Genève des Bailleurs de fonds du Burundi se tienne au lendemain du rapport Doing Business de la Banque mondiale, qui reconnaît des performances accomplies par le Burundi dans l'amélioration du climat des affaires.

Alors que le Burundi était classé 177ème sur les 183 économies du monde en 2009, il est classé aujourd'hui 169ème alors qu'il était le 181ème en 2011.

Sur le plan des réformes, Doing Business 2012 classe le Burundi premier dans les cinq pays de la Communauté Est-Africaine (EAC) avec quatre réformes depuis 2009 devant le Rwanda (3 réformes) suivi par la Tanzanie, le Kenya et l'Ouganda qui ont chacun réalisé une seule réforme.

Les besoins du CSLP II sont estimés à 2,1 milliards de dollars.

RWANDA :

Rwanda: 'No Turning Back - ' Cementing Inclusive Governance in Rwanda

By Dr Pierre Damien Habumuremyi/Rwanda Focus (Kigali)/29 October 2012

opinion

Amongst political scientists and sociologists the term 'inclusive governance', generally relates to the fundamental right of all citizens to meaningfully participate in the decision making processes that affect their lives. This extends to the public institutions, for which the notion of inclusiveness is reflected through their being accessible, accountable and responsive to all.

A small yet vocal constituency has proven increasingly sceptical of Rwanda's achievements in this area, in spite of mounting evidence of the emergence of genuinely inclusive governance, over the last 18 years. In the immediate aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi, this reaction could have been contextualised in relation to the politics of exclusion that had come to permeate almost all sectors of Rwanda's political elite until July 1994.

However, 18 years on, the facts speak for themselves; and the list of achievements registered by Rwandans - in many cases against all odds - continues to grow, examples of which include:

The restoration and consolidation of Rwanda's national pride;

The successful initiation of a strategy aiming to transform Rwanda into a middle income economy by 2020;

The popularisation of 'home-grown' solutions and initiatives as a means of supporting the resolution of conflicts and the acceleration of poverty reduction;

The cementing of national unity, as a result of the strong and sustained political will to include all progressive elements of society; committed to combating divisionism and Genocide ideology;

A notable increase in the well being of Rwandans resulting from the guaranteeing of equitable access to education, credit and public sector employment for all Rwandans;

The modernization of Rwandans approach to work, through the instilling of a greater sense of professionalism, integrity and a spirit of entrepreneurialism;

The increase in access and use of ICT as a tool for socio-economic transformation by all Rwandans;

The conduct of regional and international diplomacy and cooperation, based on mutual respect and the interests of respective populations.

The socio-economic transformation that is plain for all to see over the last 18 years is only one of many of the dividends of inclusive governance that has now taken firm root in Rwanda.

The contribution of ordinary Rwandans to the design of policies and the implementation of national development projects and democratic politics has become a reality in the daily lives of Rwandans. Structures ensuring their contribution include, among others: village councils (Intekoz'abaturage), community works (umuganda), representation on district councils and participation in all electoral processes.

Furthermore, if the basic message, coming from the channels of political accountability connecting Rwandans to their elected leaders described above is to be believed, the vast majority of Rwandans retain a profound sense of ownership and appreciation of the role of the Rwanda Patriotic Front, under the leadership of H.E President Paul Kagame in ushering these changes.

It is therefore telling that, even the most ardent of critics of the narrative of Rwanda's ascendancy, - in terms of both the respect of human rights and the well-being of ordinary Rwandans - have had to grudgingly acknowledge the fundamental transformation in the nature of political authority in Rwanda.

What matters most is that Rwanda is now at peace with itself. Independent survey data suggests that Rwandans are contented and this is what matters most. Eighteen years following the Genocide and the Rwandan 'model' of inclusive governance has helped re-energize political and governance institutions, civil society, the media and a nascent but vibrant and growing private sector.

The road is still long, but all the evidence suggests that Rwandans are today united in the knowledge and conviction that, in terms of our political evolution to date, there is no turning back!

Dr Pierre Damien Habumuremyi is the Prime Minister

Rwanda: Can EAC Adopt Rwanda's Business Reform Template?

By Kenneth Agutamba/Rwanda Focus (Kigali)/29 October 2012

Monday last week, Vivian Kayitesi, the Rwanda Development Board's (RDB) investment promotions director, attended a business round-table organized by South Africa's envoy to Rwanda, George Twala.

That same day, the World Bank was to release the Doing Business Report 2013--an important document for RDB. She was so confident of the outcome.

"We know the report is coming out today. I am not worried [because] the results will be positive," she casually told prospective investors from South Africa.

When the report became public later in the day, it bore Kayitesi's confidence.

Rwanda was ranked the 52nd best country in the world for a business entity to thrive. At least 185 countries were surveyed. With the likes of Mauritius (19) South Africa (39), Tunisia (50) and Botswana (59), Rwanda is one of the only six African countries to make it to the top 60.

Of the 46 economies surveyed in Africa, Rwanda is in third place after only Mauritius and South Africa. The new rankings show Rwanda as the only shining star in east Africa--an issue that must be looked at if the region is to improve its competitiveness as a bloc.

Delegates at a recent World Bank Group sponsored reformers' workshop in Kigali agreed that the only way other countries can improve their competitiveness is by adopting best practices of successful reformers.

The EAC is lucky to have Rwanda to learn from. Considering the country's consistent good performance over the last two years, Rwanda can indeed captain the region's business reforms to make the EAC attractive to foreign investment as a bloc.

The new rankings

Of the 10 indicators upon which economies base their reforms, Rwanda is ranked in the top five in seven of them. RDB's six-hour business registration process was recognized beating Mauritius and Madagascar to the number one rank in Africa.

In Africa, Rwanda is ranked the second easiest place to get electricity, the third in protecting investors, paying taxes and enforcing contracts.

In the 2014 reform year, Rwanda will need to improve further on the process of acquiring construction permits that is currently ranked 15th, trading across borders in which the country is rated 32nd. The other is resolving insolvency currently at number 37.

The Trading across border index brings into clear perspective the need for neighbors to put in as much work as possible to compliment Rwanda's own efforts.

Last week, Rwanda was at work again and managed to squeeze some concessions out of Tanzania with promises made to clear that problematic rout of nagging non-tariff barriers.

On a closer look though, Rwanda can count on Uganda and Kenya who have been ranked in the top ten reformers in Africa at 9th and tenth place respectively. Tanzania and Burundi were ranked 15th and 28th respectively.

Burundi, though still lagging behind the rest of the pack has been recognized as being one of the top global reformers, a performance mainly attributed to its improvement in business registration ranked 4th in Africa and 5th in protecting investors.

"That is a good trend with obvious intentions, luring investors and ensuring they are retained with good policies to protect them," said Theogen Mbarushimaana a coffee exporter.

Since 2005, Rwanda has implemented 26 regulatory reforms (over half of Sub-Saharan Africa's annual reforms) as recorded by Doing Business. By June 2012, Rwanda had started implementing an electronic filing system for initial complaints whereas the cost of obtaining a new electricity connection was reduced by 30% helping it to be ranked 39 and 49th respectively on the two indicators.

Uganda's strongest points are getting electricity and resolving insolvency ranked at 7th and 5th respectively while Kenya excels in obtaining construction permits and getting credit placed at 3rd and second respectively in Africa.

While it's true Rwanda's performance in this year's index is a sign of the country's commitment to achieving its economic goals, according to Clare Akamanzi, the Chief Executive Officer of RDB, it's also obvious that EAC states will need to integrate their reforms to adopt the best ones to improve as a region.

Some analysts have mulled about creating a regional reform's committee but how many shall there be?

If Rwanda can't help change neighbors then it can exploit the situation, be the base of foreign investors who seek to benefit from the region's 135 million consumers.

Rwanda: The Problem With Congo Is Not M23, but the Leadership

By Jean-Christophe Nsanzimana/Rwanda Focus (Kigali)/29 October 2012

Early this week, authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo abruptly decided to close during the night two border posts normally used by thousands, mainly cross-border traders operating in the towns of Goma (Eastern DRC) and Gisenyi sector in Rubavu District on the Rwandan side.

The decision to shut down Petite Barrière and Grande Barrière, announced by Julien Paluku, the governor of North Kivu on Monday, was apparently made by the DRC government.

However, the reason as to why the decision was taken was not given. With hundreds of Rwandans stranded in the DR Congo, speculation was rife that either authorities or anyone of the tens of rebel groups wandering the eastern DR Congo would torture them.

The situation in the eastern part of the DR Congo has since the emergence of M23, an insurgent group in April been deteriorating. Over 220,000 civilians in North Kivu province alone have been displaced, attacks against civilians are increasing and ethnic tensions increasing in the mineral rich territory that has suffered over fifteen years of violence and instability.

Efforts to bring peace to the region have been rendered fruitless.

At the regional level, peace agreements between DRC and Rwanda (July 2012), and between DRC and Uganda (September 2012) had made it possible to record tangible and significant progress to improve security. However, all these agreements have gone to waste. Even the UN Stabilization Mission in Congo (Monusco) has failed to bring sanity to the region.

Other high level diplomatic negotiations have been held at African and UN levels to try find a solution to the issue.

And yet as all the chaos is happening, the government in Kinshasa keeps blaming external forces for the unrest, Rwanda inclusive. But the crisis, according to regional lawmakers and members of the Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace (Amani Forum) who met to find a way forward in the Congo conflict last week, should be blamed on the DR Congo.

Without elaborating, Denis Polisi, a Rwandan parliamentarian (lower chamber) and former chairman of the Amani Forum said the problem with Congo is not M23 but the country's leadership."

He was echoing statements by President Paul Kagame, who, while opening the judicial year stated that those who caused the current problems in Congo know themselves.

"They caused these problems in the past centuries. Now, strangely, they want Rwanda to be accountable for the existence of Rwandaphones in Congo," he said, stressing that those who took Rwandaphones to the Congo should be the ones accountable for these problems.

"These Rwandaphones are persecuted every day. Yet the people who give us lessons about human rights keep quiet and condone what goes on. And they turn around and blame Rwanda for the problems of the Congo. They should bear responsibility for the problems," added Kagame.

"If I am to do it, I would first denounce those that caused the M23 to exist in first place. I would denounce the government that does not respect or work for its own citizens. I would denounce the

international community that seems blind to what is happening, before I denounce anybody else," said Rwanda's president. "To me, M23, the Government of Congo, the international community, are all ideologically bankrupt because they cannot properly define a simple problem that they see. They keep running in circles," Kagame added.

He reiterated that for over a decade, all of the aforementioned have been running around and keep blaming Rwanda for the problems of the Congo. "Why don't they have courage to blame themselves and take part of the responsibility before anybody else will take the responsibility? What is this blackmail about?" asked President Kagame.

Polisi also branded the UN a 'necessary evil', saying even though Rwanda is a member state, it's clear that the way it works sometimes is lacking.

"There are times when it seems to be really working in an effective fair way, and those times when it is messing up things. Its recent (current) conduct in the Eastern DRC has left with all doubts about its effectiveness," he said.

Rwanda as a scapegoat

Amani Forum chairman Senator Jean-Damascene Bizimana told the meeting that when some people decide to form an armed group like the M23, the solution to the problem cannot be found while ignoring the group itself. "They might have their reasons and they want their voices to be heard," he said, adding that ignoring the above fact will lead to misunderstanding of the issue, therefore one-sided non-sustainable solutions.

"This is actually what has been happening with the Eastern DRC unrest."

Among the possible reasons behind the mutineers, the Rwandan senator said are human rights related issues and the fact that the armed group fighters might be used and/or backed by some other forces.

He also blamed United Nations and Human Rights Watch for sanctioning reports that falsely accuse Rwanda of the insurgency.

"These are incomplete. They do not bring about a deep analysis of the issue, they are superficial. They do not dig deep into the root of the problems, and consequently they cannot serve any purpose in seeking a lasting solution to the unrest."

The reports have since been discredited by officials in Kigali, including Defense Minister James Kabarebe and Foreign Affairs Minister Louise Mushikiwabo.

"This (UN group of experts) report, we would never take seriously. It's done unprofessionally; the methodology is flawed; it's full of facts that are not facts. At best, this report is disputable, which is why we regret that countries would take it seriously or even take some decisions based on this," Mushikiwabo said.

At the Amani Forum meeting, the Bizimana also questioned the international justice system's role trying to resolve the Congo crisis.

"The ICC wants Bosco Ntaganda arrested. Do you think that this may help in any way towards a lasting solution to the illegal armed groups including M23? There are those who have been arrested (Thomas Lubanga and Jean Pierre Bemba) what change did that bring?" he asked.

If lasting peace is to be found, then, to borrow the words of Dan Smith, Secretary General of International Alert, what is needed is a truly context-specific response based on a frank analysis of the real causes and dynamics behind this prolonged and multi-faceted conflict.

"If peace is to be restored, the predatory, corrupt and clientelistic nature of power in DRC must be tackled, as well as the problem of intense, ethnically driven political competition," he says in a new report 'Ending the Dealock: Towards a new vision of peace in eastern DRC,' released by International Alert recently.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : Les groupes armés prolifèrent au Nord-Kivu

lundi, 29 octobre 2012/afrikarabia2.blogs.courrierinternational.com

Depuis la création de la rébellion du M23 et le retour de la guerre à l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), de nouveaux groupes armés ont fait leur apparition. Une trentaine de rébellions sévissent actuellement dans les Kivus. La dernière en date se nomme l'URDC pour Union pour la réhabilitation de la démocratie au Congo.

Chaque semaine qui passe aux Kivus, voit la création d'un nouveau groupe armé. Depuis la mutinerie du M23, en guerre contre l'armée régulière de Kinshasa, les rébellions se multiplient à l'Est de la RDC. On compte actuellement une trentaine de mouvements rebelles dans la région, allant de quelques centaines d'hommes à quelques milliers. Les alliances varient avec le temps et les circonstances. La majorité de ces mouvements ont pourtant un "ennemi" en commun : les FARDC, l'armée régulière congolaise. Les victimes de ces groupes sont toujours les mêmes : la population civile, prise entre deux feux. Pillages, vols, viols, les exactions de ces milices ont jeté sur les routes et dans les camps, des milliers de réfugiés. Depuis le mois de mai et la création du M23, les combats ont fait plus de 300.000 déplacés dans l'Est du pays.

URDC, Raïa Mukombozi...

Le dernier né de ces groupes s'appelle l'URDC, l'Union pour la réhabilitation de la démocratie au Congo. Ces rebelles se trouvent à Beni, au Nord-Kivu et sont basés dans les collines de Ruwenzori et Graben. Selon la radio onusienne Okapi, un des responsables du groupe serait le colonel Jacques Tahanga Nyolo, un officier déserteur de l'armée régulière (comme la plupart des rebelles), issu d'une branche du RCD-KML. Comme bon nombre de nouvelles rébellions, l'URDC se dit "en contact" avec le M23, le "mouvement-phare" du Nord-Kivu. Le RCD-KML a rejeté la paternité du groupe et a toujours nié tout rapprochement avec le M23, formé de déserteurs de l'armée et soutenu par le Rwanda voisin. L'URDC revendique "la réhabilitation de la démocratie et de la vérité des urnes", entendez le départ de Joseph Kabila.

Le semaine dernière, un autre groupe armé a vu le jour dans le territoire de Shabunda au Sud-Kivu : les Raïa Mukombozi, un groupe d'auto-défense Mai-Mai issu des Raïa Mutomboki, qui contrôlent de nombreux sites miniers. Ce nouveau mouvement, entré en dissidence il y a quelques semaines, souhaite combattre les Raïa Mutomboki et s'emparer de leurs territoires, riches en minerais. Le contrôle des ressources naturelles du sous-sol congolais constitue l'une des causes du conflit au Nord et Sud-Kivu. S'il ne constitue pas le moteur de la guerre, il en est assurément le principal carburant.

Une armée congolaise en décomposition

La focalisation de la communauté internationale et des médias sur la rébellion du M23, cache une réalité plus complexe sur le terrain. La prolifération de ces mouvements révèle avant tout les carences de l'Etat dans les provinces et particulièrement l'absence d'une armée digne de ce nom. Faute de moyens, de paie et d'un véritable commandement, les FARDC, sont toujours incapables d'assurer la sécurité de la population. Pire, l'armée régulière se rend également coupable de nombreuses exactions sur les civils.

Une trentaine de factions se battent désormais dans les Kivus depuis l'apparition du M23. Le retour de la guerre a favorisé la création de nouvelles rébellions qui profitent du chaos ambiant pour régner en maître sur les territoires... et leurs richesses. Des alliances se sont créées entre ces mouvements, souvent contre-nature. Le M23, dont le nombre d'hommes oscillerait entre 1000 et 2000 hommes a été rejoint par plusieurs groupes d'auto-défense, comme les Pareco, les Pareco Fort, les Mai-Mai Kifuafua, les Mai-Mai La Fontaine ou les Raïa Mutomboki. Au Sud-Kivu, on trouve les Mai-Mai Yakutumba, les Mai-Mai Nyatura et les Mudundu 40. En Ituri, les FRPI, du chef milicien Cobra Matata règnent sur la région, contrôlent les taxes et l'argent du Trésor. Au Kasai-Oriental, le colonel Tshibangu a fait défection de l'armée régulière et a tenté une offensive début octobre.

FDLR : supplétifs de l'armée congolaise ?

Face à ces multiples rébellions hostiles à Kinshasa, on trouve d'autres rebelles : les FDLR. Le plus grand groupe armé présent à l'Est, est composé aujourd'hui d'environ 3000 hommes (contre 7000 il y a encore quelques années). Ce mouvement rassemble des Hutus rwandais et des Congolais, opposés au régime rwandais de Paul Kagame, depuis la fin du génocide de 1994. Défendant les intérêts hutus et combattant les minorités tutsies congolaises (défendues par le M23) les FDLR ont été longtemps utilisés comme supplétifs à l'armée régulière. Aujourd'hui encore, le M23 accuse le gouvernement congolais d'utiliser les FDLR pour les combattre au Nord-Kivu.

Objectif commun : le départ de Joseph Kabila

Dans ce chaos permanent depuis presque 20 ans, les deux Kivus restent le "terrain de jeu" idéal des "aventuriers" divers et des "apprentis rebelles". Si chacun de ces mouvements ne représentent tout au plus qu'une centaine d'hommes, des alliances se nouent et se coordonnent de plus en plus. Pour l'instant leurs zones d'influences ne dépassent pas quelques territoires. Mais dans ces mouvances rebelles, seul le M23, toujours installé aux portes de Goma, la capitale provinciale du Nord-Kivu, est en mesure d'ébranler le régime de Joseph Kabila. Signe des temps et de la montée en puissance du mouvement : la majorité des nouveaux groupes armés se sont rapprochés du M23. Le Mouvement du 23 mars peut désormais compter sur ces alliés (certes de circonstances) pour gagner des régions, les placer sous contrôle et fragiliser ainsi l'autorité de Kinshasa. Car cet assemblage hétéroclite de rébellions partage au moins un objectif commun : le départ du président Joseph Kabila.

Christophe RIGAUD – Afrikarabia

RDC-Elections : la Ceni souhaite un second tour apaisé en Province Orientale et au Bas-Congo
le 29 octobre, 2012 /radiokapi.net

Le vice-président de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Ceni), Jacques Djoli a souhaité que le deuxième tour des élections des gouverneurs et vice-gouverneurs dans les provinces

Orientale et du Bas-Congo se déroulent dans un climat apaisé et dans la transparence. Après l'annonce, dimanche 28 octobre, des résultats du vote du premier tour dans ces provinces, aucun candidat n'a obtenu la majorité absolue. Le second tour devra départager les deux candidats les mieux placés au Bas-Congo : Jacques Mbadu Situ (14 voix) et Deo Nkusu (12 voix) et en Province Orientale : Jean Tokole Ilongo (42 voix) et Jean Bamanisa (27 voix).

« Je pense que les députés provinciaux sont pour l'alternance. Le choix porté sur Jacques Mbandu est un bon choix. Je pense qu'ils vont voter utile », a déclaré Fut Bwanga Scrham, témoin de Jacques Mbandu.

Pour sa part, Patrick Bengo, le témoin de Deo Nkusu, dit accepter les résultats et n'attend que le deuxième tour. Les candidats eux-mêmes n'ont pas souhaité s'exprimer à ce stade.

Le vice-président de la Ceni, Jacques Djoli a supervisé l'élection à Matadi. A l'issue du scrutin, il a remercié tous les candidats pour leur « maturité politique » depuis le début de la campagne électorale jusqu'au jour de vote.

Jacques Mbadu, actuel sénateur brigue le poste de gouverneur du Bas-Congo sous la casquette d'indépendant. Il lui suffisait d'une voix de plus pour obtenir la majorité absolue et être élu. Ce qui n'est pas arrivé. Lui et son concurrent de la Majorité présidentielle, Déo Nkusu, ont quarante huit heures pour convaincre les députés provinciaux de leur accorder leurs voix. Vice-gouverneur du Bas-Congo depuis 2003 à l'époque de la transition, Déo Nkusu a occupé ces fonctions dans un premier temps sous la bannière du RCD, un mouvement rebelle devenu parti politique, avant de rejoindre la majorité présidentielle.

Peu avant le premier tour de ce scrutin, le président Kabila s'est rendu à Matadi et à Kisangani. Même si son agenda n'a pas été relevé à la presse, des sources généralement bien informées estiment que l'autorité morale de la Majorité présidentielle était partie sensibiliser ses troupes en vue de ces élections.

Province Orientale : portraits croisés des candidats

Plus de ressemblances que de dissemblances entre Jean Tokole Ilongo et Jean Bamanisa, les deux candidats qui s'affronteront mercredi prochain au second tour de l'élection du gouverneur en Province Orientale. Ils ont tous deux un parcours presque similaire. Tous les deux ont entamé leur carrière dans l'entrepreneuriat depuis 1990. Ils sont passés par la Fédération des entreprises du Congo (FEC) avant de se lancer en politique. Les deux challengers œuvrent aussi dans le domaine social notamment dans l'encadrement des jeunes.

Jean Tokole Ilongo est originaire de la Tshopo alors que Jean Bamanisa est né en Ituri.

Tous les deux candidats ont fait un parcours à la FEC. Jean Tokole y est actuellement membre du conseil provincial alors que Jean Bamanisa a dirigé la FEC/Province Orientale de 1998 à 2004.

Il n'y a pas que le monde économique qui unit les deux candidats mais aussi la politique. Jean Tokole Ilongo occupe les fonctions de questeur à l'Assemblée provinciale depuis 2007. L'autre, Jean Bamanisa, a été député national élu en 2006. Il n'a pas été réélu aux dernières législatives.

Jean Bamanisa est responsable de plusieurs structures économiques, notamment Petro Baje, une entreprise pétrolière créée en 1994 et qui emploie plus de deux cents personnes. Jean Tokole compte douze écoles primaires qu'il a construites sur l'axe Kubagu et Buta.

Jean Tokole Ilongo est actuellement vice-président de la fédération des exploitants congolais de diamant en Province Orientale alors que Jean Bamanisa assure depuis 1996 la présidence de l'association des jeunes entrepreneurs et cadres de la RDC(AJEC). Il s'occupe également de la Fondation Bamanisa, une œuvre sociale, mise sur pied depuis 2005 pour le développement de la Province Orientale.

Les députés provinciaux devront choisir l'un de ces deux candidats indépendants qui ont surclassé celui de la Majorité présidentielle.

UGANDA :

Ugandan PM insists he didn't pocket €4m aid cash

Monday October 29 2012/By Fionnan Sheahan Political Editor/independent.ie

UGANDA'S prime minister has said he did not pocket any of the €4m in Irish Aid funding that ended up in a bank account operated by officials from his office.

Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore has suspended the €16m in aid due to go to the African country through its government.

A team of Irish Aid auditors is in Uganda, and Ireland's ambassador Anne Webster will meet Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi today.

Mr Mbabazi says he knew nothing about the misappropriation of €12m, including €4m from Ireland, and apologised for what had happened.

Arrested

"I didn't even know. No money was ever paid to me and I never handled money. As prime minister I never handle money of government. Never," he said on RTE's 'This Week'.

The Irish Aid auditors are working with Uganda's Auditor General, other international donors affected and the Irish embassy.

Ms Webster and senior diplomats from other embassies will meet Mr Mbabazi today in the capital, Kampala.

The Government insists no Irish Aid money goes through Mr Mbabazi's office, which only has responsibility for the policy of the aid programme affected, not funding.

The principal accountant in Mr Mbabazi's office has been arrested and is on remand.

President Yoweri Museveni has instructed the police to indict the dozen or so officials implicated in misappropriation.

Mr Mbabazi said he never had any reason to be suspicious of the activities of officials, despite reports that the fraud was orchestrated from the basement of his office building.

"My involvement is limited to policy. The management of public funds according to our

constitution is in the hands of our public officials," he said.

"The accounting officer reports to the treasury and the Auditor General reports to parliament, so most times when we hear queries we hear them from the Auditor General."

Mr Mbabazi said he was not notified that Irish Aid funding was being suspended.

The first he heard was through media queries in Uganda and contact from a friend in Ireland.

European Affairs Minister Lucinda Creighton said the Government was not going to cut off all contact with Uganda on foot of the incident.

"It is, in fact, ironically, a sign of strong government in Uganda that this can be uncovered," she said.

– Fionnan Sheahan Political Editor

How can Uganda be Peacekeepers and Warmongers?

By Josepha Jabo/mediacentre.go.ug/Monday, 29 October 2012

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God,’ the Bible says in Matthew 5:9 and pacification has always been Uganda’s number one priority. Uganda’s regional pacification missions have even attracted international acclaim from world leaders.

In September this year, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon as he was discussing the rule of law prior to the 67th UN General Assembly in New York, praised Uganda on her peace-keeping role through deployment of her Police and the UPDF (its peace-keeping agents) in Somalia, Sudan and Sierra Leone. Then, while US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was visiting Uganda, during her 10-day Africa tour, she hailed Uganda’s role in promoting regional security. Plus, the US considers Uganda a vital security-partner in the region.

This made the allegations in the UN’s Security Council’s Group of Experts report which pointed a finger at Uganda and Rwanda, accusing us of providing arms to the Congolese rebel group M23, all the more shocking. During a press conference at Uganda Media Centre, held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Henry Okello Oryem, strongly refuted these allegations questioning the ‘report’s credibility calling for “irrefutable evidence” to support its claims. On the same day, an Al Jazeera news report alleged Uganda had provided a base for M23 rebels in Kampala and another ‘expert’ undermined Uganda’s role in acting as a go-between between the aggrieved parties.

At present, Uganda holds the chairmanship for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) a position it has held since December 15, 2011 till 2013. In his October 17, press release, Hon. Henry Okello Oryem, stated, ‘Upon request by H.E. Joseph Kabila President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and subsequent decision of the ICGLR Heads of State at their Summit on 8th August 2012 in Kampala, Uganda as Chair, was mandated to facilitate dialogue between M23 and DRC Government to that effect Uganda as a Chair of ICGLR established contacts with the leadership of M23 Movement and dialogue has been on-going between the leadership of M23 and DRC Government.’ Therefore, Uganda’s role should not be undermined by any so-called ‘expert’ or ‘experts.’

An important question must be asked. How long have the UN Peacekeepers been in Congo and why

have they been unable to pacify the region? According to Wikipedia's article on MONUSCO, 'Since 1999, about US\$ 8.73 billion has been spent to fund the UN peacekeeping effort in DRC. As of June 2010, the total strength of UN peacekeeping troops in DRC exceeds 20,000. More than thirty nations have contributed military and police personnel for peacekeeping effort, with India being the single largest contributor.'

Now, if more than thirty nations and an excess of 20,000 UN peace-keeping troops have been 'keeping peace' in Congo for over a decade—how can they be undermined by two nations Uganda and Rwanda? Wouldn't it be in Uganda and Rwanda's best interests to promote peace and stability in the region especially since Congo their neighbor? How can Uganda, be pacifiers and warmongers at the same time? It is a well-known fact that mineral-rich Congo is continuously being looted of its resources and its people are some of the poorest in the world. This is the Congo paradox. Sadly, Eastern Congo is also known as the rape capital of the world. Yet, the blame for all this instability and insurgencies cannot be laid at Uganda's feet!

Clearly the UN report was biased. After all, if Uganda is supporting M23 rebels—let the UN 'experts' prove it.

The Writer works for Uganda Media Centre

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa: War Is Not Going to Return NUM to the Top

By Sipho Hlongwane/Daily Maverick/29 October 2012

analysis

On Saturday, leaders of NUM, Cosatu and the Communist Party marched in Rustenburg to reclaim the territory. The march didn't exactly go as planned; the tactic of confrontation rather than talks rarely brings lasting results. To find its way back to the top of the mining sector, NUM will have to do much more than just fight.

On 16 October, several thousand workers gathered on a hilltop inside of Gold Fields' sprawling KDC West operation just outside of Carletonville.

It was the day that the company handed down an ultimatum to all workers: quit striking or lose your jobs. Company reports stated that most obeyed, but about 1,500 didn't. They were waiting for Senzeni Zokwana, the president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to come and formally make them an offer.

It was one actually made by the Chamber of Mines on behalf of the company, but the striking workers wanted their union to make the offer.

Zokwana had also apparently promised to come and speak to the workers.

What he didn't seem to grasp was that this was Last Chance Saloon for NUM. He didn't pitch up, but his opposite number – a fierce rival at the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) – did. Joseph Mathunjwa met the miners and managed to convince most of them to join his union.

Then came reports claiming that NUM had been booted from the premises.

Management had come around and locked the offices, we were told, and the union was suspended because more than 90% of the staff had joined AMCU.

It sounded quite improbable. For one thing, unions are usually given about six months to regain their 50% + 1 majority before losing the status of bargaining partner. Phone calls to the company and NUM quickly quashed that rumour. But the fact that the workers we phoned wanted us to believe that the old union was dead and gone away was telling in and of itself.

In many of the places where wildcat strikes have broken out, we have gone to talk to people, and very few of them are willing to entertain NUM anymore. At Lonmin, the sentiment is one of profound hatred. What had happened is that the old union negotiated a pay rise last year. Then a demand for R12,500 sprang up, and somehow the miners believed that AMCU were the people who could get it for them. Not NUM, whom they thought were a block to a better wage. That's quite amazing. Things got to a point where people like Daluvuyo Bongo, the NUM secretary at Lonmin, were murdered.

The demand that NUM must go is an integral part of many of these wildcat strikes. The atmosphere in the area has been anything but peaceful. The decision by Cosatu to march in Rustenburg was therefore always a brave one, but not necessarily a clever one. Predictably, it didn't go well.

NUM people got engaged in a heavy physical struggle with striking Anglo Platinum workers. The rally only went ahead because of a heavy police presence that forced NUM's way through to the Olympia stadium.

Just before the rally commenced, Cosatu said: "Right at the heart of where the mining crisis began – Rustenburg – on 27 October 2012, we will be convening a Workers Rally, which will kick-start with marches on various challenges that beset our society. Through the Workers' Rally, we will mobilise our members to stomp the length and breadth of the country, mobilising society towards solidarity protests which will be anchored around the Section 77 Notice, whose primary aim is to achieve radical transformation in the economy through the full implementation of the Freedom Charter."

From the perspective of the striking Amplats workers, the decision by NUM and Cosatu to march in their newly-established turf was a declaration of war. The union is seen to be on the side of the companies and the government, and thus inherently opposed to the demands of the workers. Can they really be surprised that they were greeted with rocks and jeers?

It would have been a better idea for Cosatu and NUM to try to reclaim their majority and privileged position in the mining sector by negotiating their way back into the hearts of the workers. Exactly the things that they haven't been doing since the uprising began.

At the rally on Saturday, South African Communist Party general secretary Blade Nzimande said, "NUM is the only best capable union to represent mineworkers in South Africa." But is it for him to say? The rejection of the "only best capable union" has been strikingly clear.

Cosatu's aggression is understandable in the face of the persecution of its local leaders. The deaths of men like Bongo cannot go unanswered.

But the march did not purport to mete out justice. Rather, it claimed the far more difficult task of regaining lost ground by reclaiming jaded and disillusioned hearts. And as such, it couldn't have

been a bigger failure. It simply served to reinforce the narrative of belligerence and arrogance that the workers have written of the mineworkers' union.

If Cosatu and NUM are serious about reclaiming the platinum belt, then they need to go to the workers hat-in-hand and ask them how they want to be represented. The time for issuing orders and platitudes is over. If they don't, AMCU will make sure that the workers know that the ANC-affiliated unions called for the police to arrive, rather than for the workers to get what they wanted. The very same way every miner in the country will find out that the NUM is supporting SAPS application to the Farlam Commission.

The truth is that AMCU is untested as a union. But NUM has been tested and failed, and workers are clearly raring for change. It will be almost impossible for NUM to force its way back to the hearts of the miners it lost.

South Africa: Five Minutes - South Africa

29 October 2012/Daily Maverick

A round-up of the weekend's news from South Africa.

ZUMA DROPS SUNDAY TIMES, ZAPIRO LAWSUIT

President Jacob Zuma's is dropping a four-year-old lawsuit claiming nearly R4-million in damages from Zapiro, the cartoonist who depicted him poised to rape Lady Justice, the Sunday Times reports. The Presidency confirmed the story. In a statement, it said Zuma "would like to avoid setting a legal precedent that may have the effect of limiting the public exercise of free speech, with the unforeseen consequences this may have on our media, public commentators and citizens". The newspaper, a defendant in the case, said the suit and all claims were to be dropped, including the demand for monetary damages and an apology.

The civil case was due to start on Monday. Zuma had wanted R4-million for defamation from Avusa media, owner of the Sunday Times, and an additional R1 million from a former Sunday Times editor for publishing the 2008 cartoon.

RAMAPHOSA AVAILABLE TO 'PROVIDE TESTIMONY'

Cyril Ramaphosa wants to testify before the Marikana Commission in an effort to clear his name after emails written by him came to light during the Commission's hearings. In the emails, Ramaphosa called the unprotected strike at Lonmin's Marikana mine "plainly dastardly criminal" and called for "concomitant action" to be taken by police and government. Now the ANC heavyweight and businessman has said in a statement he has "indicated to the commission that I would be available to provide testimony". Ramaphosa said he believed "there are a number of issues relevant to the deliberations of the inquiry on which I may be able to make a contribution." Ramaphosa has been touted as a possible deputy president of the ANC when the party's elective conference comes up in Mangaung in December.

ERRANT MPS NAMED AND SHAMED BY ETHICS COMMITTEE

The ANC's Chief Whip, Mathole Motshekga, is one of 69 MPs (50 being from the ANC) who failed to meet the annual deadline to declare their interests to the members' interests register. The register was presented to the Joint Committee on Ethics and Members Interests this week. The DA's Chief Whip, Watty Watson, said despite also missing the 23 August deadline, Motshekga must not allow

this to “cloud his judgement” and should take a harder line with MPs who do not meet deadlines for the declaration of their interests. The Ethics Committee adopted the register and published the names of those MPs who missed the deadline.

The DA, the ACDP and the FF+ were the only parties to meet it. Watson said the DA “welcomed the decision to publish the names of errant MPs” but said the Chief Whip should take disciplinary action against them.

SAPS ANTI-POACHING UNIT WITHDRAWN FROM KRUGER PARK

Although more rhino are poached in the Kruger National Park than anywhere else in South Africa, a specialised anti-poaching unit is being withdrawn from the Park by the SAPS. The DA’s shadow environment minister, Gareth Morgan, says the party was informed by a “high ranking source” in the SAPS that top management did not make an application for funds in the adjustment budget and are now without money to fund the specialised unit. “One would think that in the R62.5-billion budget that Parliament appropriated to the police that there would be funds available for the anti-poaching efforts in Kruger,” Morgan said in a statement. He called on the National Police Commissioner Riah Piyega and Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa to “urgently intervene to stop the redeployment”.

PARLIAMENT PUBLISHES MAZIBUKO QUESTION ON NKANDLA

Parliament has published a question from DA parliamentary leader Lindiwe Mazibuko to President Jacob Zuma in which she asks how much he and his family are spending on the upgrade of Nkandla, his private home. The question had earlier been blocked by the questions office, which said it inquired into Zuma’s personal life, in a move Mazibuko said set a dangerous precedent where “Parliament could protect the President from answering difficult questions”. Mazibuko welcomed the decision, saying Zuma should use his reply to her question to “come clean to South Africans on his involvement in this scandal, which has negatively impacted on the integrity of his office. The silence from his government and his determination to hide behind provisions of the National Key Points Act of 1980 casts a suspicious shadow over the project in its entirety”.

ANCYL WON’T ‘STOOP THAT LOW’ OVER ZUMA RALLY

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe was “unceremoniously” replaced by President Jacob Zuma to give the OR Tambo memorial lecture in the Eastern Cape this weekend, the Sunday Independent reports. The move came after the MK Military Veterans Association in KwaZulu-Natal warned Motlanthe not to run against Zuma in the ANC’s elective conference.

Motlanthe was to give the lecture at an event organised by the ANC Youth League in Bizana. But the ANC suddenly organised a rally for President Zuma on the same day, in the same area, in an act the ANCYL calls “sabotage”. The ANCYL said it would postpone its rally and that it would not “stoop that low” to allow factionalism to compromise the ANC’s integrity, by parading Motlanthe and Zuma in an “unsightly and undignified manner”.

GAUTENG MOVES TO IMPROVE SERVICES AT ITS BIG HOSPITALS

Gauteng’s health department has promised to implement a turnaround strategy that will improve service and quality of care at its four main hospitals: Chris Hani Baragwanath, Steve Biko, George Mukhari and Charlotte Maxeke. The department has repeatedly come under fire for the state of hospitals under its purview. The DA’s Jack Bloom says it faces R1,436 billion in medical negligence claims. “This figure is up from the R876 million medico-legal claims the previous year. The giant

increase in negligence claims highlights the deteriorating treatment in Gauteng state hospitals,” Bloom said. Now health MEC, Hope Papo, says the department is employing staff “in critical areas in line with department's effort to turnaround healthcare in the province”.

South Africa: Anglo American - a Giant Corporation Between a Big Rock and a Very Hard Place
By J Brooks Spector/Daily Maverick/29 October 2012

analysis

Stuck between worker demands for a decent living wage and insistence for broader ownership rights (or even nationalisation) and the market's implacable demands for profits, Anglo American may have to give up its place as an iconic South African institution and be content as one more middling mining company among many.

At one of those archetypal South African dinner parties the other night, the news that Anglo American CEO Cynthia Carroll had just resigned got more than a mention. One guest recalled that for decades, the hard men ensconced on the top floors of Anglo American's 44 Main Street headquarters – the one with those magnificent friezes of African animals on the walls – controlled nearly 40% of Africa's total GDP and that, in turn, meant something like 60% of the share value of the entire the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

It was an empire almost without parallel – as if General Motors, Ford, DuPont, RCA and a half dozen other Fortune 500 stalwarts from America's industrial Golden Age were one interlocking conglomerate. At its peak, Anglo's organizational chart looked more like a complete depiction of the chemical relationships of the body's Krebs metabolic cycle than a tightly structured industrial behemoth.

The late Harry Oppenheimer had guided the company to its premier place on the continent's corporate and economic landscape, building on the heavy lifting that had been initiated by his father, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, the company's founder. The founder father had come from a cigar-making family, then demonstrated a preternatural talent with diamond trading before coming to South Africa and engaging in diamond mining leases in the former German colony of Southwest Africa after South Africa took over the mandate following World War I.

The launch of Anglo had been initially supported by American banking giant JP Morgan. The story goes that the original name of the company was to have been the African-American Corporation, until someone advised such a moniker would make the new company sound like something organized by Black Americans, thereby waving away potential investors. The new company's name apparently was quickly changed to Anglo-American instead, despite the absence of a major “Anglo” component in the mix.

Regardless, over the next half-century, Anglo expanded into coal, copper, iron, gold, platinum and almost every other product and service imaginable that is part of a modern economy. Anglo's reach extended deeply into the Zambian copper belt and, through complex ties via De Beers, into the secretive international diamond trade, around the world.

By the time Sir Ernest's son, Harry, took over the store, Apartheid's hold on South Africa was deeply entrenched. Increasingly, with fewer and fewer places for Anglo to invest beyond the immediate Southern African region because of South Africa's obdurate racial policies, Anglo took to buying into or developing ownership interests across the length and breadth of the region's economy – and well beyond its original focus as a primary minerals mining house. As Apartheid

began to give way, however, Anglo was back on the move.

The writer has a vivid memory of meeting a courtly, soft-spoken Harry Oppenheimer when he was already in his 80s, around 1992. At a dinner in honour of the University of Cape Town (Oppenheimer was the university's chancellor, a largely honourific position), Oppenheimer was guest of honour and keynote speaker. After dinner, there was small talk for a while and then he excused himself to leave for the evening. One instinctively understood the need an octogenarian might have to get in an early evening and a decent night's sleep. But, instead, Oppenheimer apologized for slipping out, explaining he would be leaving first thing in the morning to head to a Russia in transition from its communist past for a hard week of renegotiating the company's diamond mining deals.

Harry Oppenheimer had personally opposed the government's Apartheid policies, first as a member of Parliament in the opposition, and then, when he began to head Anglo, through a wide range of contributions and support to organizations opposed to Apartheid or working to ameliorate its impact. As a company, however, Anglo followed Apartheid requirements to the letter in its labour relations and in its support for and use of the government's dehumanizing migrant labour policies.

Back in the 1970s, this writer first toured gold and diamond mines in South Africa and saw first-hand how black migrant labourers were confined to the lowest skilled, lowest paid jobs when at work and then in those dreadful, degrading men's hostels, outfitted as they were with concrete slab shelves masquerading as beds. The treatment of workers in mines run by Anglo, particularly the migrant workers, resembled George Orwell's infamous descriptions of the pinched, dangerous, unrelenting life of English coal miners in the 1930s in *The Road to Wigan Pier*. The difference was that those South African hostels seemed even worse than the English miners' boarding houses and tenements.

As Apartheid gave way to a new, non-racial democratic order, Anglo American's circumstances changed as well. It is now the world's largest producer of platinum, with around 40% of world output, and is a major producer of diamonds, copper, nickel, iron ore and metallurgical and thermal coal. It has operations in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and North and South America. As the South African political system changed, Anglo began cutting loose many of its non-core business holdings and instead began hunting for offshore opportunities in mining instead. One such major effort has been its huge (and increasingly troubled, money burning) iron ore-mining complex in Brazil.

In response to the challenge of drawing in new investment capital (or, as some argue, in response to growing uncertainties of remaining domiciled in South Africa in the increasingly choppy seas of South African politics and mining regulation), the company moved its corporate headquarters to London, and completed a merger with Minorco, an allied company that was managing Anglo's offshore holdings and interests.

Along the way, as well, the company began its move out of gold, engineering a merger of its gold mining holdings with the Ghana-based miner, Ashanti Goldfields, into Anglo Gold Ashanti, and by 2009 Anglo had wound down its investment in gold mining entirely. Along the way, too, it purchased the entire Oppenheimer family holdings in De Beers, the diamond miner, consolidating Anglo's interests in diamonds.

(Criticism persists, however, that it paid a high price for this, especially in light of the world financial and economic crisis of the past five years and the weaker demand for gemstones.)

Ensnared in its London home in 2007, it took its most untraditional move of all, reaching beyond

its famously closed male leadership fraternity and picking Cynthia Carroll – an American and a woman – as its leader. But the years since have not been especially kind to Anglo American, or to Carroll. Between March 2007 and October in this year, Anglo’s market capitalization has actually fallen to £26.9-billion from £35.9-billion. Competitors like Rio Tinto have headed in the other direction, rising to a market cap of £60-billion from £41.6-billion in the same period. In the same period, BHP Billiton’s has risen to £112.7-billion from £62.4-billion and Vale to £60.5-billion from £40.7-billion.

As the Financial Times reported over the weekend in discussing Carroll’s planned departure, “The company’s return on equity – a key measure of financial performance – dropped in the first half of the year to 8.3%, the lowest since the Great Depression of 1929, and nearly half of the average level of 16% achieved since the company was founded almost a century ago. ‘To sum up then, the history books won’t be kind on her tenure,’ says Kate Craig, analyst at Liberum Capital in London.”

Carroll will be leaving a company that is navigating some increasingly troubled waters. South African developments such as the strikes and walkouts outside of the routine labour relations process in its iron and platinum mines have suddenly made Anglo seem increasingly vulnerable.

But it has other difficulties as well. These include its money-gobbling iron ore efforts in Brazil, a dispute with Chile over the forced disposal of its copper mining efforts and troubles with its coal mining in Australia.

Despite Carroll’s now-planned departure, analysts add Anglo’s problems will not be healed simply by a change in the resident of the penthouse office. “Ms Carroll cannot take all Anglo’s problems with her,” said Heath Jansen, a mining expert at Citigroup. So far at least, there is no plan to make changes in the company’s board of directors. This implies the company’s overall direction will remain more or less on the same course, even though some industry experts said the board’s orientation has been a key culprit in the company’s financial underperformance.

Some problems may be beyond repair. Its Brazilian Minas-Rio iron ore mine is plagued by massive cost overruns and development delays.

However, since Anglo has already spent over \$10-billion on the acquisition and development of this project, the company may want to believe it is now in too deep to give up on it; the money pit phenomenon.

Then, too, experts argue, no new chief executive will be able to reverse the forced sale of its 50% stake in Chilean copper mine or go backwards on that \$5.1-billion already put down to acquire 40% of diamond producer De Beers. Given these problems, any new corporate head will spend the early part of their tenure in damage minimizing mode rather than boldly planning and carrying out brave new initiatives and investments. “Even if a strong CEO is appointed, we believe he or she might want to kitchen sink Anglo’s issues, which could mean another year at least of very poor returns. (The) structural operational problems will not go away overnight,” Jansen said.

Along with everything else, of course, there are also Anglo’s increasingly problematic platinum operations inside South Africa. The parent company holds 77% of Anglo American Platinum – familiarly called Amplats – but that investment has deeply affected by the wildcat strikes that have swept the platinum mining zone around Rustenburg – and so far, at least, the company has no fundamental solution to its troubles in its sights.

Business Week, reporting on Carroll’s surprise decision, explained her replacement “will have to confront its unprofitable platinum unit as the most pressing challenge.” Anglo’s losses at Amplats,

whose mines in South Africa and Zimbabwe account for 40% of global supplies of platinum, had put increasing pressure on Carroll. She had already set in place a review of Amplats, which had posted a record first-half loss of \$54-million and which had cut its 2012 output forecast in the wake of those wildcat strikes in South Africa, but the review was probably too little and too late, once the labour unrest took hold.

One solution being discussed in mining circles now is for the company to hand off its 77% stake in Amplats to its various stockholders. “One way they could get rid of the platinum problem is to unbundle Amplats by handing shareholders Anglo’s Amplats shares and leaving the decision to sell or hold the stock to them. It’s a fairly elegant solution to quite a complex problem. Platinum will be the most pressing issue,” Suggested Matt Brenzel, an analyst at Cadiz Financial Services Group in Cape Town.

In its operating environment, besides the abovementioned labour unrest, Amplats has had to absorb South African electricity and labour costs that have grown at faster than inflation over the past several years, even as world platinum prices have been essentially flat. Analysts argue that the business is further threatened by efforts to give workers and people in the area of the mines a bigger share of earnings. What’s more, the ANC is considering a platform to increase taxes on mining, and Zimbabwe’s government wants mining houses to transfer effective control to local interests as well.

“Anglo has had this mentality that platinum is core to the business, that, because it is the biggest producer in the sector, it made sense to keep it. But the market hasn’t played ball,” said Brenzel.

Looking beyond platinum, major Anglo shareholders had been concerned about its poor returns for several years. BlackRock, a US fund manager that, with a 5.7% stake is the single biggest investor in Anglo, called for strategic changes in corporate direction two years ago. And South Africa’s Public Investment Corporation, a state-owned entity and Anglo’s second-largest stakeholder, has also now called for changes and had even pushed for Carroll’s ouster.

An anonymous major shareholder said, “The performance of the company over the past five years or so under leadership of the current people has been downward. The confidence was really waning in respect of the company’s performance.” Prior to announcing her decision, Carroll had said, “You never satisfy all shareholders. It is always a challenge.

There will be some shareholders that will never be satisfied.”

For her part, outside observers said Carroll deserves credit for efforts to reduce the number of mining deaths in the company’s activities as well as building better relations with the South African government. She also reorganized the famously complicated company around the mining of seven core metals and minerals: iron ore, metallurgical coal, thermal coal, copper, nickel, platinum and diamonds, and she had drawn up a plan to double output across all of these areas by 2020.

However, the judgment of the market and investors is that she has failed to drive the delivery of those big projects on time and on budget, even if the decisions on those large capital allocations were at the board level. Was Carroll a victim of the industry’s famous machismo culture?

True, Carroll never shook off the label of being an “outsider”. There were always rumours that she might not be made of the right stuff (as a woman) and that she still had lots left to prove.

Her supporters argue Carroll made some key institutional improvements.

She assiduously preached a previously near-alien gospel of deeper community engagement,

emphasized occupational safety and carried forward that effort to sort out and rationalize the company's asset portfolio, as with the determination to gain complete control over De Beers.

Nevertheless, analysts also said that the key is to follow the money – and on this front, Anglo's share price rise after her resignation was announced, even as the FTSE was moving downward, shows the market's judgment that her decision to quit was the right one for Anglo.

But, getting Anglo out of its current hole may be problematic for a new CEO, regardless of whether the company's board remains with its current members or has new ones brought in to help shake things up. London-based mining analysts have already been telling the media the best path to restore financial performance at Anglo might well involve splitting the current company back into two separate entities again, reversing the 1999 merger between Anglo and Minorco. This is in addition to the idea of turning the company's platinum interests over to shareholders to allow them to do what they think best with them.

Some analysts say such a split could reduce the company's current discount in the minds of investors because of its difficult South African circumstances and would in fact generate \$30-billion in value because the company's international assets would be valued upward as a result of the split.

To go down the path to such a choice would mean, however, that under a new head Anglo would have to make fundamental choices about its identity. Along the way, the international profile of its South African-based operations might shrink even further, moving it ever further from its old position as the dominant South African industrial and mining colossus of the 1950s through the '80s.

Rather than remaining an iconic South African institution, Anglo may end up as just one more middling mining company. This company, in its South African operations, will continue to face a hard struggle to balance growing worker demands for a decent living wage and insistence for broader ownership rights (or even nationalisation) with the market's implacable demands for market share, profits and return on investment as the price of success.

Nigeria: Zuma Urges South African Investors to Invest in Bayelsa

29 October 2012/ThisDay

South African President, Jacob Zuma, has praised Governor of Seriake Dickson of Bayelsa State, for enthroning probity and accountability in the governance of Bayelsa State.

Zuma also eulogised Dickson for investing in infrastructure and urged top investors in South Africa to take advantage of the conducive business environment provided in the state to invest in the littoral state.

The President also expressed the willingness of the South African Government to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Infrastructure Development Cooperation (IDC) of South Africa in November on capacity building.

While relishing the bond between Dickson and Bayelsans, the president enjoined the governor to sustain his love for his people because according to him, "a politician must always be in touch with his people because politics starts and ends with them."

He promised to visit Bayelsa State next year.

President Zuma dropped this hint last Friday in Pretoria when Dickson paid him a courtesy call. The governor was in South Africa to interact with top investors and sign letters of cooperation with Naidoo and Associates Consulting Engineers and Construction Management Company and the Black Business Council which represents the fifth African Black Business Community.

The governor also inspected the Bayelsa State Development Corporation office billed to be commissioned in January.

The governor thanked President Zuma for offering credible leadership to South Africans and Africa in general and conveyed the greetings of President Goodluck Jonathan to him.

Dickson informed his host that he was currently emulating his party, African National Congress (ANC) by running Bayelsa State from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) headquarters in Yenagoa at least once in every month.

He advised African leaders to go beyond, "political integration to integrate our people economically because it is when we build a strong economic base for our people that we can put food on their table."

After the courtesy call, the governor and his team hosted the mega Investment Forum at the Hilton Hotel in Johannesburg where the potential of the glory of all lands were laid bare.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Views On Dar es Salaam Train Fares Halted

By Pius Rugonzibwa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/29 October 2012

THE Surface and Marine Transportation Regulatory Authority (Sumatra) has called off the move to collect stakeholders' views on Dar es Salaam commuter train fares, following government's announcement of the same over the weekend.

Deputy Minister for Transport, Dr Charles Tizeba announced over the weekend that the Tanzania Railway Limited (TRL) will be charging 400/- for adults while the Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) will ask for 500/- for adults, while students will have to pay 100/- for a single trip.

The trains start operations today. Sumatra told stakeholders in Dar es Salaam last week that they were free to contribute written views on the fares proposals by today. Last Thursday, the Tanzania Railways Ltd (TRL) and Tanzania and Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) submitted proposed commuter train fares pegging them at 800/- and 700/- per route respectively.

Most stakeholders observed that the proposed fares were too much for an ordinary passenger to afford. The Acting SUMATRA Director General Mr Ahmad Kilima said Sumatra shall rule on the matter this week. In a telephone interview, Mr Kilima said the 400/- and 500/-for adults and 100 for students declared by Mr Tizeba on Saturday was final, and no other announcements were expected from the Authority on the same issue.

"My position on the commuter train fares is that what was announced by the Deputy Minister is what is supposed to be and will remain final," he said.

TRL train would be starting at Ubungu Maziwa in Kinondoni municipality to the main railway station in the city centre, while the TAZARA routes will ply from Tazara main station to Mwakanga and Kurasini areas. About 2000 ticket vending stations have been earmarked for the city commuter train.

Tanzania: Dar es Salaam in Serious Mental Health Experts Dearth

By Masembe Tambwe/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/29 October 2012

MENTAL health experts say over 80 per cent of people suffering from depression and other mental disorders visit traditional healers before reporting at hospitals for medical treatment.

Assistant Director and Head of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Joseph Mbatia, attributed the trend to lack of competent professionals. "There are reports that patients are harassed by some doctors, who cannot easily detect mental disorders," he said.

Dr Mbatia said due to lack of skills among practitioners to detect stress, depression and other mental disorders, many patients prefer to go to people who "appear" to understand their problems. He said that there was need to conduct research on traditional of healing and incorporate useful practices into the formal medical services.

"It is evident that some traditional healers are able to help people with mental problems and we need to research on their methods. "We must also advise people with severe mental problems like epilepsy not to go to traditional healers because there are drugs that help in reduction of fits," he said.

Prof Sylvia Kaaya expressed concern over wrong diagnosis, saying some doctors focussed on physical instead of looking at psychological symptoms as well. Prof Kaaya said up to 20 per cent of those attending primary health care in developing countries suffer from disorders linked to anxiety and depression, but symptoms of such conditions were often not recognised.

She said a study conducted at 14 health centres in 2009 showed that 66 per cent of workers had bad attitude on people suffering from stress and depression. "The study showed that the majority of primary health care workers found it more difficult to work with patients suffering from mental disorders including depression," she said.

Prof Kaaya said that it was important for health care providers to start identifying themselves with the mentally ill if they are to improve mental health in the country. "One of the biggest barriers is lack of documentation on cases of depression. Even when the disease is recognised entries on the right data are not made in the Health Management Information System (HMIS)," she said.

She cited lack of trained mental health personnel in primary health centres and misallocation of specialised nurses, psychologists and social workers as common problems due to non-existence of the scheme of service in health sector. An official from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department, Mr Shadrack Buswelu, said that mental health services were for a long time getting low priority due to constraints of resources and poor management.

Nzega Member of Parliament, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla (CCM), said that it was not good to depend on the donors for delivery of health services in Tanzania and called for efforts in increasing

domestic funding. The MUHAS Senior Researcher in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Dr Jessie Mbwambo, said there was need for more dialogue on mental health and multi-professional approach to challenges of limited funding.

KENYA :

Kenya: Anxiety As Bensouda Visits Post Election Violence Hotspots

By Mathews Ndanyi/The Star/27 October 2012

International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda made an extensive tour of the 2007/08 post-election violence hot spots in Eldoret where she faced a barrage of questions and demands from survivors.

Many of those she met questioned the impartiality of the court, claiming it was being influenced. Security was tightened and anxiety was high as Bensouda visited the Kiambaa KAG Church, Rurigi area in Burnt Forest and later held a public forum at Sirikwa Hotel in Eldoret town.

At one point, there was tension at the hotel and hundreds of members of the public demanded she addresses them or they storm the venue of the meeting.

Bensouda accepted to address the crowd and there were tense moments as the crowd heckled after she indicated she would not have time to talk to everyone.

"I want you to know that I am not here for investigations. I want to hear your views on the ICC process but I will not be able to talk to everyone," said Bensouda, who remained calm even as the crowd seemed to get agitated.

Some of the victims who met with Bensouda opposed charges against four suspects at The Hague and questioned why former chairman of the defunct Electoral Commission Samwel Kivuitu, President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga were not held responsible for the chaos.

Sheilla Jepkosgey wept as she narrated how all communities suffered during the violence and denied claims that the chaos had been planned.

"We all suffered as communities and we want justice. The much I know is that the violence started because of the election results. The suspects taken to The Hague were not involved in planning the violence," said Jepkosgei.

She defended Eldoret North MP William Ruto saying he was not involved in the alleged planning of the chaos. "In fact Prime Minister Raila Odinga should be the one defending Ruto now because its Ruto who busy that time in Nairobi on behalf of ODM and he had no time to plan anything like chaos", said Jepkosgei. She said the violence broke out because of flawed election results.

Many of the victims and those who spoke during the meetings with Bensouda accused her predecessor Louis Moreno Ocampo of failing to properly investigate the chaos.

At the Kiambaa KAG Church in Edoret Bensouda sought to know the exact number of people who were killed in the church on January 1st 2008 during the post election violence.

Bensouda met with some of the survivors in the incident and said there were conflicting reports on the exact number of people who died during the incident which she described as the worst during the violence. Bensouda said the ICC was interested in seeking justice for the victims.

A representative for the victims of the incident Joseph Githuku briefed Bensouda on the incident and said 36 people were buried at the church a year after the violence.

"Its good that you can so that you know that the violence was real", said Githuka. At most of the venues Bensouda insisted that the court was not driven by political interests of any group or state.

"As the prosecutor I can not be dictated by anyone or any state. The ICC makes decisions based on evidence. We do not target any community, government but we deal with individuals who commit serious crime", said Bensouda.

She said the Kenya government has adequate time to set up a local tribunal to deal with the PEV cases but since that was impossible, the ICC had to take over because the country is a signatory to the Rome Statute.

"What that means is that impunity is longer acceptable. If the government can not deal with such cases, the ICC has to take over", she said. Different groups presented memorandums to Bensouda but most of the issues they raised were on matters touching on the fate of those who suffered or lost property during the violence. It was the last day of Bensouda's visit as she ended a week long visit to the country.

Kenya: Teachers' Union Demands Dues for Retired Tutors

By Simon Ndonga/Capital FM (Nairobi)/ 28 October 2012

Nairobi — The Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) has now given the government a 28-day ultimatum to pay Sh33 billion in augmented pensions to retired teachers or face a possible mass action.

Speaking during a press conference on Sunday, Acting Secretary General Xavier Nyamu pointed out that more than 52,000 teachers who retired between 1997 and 2007 cannot take care of their basic needs due to lack of funds.

He stated that should the government not respond in time, they will pass a resolution during an annual delegates' conference in December which may include work stoppage.

"We have our retired teachers who are dying and the government owes them money and others cannot even be able to go to hospital. The government should revisit this issue because should the days expire by the end of this month, it will be debated during our annual delegates' conference in December," he said.

The government was to pay the retired teachers their dues after a Nakuru court dismissed an appeal by the TSC whose main contention was the implementation of the enhanced remuneration as per the time of the agreement.

TSC had contested a ruling delivered by Justice David Maraga ordering the payment of the pension to the retired teachers be pegged in phases, stating that the teachers who had retired in 1997 could only benefit from the first increment and not from the other subsequent phases.

However, none of them have yet been paid despite the court ruling.

The payment for retired teachers was among demands by KNUT that led to a recent countrywide strike.

Another demand by the teachers was a 300 percent pay rise, which KNUT chairman Wilfred Sossion said was being negotiated with the salaries and remuneration commission, created to rationalise wages in the private sector.

At the same time, the teachers' union received former members with Sossion emphasising the need for unity among teachers.

"We are brothers and sisters facing one common enemy, the government; facing one common enemy that is the employer. There are no two employers. We are appealing to our brothers who are out there to see sense, dissolve what they have and then come back home," he said.

One of the union's members who previously was the executive secretary of the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) Benta Opande echoed his sentiments.

"Dealing with them (post-primary teachers) on the ground on a day to day basis I have learned that post-primary teachers have a myriad of problems. It needs a strong voice to assist them. Teachers who are in post-primary institutions have masters and PhDs but have no scheme of service," she revealed.

Kenya: Vice President Kalonzo Refutes Claims of Merger With ODM

By Charles Gichane/Capital FM (Nairobi)/27 October 2012

Nairobi — Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka has refuted claims that the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Party has approached his Wiper Party to discuss a possible political alliance.

However, he said that the party has a hierarchy and mechanism to determine the way forward if ODM approaches them.

Kalonzo was responding to reports from Friday that suggested a possible political alliance between the two parties was taking shape after Kalonzo's staunch ally Kangundo MP Johnson Muthama hosted Prime Minister Raila Odinga in Tala market for a joint rally.

Muthama is Kalonzo's main fundraiser and perhaps his closest political associate.

"Certain dialogue that I have not engaged in has been attributed to me. I have not lost my voice; when I speak, I will do so plainly," Kalonzo emphasised.

"There are proper channels and party organs that must be utilised for the purposes of any coalition discussions. These discussions must be fully participatory and not random pronouncements," he said.

He added that any future discussions must be with the appropriate participation of party rank and file.

Nominated MP Mohamed Affey said that the Party will not reprimand Muthama for his comments that Raila and Kalonzo should consider an alliance, but he emphasised that the actions or words of a

party member don't reflect the entire party.

"We are not offended by what our party members said. Our party members are entitled to say what they feel democratically," he said.

"What's important is that the decision the party will take is the decision the party structures will determine is in the best interest of the country. We are not disciplining or reprimanding anybody," he explained.

The joint rally came barely a week after Kalonzo dismissed talk that he was negotiating with ODM for a pre-election pact.

The Vice President has maintained that he is still part of the G7 alliance that brings together Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and Eldoret North MP William Ruto among others.

ANGOLA :

Angola to turn Jamba district into industrial hub

Monday, 29 Oct 2012/(www.steelguru.com)/Source - All Africa

It is reported that the Angolan government plans on turning the district of Jamba, 315 kilometers east of the city of Lubango, capital of the central Huíla province, into the biggest park of the national steel industry, with the implementation of an ambitious project of transforming raw iron into steel.

Speaking to journalists at the end of his two day visit to assess the sector he chairs, the official considered as positive the activities that are being carried out in the region's mining sector, with highlight to the studies of prospecting and mining gold and iron in the regions of M'popo and Kassinga.

According to the minister, transforming iron into steel will favor the creation of a steel factory in the Kassinga project, which will be capable of contributing and boosting the country's economy and increasing tax revenues, apart from reducing imports significantly.

AU/AFRICA :

Africa - the Open Road to Food Sustainability

By Greg Nicolson/Daily Maverick / 29 October 2012

analysis

Regional integration is often touted as a solution to Africa's problems. This time, the problem in question is food shortages. Eliminating the rules, high costs and dangers associated with regional food trade on the continent will help African farmers meet their potential and curtail hunger. So why aren't we doing anything about it?

Africa's demand for basic foodstuffs is rapidly increasing, but while its farmers fail to meet that demand, hunger will become more acute. The situation is bleak. The demand for food staples is predicted to double by 2020 as urban populations grow by 4% each year. Much of that growth is made up of low-income earners who spend the majority of their pay on basic food items. African countries have tended to satisfy the increasing demand through more expensive imports on the global market.

Only 5% of African countries' cereal imports come from within Africa.

It's a situation primed for hunger and unrest.

In a new report, "Africa Can Help Feed Africa", the World Bank looks at how the continent can prevent food shortages and unlock its massive agricultural potential. The general recommendations might be predictable for the institution known for its support of neoliberal policy, but they offer key recommendations to achieving food sustainability. The report looks at how opening up cross-border trade will increase Africa's potential food production, increase food security by improving access to food, and raise returns for small-scale farmers.

It begins with the basic premise that regions have natural food surpluses in certain staples and deficits in others; the key is to maximise output and get the food to where it's needed. Attempts at national self-sufficiency haven't worked and the effects of climate change will only make production more volatile, says the report.

"Removing barriers to regional trade presents benefits to farmers, consumers and governments." Farmers will make more money from meeting the rising demand; consumers get cheaper access to food and benefits such as jobs from a growing agricultural sector; governments can better deal with food security.

But from producer to consumer, barriers to regional competition and trade have limited agricultural output. Because of inconsistent policies within Africa, seeds and fertilisers are generally imported from outside at high prices, with new innovations coming years later than in other developing regions. Transport services remain extremely expensive, outdated and uncompetitive as roadblocks eat time and money. Regulations on imports and exports are volatile, with changes often only communicated to foreign producers when they reach the border. Those borders remain hotbeds of corruption and abuse: traders are regularly harassed, sexually abused, or forced to pay bribes.

From a private investor's point of view, the enormous potential hardly seems worth the costs and risks. But the World Bank argues that if these problems are addressed, the incentives for farmers will greatly increase. Production will then rise and consumers can get basic foodstuffs from a neighboring region rather than foreign shores.

It's hardly the rousing rhetoric of a Kwame Nkrumah calling for African integration or a Thabo Mbeki asserting confidence and hope about the continent. But the report's message is both obvious and clear: Africa can feed itself. Its message is simple: boost trade within the continent. It follows a wave of Afro-optimism and calls to increase trade on the continent by addressing the basics – reduce border barriers, streamline the visa process, and increase collaboration on linking infrastructure.

But what's going wrong? Despite commitments to opening up regional trade, government policies lack action, says the World Bank, while big producers and their connections are invested in the status quo. By definition, integration includes a number of stakeholders, and to promote regional food trade there needs to be deep discussion and long-term commitment to the goal. It's simply not

there in many countries. Nor is any sort of stable policy.

The stakes of food security are morbidly high and when things get tough, governments are prone to actively dissuading production. "Common problems include: export and import bans; variable import tariffs and quotas; restrictive rules of origin; price controls; government tenders for the import of crops and flour that are then sold at subsidised prices. Countries ban imports during good harvest years to ensure domestic production is consumed first, and limit exports during periods of low yields," says the World Bank report. It's not the sort of stuff that promotes investment.

There's a long way to go and it's no surprise that to increase access to fertiliser and agricultural experts, streamline the border process and cut transport costs, the World Bank first suggests systemic changes. If food production and distribution is to become more market-based, we need institutions to enable the exchange. Regional economic communities and the African Union need to help establish institutions that tackle private sector failures – setting and implementing standards, managing risk, commodity exchanges and market information.

They won't be any good, however, if governments aren't on board. For that to happen, the World Bank says discussions on regional food trade must be open and widespread, not confined to the halls of power. Then countries need "a reform strategy that provides a clear transitional path to integrated regional markets rather than a single but politically unfeasible jump to competitive markets".

Leaders will have to look beyond their term in office and stick to the plan – not an easy task. But the reward will be immense. Africa may once again be able to feed itself.

Western donors paying for the AU

Sapa / 29 octobre, 2012

African Union (AU) commissioner Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has been shocked to learn that western donors fund nearly all the continental body's programmes.

"No liberated mind can think their development agenda can be funded by donors," Dlamini-Zuma told a Business Unity SA banquet in her honour at the weekend, according to Business Day.

"Over 97 percent of programmes in the AU are funded by donors.

"We should be more self-reliant. Our governments must put money there [in the AU]," she said.

The rocketing value of mineral resources in the past decade had given Africa the unprecedented opportunity to shape its own future, yet Zuma said donors were even footing the bill for African institutions to develop the continent's strategic agenda, a fundamental task in what has been called the African century.

Violence ends Israel-Gaza truce

29 October 2012/bbc.co.uk

Militants in Gaza have fired 11 rockets into Israel, officials say, amid a flare-up in fighting which shattered a brief ceasefire between the two sides.

No injuries were reported from the barrage, in the south of the country.

It came hours after Israeli aircraft hit targets in Gaza, after militants fired rockets following the killing by Israel of a Gazan who Israel said fired mortars at its troops.

An Egyptian-brokered truce had calmed cross-border fighting since Thursday.

Last week six militants were killed by Israeli air strikes on the Hamas-run territory amid some of the heaviest rocket-fire against Israel from Gaza for months. Four Israeli civilians were wounded in the attacks and a soldier was severely injured by a roadside bomb on the Gaza border.

Israel said seven rockets were fired into Israel on Sunday.

"In response to the incessant rocket fire at southern Israel, IAF [Israeli Air Force] aircraft targeted a rocket launching site and a terror activity site in the northern Gaza Strip as well as a terror activity site in the southern Gaza Strip," the military said on Monday.

The militant who died in the air strike near the southern town of Khan Younis on Sunday morning belonged to the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, AFP news agency reported.

Hamas militants have been behind most of the recent rocket attacks, which have largely been carried out by smaller factions over the past months. Israel says it holds Hamas responsible for all attacks from its territory.

What Mali's Crisis Means for the Future of Western Military Intervention

By Vivienne Walt/world.time.com/Oct. 29, 2012

Why should Americans care about Mali? Many probably asked themselves that question during the last presidential debate, when Mitt Romney twice mentioned the northwest African nation, a place most Americans might be hard-pressed to locate on a map. Yet seven months after Islamic militant groups seized control of northern Mali, the Western-designed military strategy to push them out could have real consequences for future antiterrorist operations, including for the U.S., according to some analysts. As the pieces steadily fall into place for a military assault on northern Mali, the intervention could serve as a model for future conflicts, at a time when Americans and Europeans have no appetite to fight another war. "We're moving to a form of intervention which is much more typical of the post-Afghanistan era than anything we have seen before," says François Heisbourg, a special advisor to the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris. "If you are looking at future military interventions, it will not be like Iraq and Afghanistan."

The objective is clear: to seize back control of northern Mali — an area the size of Texas — and crush the Islamic militants who have controlled it since last April. As a measure of how urgent the West believes the situation is, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is scheduled to land on Tuesday in Mali's next-door neighbor Algeria to try to lock in President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's support for a military assault across his border. And last Wednesday U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told reporters in Washington that the U.S. had to "ensure that al-Qaeda has no place to hide and that we have to continue to go after them."

That will not be easy — especially since no Western troops will be deployed on the ground. The plan, crafted in a frenzy of diplomatic activity in Africa during the past two weeks, will instead rely on about 3,200 West African troops, together with 3,000 Malian troops trained by the E.U. Many of the West African troops are Nigerian, who have little experience in fighting across the remote, vast

desert that characterizes northern Mali. In a French-led resolution at the U.N. on Oct. 12, African countries have until late November to craft a plan to get the Islamic groups out of northern Mali. Behind the scenes, U.S. and French Special Forces are increasingly involved in training and advising African militaries, according to Heisbourg, in advance of the attack, which could come early next year. And French officials have said they would likely deploy unarmed surveillance drones of the kind the U.S. already has at hand in the area.

But all that leaves out the region's biggest military player: Algeria. Until now, Bouteflika has vowed to sit out the conflict, just as he did in last year's war against Muammar Gaddafi in next-door Libya. The Algerian leader has good reason to fear getting involved: an all-out war by Algeria against al-Qaeda could spark conflict at home, in a country that is still recovering from a bitter, bloody civil war during the 1990s that claimed at least 150,000 lives. Algerian officials last week announced they were deploying more troops along their 1,200-mile border with Mali, but only in order to stop Islamic militants from escaping to Algeria once a military assault begins.

With no Algerian forces deployed, that assault force will be far weaker. A recent report on Mali's crisis by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace found that Algeria was "in a unique position to influence events in Mali." Others agree. "There is no other country which has the military strength of Algeria," says Riccardo Fabiani, North Africa analyst for the Eurasia Group in London. "It has the biggest military in the region. It could commit troops and fight the Islamist — no one else can do it. But it does not want to."

There are other challenges to victory too: since a coup in Mali last March, the government in Bamako, the capital, has been held together by a fragile coalition of civilians and military. It was in the midst of that turmoil that Islamic extremists aligned to al-Qaeda in the Maghreb joined with Tuareg tribesmen, who have long held grievances against Mali's government, to seize the country's northern half.

Armed with sophisticated weaponry from Gaddafi's massive arsenals, and flush with cash from hostage-ransom deals and drug smuggling, the Islamists have extended their grip on the area — and now pose a real threat to the rest of North Africa, and potentially also to Europe, a short distance away. About 300,000 people have fled the area, bringing reports of harsh Shari'a law, where women are banned from walking in public without male companions and musicians have been threatened with amputation if they continue playing instruments. Among the patchwork of groups are some with clear ambitions to impose Shari'a in the rest of North Africa — an alarming prospect to the U.S. and Europe, as well as to Algeria, whose Western military cooperation makes them a prime target for jihadist groups.

To U.S. and European officials, the true danger is that northern Mali might become another Afghanistan before September 2001 — a wild, tribal area where fundamentalist outfits and terrorist groups have free rein to train for operations abroad. French officials — with extensive business interests in the area — have been particularly alarmed at the situation. Six French hostages are currently being held in northern Mali, and Islamist leaders have threatened to kill them if an international military intervention begins.

One major challenge for both the West and African countries will be to distinguish which groups in northern Mali they will want to crush and which might possibly be won over. "It's not like in Pakistan where you know who is who," Heisbourg says. "Some who look like baddies are not. Some of these guys you want to talk over, and others you want to kill." He says that although both U.S. and French drones could prove valuable aids in a military assault, neither will be of much help in the actual attacks. "Making that distinction about who is who is something you probably cannot do from 10,000 ft. up in the air," he says. Instead the West will have to hope that African troops will

be able to do the job.

African Markets - Factors to watch on Oct 29

Mon Oct 29, 2012/af.reuters.com

NAIROBI, Oct 29 - - The following company announcements, scheduled economic indicators, debt and currency market moves and political events may affect African markets on Monday.

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GLOBAL MARKETS

Asian shares edged higher on Monday as investors took comfort in signs of stable growth in the United States, though caution over the uncertain global corporate earnings outlook capped prices.

WORLD OIL PRICES

Oil slipped on Monday, with Brent near \$109 a barrel, as refineries along the U.S. East Coast lowered run rates ahead of approaching Hurricane Sandy, reducing crude use in the world's largest oil consumer.

AFRICA DEBT

Waning demand for Kenyan Treasury bills is likely to push yields up at an auction next week, while Zambian T-bill yields are expected to remain steady.

EMERGING MARKETS

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AFRICA STOCKS

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SOUTH AFRICAN MARKETS

South African stocks ended a see-saw session slightly lower on Friday, tracking similar performances in major overseas markets as poor corporate results overshadowed a better-than-expected expansion in the U.S. economy.

South Africa's rand firmed against the dollar on Friday as a gold mining strike drew to a close and investors continued to cheer a pledge by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan to keep state spending in check for the next three years.

NIGERIA SECURITY

A suicide bomber drove a jeep full of explosives into a Catholic church during morning mass in northern Nigeria on Sunday, killing at least eight

people, wounding more than 100 and triggering reprisal attacks that killed at least two more.

NIGERIA FLOODS

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan sought to allay fears on Friday that the nation's worst floods in at least five decades would trigger a food crisis because of damage to crops.

KENYA MARKETS

The Kenya shilling dipped on Friday as importers bought dollars to meet their month-end obligations, while shares rallied for a seventh straight session as investors bet on strong third quarter results.

KENYA MINING

Australian miner Base Resources' shares slumped 31 percent on Monday on worries that Kenya may take over part of its key project under a new law requiring the state to own at least a 35 percent stake in mining licenses.

KENYA POWER

Kenya Power posted on Friday a 36 percent jump in pretax profits in the year ended June 30 helped by a slight rise in revenues from electricity sales during a 12-month period that saw a leap in fuel costs recovered from customers.

KENYA RESERVES

Kenya's central bank said its official usable foreign exchange reserves rose to \$5.175 billion in the week ended Friday, up from \$5.141 billion the previous week.

TANZANIA MINING

Tanzania should stick to existing agreements in the fast-growing mining sector or investors will lose confidence, the company which owns the country's biggest gold mine said on Saturday.

MAURITIUS T-BILLS

The weighted average yield on Mauritius' 182-day Treasury bill fell to 3.04 percent at auction on Friday from 3.18 percent at a sale two weeks ago, the central bank said.

For the latest precious metals report click on

For the latest base metals report click on

For the latest crude oil report click on

UN/AFRICA :

UN commends SA on HIV/Aids

Monday, October 29, 2012/Sapa

The United Nations has called for renewed commitment to protect the health of young girls in South Africa, but has commended its efforts to stem HIV transmission, the department of women, children and people with disabilities said on Sunday.

The UN High Level Taskforce on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV for Eastern and Southern Africa concluded a one-week mission in South Africa.

"South Africa has done a commendable job in significantly reducing transmission of HIV from pregnant women to their newborns," said Naomi Shaban, Kenyan Minister of Gender, Children and Social Development and the delegation's leader.

South Africa had decreased mother-to-child transmission of HIV from 3.5% in 2010 to 2.7% last year. It was well on its way to eliminating this aspect of HIV/Aids by 2015, in line with a commitment made last year.

Improvement needed to be done

Shaban acknowledged the improvement, but said more needed to be done to keep mothers alive. This, together with the elimination of new HIV infection among children dominated a discussion between the taskforce and Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi.

South Africa should also take steps to protect the health of young girls. "Prevention of unplanned pregnancies and HIV infection in young girls must be a major priority of the South African government," said taskforce member Sheila Tlou, who is the regional director of UNAIDS.

The department of basic education found that one percent of female school pupils fell pregnant in 2009/10, equating to approximately 89 390 girls. "Keeping girls in school is the best thing we can do to reduce new infections among girls and women and help them to reach their potential," said Tlou.

Gender-based violence remained a major challenge in South Africa. Hate crimes, particularly corrective rape of lesbians, created a climate of fear and drove communities underground, fuelling HIV infection.

The taskforce had been invited to conduct an independent assessment of South Africa's progress towards the Accelerated Agenda for Women and Girls on HIV and Aids, which the government signed in 2010. This work would help the government identify gaps and challenges, in order to develop more effective intervention programmes.

(Sapa, October 2012)

US/AFRICA :

Bush vs. Obama on Africa

Created on Monday, 29 October 2012/opride.com

obama africaby Judy Yi Zhou*

Last year, as the UN Security Council weighed a resolution authorizing military action in Libya, Gaddafi sent an unusual letter to Obama addressing him as “son” and urging the American president not to intervene. It was too little too late. By then Gaddafi had few friends left, in his own country, the west, and the Arab world.

Libya’s intervention is the first unanimous UN resolution in history. Before the recent killing of American diplomats in Benghazi, the success of Libya’s intervention was one of the hallmarks of the Obama administration’s foreign policy. Some even called it “the birth of Obama Doctrine.”

When Obama, whose father is Kenyan, took office four years ago, Africans at home and abroad hoped that one of their own – Africa’s own son – would do even more than his predecessor for the continent. It was unrealistic expectation, but one rooted in Obama’s poetic oratory and lofty promises.

In his historic inaugural speech, Obama proclaimed:

To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist...those who seek peace and security - we support you.

Making the case for Libya’s intervention, Obama reiterated:

Born, as we are, out of a revolution by those who longed to be free, we welcome the fact that history is on the move in the Middle East and North Africa, and that young people are leading the way. Because wherever people long to be free, they will find a friend in the United States. Ultimately, it is that faith — those ideals — that is the true measure of American leadership.

But has he really been Africa’s friend, and on the right side of history?

In his first and only trip to Africa as president, which lasted no more than 20 hours, Obama spoke of an increasingly interdependent world. What happens in Accra, he told the Ghanaian parliament, reverberates far beyond Africa’s shores. During the same speech, he also promised to commit \$63 billion to help Africa combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, as well as eradicate polio. “We won’t confront illnesses in isolation -- we will invest in public health systems that promote wellness and focus on the health of mothers and children,” he declared.

However, a quick glance at the figures from a fact-sheet of Obama’s accomplishments in Sub-Saharan Africa shows a mere \$6.8 billion spent on Africa related projects. That’s 10 percent of what Obama promised in his Ghana speech three years earlier. Out of the \$6.8 billion, only less than \$1 billion was invested on public health. Obama’s strategy toward Africa was not even released until this summer - three and half years after he took office.

Some of the successes highlighted in Obama’s Africa directive include: holding meetings with

African youth leaders; strengthening democratic institutions; advancing peace and security; supporting the AU Mission in Somalia; building a secret drone base in Ethiopia; supporting the peace process in South Sudan; sending military advisers to help Ugandan forces capture LRA fighters; launching the Feed the Future Initiative; a new trade and investment partnership with the East African Community; a new African Competitiveness and Trade Expansion Initiative.

Beyond these broad and vague initiatives, Obama has largely been mute on Africa, and not just on last Monday's foreign policy debate with Romney. And Africans have taken note. "I don't think President Obama gives much thought to Africa -- or gives much to Africa," said Mo Ibrahim, a Sudan-born British entrepreneur, in an interview with Foreign Policy.

African activists muse why empowering young leaders is Obama's top priority in Africa, while hardly addressing the public health concerns Obama swore to resolve back in Accra. Engaging Africa's young leaders was also the focus of the First Lady on her controversial 2011 trip to Africa. Moreover, as Todd Moss, the vice-president of the Center for Global Development, points out, the position of USAID's Africa chief was left unfilled for three years.

Africa is home to six of world's ten fastest growing economies, including Angola, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Chad, Mozambique, and Rwanda, according to the IMF. China, Africa's biggest trading partner, has raised the stake for the U.S. to rethink its Africa policy. While urging "American companies to seize trade and investment opportunities in Africa", the Obama administration questions other countries motives for doing so.

During her strategic 10-nation tour in August, in what was seen as a veiled criticism of China's role in the continent, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Africa is not just "a source of resources to be exploited." She held up the U.S. engagement on the continent as "a model of sustainable partnership that adds value, rather than extracts it."

How does Obama compare with George W. Bush?

President Bush left a negative legacy ranging from the economic crisis to many foreign policy blunders including the war in Iraq. But on Africa, as Mo Ibrahim recalled, Bush's bold initiatives are widely celebrated.

George Bush is a hero in Africa. It is funny: In his last trip to Africa I think he was absolutely struck by the warmth of people and how he was treated as a hero when things were really going wrong in Iraq. And here was a place he did wonderful stuff and people were grateful. And I think it was probably the happiest of his trips abroad.

In January 2003, Bush announced the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) that would provide \$15 billion to Africa over five years. "It was then the largest single effort by any nation targeting a specific disease," wrote Mwangi S. Kimenyi, the director of Africa Growth Initiative. Bush also launched the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) with the goal of reducing malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 focus countries.

Beyond the health initiatives, which the former president remains committed to even after leaving office, Bush "pushed the G-8 nations to demand the multi-lateral debt relief initiative (MDRI), which encouraged the IMF, World Bank and the U.S. to reduce the debt burden of highly indebted poor countries," Kimenyi wrote for Brookings Institution.

The Bush administration's Millennium Challenge Corporation, an independent U.S. foreign aid agency, committed \$3.8 billion to nine countries in Africa between 2008 and 2013. He has also

backed programs to cancel \$34 billion worth of debt for 27 African states. During the same time, as BBC's Martin Plaut noted, aid to Africa has risen to \$5.7 billion dollars a year by 2007.

What were some effects of Bush's initiatives?

Describing the impact of PEPFAR in a 2008 report, the Council of Foreign Relations wrote, "through the direct and indirect support, today more than one million people in Africa are on antiretroviral drugs, where their lives are quite literally being saved by these medicines." By December 2009, PEPFAR "supported the provision of treatment to more than 2 million people, care to more than 10 million people, including more than 4 million orphans and vulnerable children, and prevention of mother-to-child treatment services during nearly 16 million pregnancies."

The PMI has reduced child mortality by an average of 30.5 percent in 11 countries and halved Malaria in 15 African countries. The PEPFAR and PMI, both launched by George Bush, are the only two public health related programs mentioned in Obama's strategy document, even though no more funding was increased for them, as his Africa policy fact-sheet shows.

Critics say Bush ignored African concerns and left the continent marginalized in a system of global apartheid. But compared to the Obamas, Bush and former first lady visited Africa six times, covering more than ten African countries, but more importantly had visible and solid impact in areas of health, economic, and security issues in Africa.

Looking forward

In a high-stake and highly polarized election, Americans will go to the polls next Tuesday to elect a new president. The economic crisis and loss of jobs has sapped the energy out of Obama's once enthusiastic supporters. But his loss is likely to be as heartbreaking as his triumph was euphoric. In Africa, despite failure to offer any bold initiatives, Obama remains popular as ever, even if for sentimental reasons. In churches and mosques across Kenya, prayer services are being held to ask God for their son's victory, the Nairobi-based Daily Nation reported.

"This is our son," said Jerome Ombude, speaking to Nation from Obama senior's Kenyan village of Kogelo. "The fact that he is the commander-in-chief of the United States is just enough reason to be proud even if he did not bring us any material things."

For the growing African diaspora, estimated at 1.6 million in 2010 – half of whom are naturalized U.S. citizens – unlike in 2008, the choice couldn't be harder. Beyond the symbolism and inspiration of a half-African family occupying the White House, even with a GOP controlled congress that worked to defeat him from day one, Obama has done so much domestically -- including his signature legislation, the Obamacare. But many Africans, especially the recent arrivals, maintain special ties to their country of origin. The hope and aspirations of seeing democracy prevail in their "home countries" on the one hand, versus the duplicity between Obama's rhetoric on democracy promotion and his actions on the other hand, makes their choice in this election the more difficult.

Besides, Obama's opponent, Mitt Romney, has put out a brief but important outline of his plans for Africa, focusing on bolstering economic ties and the rule of law in order to create more jobs in Africa – and opportunities for U.S. investment. In addition, Romney vows to help resolve ongoing conflicts, "pressure the remaining despots who abuse their own people", protect innocent civilians from violence, and ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those in need.

Obama had only four years, and some challenging domestic issues to tackle – including, as he says, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. However, given his African roots and more so

the hope and optimism that came with his triumphant election, it's difficult to ignore Obama's subpar policies toward an increasingly important continent.

As Obama said in Accra, ultimately, Africa's destiny lies not in the hands of a U.S. president but in the hands of Africans themselves. However, if Obama wants to build a sustainable partnership anchored on mutual respect with Africa – a continent on the rise – he has a long way to go in order to redeem his image.

That's the hope for his second term, lest there should be one.

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China's long-term vision helps shake off bad image in Africa

By Mark Kapchanga (Global Times)/english.peopledaily.com.cn/October 29, 2012

Businesses constantly reinvent their strategies to beat the competition. They are always on the lookout for opportunities, and work tirelessly to meet their goal - wealth creation.

China has perfected the art of operating like a business, bolstering its plans by constantly looking for opportunities, and erecting firewalls to deal with imminent threats.

In Africa, China has created millions of employment opportunities. It has set up modern infrastructure projects, developed dormant mineral deposits that have seen earnings more than triple. More importantly, it has injected a new lease of life into Africa's shaky education system by offering scholarships to thousands of students.

As noted by the World Bank in its annual meeting held in Tokyo in early October, Africa's economy is fast expanding. The key inhibitor, however, remains expensive and erratic power supply. Having understood this challenge, China is today investing heavily in Africa's energy sector.

However, it is also true that, in the past, some Asian firms may have engaged in backdoor dealings,

precipitating corruption in the continent. This has resulted in China being lambasted for doing "little" to curb growing graft in Africa.

A look at Angola shows that China tied the knot with Africa's second largest oil producer over two decades ago. The development saw Luanda earn close to \$20 billion in oil revenues with China accounting for 20 percent of the total. Today, however, Angola has the highest poverty level globally with more than 70 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Some quarters have linked the unending strife in the country to China's policy of non-political interference. But Angola has hit back, threatening to sever ties with its critics, particularly the World Bank and the IMF.

The Angola case points to the debate that has been raging for some time now attaching deteriorating governance structures in Africa to the arrival of China. Human rights proponents have claimed China attaches few or no conditions to its support for the continent, exacerbating already weak governance systems.

However, the organizations, the majority of whom are the beneficiaries of funds from the West, fail to blame Africa's leadership for its non-commitment to improving its internal governance.

Faced with these wild accusations, China is changing its approach. It has come up with what looks like a three-pronged plan aimed at winning Africa's support, and at the same time, strengthening Africa's governance.

First, China has appointed a representative for African affairs, whose core role, among others, is scanning for challenges facing Chinese businesses in Africa, defending its investments and handling sensitive matters like the Sudan conflict. The current holder of the office, Zhong Jianhua, has made it known that China seeks to make Africa stable and enhance its growth.

Second, in a move aimed at making their subsidiaries beat their competition fairly, Chinese firms are now selling parts of their stakes to locals. The move gives local players an opportunity to own parts of Chinese firms. Through this, China seeks to win the backing of the locals.

Third, China is investing heavily in education. It is sponsoring thousands of African students annually to further their studies in China while at the same time putting money into building local institutions. Ultimately, the pool of talent is expected to breed a new crop of leaders with enough skills to shape Africa's governance.

China is also fast spreading its media presence in Africa with the arrival of CCTV and Xinhua. These channels will, no doubt, act as tools for educating the public, as well as demystifying the skewed myths about China. The days of China being blamed for weakening governance are swiftly fading away.

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