

[A l'issue d'un atelier de deux jours organisé à Goma au Nord-Kivu sur la situation sécuritaire en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), les coordinations de la société civile des provinces du Maniema, de la Province Orientale, du Katanga, du Nord-Kivu et du Sud-Kivu ont exigé dimanche 11 novembre au comité des sanctions de l'ONU de punir le Rwanda, accusé d'agresser et d'occuper une portion du territoire congolais.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda: The Leadership That Africa Needs

12 November 2012/The New Times

For Africa to take its rightful place and be more relevant in today's world, it is going to need visionary leadership and cooperation, President Paul Kagame said.

The President made the remarks, Saturday, while addressing members of the Oxbridge Club during their annual Spring Lecture in Lagos, Nigeria.

The Oxbridge Club comprises Oxford and Cambridge alumni.

The Club is renowned for two main calendar events, the May Ball (typically held in June) and its annual lectures traditionally referred to as "The Spring Lecture".

The President was the first incumbent Head of State to address the Club.

"Africa today has the opportunity to play its rightful role in the global arena. But to do so requires the continent to speak with one voice and to be competitive in all aspects, which in turn demands radical socio-economic transformation," Kagame said.

"For this to happen, African countries need a new kind of leadership - one that has a vision for the country and a passion and commitment for its rapid development as well as the well-being of its people."

The leadership, Kagame added, must be confident, assertive, innovative and committed to promoting and defending the continent's interest.

"Above all, it should be prepared to seek solutions from within the philosophies and practices of our societies to various challenges that we face, and develop ideas to propel our countries forward."

"Sometimes, this might require going beyond the conventional and embracing the unorthodox."

The President, however, noted that no individual leader or country can achieve the desired continent-wide change on their own and the leadership of African countries should seek and promote cooperation amongst them.

"Africa is not where it should be, not because of a lack of resources or human capital," he said.

"The issue has been that we still do not have enough leaders across a variety of fields with ideas to change our societies, the capacity to mobilise our people, and vision and drive to spur innovation and competitiveness."

But, the trend is beginning to change.

In the last two decades, President Kagame observed, Africa has begun to move again and entered a new phase.

"We are no longer looking to the outside for solutions to internal issues because home-grown ideas provide the answer, not only for development but also for the restoration of our dignity," Kagame said.

"That means change because the status quo has proved unsatisfactory."

"The collected, accumulated wisdom resulting from both culture and participation has the effect of making people shareholders in the enterprise that is their country. As you all know, shareholders want and expect good dividends."

The President shared Rwanda's experience with home grown solutions.

He cited Gacaca courts, a traditional conflict resolution mechanism, that tried close to two million cases in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

In a decade, the Gacaca courts cost less than one billion dollars, yet the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda tried only sixty cases at double the cost - about two billion dollars.

But the significance of Gacaca goes beyond numbers of cases and their cost.

"Because it (Gacaca) was the first home-grown solution successfully applied to a seemingly intractable problem, it inspired and empowered Rwandans to seek and use similar initiatives for broader national development," the President observed.

"Its success catalysed the generation of ideas and values crucial to national development - resilience, self-reliance, confidence and social cohesion."

Rwanda has adopted similar initiatives to eradicate poverty and improve the lives of the people.

Between 2005 and 2010, the country's poverty levels dropped by 12%, from 56.9% to 44.9% .

"What works internally may have application to intra-African situations, particularly as we focus on greater cooperation and integration, trade and investment in order to keep up with the emerging and the traditional strong economies." Kagame pointed out.

"This approach of greater cooperation also extends to peace and stability, and that is why today, African leaders are investing in continent-generated solutions to issues of political stability and conflict resolution."

Rwanda: Obama's Is Victory for America but Not Undemocratic, Corrupt Africans

By Edward Ojulu/Rwanda Focus (Kigali)/12 November 2012

opinion

Last Tuesday, Americans re-elected Barack Obama as their president to a second term in the White House - the seat of the United States of America.

By Wednesday afternoon while Americans were done with elections and celebrating Obama's victory, many Africans, thousands of miles away, were in a carnival mood.

I heard that leaders of a neighboring country, where President Obama's late father was a national, even mulled a public holiday so that wananchi could have ample time to celebrate victory of their "son."

In social media many Africans discussed how a "black man" with humble roots in Africa had triumphed once again in a country where a few decades ago black people did not even have a vote.

Typical of Africa's politics of "eating," where those from the tribe, party, clan or family of the man or woman in power have unfettered access to national resources, some commentators even suggested that Obama should devote his second term of office and money to help Africa. I was saddened by that view, I must say.

I am however consoled by the fact that it is that kind of mindset that distinguishes America from Africa. America will also be America and Africa shall remain (at least in the foreseeable future) Africa - a bagger's world.

We, Africans, have perfected the art of laying claim to whatever good progress made by the sons and daughters of the continent in Diaspora without having made a single contribution. Truth be said; many young enterprising and industrious Africans continue to flee bad governance, corruption, poor infrastructure dogging the continent for better life in the West.

While in the West, they take advantage of good training facilities, freedom of speech and democratic governance to discover and nurture the talents in them.

Back at home, we are stuck with less inspiring leaders, some of them past their sale-by date with absolutely no idea on how to inspire the younger generation to achieve bigger goals.

Instead of building institutions and facilities to train the millions of Obamas in our midst, most Africa leaders are busy grabbing whatever resources there are, for personal and family enrichment.

In the end, the millions of the would be Obamas in the continent remain sick, ignorant and poor villagers to be easily manipulated using small groceries such as salt and soap during periodic sham election.

I refuse to accept that Obamas success is a victory for Africans. It victory for that great country called the United States of America - a victory for a great people who have over the years shunned discrimination to embrace social, political and economic inclusion.

And while the population wallows in poverty, disease and ignorance, some of our leaders enroll their sons to one prestigious military to another with the self aim of grooming successors. As citizens, we cheer them on and refuse to demand accountability.

The media was recently awash with the story of a president of neighboring country who promoted his son to a four-star general, having joined the army only 10 years ago. It is widely believed that either the son or his step mother is being positioned to takeover from the ageing president, in power since 1986.

So, where would Obama, "our son," who just won a second term to lead the most powerful country in the world, if the earlier president of America had chosen to perpetuate family dynasty?

I refuse to accept that Obamas success is a victory for Africans. It victory for that great country called the United States of America - a victory for a great people who have over the years shunned discrimination to embrace social, political and economic inclusion. That change that gives equal opportunity to all irrespective of the color of their skin.

While Amricans have come thus far, we remain entrenched in tribal, clan and of late family politics. The kind of politics that will see a Kikuyu in Kenya do everything possible (including overturning election results and at a very high cost in terms of life) to ensure that a Luo does not ascend to the throne.

Rwanda: Lecture By President Paul Kagame to the Oxford-Cambridge Club of Nigeria
By The New Times/12 November 2012

document

President Paul Kagame ended a two- day tour of Nigeria with a speech as the guest speaker at the annual Spring Lecture held by the Oxbridge Club. The Oxbridge Club is a grouping of alumni of Oxford and Cambridge universities. Kagame is the first incumbent President to address the Club. The President was in Nigeria for a two-day visit on Friday. Below is the President's speech in full.

Mr Akinfela Akoni, President of the Oxford-Cambridge Club of Nigeria;

Members of this distinguished Club;

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen;

I would like to thank you for inviting me to join you tonight - this is my first visit to Lagos - and I am pleased it is to be part of this distinguished gathering to share thoughts on how Africa can be more relevant in today's world.

Let me make two points at the very outset. First, Africa today has the opportunity to play its rightful role in the global arena. But to do so requires the continent to speak with one voice and to be competitive in all aspects, which in turn demands radical socio-economic transformation. Second, as the subject of our discussion this evening suggests, Africa will do this when its people lead dignified lives and take full charge of their development agenda.

For this to happen, African countries need a new kind of leadership - one that has a vision for the country and a passion and commitment for its rapid development as well as the well-being of its people.

The transformational leadership that will lead to Africa's prosperity and ensure its relevance must be one that is confident, assertive and innovative, and committed to promoting and defending the continent's interests. Above all, it should be prepared to seek solutions from within the philosophies

and practices of our societies to various challenges that we face, and develop ideas to propel our countries forward. Sometimes, this might require going beyond the conventional and embracing the unorthodox.

It should be clear, however, that no individual leader or country acting alone will achieve a continent-wide qualitative change and play a significant global role. That can only come about if our leadership seek and promote cooperation across Africa on a wide range of issues.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

The fact that we are speaking about the need for change and the sort of agents who can bring it about is admission that Africa has not lived up to expectations and its full potential. The question, then, is: What do we need to do to reverse this situation? In the words of an eminent Nigerian, "we must first find out when the rain started beating us".

Africa is not where it should be, not because of a lack of resources or human capital. Indeed if anyone had any doubts about the intellectual and entrepreneurial potential of the continent, they need only to look at those present in this room. As for enterprise, there are fewer greater than Nigerians.

The issue has been that we still do not have enough leaders across a variety of fields with ideas to change our societies, the capacity to mobilise our people, and vision and drive to spur innovation and competitiveness.

Of course, Africa has had leaders - some of them great - over the last fifty years of independence. But despite the liberation and post-independence ideals, visions were only partially realised and Africa lost decades in terms of much needed development.

To be fair, Africa's shortcomings cannot be entirely attributed to its leaders. Other factors, such as inherited colonial structures that were not always relevant and external control of the development processes, contributed to the situation.

In the last two decades, Africa has begun to move again and entered a new phase. We are no longer looking to the outside for solutions to internal issues because home-grown ideas provide the answer, not only for development but also for the restoration of our dignity. That means change because the status quo has proved unsatisfactory.

Now, change of any sort is a journey into the unknown and unacceptable conditions alone do not provide enough drive to venture there. And yet anyone driving change should bring along all the people with them. Using practices and beliefs that people identify with can help remove the fear and make them embrace the change, own and even build on it.

The collected, accumulated wisdom resulting from both culture and participation has the effect of making people shareholders in the enterprise that is their country. As you all know, shareholders want and expect good dividends.

This is the source of home-grown ideas. They emanate from what the people collectively know and practice, and their power to drive change comes from this fact.

Of course, those who have always treated us as followers rather than leaders in our own right will want to halt the development of such home-grown ideas. Some will do so out of sheer ignorance. More often than not, however, they will disrupt us with subversive intent.

But this cannot deter us because as we all know, success built on internally-generated ideas breeds confidence and fosters dignity.

Let me illustrate with the practical experience of Rwanda. In Rwanda we have consciously drawn from our history and culture ideas to drive our social, political and economic development for the simple reason that they work.

In the aftermath of the genocide in 1994, Rwanda was faced with a huge problem.

Considering the large number of perpetrators, the need to give victims justice as well as restore social harmony, conventional political and justice systems were totally inadequate for the task. So we opted for Gacaca, a traditional conflict resolution mechanism, which in a decade tried close to two million cases at a cost of less than one billion US dollars compared to only sixty cases tried by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda costing about two billion dollars.

But the significance of Gacaca goes beyond numbers of cases and their cost. Because it was the first home-grown solution successfully applied to a seemingly intractable problem, it inspired and empowered Rwandans to seek and use similar initiatives for broader national development.

Its success catalysed the generation of ideas and values crucial to national development - resilience, self-reliance, confidence and social cohesion. Most important, it restored Rwandans' dignity and pride in our cultural values as a source of remedies to current challenges, innovation and approaches to development.

Similarly, the Government of Rwanda initiated the Girinka (one cow per poor household) programme adapted from the traditional Rwandan solidarity practice of giving each other a cow as a pact of friendship and support in the event of misfortune or dire need. In its modern application, Girinka addresses several issues at once - improved nutrition, income generation and increased agricultural productivity.

This initiative, together with other poverty-reduction measures, has contributed to the reduction of poverty by 12%, from 56.9% to 44.9% between 2005 and 2010 and raised one million people or 10% of the population out of poverty.

- Ladies and Gentlemen;

What works internally may have application to intra-African situations, particularly as we focus on greater cooperation and integration, trade and investment in order to keep up with the emerging and the traditional strong economies. This is what will guarantee the individual and collective strength of our countries and contribute to our relevance.

To take one example from East Africa, as a result of the economic integration of the five member states of the East African Community, the region's total trade with the rest of the world more than doubled between 2005 and 2010, rising from 17.5 billion dollars to 37 billion dollars. Foreign Direct Investments also rose from 683 million dollars in 2005 to 1.7 billion dollars in 2011.

This approach of greater cooperation also extends to peace and stability, and that is why today, African leaders are investing in continent-generated solutions to issues of political stability and conflict resolution. The results so far are encouraging.

Somalia is re-emerging as a viable country. Sudan and South Sudan are on the road to peaceful co-

existence. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, regional efforts hold the greatest promise of an enduring resolution to the conflict there.

In conclusion, I submit to you that Africa's position and relevance in the world in an increasingly competitive global environment will be ensured by a leadership and people that refuse to be second best and that stand up for their shared interests.

This requires a mindset focused on dignity - individually and collectively - and on our culture and history as inspiration and source of solutions to our development needs.

And for Africa to have a bigger voice in world affairs, it is imperative that the momentum the continent has gained is maintained and even fast-tracked. That duty falls on those in charge of our countries today, but more so to those who will pick up the baton from them. They have no other option.

I thank you for your kind attention.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : la société civile de l'Est appelle l'ONU à sanctionner le Rwanda

Par Radiokapi.net / Lundi 12 Novembre 2012

A l'issu d'un atelier de deux jours organisé à Goma au Nord-Kivu sur la situation sécuritaire en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), les coordinations de la société civile des provinces du Maniema, de la Province Orientale, du Katanga, du Nord-Kivu et du Sud-Kivu ont exigé dimanche 11 novembre au comité des sanctions de l'ONU de punir le Rwanda, accusé d'agresser et d'occuper une portion du territoire congolais.

« Le comité des sanctions doit adopter des sanctions conséquentes à l'endroit des autorités rwandaises impliquées dans l'agression de la RDC, obliger l'armée rwandaise de se retirer sans délais du sol congolais sans conditions et voter une résolution demandant la CPI à poursuivre les responsables des graves violations des droits de l'homme et des crimes de guerre », a déclaré John Masimango de la société civile du Maniema.

Il a ajouté que le comité des sanctions de l'ONU devra également élargir le mandat de la MONUSCO en faisant de sa mission celle d'imposition de la paix en vue de la charger d'éradiquer dans un bref délai les groupes armés opérant en RDC comme le Mouvement du 23 mars, (M23), les rebelles rwandais des FDLR, les ADF/NALU et autres milices locales assimilées aux forces négatives.

Parlant des rebelles du M23, John Masimango, propose qu'ils soient traduits à la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) et jugés pour « des graves violations de droits de l'homme et des crimes contre l'humanité ».

Le comité des sanctions du conseil de l'ONU devrait siéger lundi 12 novembre à New-York, pour statuer sur différents rapports des ONG internationales et experts des Nations unies sur l'agression de la RDC dans sa partie Est, en vue d'adopter des sanctions en l'endroit des coupables.

Ces rapports accusent le Rwanda et l'Ouganda de soutenir le M23-qui sévit dans l'Est de la RDC depuis le mois de mai-sur les plans politique, militaire et logistique.

Dans une lettre adressée au secrétaire général des Nations unies, Ban Ki Moon, les représentants des Eglises catholique, musulmane, protestante et évangélique doutent de la crédibilité de ces documents. Ils remettent en question « l'intégrité de ces experts, la méthodologie employée, et les conclusions de ces rapports basées sur des preuves insuffisantes ».

Sanction de la Belgique

Selon une dépêche de l'agence de presse Belga, le ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Didier Reynders, a annoncé dimanche 11 novembre que son pays a suspendu sa coopération militaire avec le Rwanda. Il a expliqué dans un message sur son compte Twitter que cette décision fait suite à la mise en cause de Kigali par les experts de l'ONU pour son soutien au M23, une rébellion active dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC).

La Belgique est l'un des pays qui a estimé que si des sanctions doivent être prises contre le Rwanda, elles devraient être consécutives à des concertations au niveau de l'Union européenne ou des Nations unies.

Au mois d'août dernier, les Etats-Unis avaient aussi suspendu leur aide de deux cents mille dollars américains après qu'un rapport préliminaire des experts des Nations unies a fourni des preuves de l'implication du Rwanda dans l'actuelle rébellion du M23 au Nord-Kivu. D'autres pays comme l'Allemagne, les Pays-Bas et la Suède ont emboîté le pas aux Etats-Unis annonçant à leur tour la suspension de leurs aides au Rwanda.

UGANDA :

Uganda: Recycling the Ten-Point Plan

By Joan Akello/The Independent (Kampala)/ 11 November 2012

Speaking against a gathering storm at the Golden Jubilee Celebration at Kololo in Kampala, President Yoweri Museveni made the shortest Independence Day speech ever. It lasted a record 26 minutes. But it had an array of philosophical ideals that have attracted attention.

Among them was his 'new' 10-ten point plan for Uganda in the next 50 year which marked both a departure and a return to 1986, when his National Resistance Army/ Movement (NRA/M), then newly- installed in power proclaimed the famous 10--Point Programme.

Hatched during Museveni's five year guerrilla campaign in the bushes of Luwero, central Uganda; the 10--Point Programme was developed as a coherent political and economic explanation of why the NRA was fighting against the Ugandan government.

In its place, the new plan Museveni proposed at Kololo aims to thrust Uganda into the middle-income country category within a "few years", and propel the nation's march to first-world status within five decades.

A significant difference between the 'old' and the 'new' is the hierarchy of priorities. If restoration of democracy topped the former, good governance is bottom of the pile in the latter. While fighting corruption, a major concern today, was number seven on the old Ten-point programme; it was left out in new plan.

Instead, the new plan has fighting ideological disorientation in first place, followed by eliminating sectarianism; promoting education; the private sector; developing infrastructure; regional markets; value addition; service sector; agricultural modernization and governance last.

The maverick NRM ideologue, Soroti Municipality MP George Michael Mukula defends Museveni's shifting positions.

"We have shifted our priorities according to the DNA in order to concentrate more into areas of wealth creation and industrialisation," he told The Independent, "The NRM midwived a very fundamental instrument for governance where leaders are changed using a secret ballot."

To him, the 2012 ten-point plan is a pragmatic but transitional vision of the NRM revolution in line with the 10-point programme which was expanded to a 15-point plan in 1998.

"I see the 2012 ten point plan as an abridged version of vision 2040," he said, adding that it plays well as an interim measure that needs to be harmonized with the other multi-sectoral strategic visions and Vision 2040.

Not hoodwinked:

But not everyone is as excited as Mukula.

Maj. John Kazoora an erstwhile Museveni confidante who is now a leading opponent shows how Museveni has mastered the art of duping and hoodwinking Ugandans.

"I pity those who are still unable to read Mr. Museveni's character and see the direction our country is heading in, and those who cannot learn from the perpetual regret in which those before them live after being used as doormats."

"There is a difference between a programme and a plan. Since the visions have shifted from 2015 to 2025 to 2040, soon it will be 2060. But the government has never accounted for the failures or achievements of the old plans or visions," Kazoora said.

"Probably in 2016, there will be a ten-point programme, plan, policy and framework, and then ten-point nothing and ten-point nonsense," Kazoora says.

When he speaks, Kazoora's disillusionment with Museveni is as palpable as what he wrote in his book, *Betrayed by My leader*.

There, Kazoora who was a Museveni confidante in the bush narrates how, just after they captured Kampala, the rebel army High Command and NRC (National Resistance Council) sat to elect the president and to debate how long NRM should stay in power.

Members present suggested four, five, seven and nine years, Kazoora narrates, but President Museveni looked around and then: 'screaming like a banshee' said: "Have I wasted my time developing cadres?... this is bankruptcy of Africans wanting to overstay in power for ever; what are eight years for? Two years are enough."

Kazoora concludes: "Ekyishuba (liar)- little did we know that it was all just mockery. He was later to lead the campaign for five year extension of NRC, and bribed MPs to amend the constitution to remove presidential term limits. 26 years later he is still clinging to power".

Family rule:

Masaka Municipality MP Mathias Mpuuga, who has led most of the recent opposition protests against the Museveni also punctures Museveni's new plan.

"For sectarianism, I was waiting to hear him sack his wife, tell or advise his immediate family to

quit government to enhance national unity," he told The Independent, "He is enriching his family and cronies by reciting to us poetry. It means he has accepted his family rule".

Mpuuga says Museveni's actions since last year do not show a man who has his country at heart. "He used the first oil dollars to purchase fighter jets, is using a Shs 3.3 billion limousine and yet he preaches self- sustainability, he thinks Ugandans are that gullible." Mpuuga said.

Mpuuga was referring to President Museveni's posh entry to Kololo in a top-of-the range Mercedes Benz S500 Pullman limousine with wife Janet by his side. By some accounts, his convoy was 32-vehicles long with an array of luxury Benzes and Toyota Land Cruisers. Three of the controversial fighter jets he purchased provided some of the day's entertainment as they flew overhead in various formations.

Mpuuga says the president has shifted his focus from democracy and governance to a rule of rulers not rule of law. "We have witnessed political thuggery during elections. He is not believable, unlike in the past he spoke for less than 30 minutes because he could not explain his new ten strategies.

"He (president) is trying to turn this country into one for dreamers to cover up his commissions, omissions and failure to implement the original ten points," Mpuuga says.

"Now we have a 25-point and the old man is still recycling ideas. He must have been speaking to his foreign guests. I do not think even his henchmen believed him."

Ideological chaos:

"The new ten-point plan was just a presidential pronouncement for the Kololo celebrations. It was a diversionary tactic. We, who can read between the lines, are offended," says Oduman Albert Charles Okello, former Bukedea Member of Parliament (MP).

Like Oduman, Aaron Mukwaya, lecturer Makerere University College of Political Science and Public Administration says the plan has no new ideas and provides no road map on how it will be implemented.

"Fighting ideological disorientation? The first thing I would ask is who is saying so? If it is the president, he is the one with ideological chaos in his mind," Mukwaya says.

Mukwaya says he expected the President to explain the cause for the new plan after the 15-point one, to revisit all the political ills like corruption, ethnicity, unemployment, poor health and education system and describe what mechanisms he will use to ensure the new vision succeeds.

Mukwaya says democracy is not about having regular, free and fair elections but also change of faces.

Even others, like Philips Odwokacen, a lecturer at the Uganda Christian University Faculty of Social Science, who agrees that fighting ideological disorientation is a good point, say Museveni has to first fight it within NRM. "They should stop just saying we are for NRM and be accountable to the people."

No one loves thieves:

Mukula also points out another problem. "The problem is that we have scattered our road map .The plan is good but without budgetary discipline and enough electricity we cannot take off," he says.

He agrees with Mpuuga on corruption. "We can't pride ourselves yet we have the best laws, institutions, political actors in place but corruption is an epidemic," says Mukula who, ironically, is battling to clear his name in the biggest corruption scandal the country has witnessed.

Uganda has been ranked as the most corrupt among the five countries under the East African community (EAC), according to the 2012 report Transparency International report yet it is not mentioned in the new plan.

"You cannot fight corruption when you are corruption itself," Mukwaya said, "You cannot teach a Ugandan who has nothing to eat to be patriotic yet he sees your people stealing from the national pot. You cannot love thieves."

Shifting vision?

Mukula says East African leaders should marry their visions and not let Rwanda have its 2020 Vision, Kenya the 2030 Vision and Uganda 2040.

"We must think of a common East African vision if we are ending on one path," Mukula says. "We must leave the borders open even at night because Africans still choose when to sleep and when to work yet Europe, Asia never sleep".

Mukula wants technology research and development institutes such as those in South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and Rwanda but there is none in Uganda.

"We must run government like it's a business," he says, "As Kenya's enterprises like Nakumatt, Uchumi make an entry into Uganda, their banks; traders follow them such as Kenya Commercial Bank. We are not investing in emerging markets that is why we do not have a single indigenous commercial or financial institution. Even in the telecommunications, like WARID, MTN Ugandans hold minority or negligible shares. We see the guarantees given to Aya, Karim which should be given to people like Africana".

He cited low competitiveness, weak public sector management, low industrialization, corruption and low government investment as bottlenecks to Uganda's development.

Mpuuga agrees with Mukula on the development model. "Let him (president) learn and stop going to Singapore for visits and treatment but instead learn how nationalists serve their people including Malaysia, Thailand. They have transformed their economies less than the years he has spent in power", Mpuuga said.

Mukwaya and Mpuuga agree on the need for a national dialogue to foster reconciliation.

"The president should negotiate his exit for his own good, for his attempt at governance. Ugandans will forgive him."

But bitter Kazoora has the most pointed barb: "For 26 years, expectant mothers still buy cotton wool, syringes, 'buvera', Mbale referral has one doctor, and we still import mere tooth picks. I wish His Excellency General Dr. Ssabalwanyi Yoweri Kaguta Museveni another 50 years so that this new wonderful ten-point plan will be implemented. I hope these 50 years are enough."

SOUTH AFRICA :

Amplats threatens South Africa strikers with sacking

Published November 12, 2012/Reuters

JOHANNESBURG – World no. 1 platinum producer Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) said on Monday it was too early to tell whether South African miners on an illegal strike will return after the company told them to resume work or face sacking.

"We will have an idea later in the morning," Amplats spokeswoman Mpumi Sithole told Reuters when asked whether the miners were reporting for duty.

But a labor leader at Amplats said the strike was on-going as no agreement had been reached.

"It's only the management that decided the workers should go back to work without an agreement. Nobody went to work, the strike is still going on," Evans Ramokga told Reuters.

Amplats said on Friday it offered a 4,500 rand (\$520) one-off payment and agreed to start wage talks ahead of the expiry of current agreements next year in a bid to get around 30,000 workers back on the job at several of its mines.

The offer would lapse if workers do not show up for work on Monday.

The cost of the wildcat action, in its second month, is mounting and Amplats said it had lost almost 168,000 ounces in platinum production, worth over \$250 million at current spot prices.

South Africa's gold and platinum sectors have been shaken by months of illegal and often violent strikes which have resulted in the deaths of around 50 people so far this year.

Most of the affected gold operations are back to work but Amplats, a unit of global mining giant Anglo American, is still struggling with the crippling strikes at a time when the viability of its operations are being scrutinised.

(Reporting by David Dolan and Olivia Kumwenda; Editing by Ed Stoddard)

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Precision Air Secures Modern Aircraft

12 November 2012/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

PRECISION Air Tanzania has become the first airline globally to operate the state-of-the-art ATR 42-600 commercial aircraft, the ATR Chief Executive Officer Filippo Bagnato, has said.

The aircraft worth US\$16.4 million (about 26.24bn/-) is probably the world's 'greenest' in the commercial aviation industry globally and offers a wide range of on flight entertainment to passengers and safety.

Speaking during the official delivery of the aircraft during a function held at the ATR Delivery

Centre in Toulouse, France at the weekend, the Precision Air Tanzania Chief Executive Officer, Mr Alfonse Kioko, said his company will invest up to U\$100 million in a bid to expand the company's fleet in the next few years.

Mr Kioko said the 50-seater new aircraft will be used to expand the airline's Dar es Salaam - Kilimanjaro route adding that the aircraft's first commercial flight should take place in two weeks upon the arrival of the aircraft in Dar es Salaam this week. "The \$100 million investment will see us acquire five new aircraft (four ATR 42-600, one ATR 72-600) in the next three years.

The introduction of these new series aircraft will increase our ATR fleet to 14 aircraft thus making Precision Air Services the largest ATR operator in Africa. "We are delighted to welcome the new ATR 42-600 to our young fleet in line with our continued mission to develop and provide superior air transport services that will exceed customer expectations," he said.

Mr Kioko said his company is focused towards making Tanzania the first and the only African country to own sophisticated and modern navigation model that will optimise time for approach, reduce fuel consumption and give more comfort to passengers. Earlier, the ATR CEO, Mr Bagnato, said Tanzania remains an important market for the company, adding that his company will do all it takes to ensure that the bond between the two parties continues.

"The delivery of the very first ATR 42-600 in the African region is the latest milestone in ATR's long journey together with Precision Air Services. "Today Precision Air joins a group of world class airlines that are redefining on-board comfort and achieving an unrivalled level of cost efficiency," he said.

The Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) Principal Air worthiness Officer, Mr Abubakar Kiroge, said during the event that inspection of the plane has been completed adding that the plane meets all the regulatory standards and requirements to operate in Tanzania.

"The plane adheres to all the regulatory safety standards. TCAA is now ready to give Precision Air a certificate of Worthiness for the aircraft to operate in Tanzania which will be reviewed after one year," he said.

Tanzania: Mangula 'An Ideal CCM Nominee'

12 November 2012/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

CHAMA Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s nomination of its retired Secretary General Phillip Mangula to run for the post of Vice-Chairman (Mainland) has been hailed as a positive move in the ruling party's bid to reform.

Commenting on Mr Mangula's nomination and the speech of the party's national Chairman, President Jakaya Kikwete, yesterday Dr Benson Bana of the University of Dar es Salaam said that the proposed man was suitable and had a good track record.

He said that people want a new life within CCM and that Mangula was the person likely to shunt in a new lease of life in the party due to his experience and knowledge. "Mr Mangula is objective, stable and a man of integrity. Since members and the Tanzanians generally want a credible new party as it was in the past, the man is indeed an ideal choice," he said.

However, Dr Bana was of the view that Mr Mangula will need maximum cooperation from the rest of the party mainly due to the fact that he was sidelined for a long time. He mentioned one of the

reasons for him being isolated as the fact that he was not part of the 'networks' formed during the general election campaigns in the past.

On the current shape of the party and corruption allegations particularly within its wings as reported during their elections, Dr Bana said, Mr Mangula and President Kikwete have to go an extra mile to address the problem. But he was quick to add that President Kikwete used more diplomacy to deliver his message on the problem.

On whether Mr Mangula will manage to contain the divided groups within the party, Dr Bana was optimistic that he would manage the task but that would take time and extra commitment from other leaders in the party. "Let us give him time and support as he needs a strong team to eliminate those elements in the party -- particularly corruption allegations," he said.

A Senior Lecturer at the St Augustine University (SAUT), Prof. Mwesiga Baregu, said there were little hopes that Mr Mangula alone would rescue the party from the current challenges such as tackling corruption. However, he was of the opinion that the nomination of Mr Mangula was a sign that CCM was ready to reform at any cost.

"But because Mr Mangula is known to be a clean and honest man, I am confident that he is ready to carry that cross and I wish him all the best," he said. From Dodoma, ABDULWAKIL SAIBOKO reports that CCM nominated the incumbent Chairman, President Jakaya Kikwete, to run for the re-election in the ongoing National Congress.

The party has also nominated the President of Zanzibar, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, for Vice-Chairmanship (Zanzibar). The Party's Secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Mr Nape Nnauye, told a news conference here yesterday that the decisions were made by the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) on Saturday night.

"Members of NEC have yet proved that CCM remains a united entity and that when it comes to making decisions for the betterment of our party we speak the same language and that is how we ended up in approving the names in question," he said. Mr Nape added that by nominating Mr Mangula who is a farmer, the party has vividly reaffirmed that it is a party of farmers and workers.

"We have picked Mr Mangula who was situated in his village in Iringa Region where he works as a farmer cultivating tomatoes and potatoes and this shows that CCM is a property of ordinary citizens, farmers and workers," he said.

Mr Nape further noted that there have been changes of the timetable where the elections of the NEC members (ten posts Mainland and ten others in Zanzibar) was conducted on Sunday instead of Monday as scheduled before. "Elections of members of NEC twenty posts Mainland and Zanzibar combined where some 56 aspirants are contesting was to be conducted on Sunday instead of tomorrow as scheduled earlier," he said.

He added that the name of Chairman and his two vice-chairmen will be presented before Congress delegation on Tuesday for endorsement. In another development, President Kikwete on Sunday laid a foundation stone for construction of the party's ultra-modern structure in Makulu within Dodoma municipality, which will be equipped with conference and hotel rooms.

KENYA :

Kenya: There May Not Be a Run-Off, Shows Poll

By Laban Wanambisi/Capital FM (Nairobi)/11 November 2012

A new poll by research company Infotrak says Raila Odinga could clinch the presidency in the first round next year, depending on who he picks as his running mate.

The poll shows that an Odinga/ Kalonzo Musyoka ticket can clinch the presidency in round one with 52 percent of the votes if their main challengers were Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto on one ticket.

"There will be things that will be game changers; who you pick as your running mate and who you consolidate yourself with as your team. If those people are able to get you support from the different hives then all you need is 50 percent plus one vote to be win the presidential race," Infotrak CEO Angela Ambitho explained during the release of the poll findings on Sunday.

If the PM were to pick Ruto as his running mate, they would clinch 52 percent of the votes against a Kenyatta/ Musyoka ticket which would garner 48 percent at the ballot.

Ambitho said Odinga was also likely to win the presidency without a run-off if he picked Musalia Mudavadi as his deputy, and Kenyatta picked Ruto. The Odinga/ Mudavadi ticket would get 52 percent of the votes.

However, an alliance between Odinga and Kalonzo would lose to a Kenyatta/Mudavadi ticket which would garner 51.6 percent of votes cast.

Odinga could lose the election to any of Kenyatta's likely pairings if the PM picked Peter Kenneth, Martha Karua, or National Assembly Speaker Kenneth Marende.

Ambitho cautions that it is not automatic regional kingpins will deliver votes from their strongholds for many factors may come into play.

"We do see a situation where there is going to be dependence on who the running mate is determining how that region actually swings; we see that in Eastern and the Rift Valley. Unless their candidate of choice goes the round alone, we may then see North Eastern being swing and we also see a situation where the Rift (due to its cosmopolitan nature) being quite interesting due to the voting patterns," she said.

The poll was interrogating various scenarios of Raila Odinga and Uhuru Kenyatta being the presidential candidates and picking any of the others who have so far declared interest in the seat as running mates.

Various presidential candidates have in the recent weeks been engaged in talks to seal pre-election pacts in time to beat the December 4 deadline for coalition agreements to be deposited with Registrar of Political Parties.

An Odinga/Mudavadi joint ticket would beat that of Kenyatta/ Ruto by 52.4 percent to 47.6 percent. The poll shows Odinga/ Ruto pair would garner 52.3 percent against 47.7 percent of Kenyatta/ Musyoka ticket.

A race pitting Odinga/ Musyoka versus Kenyatta/ Ruto would result in 51.6 percent and 48.4 percent of votes respectively, the poll showed.

The pollsters also indicated that 34 percent of those who prefer Uhuru Kenyatta as their candidate would pick William Ruto as their alternative candidate should Uhuru not run.

The polls further indicated that 32 percent of Kenyans would prefer William Ruto to be Odinga's running mate while 57 percent want him to be the running mate of DPM Uhuru Kenyatta.

Another poll showed that 57 percent of those polled would want Uhuru Kenyatta to be the running mate of William Ruto and 24 percent would want him to be the running mate of Mudavadi.

The survey by Infotrak Harris shows that 27 percent who prefer Raila Odinga as President would choose Musalia Mudavadi as their alternative candidate.

The poll says that 76 percent of those who polled believe that the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) will deliver a free and fair election come March 4th, 2013, with another 77 percent of the respondents expressing confidence in the electoral agency preparations.

Kenya: Inspector General Search Intensifies

By Maureen Waruinge/The Star/11 November 2012

Three more individuals shortlisted for post of Inspector General were yesterday interviewed as the search for the head of the police entered day two.

Those interviewed included Deputy Commandant of Police Training College Joseph Ashimala, David Kimaiyo of the Small Arms Secretariat who defended the actions they took to contain violence during the post election violence. Police Spokesman Eric Kiraithe will be interviewed tomorrow before the panel begins interviewing candidates for the two deputy posts.

ANGOLA :

Half of Angola's exports are sent to China

November 12th, 2012/macauhub

Almost half of Angola's exports are destined for China, whilst sales to other large trading partners, such as the United States and France, continue to lose ground, according to Portuguese bank BPI.

In the first half of last year China accounted for around 35 percent of Angola's exports, but this year that percentage rose to 49 percent, with almost all the other trading partners losing ground, according to figures from Angola's National Statistics Institute (INE) quoted by BPI.

"The increase of over 50 percent in exports to China is notable, whilst other large trading partners saw demand for Angolan products drop significantly," said BPI in its October report on the Angolan economy.

Amongst the countries that saw their significance amongst Angolan export fall are the United States, Canada and France.

Oil products account for the majority of Angolan exports and almost all sales to China.

In terms of Angola's imports China's importance also increased as it accounted for almost 11 percent of the total as compared to 7 percent previously.

The biggest source of Angola's imports continues to be Portugal, which increased its share of the total from almost 14 percent to around 17 percent.

Whilst exports remain "dynamic" imports increased less significantly, BPI said.

Overall, Angola's exports rose 14.1 percent in the six months to June and imports fell 2.6 percent, leading to a balance of trade surplus of 19.9 percent.

Angola's currency, the kwanza, remains stable thanks to "robust" reserves of almost US\$30 billion.

The exchange rate policy of the National Bank of Angola and the accumulation of reserves, "anchored expectations of inflation, as well as actual inflation," the report said.

The IMF projects that the Angolan economy will see growth of 6.8 percent this year and 5.5 percent next year thanks to sectors such as construction, energy, and transport, which have benefitted from an increase in public investment and from debts being settled.

Oil production is expected to total 1.8 million barrels per day, which is more than the 1.6 million average for last year.

Partly due to expected positive growth, the Moody's credit rating agency recently increased its outlook on Angolan debt, from stable to positive (Ba3).

The costs of financing foreign debt remain low – close to 3 percent – with an average maturity of 10 years.

Bilateral creditors such as China, Portugal and Brazil hold a third of Angola's foreign debt, and over half is in the hands of commercial banks. (macauhub)

AU/AFRICA :

West Africa bloc Ecowas agrees to deploy troops to Mali

11 November 2012/bbc.co.uk

West African regional leaders have agreed to deploy 3,300 soldiers to Mali to retake the north from Islamist extremists.

At a summit of Ecowas, the group's chairman said it was ready to use force to "dismantle terrorist and transnational criminal networks".

The soldiers would be provided mainly by Nigeria, Niger and Burkina Faso.

Islamist groups and Tuareg rebels took control of the north after Mali's president was overthrown in March.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Outtara told reporters in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, that the soldiers could be deployed as soon as the UN approved the military plan.

He said he hoped the Security Council would approve the plan by late November or early December.

'Threat to security'

According to a Malian army source quoted by Reuters, the plan covers a six-month period, with a preparatory phase for training and the establishment of bases in Mali's south, followed by combat operations in the north.

Map

The UN had given African leaders 45 days from 12 October to draw up a plan for military intervention to retake the north.

In a statement, the grouping of West African states said that while dialogue remained the preferred option, force might be needed to break up the networks controlling Mali which "pose a threat to international peace and security".

Foreign powers are divided on the best approach to the crisis in Mali.

On Sunday, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian warned that if nothing was done to tackle the situation in Mali it would make the area a "terrorist sanctuary".

"In Mali, it is our own security that is at stake: the security of France, the security of Europe, because if we don't move a terrorist entity will take shape which could hit this or another country, including France, and including Europe," he said in interviews published in French media.

France has said it will offer support but not troops for intervention in its former colony.

But a top advisor to Algeria's president said on Saturday that an international military intervention in the country would be useless.

"The question in Mali is an internal matter and there is no need to further internationalise it," terrorism and security advisor Kamal Rezzag Bara said, according to the Associated Press.

The UN has warned that the Islamist militias are imposing a harsh version of Sharia law on the areas they controlled and that forced marriage, forced prostitution, and rape are becoming widespread.

Sudan: AU Commission Chief Concerned By the Delay in Sudans' Buffer Zone

10 November 2012/SudanTribune

Juba — The Chairperson of the African Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on Saturday welcomed the convening of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) meeting, but regretted the delay in the operationalisation of the buffer zone.

The second ordinary JPSM meeting, held in Juba, the South Sudan capital from 6-8 November, was co-chaired by Sudan Defence Minister, Abdel Rahim Hussein and his South Sudan counterpart, John Kong.

Kong, in a brief media address on Thursday, described the meeting as "fruitful", adding that both parties agreed on the operationalisation of the safe demilitarized military zones as well re-affirming their commitment to implementation of all aspects of the agreement signed on 27 September, including provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding on non-aggression.

His Sudanese counterpart held similar statements about the meeting despite the persistence of diverges over the deployment of troops on the common border of South Kordofan and Blue Nile where the Sudanese army fight rebel groups .

The AU Commission Chairperson, however, expressed concerned that the meeting failed to reach an agreement on practical steps to implement security arrangements contained in the agreements, which were signed by the two countries' leaders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Parliaments of both South Sudan and Sudan also ratified the agreements on 16 and 17 October respectively.

"The Chairperson of the Commission stresses the need for the full and timely implementation of the security arrangements, to enhance confidence between the two States along their common border, and to facilitate the full implementation of all the other Agreements reached," reads a statement from the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

South Sudan defence minister said the joint patrols are to be only deployed in the disputed areas but not on the border with the Two Areas.

The parties will resume talks in Khartoum soon.

In a related development, the AU Commission head also called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, citing the 24 October communiqué issued by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 339th meeting held at ministerial level in Addis Ababa.

The communiqué, also obtained by Sudan Tribune, urged the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement- North (SPLM-North) to convene direct negotiations, under the auspices of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP), by 10 November 2012.

The statement, however, noted that despite sustained efforts by the AUHIP to consult both parties in the conflict, the panel would not be able to convene direct negotiations by 10 November due to "unforeseen logistical reasons".

"Consultations are ongoing for direct talks to be convened as early as possible. The AUHIP, through the AU Commission, will soon announce a date for direct talks," it adds.

An estimated 520,000 people, according to a recent UN report, have been displaced or severely affected by conflict in South Kordofan besides some 205,000 refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile, who are now in South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Mali: un pas de plus vers une intervention militaire internationale
lundi 12 novembre 2012/rtbf.be

L'intervention viserait le nord du Mali occupé par des groupes islamistes armés. Dimanche, les

chefs d'Etat de la Cédéao, la communauté économique des 16 États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest se sont mis d'accord sur un accord-cadre.

Il faudra encore le feu vert de l'Onu pour déployer une force africaine de 3300 hommes aux côtés de l'armée malienne et tenter de rétablir la souveraineté territoriale du Mali.

Selon le schéma adopté dimanche à Abuja, au Nigéria, les 3300 soldats viendront des États membres de la Cédéao. Ils appuieront 5000 soldats maliens mais il est question aussi d'y adjoindre des forces hors Cédéao, des soldats tchadiens, mauritaniens voire sud-africains.

Quant à la France, à cause des 6 otages détenus dans la région et de son statut d'ancienne tutelle coloniale sur le Mali, elle n'engagera pas d'hommes au sol. Avec Paris, Berlin plaidera aussi cette semaine auprès de ses partenaires européens pour la mise sur pied d'un corps de 200 militaires, officiellement chargés de former l'armée malienne très fragilisée et divisée après le putsch du 22 mars.

Reste qu'un autre pays concerné par ce conflit, l'Algérie, ne veut pas d'une intervention occidentale à la frontière et qu'une partie des Maliens est réticente. Pour plusieurs raisons et parce qu'une guerre ne réglera pas les revendications des Touaregs et notamment, qu'elle aura un coût humanitaire dans une zone déjà sinistrée sur le plan alimentaire et économique.

Et tandis que la Cédéao prépare une intervention militaire, elle continue à essayer de négocier avec les islamistes qui font régner la terreur dans la moitié nord du Mali. Un premier résultat est tombé la semaine dernière: un des trois groupes islamiste armé, le groupe Ansar Dine, dirigé par un ancien leader touareg, a affirmé se dissocier du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme.

Françoise Nice

West African bloc agrees on N. Mali troops

AP/cbsnews.com/ November 11, 2012

LAGOS, Nigeria West African nations on Sunday agreed to send some 3,000 troops to help the country of Mali wrest back control of its northern half, which was seized by al Qaeda-linked fighters more than six months ago, according to an official involved in the discussions, and a statement read on Nigerian state television.

The decision came late Sunday at the end of an emergency summit in Nigeria's capital of the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS. They were joined by military experts from the United Nations, Europe as well as ministers from Algeria, Mali's neighbor to the north which has previously been against the military intervention. The plan needs final approval from the U.N. Security Council before it can be carried out.

An official involved in the negotiations said by telephone shortly after the meeting that the nations in West Africa are now unanimous in their decision to go forward with the military operation. He said that they will attempt one more round of negotiations with representatives of the Islamists controlling northern Mali, before moving ahead with the intervention.

"We have agreed that 3,300 troops will be sent from West Africa. In addition, around 5,000 Malian troops will also be involved. If there is no agreement in the talks, we will move in," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

The official said that the largest number of troops will come from Nigeria, which has agreed to send 600 to 700 soldiers, he said. Niger is expected to contribute around 500. And the remaining troops will come from the other 13 nations in the 15-nation ECOWAS bloc. Air power, he said, will be provided by either France or the United States.

Both France and the U.S. have said that they will provide technical and logistical support to the intervention, provided that it is first approved by the United Nations.

Mutinous soldiers overthrew Mali's democratically elected president in March, creating a power vacuum that paved the way for Islamists to grab the north, an area the size of France. In the more than six months since then, the Islamic extremists have imposed a strict form of Shariah law. Music of all kinds has been banned, and people are not even allowed to have a ring tone on their phones, unless it's one based on Quranic recitations. Women have been flogged for failing to cover themselves. And in all three of the major towns in the north, residents have been forced to watch thieves getting their hands hacked off.

The United Nations is expected to meet later this month to review the military plan. Security analysts and diplomats say that even if the deployment of troops to north Mali is approved by the U.N. it could take months to implement.

The official who spoke privately disagrees.

"As soon as they say it's OK, it won't take 24 hours for us to go. If the U.N. says go, we will move in immediately. They (the troops from ECOWAS) will be targeting the hardcore Islamists. Not the Malian nationals — but the foreigners," he said.

In recent weeks, representatives of Ansar Dine, one of the Islamic factions operating in the north, have sent delegations to Burkina Faso and to Algeria in an effort to negotiate a solution in order to avoid a military intervention. Ansar Dine is believed to be made-up mostly of Malian fighters, whereas the two other groups are said to be primarily composed of foreign fighters, some allegedly from as far afield as Pakistan. Mediators are hoping to weaken the Islamic rebel front by peeling off the more moderate members.

Ethiopia's 'Religious Abuse' May Cause Regional Destabilization

10 November 2012/SudanTribune

Addis Ababa — A US religious freedom group has called on Ethiopian authorities to stop what it said was an emerging religious freedom violations against Muslim minorities in the Horn of Africa.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said that if Ethiopia continues to tighten its control against the Muslims, the ongoing mass protests in the east African nation could turn more violent and might lead to a larger destabilization in the already volatile region.

Ethiopia, which is seen as an important regional security ally of the US, has recently been a scene of Muslim protests who accuse government of interference in their religious affairs.

"Given Ethiopia's strategic importance in the Horn of Africa, it is vital that the Ethiopian government ends its religious freedom abuses and allow Muslims to practice peacefully their faith as they see fit", the Commission's Chairwoman Katrina Lantos Swett said.

"Otherwise the government's current policies and practices will lead to greater destabilization of an

already volatile region", she stressed, further calling on the US government to address the issue with the Ethiopia government.

According to USCIRF, escalating violations against religious communities in the name of countering extremism would lead to more extremism, greater instability, and possibly violence.

In recent months Ethiopian Muslims have further intensified their opposition against government's religious policies by staging protests every week following Friday prayers.

Protesters accuse the government of promoting an alien branch of Islam, the Al Ahbash sect, through Ethiopia's highest Muslim body, the Supreme Council on Islamic Affairs.

Ethiopia which fears a hard-line Islamist influence within the predominantly Christian nation, have repeatedly dismissed allegations over press freedom violations and accuse the protesters of attempts to incite Islamic militancy inspired by extremism.

Ethiopian Muslims are estimated to represent around 35 percent of the country's 81 million population.

African Markets - Factors to watch on Nov 12

Mon Nov 12, 2012/Reuters

NAIROBI, Nov 12 (Reuters) - The following company announcements, scheduled economic indicators, debt and currency market moves and political events may affect African markets on Monday.

EVENTS:

*KENYA - General Electric Africa chief executive Jay Ireland gives an update on the firm's investments in Africa focusing on its plans to generate power in Kenya.

GLOBAL MARKETS

Asian shares and oil prices were capped on Monday as investor sentiment was weighed down by concerns over U.S. fiscal woes as well as Greece's bailout, despite improving economic data from the world's two largest economies, the United States and China.

WORLD OIL PRICES

Brent oil slipped below \$109 a barrel on Monday due to demand growth concerns as President Barack Obama struggles to reach a deal to avert a looming U.S. fiscal calamity, overshadowing upbeat data from key consumer China.

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AFRICA DEBT

Nigerian bond yields are likely to decline in the short term after the

country received a ratings upgrade this week and is also set to join a second emerging markets bond index.

SOUTH AFRICA MARKETS

South Africa's rand weakened against the dollar on Friday in light trading volumes influenced by the fall of the euro to a two-month low against the greenback.

Also, stocks fell on Friday, booking their worst weekly decline in more than a month, in line with major overseas markets on growing fears over looming U.S. public spending cuts and tax rises.

NIGERIA MARKETS

Nigerian interbank lending rates fell by 100 basis points this week to an average of 11 percent after the release of about 150 billion naira (\$955 million) to states affected by flooding boosted liquidity.

NIGERIA PETROLEUM

Exxon has shut a pipeline off the coast of Nigeria's Akwa Ibom state after an oil leak started by an unknown cause, the company's local unit said on Saturday.

Also, Shell shut its Imo River oil pipeline in Nigeria on Oct. 31 due to damage caused by thieves and deferred 25,000 barrels per day (bpd) of production, the company's local unit said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive of French oil major Total said he would not deny a report that the firm was in talks to sell assets in Nigeria, worth about \$2.4 billion, to China's Sinopec.

KENYA MARKETS

Shares in Kenya's leading telecoms firm Safaricom hit a two-year high on Friday after forecasting a double-digit rise in revenues this year, while the shilling closed the week flat against the dollar.

KENYA ELECTRICITY

Kenya plans to begin construction of its first nuclear power station to generate 1,000 megawatts (MW) in 2017 to meet growing demand for power, but must first pass laws to regulate nuclear power, a senior government official said on Friday.

KENYA UGANDA TRADE

Landlocked Uganda is worried about the chances of violence in elections next year in neighbouring Kenya and is taking steps to ensure its trade is not disrupted as it was during polls unrest in 2007/08, its junior foreign minister said on Friday.

GHANA MARKETS

Shares in Standard Chartered Bank slipped nearly 2 percent after trading ex-bonus, leading the GSE Composite Index lower to snap an eleventh sessions rise, traders said.

The broader GSE Composite Index fell 2.77 points, or 0.24 percent,

to 1,152.88 points while the Financial Stocks Index was down 3.44 points, or 0.35 percent, to 990.35 points.

GHANA COCOA

Ghana's cocoa purchases reached 138,294 tonnes by Oct. 25 since the season started on Oct. 12, down 37 percent from the 219,255 tonnes recorded over the same period last year, Cocobod data showed on Friday.

RWANDA AID

Western donors must lift an aid freeze on Rwanda, imposed over its alleged support for Congo rebels, to avoid damaging its economy and causing a new crisis in the region, the head of the African Development Bank (AfDB) said.

RWANDA INFLATION

Rwanda's year-on-year urban inflation rate fell to 5.36 percent in October from 5.63 percent in the previous month, the statistics office said on Saturday.

TANZANIA AIRLINE

Precision Air, Tanzania's largest airline, plans to almost double its fleet with five new short-haul turboprop passenger planes in a \$95 million investment to expand services in east Africa.

MAURITIUS ECONOMY

Mauritius' economic growth is expected to accelerate to 4 percent next year from a projected growth rate of 3.4 percent this year, the island state's finance minister said on Friday.

GUINEA MINING

Guinea is focusing a review of its resource contracts on three deals that it says were signed under murky conditions, including an agreement involving one of the world's biggest iron ore deposits, a source close to the review said.

For the latest precious metals report click on

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Economic week ahead: Dark clouds or silver linings?

12 Nov 2012 / Matt Quigley/mg.co.za

Over the coming days, US President Barack Obama will begin talks on the country's fiscal cliff, while China will wrap up its leadership transition.

The eurozone will release growth figures, while Brazil and South Africa – Latin America and Africa's largest economies, respectively – will release retail sales figures. Here is your complete guide to the busy economic week ahead.

North America

The US budget situation will feature prominently this week. Treasury officials will release last month's federal budget numbers on Tuesday. Market consensus is that outlays exceeded receipts by \$113-billion in October, the first month of America's 2013 fiscal year.

Later in the week, President Barack Obama will begin talks with congressional leaders on America's "fiscal cliff", the term analysts have given to the roughly \$600-billion in spending cuts and tax hikes scheduled to take effect in January without congressional action. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and many on Wall Street fear that the shock of these tax rises and spending cuts would throw the world's largest economy back into recession.

In between these political events, markets will have plenty of standard economic data to mull over. Wednesday will bring last month's retail sales and producer price index (PPI) figures. Consumer price index (CPI), new jobless claims and two manufacturing surveys will follow on Thursday. The week will close with industrial production statistics on Friday.

Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expect retail sales data to show a 0.1% monthly decline. The PPI is predicted to have risen 0.2% in October, following a 1.1% rise in the previous month. The CPI is forecast to have risen 0.1%, down from 0.6% in September.

Analysts surveyed by Dow Jones expect both the New York and Philadelphia Federal Reserves' regional manufacturing gauges to have lost ground last month. Industrial production is likely to have risen 0.2% in October, after rising 0.4% in September.

Europe

Global markets will be nervously focused on Europe this week. The eurozone's finance ministers will meet on Monday to consider, among other matters, whether or not Greece has done enough to warrant another tranche of funding.

Greece's Prime Minister, Antonis Samaras, has warned that his country could run out of money by Friday unless the European Union, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank release roughly €31-billion in aid. Recent press reports have speculated that, although officials may not give Greece everything it desires, some funding will be released to avoid an immediate crisis.

Beyond Greece, investors will be eagerly awaiting Germany's ZEW economic sentiment indicator and the United Kingdom's latest consumer price index (CPI) readings. Both are scheduled for release on Tuesday.

Economists expect the closely followed ZEW economic sentiment index to improve to a reading of minus 8.5 following minus 11.5 last month. In the United Kingdom, the annual pace of consumer inflation is forecast to rise to 2.5% in October from 2.2% in September. Analysts expect the Bank of England to admit on Wednesday that inflation is proving to be more "sticky" than officials had hoped.

Finally, Europe's latest GDP numbers – scheduled for release on Thursday – will undoubtedly show that the 17-member eurozone remains in an economic funk. Individual figures from Germany and France – the currency bloc's two largest states – are likely to show anaemic growth. Numbers from Italy and Spain – the group's next largest members – are widely expected to point to continuing contraction.

Asia

China's leadership transition will continue to occupy centre stage in Asia this week. State media reported that the Communist Party Congress' presidium – comprised of 41-current and former members of the Party's leadership – approved the candidate list for the Central Committee and sent it to the Congress's 2 268 delegates on Saturday.

Delegates will cast their votes for the 350-member committee before the close of their gathering on Wednesday. The new Central Committee will, in turn, select the country's top leadership. At the top of the list, Vice President Xi Jinping is widely expected to replace President Hu Jintao.

China's new leadership will inherit an economy – the world's second largest – that has slowed significantly from its pre-crisis highs, but has shown recent signs of improvement. Data released on Friday covering industrial production, investment and retail sales all beat market expectations and inflation came in lower than anticipated. Lower than expected inflation may give authorities more room to loosen monetary policy to further encourage growth.

Elsewhere in Asia this week, India will release industrial production statistics on Monday. Economists surveyed by Reuters expect the data to show that year on year output rose 2.8% in September, the fastest rate of growth since February, but still well below the double-digit growth recorded before the global financial crisis of 2008.

Officials will report wholesale price index (WPI) readings on Wednesday. Inflation rose to its highest level of the current fiscal year in September. Economists expect evidence of continuing pressures in this week's data.

Latin America

Brazil – the region's largest economy – will release retail sales figures on Tuesday. The central bank's latest economic activity index reading and formal job creation figures will follow on Wednesday.

Markets expect retail sales growth to remain unchanged at 0.2% monthly growth in September. On an annual basis, growth is expected to fall from 10.1% in August to 8.7% in September.

Analysts at 4CAST expect the central bank's economic activity index – a monthly GDP proxy – to show a 1.2% contraction in September following a 0.98% rise in August. Markets expect the CAGED formal job creation numbers to show that Brazil added 81 700 positions in October, down from 150 334 in September.

Mexico – Latin America's other economic heavyweight – will also feature prominently in this week's news. Government officials will release industrial production numbers on Monday and economic growth figures on Friday. Markets expect industrial output to have dropped to 3.0% year on year growth in September from 3.6% in August. Mexico's finance ministry expects gross domestic product to have expanded 3.3%, year on year, in the third quarter, down from 4.1% growth during the previous three months of the year.

Elsewhere in the region, the Central Bank of Chile will announce its latest rates decision on Tuesday. Economists expect officials to leave the bank's nominal overnight rate on hold at 5.0% for the tenth straight month. Healthy domestic demand, a tight labour market and copper export earnings have helped keep the country growing at a comparatively strong pace.

Africa

This week is a busy one for South Africa, the continent's largest economy. Trade information will dominate on Monday as officials release September's detailed trade numbers and the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry issues the results of its October trade conditions survey.

On Wednesday, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) will step to the fore with retail trade numbers. Markets expect the data to show that retail sales growth slipped from 6.4% annual growth in August to 5.4% growth in September.

On Thursday, Stats SA will release wholesale trade, motor trade, building statistics and civil cases for debt. All releases cover September's data.

Elsewhere on the continent, Namibia, Ghana and Tanzania will release their latest CPI readings. Uganda will release M3 money supply figures, Kenya will fix petrol prices and Ghana's central bank will decide on changes to its benchmark interest rate.

The rate-setting committee of the Bank of Ghana left the bank's key monetary policy rate on hold at 15.0% at its most recent meeting in September. Analysts expect them to do the same at this week's meeting.

Finally, markets will be keeping a close eye on Uganda's shilling over the coming days after Norway announced last week that it would join Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom in suspending foreign aid payments to Africa's largest coffee producer. The announcement followed a report by the country's auditor general that more than €12-million in aid intended for reconstruction projects had been diverted into unauthorised accounts.

Matt Quigley writes a weekly economic preview for the Mail & Guardian. You can follow him on Twitter at @mattquigley

UN/AFRICA :

UN gives ECOWAS green light to move into Mali
12/11/euronews.com

ECOWAS troops with UN backing may soon be on their way into northern Mali following agreement at the UN.

West Africa's regional bloc, meeting in Nigeria, agreed on Sunday to send 3300 troops, mostly from Nigeria, Burkina Fasso and Niger, and want to have battle plans ready for UN approval by the end of November.

The force may be joined by other African nations, and two or three non-African states.

"We are waiting for the green light from the UN Security Council which we expect hopefully by the end of this month, or the beginning of December, and the intervention forces will be in place a few days after that," said ECOWAS chairman and Ivory Coast President Alassane Outtara.

The Malian government has appealed for help after losing the northern half of its territory to a now-fractured alliance of Tuareg rebels and Islamic militants.

The former, along with Islamic group Ansar Dine are now in talks after infighting with al-Qaeda-affiliated groups.

The Tuaregs rose after what they claim is years of neglect from Bamako, while Ansar Dine wants Sharia law for Mali's muslim north, but neither seem to want al-Qaeda taking over their struggle.

US/AFRICA :

Ethiopia: What Should Ethiopians Expect in a Second Obama Term?

By Alemayehu G. Mariam/by nazret.com/11/11/12

What Should Ethiopians Expect in a Second Obama Term?

It is proper to congratulate President Obama on his re-election to a second term. He put up a masterful campaign to earn the votes of the majority of American voters. Mitt Romney also deserves commendation for a hard fought campaign. In his concession speech Romney was supremely gracious: "At a time like this we can't risk partisan bickering and political posturing. Our leaders have to reach across the aisle to do the people's work, and we citizens also have to rise to occasion."

There has been a bit of finger-wagging, teeth-gnashing, eye-rolling and bellyaching among some Ethiopian Americans in the run up to the U.S. presidential election held last week. Some were angry at President Obama and actively campaigned in support of his opponent. They felt betrayed by the President's inability or unwillingness to give effect to his lofty rhetoric on human rights in Africa and Ethiopia. Others were disappointed by what they believed to be active support for and aid to brutal African dictators. Many tried to be empathetic of the President's difficult circumstances. He had to formulate American foreign policy to maximize achievement of American global national interests. Terrorism in the Horn of Africa was a critical issue for the U.S. and Obama had to necessarily subordinate human rights to global counter-terrorism issues.

I was quite disappointed by the President's failure to implement even a rudimentary human rights agenda in Ethiopia and the rest of Africa. But I also understood that he had some fierce battles to fight domestically trying to shore up the American economy, pushing some basic social policies, fighting two wars and putting out brushfires in a conflict-ridden world. I gave the President credit for a major diplomatic achievement in the South Sudan referendum which led to the creation of Africa's newest state. President Obama authorized the deployment of a small contingent of U.S. troops to capture or kill the bloodthirsty thug Joseph Kony and his criminal partners. He launched the kleptocracy project which I thought was a great idea. As I argued in my column "Africorruption, Inc.", the "business of African governments in the main is corruption. The majority of African 'leaders' seize political power to operate sophisticated criminal enterprises to loot their national treasuries and resources." I felt the kleptocracy project could effectively prevent illicit money transfer from Ethiopia to the U.S. According to Global Financial Integrity, Ethiopia lost US\$11.7 billion to illicit financial outflows between 2000 and 2009. I gave the president high marks for working through the U.N. to pass U.N. Resolution 1973 which endorsed the effort to protect Libyan civilians and his use of NATO partners to shoulder much of the military responsibility to rid Gadhafi from Libya after 41 years of brutal dictatorship. More broadly, I give him credit for closing secret C.I.A. prisons, ending extraordinary renditions and enhanced interrogations (torture), trying to close down the detention camp in Guantánamo Bay and move trials from military tribunals into

civilian courts and abide by international laws of human rights. No doubt, he has much more to do in the area of global human rights.

I believe he could have done a lot more in Africa and Ethiopia to promote human rights, but did not. I have written numerous columns over the past couple of years that have been very critical of U.S. policy. In the "The Moral Hazard of U.S. Policy in Africa", I argued that neither the U.S. nor the West could afford to sacrifice democracy and human rights in Africa to curry favor with incorrigible African dictators whose sole interest is in clinging to power to enrich themselves and their cronies. In my column, "Thugtatorship: The Highest Stage of African Dictatorship", I argued Africa's thugtatorships have longstanding and profitable partnerships with the West. Through aid and trade, the West and particularly the U.S. has enabled these thugocracies to flourish in Africa. A few months ago, in my column "Ethiopia in Bond Aid," I argued that international aid is negatively affecting Africa's development. "Before much of Africa became 'independent' in the 1960s, Africans were held under the yoke of 'colonial bondage'. 'International aid' addiction has transformed Africa's colonial bondage into neo-colonial bondaid." In another recent column "Ethiopia: Food for Famine and Thought!", I criticized the G8 Food Security Summit held in Washington, D.C. this past June as a reinvention of the old colonialism: "The G-8's 'New Alliance' smacks of the old Scramble for Africa. The G-8 wants to liberate Africa from hunger, famine and starvation by facilitating the handover of millions of hectares of Africa's best land to global multinationals..."

But despite disappointments, misgivings, apprehensions and concern over the Obama Administration's failure to actively promote human rights in Ethiopia and Africa, I have supported President Obama. For all his faults, he has been an inspiring leader to me. Like many Americans, I was awed by state Senator Obama's keynote speech at the Democratic national Convention in 2004 when he unapologetically declared: "There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America. There is not a liberal America. There is not a conservative America. There is a United States of America." These words continue to inspire me to dream of the day when young Ethiopian men and women shall come together from all parts of the country and shout out and sing the words, "There is not an Oromo Ethiopia, Amhara Ethiopia, Tigray Ethiopia, Gurage Ethiopia, Ogadeni Ethiopia, Anuak Ethiopia... There is only a united Ethiopia where 'justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.'"

During the advocacy effort to pass H.R. 2003 ("Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act of 2007"), we had opportunities to meet with U.S. Senator Obama's staffers in his district office and on the Hill on a number of occasions. Our meetings were encouraging and there was little doubt that Senator Obama would support H.R. 2003 if the bill had made it to the Senate floor after it passed the House of Representatives in October 2007. In February 2008, our advocacy group, the Coalition for H.R. 2003, formally endorsed Barack Obama's presidential bid. We declared that "it is time for the U.S. to abandon its support of African dictators, and pursue policies that uplift and advance the people of Africa. It is time for an American president who will stand up for human rights in Ethiopia, and demand of those who violate human rights to stand down!"

Over the last four years, our enthusiasm and support for the President flagged and waned significantly as Africa remained on the fringes of U.S. foreign policy agenda. During the recent presidential "foreign policy debate" Africa was barely mentioned. There was only passing reference to Al Qaeda's presence in Mali, the third poorest country on the planet. (According to the Economist Magazine, Ethiopia is the poorest country on the planet.) But not to make excuses, the President had a lot on his foreign policy plate. The Arab Spring was spreading like wildfire sweeping out longtime dictators. Nuclear proliferation in the Middle East remains a critical issue. The global economic meltdown threatens certain European countries with total economic collapse.

Hope Springs Eternal in Ethiopia and the Rest of Africa

I am hopeful that human rights in Africa will occupy a prominent role in the foreign policy agenda of President Obama's second term. An indication of such a trend may be evident in the announcement two days after President Obama's reelection that he will be visiting Myanmar (Burma) in a couple of weeks. After five decades of ruthless military dictatorship, Myanmar is gradually transforming itself into a democracy. President Thein Sein has released political prisoners, lifted media bans and implemented economic and political reforms. Amazingly, pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is the acknowledged opposition leader in parliament after two decades of house arrest. Last week, a State Department spokesperson underscored the need for human rights improvement in Ethiopia according to a Voice of America report. There are favorable signs the Obama Administration will pursue a more aggressive human rights agenda in Africa.

President Obama Would Like to Leave a Legacy of Democracy and Freedom in Africa

Historically, second-term presidents become increasingly focused on foreign policy. They also become acutely aware of the legacy they would like to leave after they complete their second term. I believe President Obama would like to leave a memorable and monumental legacy of human rights in Africa. I cannot believe that he is so indifferent to Africa that he would leave it in worse condition than he found it. When he became president, much of Africa was dominated by dictators who shot their way to power or rigged elections to get into power. In much of Africa today, the absence of the rule of law is shocking to the conscience. Massive human rights violations are commonplace. In Ethiopia, journalists, dissidents, opposition leaders, peaceful demonstrators, civil society and human rights advocates are jailed, harassed and persecuted every day.

Needless to say, for President Obama Africa is the land of his father even though he was born and raised in America. I believe President Obama, like most immigrant Ethiopian Americans, would like to help the continent not only escape poverty but also achieve better governance and greater respect for the rule of law. He would like to see Africa having free and fair elections and improved human rights conditions. In his book *Dreams From My Father*, he wrote, "... It was into my father's image, the black man, son of Africa, that I'd packed all the attributes I sought in myself, the attributes of Martin and Malcolm, DuBois and Mandela. And if later I saw that the black men I knew – Frank or Ray or Will or Rafiq – fell short of such lofty standards; if I had learned to respect these men for the struggles they went through, recognizing them as my own – my father's voice had nevertheless remained untainted, inspiring, rebuking, granting or withholding approval. You do not work hard enough, Barry. You must help in your people's struggle. Wake up, black man!" A man whose life's inspiration comes from Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, W.E. B. DuBois and Nelson Mandela cannot ignore or remain indifferent to the suffering of African peoples. I think he will help Africans in their struggle for dignity in his second term.

U.S. Human Rights Policy in the Post Arab Spring Period

In the post-Arab Spring world, the U.S. has come to realize that its formula of subordinating its human rights policy to security and economic interests in dealing with dictators needs reexamination, recalibration and reformulation. By relying on dictators to maintain domestic and regional stability, the U.S. has historically ignored and remained indifferent to the needs, aspirations and suffering of the Arab masses. When the Arab masses exploded in anger, the U.S. was perplexed and did not know what to do.

The U.S. has been timid in raising human rights issues with Africa's dictators fearing lack of cooperation in the war on terror and other strategic objectives. The U.S. effort has been limited to issuing empty verbal exhortations and practicing "quite diplomacy" which has produced very little

to advance an American human rights agenda. I believe the President understands that America's long term global interests cannot be advanced or achieved merely through moral exhortations and condemnations. We know that the President's style is to exhaust diplomacy before taking more drastic measures. As he explained, "The promotion of human rights cannot be about exhortation alone. At times, it must be coupled with painstaking diplomacy. I know that engagement with repressive regimes lacks the satisfying purity of indignation. But I also know that sanctions without outreach--and condemnation without discussion--can carry forward a crippling status quo. No repressive regime can move down a new path unless it has the choice of an open door." For the past four years, few African dictators have walked through the door that leads to democracy and human rights. Many of them have kicked it shut. I am hopeful that in the second term, the President will go beyond "exhortation" to concrete action in dealing with African dictators since he holds their aid purse strings.

President Obama is Not Just a President But Also a Constitutional Lawyer and...

I believe President Obama's experiences before he became a national leader continue to have great influence on his thinking and actions. As a constitutional and civil rights lawyer, I believe he has an innate sense of moral distaste and repugnance for injustice and arbitrariness. President Obama cut his teeth as a lawyer representing individuals in civil and voting rights litigation and wrongful terminations in employment though he could have joined any one of the most prestigious law firms in America. He spent his early years doing grassroots organizing and advocacy working with churches and community groups to help the poor and disadvantaged. To be sure, he has spent more time doing community work than serving on the national political stage. As a constitutional and civil rights lawyer, law professor and advocate for the poor, I believe President Obama understands the immense importance of the rule of law, protection of civil liberties and human rights and the need to restrain those who abuse their powers and sneer at the rule of law. I think the community activist side of him will be more visible in his second term.

Ask Not What Obama Can Do for Ethiopia, But...

Some of us make the mistake of asking what President Obama can do for us. The right question is what we can do for Ethiopia by organizing, mobilizing and lobbying the Obama Administration to establish and pursue a firm human rights agenda. In his victory speech on election night President Obama said, "The role of citizen in our democracy does not end with your vote. America's never been about what can be done for us. It's about what can be done by us together through the hard and frustrating, but necessary work of self-government." Governor Romney in his concession speech said, "At a time like this we can't risk partisan bickering and political posturing. Our leaders have to reach across the aisle to do the people's work, and we citizens also have to rise to occasion." These are the principles Ethiopian Americans, and others in the Diaspora and at home, should embrace and practice. It should be time for a fresh start. We should learn from past mistakes and begin to organize and reach out in earnest to the Obama Administration. Many groups have had success with the Administration in advancing their causes including Arab Americans, Iranian Americans, Armenian Americans, Macedonian Americans, Serbian Americans and many others. As human rights activists and advocates, we should demand engagement by senior U.S. officials and diplomats on human rights issues.

The U.S. knows how to apply pressure on dictators who have been "friends". In the 1980s, the U.S. played a central role in the transition of the Philippines, Chile, Taiwan, and South Korea from dictatorship to democracy. The United States also kept human rights agenda front and center when it conducted negotiations with the Soviet Union and other Soviet-bloc countries. The question is not whether the U.S. can advance a vigorous human rights agenda in Ethiopia or Africa, but if it has the political will to do so. I am hopeful that will will manifest itself in President Obama's second term.

US in Tough Contest for Human Rights Council Seat

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press/(AP)/ November 12, 2012

UNITED NATIONS

The United States is competing with four Western countries for three seats on the Human Rights Council in the only contested election at the U.N.'s top human rights body.

The 193-member General Assembly is scheduled to vote Monday for 18 members of the 47-member council.

African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American countries have put forward uncontested slates whose candidates are virtually certain of victory.

Several human rights groups have criticized a number of these candidates as unqualified including Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Venezuela.

The five Western nations competing for seats — the U.S., Germany, Greece, Ireland and Sweden — were all deemed qualified by the rights groups.

Hillel Neuer, executive director of the Geneva-based advocacy group UN Watch, called the absence of competition in four out of the five regional slates "scandalous."

He said at the group's annual luncheon at U.N. headquarters ahead of the vote, on Friday, that the United States was the last of the five candidates to enter the race and found that many countries had already made commitments to the other candidates.

"Most people that I've spoken to say America is polling somewhere either fourth or fifth," he said. "If they do lose ... we think it will be a setback for the council. We don't agree with everything America has done but UN Watch thinks America has been a leader of the few good things that have occurred."

Philippe Boloignon, United Nations director for Human Rights Watch, said that to its credit, the Western group is the only regional group allowing true competition in Monday's election.

"As a result, and despite its highly effective engagement in the Human Rights Council, the U.S. faces a tough yet healthy competition," he said.

Boloignon said it was sad that the Africa, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American groups at the U.N. "have pre-cooked this election by offering as many candidates as they have been allotted seats." He said this is "making a mockery" of the standard set by the General Assembly that all candidates for the council "uphold the highest standards" of human rights.

The Human Rights Council was created in March 2006 to replace the U.N.'s widely discredited and highly politicized Human Rights Commission. But the council has also been widely criticized for failing to change many of the commission's practices, including putting much more emphasis on Israel than on any other country and electing candidates accused of serious human rights violations.

Former President George W. Bush's administration boycotted the council when it was established over its repeated criticism of Israel and its refusal to cite flagrant rights abuses in Sudan and

elsewhere. But in 2009, then newly elected President Barack Obama sought to join the council saying the U.S. wanted to help make it more effective.

In that contest, the U.S. was elected on an uncontested slate winning 167 votes, far more than the 97 vote majority needed.

Amnesty International's U.N. representative, Jose Luis Dias, said member states "should return a blank ballot if they feel a candidate does not meet the high human rights standards expected of council members."

Amnesty has written letters to all candidates urging them to demonstrate their commitment to human rights, he said.

For example, Dias said, the organization has called on Ethiopia to instruct the security services to remove barriers to the work of human rights defenders and journalists and has highlighted Ivory Coast's 2010 Supreme Court ruling upholding a husband's right to "discipline his wife and children, provided that this left no visible marks."

The African candidates are Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya and Sierra Leone. The Asian Group candidates are Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates. The Eastern European Group candidates are Estonia and Montenegro, and the Latin American and Caribbean Group candidates are Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

Australia concedes lead in solar thermal technology to South Africa

By Giles Parkinson /reneweconomy.com.au/ 12 November 2012

It is ironic that in the same week that the ambitious \$1.2 billion Solar Dawn solar thermal project in south-west Queensland should finally be put to rest, construction of two solar thermal projects – with storage – should begin in South Africa.

The last chance for the Solar Dawn consortium led by French nuclear giant Areva for the construction of a 250MW solar thermal plant in Queensland, or even a scaled down version of it, was removed when the Australian Renewable Energy Agency rejected its funding proposal – after the federal government had done so under the previous Solar Flagships program.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, the Spanish group Abengoa last week began construction of two solar thermal projects boasting a mixture of solar tower and parabolic trough technologies. The 50MW Khi Solar One and 100MW KaXu Solar One CSP (concentrating solar power, another name for solar thermal) projects will feature storage and dry cooling technologies, to reduce water demands.

These are the sort of projects that should be pioneered and deployed in Australia. Instead, Australia's obsession with grandiose schemes, its inflexible funding arrangements, and the lack of

true support from state governments and major utilities, mean South Africa will lead and Australia will follow.

The failure of the Solar Flagships program, or the inability of various projects to lock in power price arrangements is not a failure of technology, as many would like to portray it, but a failure of policy – where the hubris of government overwhelms sound technical advice from the industry. It was an idea dreamed up by the egos in the office of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, and the bureaucrats were never able to meet the impossible task of matching such grandiose dreams – of having the biggest, but not necessarily the best – with sound policies. The coup-de-grace was delivered by Queensland Premier Campbell Newman in a similarly grand-standing gesture.

Greg Bourne, the chairman of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, is now tasked with addressing that policy shortfall, but at least he has more realistic goals. And certainly there is no room for sentiment. Effectively, the first act of Ivor Frischknecht, the CEO of ARENA, has been to reject a project featuring the technology in which he was once an investor, in his role at Starfish Ventures, which was an investor in Ausra, which developed the compact linear reflector technology that Solar Dawn was proposing to use.

Given the funds at his disposal, and his timeframe, Bourne and Frischknecht have indicated that he will be focusing on regional and remote regions, and looking at hybrid solutions in areas where fossil fuel is already expensive.

The one opportunity that Australia now has for a solar thermal project in the short term may well be in Port August, where Alinta has held some discussions with ARENA, for a possible replacement of its coal-fired power stations there. What they may propose, however, is a hybrid systems no dissimilar to the solar booster that is currently being built in Queensland by Areva.

But the importance of solar thermal should not be underestimated. Even the Energy White Paper, a conservative document prepared by the Federal Energy ministry and released last week, said 16 per cent of Australia's electricity demand could be sourced from solar thermal by 2050. That could make Australia a leader in solar thermal, but for the moment it trails.

That, however, was built around a rather conservative estimate of CSP costs. The Energy White Paper estimates CSP estimates costs of \$322-\$399/MWh. This compares to \$280/MWh in the South African case, and estimates of around \$250/MWh by Australia's solar industry.

South Africa is succeeding with stand alone systems because it has introduced a market-focused system that has successfully attracted many of the world's largest solar and other alternative energy developers, through an auction-based system that has attracted more than \$5 billion of projects in its first two auctions.

The ACT is the only state or territory government that has pursued a similar strategy, albeit at a much smaller scale. It has so far had one round of bidding that should see a 20MW solar PV project being built near Canberra by the end of 2013.

In South Africa, the Khi Solar One and KaXu Solar One projects both have power purchase agreements with the state-owned power utility Eskom in place, and financing with a range of South African and international financial institutions.

Abengoa says the dry cooling technologies will reduce water consumption by around two thirds compared to other CSP plants, while Khi Solar One will have two hours storage, and Kaxu will have three hours storage to provide greater flexibility and the ability to dispatch power to meet

demand after sunset.

The tragedy is that those projects could, and should, have been built first in Australia. But Australia was too obsessed with projects of a grandiose nature that it lost the opportunity.

EU/AFRICA :

The European Union to cut Latin American banana duties

12 November 2012 /FOCUS News Agency/focus-fen.ne

Brussels. The European Union will cut Latin American banana duties, Telegraf daily informs. That will affect the price of bananas in Bulgaria by about BGN 0.07. EU lawmakers and 10 Latin American countries put an end to a 20-year-old dispute on the discriminatory import tariffs levied by the EU on Latin American bananas. The countries signed an agreement to settle eight cases with the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The dispute dates back to 1990 when Latin American countries lodged an appeal with WTO against high duties levied by the EU in order to protect smaller growers in former European colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The EU pledged as early as 2009 to lower duties from EUR 176 to EUR 114.

Europe to send 400 special forces to Mali

By Mike Pflanz, Nairobi/telegraph.co.uk/11 Nov 2012

European armies are expected to send up to 400 special forces troops to Mali to join an African-led mission against Islamists allied to al-Qaeda occupying the country's desert north, diplomats said.

West African leaders met on Sunday in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, to put the final touches to a military plan drawn up with input from the EU and the United Nations.

The mission, expected to launch early next year, will be made up of as many as 3,300 troops, most of them from Mali but with reinforcements from Niger, Burkina Faso and other African nations.

"We expect that there will be support from the EU in the order of 200 to 400 military support troops to help train the African Union force," one European diplomat with knowledge of the proceedings said.

The soldiers would mostly be tasked with training local forces and would not take part in fighting, the diplomat added.

Ansar Dine, an Islamist militia with ties to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, seized territory the size of France in Mali's north after a military coup in March that ousted the government in the capital, Bamako.

Since then, the group has implemented strict Islamic law and has desecrated ancient sites in Timbuktu, claiming that they were "idolatrous" and against Islam.

International security agencies fear that northern Mali could become a safe haven for foreign fighters allied to al-Qaeda who are seeking territory from which to launch attacks against Western interests.

At the opening of the talks, Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria's president, said that the mission's aim would be to defeat the Islamists to a "avert costly consequences".

Military strategists from France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Poland will meet on Thursday to discuss their expected support for the intervention.

Britain has said that "no option is off the table" but has stopped short of committing resources so far.

The blueprint agreed in Abuja will be sent to the United Nations for discussion ahead of a Security Council resolution expected before the end of November.

CHINA/AFRICA :

US and China provide a study in political contrasts

by Tim Cohen/bdlive.co.za/12 novembre 2012

THE past fortnight has seen a glorious exercise in political contrasts: a grand but rather ageing democracy going through a tried and tested democratic ritual, and the world's new superpower embarking on a strange process of changing the leadership guard in which the populace is only dimly recognised, never mind consulted. The contrast between the US election and the 18th Communist Party Conference is fabulously intensified by the economic background.

In China, outgoing President Hu Jintao has presided over a decade in which China has gone from being the world's sixth-largest economy to its second largest, it has more than quadrupled its gross domestic product (GDP), living standards have risen drastically, and its share of global GDP had increased from 7% to 15%. By contrast, the US has trodden water economically in absolute terms over the past decade, but its share of global GDP has declined from 23% to 19%.

When newly elected President Barack Obama says in his victory speech that the best years for the greatest nation on earth lie ahead, the world nods sagely in disagreement: everybody understands the politics of the statement, but nobody believes it. By the time Obama leaves office, these two countries will be equal global economic players.

Behind this magnificent global drama lies a question of existential grandness: are our societies better run by careless, instinctive majorities or by careful, considered experts? It is the battle of the voice from above versus the voice from below.

The question is so fundamental, it reflects in South Africa's politics too. Half of South Africa's Cabinet believe the citizenry would all be better off if they would just shut up and listen. They hanker for the Chinese Communist Party's power and influence, and also for its "scientific" economic method.

It's easy to ridicule the gyrations that Chinese politicians go through to harmonise the Marxist-Maoist philosophical heritage with the quasi-capitalist state the Chinese government has put in place. The Financial Times notes, for example, that Hu announced at the beginning of the congress that his most important achievement, beyond even greater wealth for the Chinese people, is a kind of personal philosophy called the "Scientific Outlook on Development", which is about to be

elevated into the party constitution.

The main aim of the philosophy is social harmony, which has taken on a kind of Brave New World connotation for Chinese dissidents who talk of being "harmonised" whenever they are censored, which is often.

Yet while many in the West are quick — generally speaking, correctly — to point out the flaws and contradictions, I personally am more respectful. Even if you factor in the weaknesses and dangers, it's impossible to just sweep away the great strides China has taken over the past three decades. They must be doing something right, surely?

I suspect what Hu has tapped into is Chinese traditions that go beyond communism and interpreted them in terms of a Marxist outlook rather than the other way around. He has reached way back into fundamental Chinese self-consciousness; a deep intellectual and pragmatic tradition of action and complicity.

He describes the salient aspects of the "scientific" outlook that no westerner would regard as remotely scientific but as Eastern mythic: "Freeing up the mind, seeking truth from facts, keeping up with the times and being realistic and pragmatic."

It is significant that he has been not only the most successful Chinese leader of the modern era but also the most innocuous and bland: he credits his own addition to the party philosophy not to himself but to the "the crystallisation of the collective wisdom of the Communist Party of China and a powerful theoretical weapon for guiding all the work of the party and country".

This is the surface view of modern China, but everything is, of course, not what it seems. Even after all this growth, the average Chinese person is still only about a quarter as rich as the average Japanese person. On a per capita basis, even in purchasing power parity terms, the average Chinese is no richer than the average Brazilian, and — brace yourself — still quite a bit poorer than the average South African.

China has caught up, no doubt, but as impressive as the past three decades have been, catching up is different from overtaking. Catching up is, surely, the easy part; all it means is that you made up the ground you lost; it doesn't mean you have actually progressed.

The surface view of the US, by contrast, is not particularly great. Obama's victory has been welcomed around the world, relieved that a president seems to live by Hu's contribution to the party lexicon. In foreign policy, he is, after all, the president of seeking truth from facts and of being realistic and pragmatic — it's a delicious irony.

Yet, US politics is complicated, and as China moves away from dogmatism, the American right seems to be embracing it. I get a sense that many don't really appreciate the magnitude of the Obama victory. Not only has no US president since Franklin D Roosevelt in 1940 been re-elected before when unemployment was higher than 7.2% (it's now just over 8%), but Obama's approval ratings have been well below the average for first-term presidents.

The Republicans fielded a moderate candidate, with a sterling business career at a time when the US economy was stuttering.

Mitt Romney should have been a shoo-in.

Yet Romney managed to win fewer votes in total than John McCain's disastrous campaign four

years ago when McCain had to fight a charismatic new face on the national stage and simultaneously deal with the dreadful legacy of the Bush era.

As one of my favourite podcast presenters said, Romney lost votes in places a conservative throw-rug would have won them.

The key moment of the campaign for me was when Karl Rove, the renowned Grand Old Party adviser, got involved in an epic live-on-TV battle with the conservative television stations own pollsters. He refused to believe that Michigan had been lost.

In doing so, he inadvertently underlined precisely the central critique of the party: that it is congenitally unable to, as Hu would put it, free the mind, keep up with the times and seek truth from facts.

Obama enters his second term with the wind at his back, but the Republicans maintain control over the House of Representatives, which now includes politicians right on the edge of real-world politics.

The result will be a fractious term at a moment when unity of purpose would be the most sensible course. In a strange corner of his mind, I wonder whether Obama wouldn't sneakily prefer a little Chinese autocracy for a year or two, even as Chinese citizens yearn for a little US-styled democracy.

Oddly, this is the moment when China and the US ought to be looking to each other's systems for inspiration — but of course they won't.

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DESPITE losing the election, there are two economic issues on which Mitt Romney is generally considered by economists to be on the right track: that government s should not choose winners and that the US deficit is unsustainably high.

Most economists, you would guess, would claim Romney is right in principle, but most politicians would claim that he is wrong in politics. Romney famously wrote an opinion article, published in the Wall Street Journal, saying that General Motors should be allowed to disappear into bankruptcy. Barack Obama effectively used taxpayers' money to save General Motors, thereby increasing his support in the crucial swing-state of Michigan.

On the other side of the world, the Chinese government economically seems to do little else other than choose winners. There are 145,000 state-owned enterprises in China, The New York Times reports, which constitute about 35% of the economy, and, significantly, 45% of corporate profits. And we think we have problems!

Yet, just like Eskom, state-owned enterprises can game the regulatory system to reduce competition and boost their profits. They also benefit from controlled low-interest loans.

The simple reason why economists would argue against government s choosing winners is that they are bad at it, and they usually lose money over the medium term, as South Africa's chosen "winners", such as South African Airways and Telkom, amply demonstrate.

Yet, it's obvious that the details are important. The apartheid government was curiously good at choosing winners, and Sasol's continued existence is an excellent example. Heterodox Korean

economist Ha-Joon Chang has challenged this view too, often citing examples from his own country.

It's possible that although governments should generally stay away from choosing winners, in certain circumstances they can act as something akin to large-scale venture capitalists. But this is only possible if they truly have the expertise and business acumen that venture capitalists have. And that unusual pairing seldom happens.

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OF ALL the acts of craven hypocrisy in the recent past, has there been anything to beat the grotesque insincerity of President Jacob Zuma pretending to honour his predecessor Thabo Mbeki this weekend?

The former president slipped out of town for the occasion, presumably out of a fear that he might throw up during this transparent act of fake veneration. Zuma is now running a bit short of support among Xhosa speakers particularly, so he has chosen the month before the African National Congress's electoral conference to lay down a little love for the second-most famous Xhosa person in the world, the person whom he ousted, and, of course, who ousted him.

Zuma described Mbeki as a "loyal cadre" and "true patriot" during the "difficult and devastating period of his recall from office", as though this period had nothing to do with him. It's a pity that Zuma did nothing to stand up for this loyal cadre and patriot at the time.

Politics is about having it both ways, but even for the cynical among us, this is a new low.

China buys into Standard Bank unit

November 12 2012 /Reuters

Argentina had given approval for the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) to take control of the local operations of South Africa's Standard Bank following a \$600 million (R5.2 billion) deal last year, the Chinese lender said yesterday.

ICBC, the world's biggest bank by market value, will take 80 percent of Standard Bank Argentina and its two affiliates, asset manager Standard Investments and commercial service provider Inversora Diagnol.

Standard Bank will have its stake in all three firms reduced to 20 percent.

Reuters reported on the takeover approval citing an official source who declined to be named. – Reuters

INDIA/AFRICA :

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