



[Ghana's incumbent president, John Dramani Mahama, has secured a first round victory in an election which was extended because of the malfunctioning of voter-identification machines. Mahama had over 50 percent of votes cast from the country's 275 constituencies, according to results declared by the electoral body. Nana Akufo-Addo, the main opposition candidate, had 47.7 percent, the result showed.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

**RDC : début des pourparlers entre rebelles et gouvernement**  
dimanche 09 décembre 2012/Levif.be, avec Belga

Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et les rebelles du mouvement M23 ont entamé des discussions dimanche à Kampala afin de ramener la paix dans l'Est de la RDC, théâtre de nouveaux combats ces derniers mois.

"Cette journée marque le début du dialogue entre le gouvernement de la RD Congo et le M23", a déclaré le ministre ougandais de la Défense Crispus Kiyonga au début de la réunion, qui avait été plusieurs fois reportée.

Les rebelles avaient lancé il y a huit mois une offensive qui leur avait permis de conquérir, le 20 novembre, la ville stratégique de Goma, capitale de la province du Nord Kivu (est de la RDC) aux immenses richesses minières, suscitant la crainte d'un nouveau conflit généralisé dans le pays et d'une grave crise humanitaire.

Le M23, composé majoritairement de Tutsi, a finalement accepté de se retirer de Goma en contrepartie de négociations avec le régime du président congolais Joseph Kabila. Les rebelles, qui

ont quitté Goma le 1er décembre, veulent à la fois négocier les conditions de leur réintégration dans les forces armées de RDC et obtenir l'ouverture d'un dialogue politique national dans le pays.

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Raymond Tshibanda dirige la délégation de Kinshasa qui comprend également des députés et des sénateurs. Le chef politique du M23, Jean-Marie Runiga, ne fait pas partie de la délégation de son mouvement envoyée à Kampala.

Par ailleurs, les quatre principaux groupes de l'opposition à l'Assemblée nationale congolaise ont refusé de prendre part aux négociations de Kampala, au motif que le gouvernement a refusé de discuter d'autres revendications que celles du M23.

### **Southern Africa: SADC to Provide 4,000 Troops in DR Congo**

By Orton Kiishweko/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/10 December 2012

SOUTHERN African countries have vowed to provide 4,000 troops for a neutral force in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where rebels have waged a rebellion.

President Kikwete said in Dar es Salaam at the end of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) extra-ordinary Summit late on Saturday, that under the arrangement, Tanzania will send 800 troops and the SADC bloc would "activate" a standby brigade of about 3,000 soldiers by mid this month.

The regional bloc also urged the UN to strengthen the mandate of the UN peacekeeping force that gave up defending the city of Goma last month when Congolese troops fled from advancing M23 rebels. "This summit strongly condemned the M23 and all its attacks on the civilian population ... as well as its abuses of human rights," said Tomaz Salomao, reading a communique at the end of a summit.

The idea of a neutral force, which will cost an estimated \$100 million, was first mooted several months ago but disagreement over where the troops should be drawn from has hindered its formation. There has been a lull in the fighting in Congo's eastern borderlands after the rebels pulled out of Goma earlier this month, a move they said Congolese President Joseph Kabila had demanded for peace talks to proceed.

Kabila and South African President Jacob Zuma were among the six heads of state at the summit. The rebels, widely believed to be supported by Rwanda, pose the biggest threat to Kabila in years. Rwanda strongly denies any involvement in the latest cycle of violence in Congo's mineral-rich border region.

The ease at which M23 marched into Goma was seen as a major embarrassment for the UN MONUSCO peacekeeping force. President Kikwete said DRC had already deposited their contribution, and urged other members to contribute too. The leaders also discussed the political crisis in Madagascar, urging former President Marc Ravalomanana and current leader Andry Rajoelina not to run for the presidency, according to a statement.

They urged authorities in Madagascar to ensure the presidential election is held as planned on May 8 and that parliamentary elections take place on July 23. The summit urged the transitional government in Madagascar to draft legislation to guarantee privileges for former heads of state before the elections and repeal laws that exclude some citizens from voting, according to the SADC statement.

The SADC leaders also urged members to contribute to a \$10 million fund to support the electoral process in Madagascar. On Zimbabwe, SADC called for the completion of the process to draft a new constitution, and conduct a referendum on the document before elections next year.

Others at the summit were current SADC chairman, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique and Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who is chairman of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, also attended to brief SADC on what the conference has done so far to try to resolve the crisis in Congo.

UGANDA :

### Uganda: HIV/Aids Fighting Off-Track

By Ronald Musoke/The Independent (Kampala)/8 December 2012

As the world strives to get to zero infections, Ugandans are getting a confusing message on interventions

As World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) was this year marked with increased optimism across the globe, in Uganda a persistent decade-long rise in new infections and prevalence is causing panic among experts.

The United Nations says 25 countries, many in Africa, have at least halved new HIV infections in the past decade and there has been particular progress towards protecting children from the deadly virus.

The Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey report released in mid-2012 notes that although the knowledge level about HIV/AIDS among Ugandans has increased, there has been an upsurge in HIV prevalence rate from 6.4 percent in 2006 to 7.4 percent in 2011. It shows that over 130,000 new infections were recorded in the country the previous year.

Prevalence is highest among women (8.3%) in comparison to men (6.1%). In urban areas, HIV prevalence among women is 10.6% than in rural areas (7.7%) but prevalence is the same (6.1%) for men living in urban and rural areas.

Margaret Happy, the advocacy manager of the National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda, blames the upsurge on laxity in leadership.

"We need to re-engage leadership for effective HIV prevention in the country," she says, "we are not looking at the President or ministers but leadership right from the household level, community, cultural institutions, religious and district leaders."

Marion Natukunda, the Advocacy and Information Officer at the AIDS Information Centre, says the messaging on prevention has changed. "It is less or no longer there and if it is there, it is not clear," she says.

Dramatically off-track:

Joshua Wamboga, the team leader for advocacy and networking at The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) agrees. He says Uganda's response to HIV is "dramatically off track".

He says evidence-based interventions that could halt new infections and end the epidemic are getting too little attention and funding, while interventions that are being given priority are not associated with prevention benefit.

"HIV treatment scale up, which saves lives and dramatically reduces the risk of sexual transmission, has been slower in Uganda than in other countries in the region," Wamboga says.

He adds: "The time for a dramatic change is long overdue--with a focus on interventions that work; including earlier access to HIV treatment to save lives and prevent new infections, safe medical male circumcision (SMC), Option B+ for pregnant women to prevent vertical transmission, and access to male and female condoms."

To him, in a recent shift of strategy, the ABC model; abstinence, being faithful and condom use, which contributed to HIV/AIDS decline in the past, has unfortunately been given less prominence.

Condom use in particular, has now become a controversial HIV prevention method with stiff resistance from sections of the religious fraternity.

As a result, although the Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey showed both more men and women reporting having more than one sexual partners, only a few reported consistently using condoms.

Among men who had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months, only 19% were reported to have used condoms in their last sexual encounter. The number for women was slightly higher, at 31%.

Other experts say the reason as to why the HIV/AIDS education campaigns in Uganda are proving to be ineffective is because they depend wholly on donor funds which sometimes do not come on time to finance or insufficient.

The latest UNAIDS report released in November shows that the countries that had the sharpest declines in new HIV infections are countries where the governments assumed a shared responsibility by increasing domestic investment in responses to HIV/AIDS.

New infections were down in Malawi 73%, Botswana 71%, Namibia 68%, Zambia 58%, Zimbabwe 50% and South Africa 41%.

Globally, the report shows that 2011 donor funds for HIV/AIDS were short, but for the first time, domestic investments from low- and middle-income countries surpassed donations.

South Africa increased its scale-up of HIV treatment by 75 per cent over the last two years - ensuring 1.7 million people had access to life-saving treatment - and new HIV infections have fallen by more than 50,000 in just two years. During this period, South Africa also increased its domestic investments on AIDS to US \$1.6 billion, the highest by any low- and middle-income country.

In Zimbabwe, 260 000 additional people accessed HIV treatment, registering a 118% expansion rate.

In Uganda, as in another 25 of the 33 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, donor support accounts for more than half of HIV investments. But the global gap in resources needed annually for HIV/AIDS interventions by 2015 now stands at 30 per cent. This means the governments need to invest more domestically.

Happy says there is urgent need for Uganda to scale up treatment since it has been proven that treatment prevents infection by 96 %. For this to happen, the frequent stock outs of drugs and condoms need to be controlled.

"Our country should highly prioritize the scientific prevention methods such as safe male circumcision; scale up treatment for all so that all those who are eligible for ARV treatment can access it."

But Dr Chris Baryomunsi, an MP who sits on the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS says better treatment is breeding complacency.

"People have got used to HIV/AIDS and they no longer view the pandemic with the trepidation of the 1990s, rather they think it is a chronic illness which one can live with given proper medication."

Whatever the intervention, Happy says. there is need to disseminate the same message instead of the Ministry of Integrity pushing a different message from that of the Ministry of Health on circumcision and condom use.

### Uganda: Controversies Behind Delayed Oil Bill Passing

By Mary Karuhanga/The New Vision/ 9 December 2012

Parliament, on Friday, finally passed the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill 2012 after voting on Clause 9 of the Bill, which gives the energy minister full powers in granting and revoking oil licenses, but not without a fight.

In the voting exercise, 149 MPs voted in favour of the Government position to re-instate the powers of the minister to negotiate, grant and revoke oil licenses while 39 MPs voted against it.

When commercial quantities of oil were discovered in Uganda, it was great news for both policy makers and ordinary citizens.

People got excited and many predicted that once the oil export starts, it would be the end of poverty, but no one was prepared for the battle lines that would be drawn.

First battle

Economists immediately swung into action and started planning for the revenues that would accrue from oil. Unfortunately, the excitement did not last. Conflicts emerged and war started.

At first it was with the oil effects on the environment given the fact that most of it is located in the Albertine Graben, the home of Uganda's biggest national parks.

The environmentalists were up in arms, but somehow the Government managed to swim against the tide and convinced them that precautionary measures have been put in place to protect the environment.

But that was only one battle. The heat turned to the oil agreements. The production sharing agreements were nowhere to be seen until Parliament demanded that they be tabled.

When they were eventually brought to the House, they were reportedly only given to a few selected

MPs due to their sensitivity.

MPs soon raised dust and demanded that the energy minister table all the agreements. The minister did, but with conditions that members should only read and not reveal any information.

A House divided:

Although the issue also died down, it divided Parliament into five major groups:

MPs on Oil and Gas Forum led by Theodore Ssekikubo, Abdul Katuntu, Wilfred Niwagaba and Gerald Karuhanga.

The Executive, with the President as the central point, backed by his cabinet and the NRM Caucus.

NRM MPs supporting the Government position.

A combination of NRM and opposition MPs opposed to the Government position.

Civil society organisations mainly led by the Inter-Religious Council, Association of Environmentalists, Oil Watch Network, Oil Host Communities and many others.

The others are the oil companies.

This time round, the tables were turned to the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill.

Earlier, both sides had agreed to all the clauses, including the controversial Clause 9 which grants the energy minister powers to grant and revoke the license of oil companies.

Initially, all the groups agreed that the power should be vested with the National Oil Authority. The President, however, objected saying the management of oil is an executive function and, therefore, the powers should be given to the minister.

The President quickly met the NRM Caucus and convinced them to reverse the decision and recommit the clause.

While the opposition was busy in Namboole voting for a party president, Parliament sat and agreed to recommit the Article. However, they failed to get the required number to vote on the motion.

When their colleagues returned, hell broke loose. They demanded that the matter be debated. Those on the side of the Government refused and insisted that the House cast a vote.

Then chaos ensued, leading to the suspension of the House. The Speaker ruled that members who misbehaved appear before the committee on discipline.

While all these groups argue that they are fighting for the interest of Ugandans, the question is why then do we have endless wars?

Each group blames the other of advancing their own selfish interests and causing confusion. While addressing the caucus last week, President Yoweri Museveni accused Ssekikubo, Katuntu and Karuhanga of being used.

"Where there is Katuntu, Ssekikubo and Karuhanga, expect confusion," the President reportedly complained.

Senior political advisor to the President, Moses Byaruhanga, and press secretary Tamale Mirundi say the President as, head of state, has a right to intervene and guide the country in dealing with strategic issues such as oil.

"As the head of the executive, the President has to follow and see how the Bill is moving. That is not interfering. He is doing his duties," Byaruhanga said.

"The President is not a thief. He is the one who has been behind this oil issue. If he had personal interest, he would have influenced the establishment of a refinery in Rwakitura," Mirundi said.

Mirundi accused oil companies of using some MPs to cause confusion.

"Currently, there is a scramble for oil. In fact, the oil companies have found Parliament vulnerable. They are experienced in this game. Otherwise they know they can't deal with the President and succeed," Mirundi added.

On the other hand, the legislators and civil society accuse the President of interfering in the work of Parliament.

Appearing on the rules and disciplines committee probing the behavior of members during the fracas two weeks ago, public accounts committee Kassiano Wadri argued that the Government has never done things in the people's interest: "The Executive is composed of individuals who always want to advance their own interests. This whole chaos was caused by the fact that people no longer have trust in the Government and their officials."

Oil and gas forum members say they are protecting Uganda's oil. They dismiss allegations of being used by oil companies.

"We know why we are fighting. Those reports by the Government that we are being used are baseless. Those are tactics aimed at dividing us and also bring us down," Ssekikubo said.

They argue that oil is a strategic resource and Parliament has a role to legislate laws that the future generation will not regret.

### Uganda: Why Muntu Is a Problem for NRM

8 December 2012/The Independent (Kampala)

opinion

How NRM pumped money into Nandala Mafabi's campaign:

When the first two candidates on the podium of the WBS TV auditorium for the FDC Presidential Elections Debate on Nov. 19 stood and shook hands, the smiles appeared genuine and the pleasantries uncontrived.

Then ululations broke out at the arrival of the third candidate. Wearing a somewhat grim face for one so confident of winning the FDC elections, Nandala Mafabi stepped on to the podium. There were no gentlemanly handshakes.

Although, the contest between Muntu and Nandala had been a brawl all through, the man from the Bugisu Mountains who is famed for his no-holds-barred abrasive style did not disappoint.

"Never give somebody a cow to rear when he has failed to rear a goat, when he has failed to rear a chicken," he had said derisively of Muntu's alleged poor leadership on the party mobilization front.

Muntu meanwhile aspired, at least publicly, to portray a more collected poise.

"When we stand here," he told the audience, "I am not here because I am Muntu or because there is Geoffrey or there is Nathan, we are here because there is a situation out there that we want to deal with; we want to salvage our people; and therefore party building becomes so critical; it's something that I am focused on."

Three days later, Gen. Mugisha Muntu won the election to become FDC party president in a result that stunned opponents and thrilled supporters equally. It was close; Muntu was declared winner with 393 votes, beating Nandala Mafabi by just 28 votes. Tororo County MP Geoffrey Ekanya managed only 17 votes. Would Nandala accept the result? Would he stay in the party?

Part of the answer can be traced to how the campaign was run, how the candidates articulated the issues, especially to the elite during the Nov.19 TV debate, and finally what the Muntu win means for the battle between FDC and the NRM in the 2016 presidential elections.

NRM money:

A few minutes after Muntu's victory was announced at the Mandela National Stadium arena where the elections were held, an excited Muntu supporter, Patrick Wakida, the Executive Director of Research World International, called *The Independent*.

"I told you polls don't lie," Wakida said, "Our poll predicted a 49.5% lead for Muntu with a plus or minus two margin of error and he has won with 50.2%."

Wakida was right. But his numbers were focused on just one side of the story. The same poll that Wakida's RWI did had predicted that Nandala Mafabi had only 26.3 % of the delegates. In the end, however, Nandala got 46% of the vote. The RWI poll was way off the mark. So what happened?

Wakida says Nandala's vote went up because he swept the 20% undecided vote by 100%.

"The results show that Nandala used our polls very well, he changed tactics and improved his performance while Muntu did not make any gains," Wakida says, "It is clear that if the elections were done a month later, the result could possibly have been different."

One of the areas where Nandala's fortunes changed considerably is in Rukungiri, western Uganda, which is the home of NRM historicals like the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Aronda Nyakairima, Maj. Gen. Jim Muhwezi, Col. Kizza Besigye, Brig. Henry Tumukunde, Nandala die-hard Maj. Rubaramira Ruranga, and even renegade Col. Samson Mande, who is in exile.

Interestingly, however, Rukungiri Municipality which is the hub of the area intelligentsia is a hot-bed of opposition politics. It is represented by Rolland Mugume Kyanda, who is from FDC.

Right next to Rukungiri is the Rukiga constituency of staunch FDC stalwart, Jack Sabiiti who, it must be recalled, won the seat partially because certain prominent NRM power brokers wanted the



former MP and minister, Hope Mwesigye, out.

It appears the same convoluted politics was at play again during the Nandala, Muntu race. Sources very close to both the NRM and FDC camps in the area have told The Independent that the NRM, for reasons we shall explain shortly, decided that a Nandala win was better for NRM.

"He was seen as a continuation of Besigye and therefore easier to defeat," is how one of them put it.

The NRM, therefore, hatched a plan to support Nandala with resources. A prominent NRM elder who is renowned for holding the party's purse strings in such situations coordinated the project, while a prominent FDC stalwart was the conduit. The idea was to ensure that all delegates on the FDC list travelled to Namboole and cast their vote for Nandala. Sources close to the mobilization say when prominent elders and some general from the area who favoured Muntu learnt of the ploy, they also started canvassing for Muntu. It was now NRM versus NRM in favour of either Muntu or Nandala.

Retired Maj. Rubaramira Ruranga, who was the chairman of the Nandala campaign team, told The Independent that he had heard of the allegations but dismissed them.

"It was mentioned that the money was coming from the Ministry of Finance and it was given to Kutesa," he said.

He added, however, that there is no way President Yoweri Museveni would favour Nandala over Muntu.

"Muntu is not a threat. He is a son of Museveni. He brought him up. Even when he joined us in the bush later on, he was promoted very quickly," he said.

On the other hand, Rubaramira said, Museveni had during the State of the Nation address mentioned Nandala 27 times.

"That is very disturbing," Rubaramira said.

Rubaramira's line is the conventional one. It is also the more logical. But, as many past events show, political decisions sometimes have unconventional logic.

It will be recalled that when The Independent conducted its poll on the FDC race in October, western Uganda had the biggest number of undecided delegates.

About two months before the election, on Oct.10, The Independent team called randomly selected numbers of 400 delegates. In Western Uganda, 40% said they were undecided, 26.6 % said they would vote for Muntu, 10% for Nandala, and 3.3% for Ekanya. Another 20% said they had quit the party since the last election, while others had died.

When RWI did its final poll between Sept.23 and Oct.3 and published it Nov.12, it found that 27% of delegates in western Uganda were undecided compared to 30% in central, 25% in eastern, and 6% in northern Uganda.

Significantly, however, the NRM realised the FDC did not have a comprehensive register of delegates. Those are the loop-holes that the various camps, both within the NRM and in FDC, were targeting.

After the elections, Jack Sabiiti, confirmed his team had been aware of the flaws.

"We expressed these concerns before the elections and it was agreed that the register would be cleaned. The contrary happened and many delegates turned up to vote by impersonating the delegates who were no longer members," said Sabiiti who was firmly in the Nandala camp.

"The official register was not used and it worked to the advantage or disadvantage of one of the three candidates. This was the origin of the anger in some camps. We felt if such people had not voted, our camp should have won comfortably considering that the win margin of the eventual winner was small," he added.

Some of the delegates Sabiiti is complaining about were those reportedly ferried in buses paid for by the NRM. Their mission was to vote for Nandala.

It is also common knowledge that money exchanged hands at Namboole with each of the delegates getting Shs 80,000 cash from one candidate, and Shs 100,000 from the other. Some of this money came from the NRM camp and influenced the final outcome.

The Independent had not confirmed the actual amount the NRM invested in propping up Nandala. It was also unclear, if all the monies mobilized for the purpose actually reached the Nandala camp or if, indeed, Nandala knew that NRM money was flowing into his campaign.

The fact that money flowed, however, raises the question, why did the NRM fear Muntu so much to the extent of attempting to prop up his challenger?

Crunching numbers:

President Yoweri Museveni's campaign strategists are, apparently basing on the 2011 results to build the most favourable scenario for their candidate come 2016.

In 2011, Museveni won the election with his lowest number of votes ever since he first won a presidential election in 1996. In 1996, he won with 73% of the vote but in 2011 he managed only 68%. Most NRM supporters would say, a win is a win and 68% is pretty good.

But the real worry for Museveni is in the people who did not vote for either him or the opposition. In 1996, the voter turnout was 73%. In 2011, the voter turnout was just 59%, the lowest ever. That means more people stayed away from the election than voted for the opposition.

According to official statistics, there were 13.9 million voters. The 59% that voted is 8.2 million voters. That means six million voters stayed away. However, if Museveni won only 68% of the 8.2 that voted, it means only 5.5 million voted for him. That means, out of 13.9 million voters, 8.4 million or 60% of all eligible voters in 2011 did not vote for Museveni. What happens if in 2016, that 8.4 million votes for the opposition? That is scary for the Museveni camp.

Moses Byaruhanga, who is President Yoweri Museveni's political affairs advisor, has been involved in the political strategizing of the last three elections. He told The Independent that no opposition political leader is a threat to Museveni.

"Let people not be optimistic that by electing Gen Muntu, FDC will win the 2016 elections," he said, "That is totally a lie by political analysts who are arm-chaired analysts but do not know what is on the ground."

It was false bravado:

It is clear from the numbers that while President Museveni's popularity has dropped by 5 percentage points in the last presidential election, the opposition has gained by 7 percentage points. But the real fight is over those who have not voted for either Museveni or the opposition. The number of these has grown by a whopping 14 percentage points from 23% in 1996 to 41% in 2011. If an opposition candidate can win that lot, that candidate has a good chance of defeating Museveni in 2016, with or without the expected vote rigging. In the NRM calculation, Muntu is better placed to achieve that feat than Nandala. That is why they wanted Muntu to lose the FDC presidential election.

Muntu's strength:

John Nagenda, the usually acerbic tongued Senior Presidential Advisor on Media was spewing superlatives when he spoke to The Independent about the significance of Muntu winning the presidency and possibly becoming the party flag-bearer in the 2016 presidential election.

"Gen. Muntu is a man who we know; he is a man of strong character and personality. He has a good reputation countrywide because he served diligently in the army and came out with a clean record," Nagenda said.

Nagenda said when he listened to people; the Muntu win has caused a lot of excitement. He said, however, it would be a mistake to assume that Muntu can defeat Museveni's party.

"We are very strong, rooted in the ground," he said, "I don't see any good ideas in the FDC apart from negatives of Walk-to-Work which are engineered by Col Besigye."

The positive sentiments by Nagenda about Muntu have been expressed by many. Even before the election, when RWI run its poll, most delegates said they favoured Muntu over Nandala because he is a gentleman, mature, and a unifier. These sentiments are echoed across the political divide. Significantly, however, the FDC delegates, 56% of them, favoured Muntu because of his military background. As one of his admirers put it, Muntu is a combination of the popular gentlemanly Democratic Party presidential candidate of 1996, Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere, who lost to Museveni because he lacked military awareness, and the 2011 militaristic opposition candidate, Kizza Besigye, who lost because he lacked gentility.

Analysts say the large segment of eligible voters who stayed away from the polls in 2011, were opposed to Museveni but were unwilling to vote for Besigye. They are the moderates. Besigye and Nandala, the analysts say, appeal to the extremist opposition to Museveni. Besigye appeals to the moderates. But as, one analyst put it, in an election, the opposition extremists will vote for Muntu too because they will vote for anything against Museveni.

Muntu himself has shown keenness to play up his lethal combination.

"There are those who say I am soft. To them I say, 'try me'," he said during the final campaign before the delegates at Namboole, "You cannot command a national army at 29 and be weak."

To date, Muntu holds the record for holding the office of army commander longest under Museveni. Recently, he has thwarted the NRM ploy to prop up Nandala with money. In 2016, he will probably get a chance to show that he can run a presidential campaign better than a military campaign. But just a week after he was elected president of FDC, supporters of Nandala announced they were forming a break-away group. Muntu first test will be if he can reunite a party divided by his tough campaign against Nandala. Then he must convince everyone that it is the best interest of the party

for its perennial FDC flag-bearer, Kizza Besigye, to finally bow out. Finally, Muntu must walk across the minefield of whether he was elected for a two-year or five-year term. If he is not exhausted by then, he possibly has a chance of defeating Museveni in the 2016 presidential election.

Reporting by Rosario Achola, Julius Odeke, and Ronald Musoke

SOUTH AFRICA :

### South Africa in dire straits as Mandela is hospitalized

Sunday, December 9, 2012/By The Associated Press and Los Angeles Times

The hospitalization of the father of South Africa's liberation comes amid turmoil in the governing party that is his legacy.

JOHANNESBURG — Inside a Catholic church that once served as a major rallying point for anti-apartheid activists, the image of a gray-suited Nelson Mandela appears in a stained-glass window that also features angels and the cross.

Worshippers here prayed Sunday for the hospitalized 94-year-old former president, who remains almost a secular saint and a father figure to many in South Africa, a nation of 50 million people that has Africa's top economy.

Mandela's admission to the hospital this weekend for unspecified medical tests sparked screaming newspapers headlines and ripples of fear in the public that the frail leader is fading further away.

And as his African National Congress (ANC) political party stands ready to pick its leader who likely will be the nation's next president, some believe governing-party politicians have abandoned Mandela's integrity and magnanimity in a seemingly unending string of corruption scandals. That leaves many wondering who can lead the country the way the ailing Mandela once did.

"When you have someone that's willing to lead by example like he did, it makes things easier for people to follow," said Thabile Manana, who worshipped Sunday at Soweto's Regina Mundi Catholic church. "Lately, the examples are not so nice. It's hard. I'm scared for the country."

Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison for fighting racist white rule, became South Africa's first black president in 1994 and served one five-year term. The Nobel laureate later retired from public life to live in his remote village of Qunu, in the Eastern Cape area, and last made a public appearance when his country hosted the 2010 World Cup soccer tournament.

On Saturday, the office of President Jacob Zuma announced Mandela had been admitted to a Pretoria hospital for medical tests and care that was "consistent for his age."

Zuma visited Mandela on Sunday morning at the hospital and found the former leader to be "comfortable and in good care," presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj said in a statement. Maharaj offered no other details about Mandela, nor what medical tests he had undergone since entering the hospital.

In February, Mandela spent a night in a hospital for a minor diagnostic surgery to determine the cause of an abdominal complaint. In January 2011, Mandela was admitted to a Johannesburg

hospital for what officials initially described as tests but what turned out to be an acute respiratory infection.

Mandela has had other health problems. He contracted tuberculosis during his years in prison and had surgery for an enlarged prostate gland in 1985. In 2001, Mandela underwent seven weeks of radiation therapy for prostate cancer, ultimately beating the disease.

While South Africa's government has offered no details about where Mandela is receiving treatment, the military has taken over his medical care since the 2011 respiratory infection. At 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria on Sunday, the facility that previously cared for Mandela in February, soldiers set up a checkpoint to search vehicles heading into the hospital's grounds. A convoy of cars with flashing lights and sirens entered the hospital grounds Sunday afternoon.

Mandela's hospitalization quickly dominated news coverage in South Africa, where most have been focused on the upcoming ANC national convention later this month in Mangaung. There, the party that has governed South Africa since Mandela's election will pick either a new leader or re-elect Zuma. Becoming leader of the ANC means a nearly automatic ticket to becoming the president in post-apartheid South Africa.

Zuma, 70, faces increasing criticism as the nation's poor blacks, who believed the end of apartheid would bring economic prosperity, face the same poverty as before while politicians and the elite get richer. Meanwhile the economy continues to struggle amid slow growth and the aftermath of violent unrest in the country's mining industry.

Zuma also faces criticism over millions of dollars of government-paid improvements made at his private homestead.

Zuma's scandalous \$30 million, government-paid renovations to his sprawling private residence in Nkandla (a controversy known locally as Nkandlagate) have so damaged him in the ANC leadership contest that one loyal minister said critics of the expenditures didn't understand African values and lifestyles.

But that's merely the tip of the corruption allegations swirling around the party, which critics say is increasingly tarnished. Textbooks have gone undelivered to rural schools, while local ANC officials have been arrested and convicted of corruption charges. Others have been attacked or killed in politically tinged violence as the party's convention draws closer.

"It's becoming corrupt every day ... and it's growing worse," said Sidney Matlana, a worshipper at Regina Mundi. "Things are getting worse than it was before."

Zuma is also under attack for his current defiance of a Supreme Court order that his lawyers hand over secret intelligence tapes that led prosecutors to drop about 700 corruption and fraud charges against him just weeks before 2009 elections.

Unease over his leadership within the ANC and among the public has deepened since strikes that resulted in 34 protesting miners being killed by police in August.

Zuma has always been a controversial leader. He was accused of rape in 2005 by the daughter of a senior ANC colleague; he was acquitted in 2006. Corruption charges, dropped in 2009, continue to hover in the background, with the possibility that if his enemies succeed in ousting him in December — or sometime in the future — he could be put back on trial.

Presidents here aren't elected by the people, but by members of Parliament who belong to the majority party.

In the ANC, the presidency is decided by about 4,500 branch party delegates who gather every five years to elect a leader, who is then rubber-stamped as president by ANC lawmakers.

The illiterate son of a poor Durban housemaid, Zuma rose through the party ranks to join its military wing during the armed struggle against apartheid.

He was arrested on conspiracy charges and jailed for 10 years in 1963. He served his term with leaders such as Mandela on Robben Island, where he learned to read.

### Mandela comfortable in hospital: South Africa

Monday 10 December 2012/Reuters

PRETORIA (Reuters) - Former South African president Nelson Mandela spent a second day in a Pretoria military hospital on Sunday for medical tests and the government said the anti-apartheid leader's condition was comfortable.

President Jacob Zuma visited the 94-year-old, according to an official statement. It provided no other details of the health of South Africa's first black president, who came to power after historic all-race elections in 1994.

On Saturday, Zuma's office said there was no cause for alarm and that the medical treatment Mandela was receiving in the military hospital in the capital was "consistent with his age".

However, domestic media reports suggested that senior members of the government and people close to Mandela had been caught unawares by his admission to hospital.

The City Press newspaper said both the Nelson Mandela Foundation and his ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, had not known about his transfer to the capital from his home in the remote village of Qunu in the Eastern Cape province.

South Africa's Sunday Times said deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe had canceled a scheduled visit on Friday to Mandela in Qunu after being told of his condition.

The mood around Pretoria's Military One hospital was calm on Sunday. Army personnel were searching all cars driving onto the premises.

Mandela is a hero to many South Africans and two brief stretches in hospital in the last two years have made front page news.

"I wish Mr. Mandela a quick recovery from his sickness so we can be with him all the time. He was a good president, a good leader, so he must be with us," said John Sekiti, a petrol station attendant in Pretoria.

Mandela was admitted to a Johannesburg hospital in 2011 with a respiratory condition, and again in February this year because of abdominal pains. He was released the following day after a keyhole examination showed there was nothing serious.

He has since spent most of his time in Qunu.

His frail health prevents him from making any public appearances in South Africa, although he has continued to receive high-profile domestic and international visitors including former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

TANZANIA :

### Tanzania: Viva 51 Years of Peace, Unity

By Alvar Mwakyusa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/10 December 2012

PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete on Sunday led Tanzanians in marking 51st Independence Anniversary at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam and commended the people for maintaining peace and tranquility in the country during the period.

"Our country has remained peaceful and politically stable, social and economic development are vivid there for everyone to see, save for some prophets of doom who would view it otherwise," Mr Kikwete told a multitude of citizens who braced scorching sun to take part in the event. Mr Kikwete also thanked about 12 regional leaders, mainly from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), for joining Tanzanians in celebrating the anniversary.

This year's Uhuru anniversary was celebrated under the theme: 'Accountability, Integrity and Patriotism are the pillars for development of our country.' "I don't usually make speeches on Independence Day, but I feel indebted to thank you and introduce you to the people of Tanzania," Mr Kikwete told the leaders, led by the current SADC Chairman, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique.

The Uhuru celebrations, which are usually marked at national level at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, featured various activities including a military parade, mass displays and traditional dances. It was the same Uhuru Stadium that on the eve of December 9, 1961, the Union Jack was lowered to give way for the flag of Tanganyika, then Tanganyika, under the leadership of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

During Sunday's celebrations, President Kikwete who is also Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, arrived at the stadium at 10:09 am aboard an open-roof military vehicle flanked by the Chief of Defence Forces, General Davis Mwamunyange. The presidential motorcade was escorted by about 16 motorbike riders. Soon after he arrived he was led to a dais where he received a 21-gun salute, as the National Anthem was played.

Afterwards, the Head of State inspected a guard of honour mounted by members of the armed forces including the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF), National Service (JKT) in addition to the police and prisons department. A military parade then snaked past the President, in a slow march, before moving into hard ground-hitting goose march, amid cheers and applause from the crowd.

The crowd was vividly wild when servicewomen displayed gallantry during the march past also pledging allegiance to the Commander-in-Chief. Mass displays by a group of more than 2,500 children spiced the celebrations and thrilled thousands who had turned out.

They moved in different shapes creating various messages while others thrilled the audience with acrobatics. On their background was yet an organized army of children who enchanted the

multitudes with creation of images they created. Heads of State present at the occasion included Presidents Armando Guebuza and Hifikepunye Pohamba of Mozambique and Namibia respectively.

President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was also present. The presidents were among leaders of SADC that had attended the two-day extraordinary meeting of the regional block that ended in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

When given a chance to greet Tanzanians at the stadium, Mr Pohamba recalled how he came to Tanzania on December 9, 1961, during the time of the liberation struggle in the Southern Africa through the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). "I would like to congratulate you for marking 51 years of independence. Allow me to also convey to you greetings from the people of Namibia whom you assisted to fight for their independence," Mr Pohamba said.

Other leaders that attended the occasion included Vice-Presidents of Malawi and Angola, Khumbo Hasting Kachali and Manuel Domingos Vicente, respectively. Zambia's Vice-President Guy Scott and Seychelles's Danny Faure also attended the celebrations. Lesotho was represented by its Prime Minister, Tom Thabane and so were Swaziland's Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini and Rwanda's Pierre Habumuremyi.

Zimbabwe was represented by its Foreign Affairs Minister, Simbarashe Mumbengegwi. The Secretary General of SADC, Dr Tomaz Salomao and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Prof Alphonse Ntumba Luaba, were also present.

Vice-President Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal, the President of Zanzibar, Dr Ali Shein Mohamed and Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, were among local leaders who attended the celebrations. Also on attendance, were former presidents of Tanzania, Ali Hassan Mwinyi and his Zanzibari counterpart Amani Abeid Karume and widow of the Father of the Nation, Mama Maria Nyerere.

Some leaders of opposition parties including Chairman of the United Democratic Party (UDP), who is also an MP for Bariadi East, Mr John Cheyo and his NCCR-Mageuzi counterpart James Mbatia (Nominated MP) also joined Tanzanians at the Uhuru Stadium to celebrate the Independence Day.

### **Tanzania: Supermarket Promotes Local Tourism**

10 December 2012/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

DAR ES SALAAM-based Uchumi Supermarkets Limited (Tanzania) has launched a tourism promotion dubbed 'Talii na Uchumi,' amid calls to Tanzanians to visit the country's tourism attractions.

"Our country is endowed with world class tourist attractions to which unfortunately very few Tanzanians visit," said Temeke MP Mr Abbas Mtemvu at the promotion's brief launching ceremony. The legislator said domestic tourism could contribute immensely to the national economy should Tanzanians be encouraged to spend just a little of their income on tourism.

"Just imagine how much could be generated if every Tanzanian spent 100,000/- on tourism," queried the MP, hinting that Tanzanians could offer sufficient tourism market to rescue the country from relying solely on foreigners.

He commended the Tanzanian subsidiary of Kenya's supermarket chain for sourcing most of its merchandise locally, asking Uchumi management to give priority on products produced in Temeke District where it operates.



Mr Mtemvu said the supermarket at Quality Centre along Nyerere road has greatly improved the economic status of Temeke district. Temeke Municipal Executive Director Margaret Nyalile pledged support to the retail supermarket chain, "You are our taxpayersÉ get assured of our support."

Uchumi Country Manager Chris Lenana said the store has partnered with a number of hotels in the 'Talii na Uchumi' promotion. The hotels are Sea Cliff Resort & SPA-Zanzibar, Golden Tulip Dar es Salaam, Kijiji Beach-Kigamboni, Ocean Bay and JB Belmont.

Mr Lenana asked potential shoppers to visit the supermarket and buy products to win prizes under the promotion. To qualify for the grand draw whose winners will enjoy a two-week holiday with their partners in the partner hotels, shoppers have to spend at least 15,000/- at the store.

"This is an opportunity for our customers to win prizes and stay in the luxurious hotels," said the manager, inviting many customers to visit and shop at the supermarket.

KENYA :

### Kenya: Split in Central Deepens

By Ibrahim Oruko/The Star/8 December 2012

PRESIDENT Kibaki yesterday denied that he was forcing Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta to drop his presidential bid in favour of Sabatia MP Musalia Mudavadi.

There is widespread speculation that the Central Province elite is bitterly split between those who back Uhuru and those who want Mudavadi as a compromise presidential candidate who could save Kenya from international sanctions.

"We wish to state that President Kibaki remains focused on his service to the nation and peaceful elections and transition and should not be dragged in ongoing political activities," said presidential spokesman Isaiah Kabira in a statement yesterday.

"President Kibaki is a democrat and will respect the wishes of the Kenyan people now and after the March 2013 general elections," he said.

"Elections come and go, what's indeed fundamental is that Kenyans continue to enjoy better and greater development, peace and security now and after 04/03/2012," said the presidential statement.

Kibaki was reacting to remarks by Nominated MP Rachel Shebesh who claimed that he was forcing Uhuru to step aside for Musalia.

On Tuesday Mudavadi suddenly dropped his proposed pact with Gatanga MP Peter Kenneth and joined the coalition of Uhuru and Eldoret North MP William Ruto.

Reportedly Uhuru and Ruto invited Mudavadi on Tuesday morning to be the presidential flag bearer of their coalition before he agreed to join them.

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was in Kenya earlier this week warning of dire

consequences if Kenya elected a president who was facing charges of crimes against humanity. Annan indicated that Kenya would face diplomatic isolation and could be disconnected from the international financial system.

In mid-week a State House official rang the Star to deny that Kibaki held a private unreported meeting with Annan.

The trials of Uhuru and Ruto in the Hague start on April 10 and 11, the same date as the scheduled second round run-off for the presidential election.

Shebesh claimed that "some mandarins" in State House were subjecting Uhuru to "immense pressure" to drop out of the presidential race when she spoke to Citizen TV news on Thursday night.

"I want to tell those people who reside in State House who are threatening Uhuru to stop. Let them call his supporters instead and we shall tell them that we shall never support their candidate they are so keen to impose on us," she said.

She specifically mentioned Kibaki's private secretary Nick Wanjohi along with Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni and assistant Industrialisation Minister Nderitu Mureithi.

"We keep seeing the hands of Nick Wanjohi and other mandarins who reside in State House attempting to make us reverse the decision to pick Uhuru and William Ruto as leaders of our alliance," she said.

Mureithi is President Kibaki's nephew. By dropping his name, Shebesh was insinuating that the Kibaki is behind the pressure on Uhuru to step down.

Kibaki reportedly began pushing a Mudavadi presidential candidacy more than a year ago.

Late last year Kibaki pulled Mudavadi aside after a Cabinet meeting and asked him if he wanted to be president one day, according to two PNU ministers and one ODM minister.

Kibaki's close confidants, including Professor Wanjohi, had decided that the Kikuyu needed an alternative candidate because Uhuru was facing ICC charges, according to multiple sources.

"Wanjohi and group then convinced the President that their best bet was Mudavadi and that the Kikuyu would vote for him. The president then raised the issue again with Mudavadi early this year and told Mudavadi that he could not support him if he was in ODM," a senior PNU minister told the Star.

Wanjohi had already formed the UDF party through his associates. Mudavadi joined UDF in May shortly after he finally left ODM.

"A few weeks before Mudavadi left ODM, the President asked Uhuru not to contest and instead back Musalia but Uhuru did not like the idea. He then told the President's associates that he would rather lose at the ballot," said an ODM minister.

On Thursday 40 TNA MPs angrily rejected the suggestion that Uhuru should step down for Mudavadi.

"It is not possible that the MPs could reject Mudavadi without the blessing of Uhuru," said a

political analyst from Nyeri yesterday.

"This is the biggest mistake Uhuru has made. He may now have lost the support of all the Luhya, and that may cost him the election," the analyst said.

Yesterday Shebesh told the Star that Mudavadi's presence in Uhuru and Ruto's Jubilee Alliance was "sabotage at its best."

She said it was meant to reverse the decision by TNA and URP to pick Uhuru and Ruto as their ticket for the March 4 election..

"For supporters of Uhuru Kenyatta, Mudavadi is not and shall never be a done deal," she said.

However Mathira MP Ephraim Maina yesterday said that central Kenya is committed to the Jubilee Alliance, whoever is on the presidential ticket.

Addressing the media in Nairobi, the MP distanced himself from the 40 TNA MPs.

"The impression created is that the Kikuyu community cannot vote for other people. This is not true as we saw in the Kamukunji and Kajiado North by-elections," he said.

He claimed that the 40 MPs only said was that Mudavadi would have to win the alliance nomination against Uhuru if he wanted their support.

Yesterday former minister Mutahi Kagwe and former Nyeri Town MP PG Mureithi applauded the efforts by Uhuru, Ruto and Mudavadi to come together.

Kagwe is a close adviser to Mudavadi and is standing on a UDF ticket for Nyeri senator.

"Each of them at some point or other has had to give up something for the benefit of the country. The people who show loyalty to Uhuru do not do so through proxies but they support him directly. We support his decisions, what they have agreed among the three principals and whether they go for nominations or consensus," the two said.

Kagwe and Mureithi urged the TNA MPs to relax their hardline stance and allow Uhuru, Ruto and Mudavadi to agree among themselves on how the joint candidate should be selected.

"Each of the three is capable of becoming the president of the republic of Kenya and consequently, since they had given a way forward of going for nomination or consensus there should be no reason for anyone to panic. Whatever decision they come to, the public will support," they said.

Kagwe and Mureithi urged the three coalition partners not to retreat from the decisions they have made.

**Kenya: Registered As Voters or Not, Diaspora Kenyans Can Still Sway This Election**

By Timothy Kiberia/The Star/8 December 2012

opinion

Diaspora Kenyans are "mad as hell". They have been disenfranchised, suppressed, disinherited, disowned, bastardised, declared persona non grata and thrown under the bus by politicians and the

IEBC.

Some have gone to court seeking to postpone the elections and or block validation of the national voter register until all eligible Kenyans are registered as voters.

Confidence in our judiciary aside, I am not a big fan of cheeky lawsuits. Those of us who live abroad, particularly in North America and Western Europe know that political battles must be won politically.

Forget the law, IEBC and the political class is using all manner of excuses to bar the Diaspora from the March elections. It is a political decision and political decisions must be countered politically.

Politicians and the IEBC claim it is "logistically" impossible for them to register three million Kenyans in the Diaspora. This is as pretentious as the recent display of amorphous unions and coalitions in Kenya this week.

Ironically, IEBC believes that it would be easier to register Kenyans electronically, yes electronically, in Samburu, Juba, Mbeya-Tanzania, Kivu- DRC, Bujumbura and Kigali than it would be in Washington, New York, London, Toronto, Berlin, Bonn, Sidney and such other technologically advanced centres.

The rationale behind IEBC's argument does not add up. Surprisingly, IEBC has ignored an offer by Kenyans in the US who have proposed that they are ready and willing to pay for the registration exercises and volunteer as clerks. Who is fooling who here? Your guess is as good as mine.

The IEBC should have borrowed a leaf from other developing countries. Iraq, Mali and Senegal carried out successful exercises with their citizens in the Diaspora registering and voting at the embassies abroad.

A Senegalese acquaintance, Anne Marie Toure, who together with her husband worked as volunteer voting clerks at the Senegalese Embassy in Washington, DC affirms that this was the cheapest and most flawless exercise conducted by the Senegalese equivalent of the IEBC.

It was easy because their citizens abroad did not require facilitation to register and vote. All they wanted was an opportunity to vote and had no trouble driving for hours to the few polling centers in the US.

In spite of IEBC's obstruction and efforts to gag and muzzle Diaspora voices, we can still sway this election. As a Kenyan who has lived in Washington, DC for the past 13 years, I can assert that Kenyans, more than the Senegalese or anyone else, are more in sync with politics back home.

Some monitor what is going on in Kenya more closely than Kenyans back home. Diaspora Kenyans have portrayed their love for the country in more ways than one.

It goes beyond sending remittances home. Imagine 3,000 Kenyans driving to Las Vegas from different US cities just to cheer the Kenyan team during the Rugby 7s.

Kenyans literally took over the stadium and the world took note. Las Vegas became an instant 'Swahili nation'. If Kenyans could do whatever it took to cheer a Kenyan team, make no mistake they will go wherever they need to go to register and vote.

They will drive from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles to register as voters if that is what it

takes to give Kenya the leadership it deserves. Kenyans are go-getters and will do whatever it takes to play a role in shaping the destiny of the country.

The IEBC's rationale for registering only those in neighboring East African countries is dishonest and disingenuous. The excuses given are lame.

With all due respect to Kenyans residing in other East African countries, Kenyans elsewhere feel that IEBC and the status quo in Nairobi is comfortable with them because they do not pose any tangible threat of upsetting the status quo.

Proximity to Kenya probably means that these 'Diaspora' Kenyans may not have embraced any 'alien' ideas or desire to do things differently.

The countries they live in are the same, if not worse than Kenya in terms of democracy and political participation. What different experience would a Kenyan living in Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Kinshasa, and Juba have learnt?

Is the tribal mindset of a Kenyan living in Entebbe, Uganda any different from one living in Machakos, Kenya? Is there a possibility that non-Kenyans in the EAC would register and actually vote as a Kenyan? Whose interest would this serve? Kenyans living in other East African countries could show solidarity with their brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world by refusing to register until all Kenyans are allowed to do so. Their participation would simply grant IEBC undue credibility and leverage to argue that even 'Diaspora' Kenyans voted.

Diaspora Kenyans must guard against being pitted against each other. Some Kenyans have made unflattering comments about Kenyans in the US.

Some have questioned why Kenyans in the US are the most vocal in demanding they be allowed to vote. The answer is simple. We live in a country that teaches you to fight for your rights and not to let up.

We have been accustomed to a system where you learn to strap on your boots and summon your greatest strengths in the face of adversity. If a Kenyan in Kuwait or China chooses to accept the status quo that is his or her problem. Diaspora Kenyans, particularly those in the US and Europe will not be silenced.

They have high stakes in Kenya; first as sons and daughters of Kenya as well as being investors. Sorry, Kenyans in the US have no intention to bury their heads in the sand and hope the problem will disappear. It is the American exceptionalism that has grown on the Kenyans and for which no apology is required.

Assume Diaspora Kenyans have lost the battle to IEBC. The electoral body however should not underestimate the resolve of this resilient group of Kenyan risk takers.

Some are professionals, others are hard working with one common denominator- Kenya. Bad policies at home played a big role in sending millions of Kenyans wandering around the world but now the Diaspora may be the unseen "fourth horse" in this election. You cannot just wish them away because they have the numbers, the knowledge and the means to affect this election in one way or another:

i) First, for those of us traveling home for Christmas, let us make sure we have registered in the numbers and if we can afford it go back in March and vote. Considering this may be just a small

number, let us use our time wisely in Kenya. Ensure your family and friends and whoever else looks up to you for moral, financial or academic guidance registers to vote and if possible educate those who listen to you on the need for voting out the 'tribe' and the status quo.

ii) Once in Kenya, let us meet and chart out a strategy. Depending on the number of us traveling back home for Christmas, we can gather in Nairobi and lobby for absentee ballots to be mailed to us or accepted at the various embassies to cut on the expenses of having to go back in a few months.

iii) Third, for those Kenyans who are not going to Kenya this Christmas for one reason or another, we still hold a key element. These politicians are always here begging us for campaign money. Withhold the purse. Let this be a donor freeze of some sorts.

iv) Finally, we as the Diaspora have been taunting how much money we send home every year. For those in the US, UK and Canada for instance, setting aside 100, 200 dollars or more is not that hard. Obviously not all of Diaspora Kenyans support the same candidate but most agree that they would support candidates who are issue oriented. So far, there are only one or two candidates who are focused on issues and they are not part of recent deals based on tribal calculations.

If 50 per cent of the three million Diaspora Kenyans settled on one progressive, post tribe candidate and contributed 100 dollars each to that campaign, a whopping 150 million dollars (Sh12 billion) would be realised easily.

This would help build a massive movement of like-minded people, sponsor Diaspora candidates for various positions, establish an unbeatable campaign machine across the country and shake the status quo in Kenya with or without the Diaspora vote.

The writer is a Washington-based consultant on African politics ( Email:[tkaberia@yahoo.com](mailto:tkaberia@yahoo.com))

### Kenya: Raila Pledges to Return ICC Cases to Kenya

8 December 2012/The Star

PRIME Minister Raila Odinga yesterday promised to seek the referral of the ICC cases back to Kenya if he is elected the next president.

Speaking at Kasarani Sports Gymnasium shortly after being endorsed as the ODM presidential candidate, Raila said Kenya now has the capacity to try the post-election violence suspects.

He said the Coalition for Reform and Democracy (Cord) which includes Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka and Ford Kenya party leader Moses Wetangula has agreed to pursue the referral option of the Rome Statute once they form the next govern- ment.

The ODM convention which endorsed him was attended and addressed by Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvan- girai, vice chair of Uganda's Na- tional Resistance Movement Mike Mukula, South Sudan Cabinet minister Hassan Omar, Tanzanian minister John Pombe and other ODM leaders.

"I want to give an undertaking before this convention, that as a coalition we will seek the referral of the ICC cases back in the hands of our able judiciary. It was never our intention to have those cases at the ICC," he said.

He promised to create enough jobs once elected, address wage disparities and pay the elderly a

monthly stipend. He also called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to allow the police and other disciplined forces who will be required to maintain law and order to vote earlier before the March 4 election.

Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, who also attended the convention alongside other Wiper Democratic Movement MPs, said he and Raila will unite Kenyans and gave assurances that they were in the Cord coalition to stay.

Tsvangirai asked Kenyans to avoid the "forced marriages" trend of coalitions in the future. He said coalitions such as the ones between President Kibaki and Raila as well as that in Zimbabwe between him and President Robert Mugabe have proved to be dysfunctional.

He advised Raila to accommodate his rivals when elected to move the country forward. Mukula said Uganda looks forward to working with a Raila administration to improve the plight of East Africans.

"The future of Africa is in East Africa. What has been lacking is leadership and we can see this is emerging right in front of our eyes," he said. Tanzania's Pombe told the delegates to work at eliminating negative ethnicity in Kenya.

He said if Tanzania with 121 tribes has managed to eliminate ethnicity, Kenya with only 42 tribes could easily rid itself of negative ethnicity. ODM vice chairman Henry Kosgey and Agriculture minister Sally Kosgei who have in recent days been widely speculated to be considering dumping the Cord coalition for the Jubilee Alliance comprising Uhuru Kenyatta, William Ruto and Musalia Mudavadi, attended the colourful convention.

The convention ratified the Cord coalition agreement signed by Raila, Kalonzo, Wetangula and ten other parties on Tuesday. The convention also endorsed a new party manifesto as well as changing the party slogan from "Chungwa Maisha Bora" to "Chungwa - Tuko Tayari."

### Kenya: Why Sportsmen Support Raila Presidency

By Wafula Buke/The Star/8 December 2012

Kenya's next general election will go down in the annals of history as a high stakes election with ramifications in every facet of our national life like no other since independence.

It is not just political careers of the presidential candidates or its implications on the institutional construction of the state and fulfillment of the 2030 vision, its influence will be felt virtually all aspects of our lives including sports.

Neighbouring countries, too, have joined us in holding their breath as they hope for the best for themselves. My concern in this piece is the stake of the sporting fraternity and what the "wait and see" stance means.

Kenya is a sporting nation ranked highly at the global level and can comfortably be ranked first or second in Africa. In Latin America and West African countries, sports are an emotive issue that occasionally determines the outcome of elections. Heads of state have had occasion to push for the inclusion of players in their national football teams due to pressure for results.

The last time Kenya had an involvement of such a degree was in the 1980s when a cabinet minister, Paul Ngei, who had attended the Cecafta football tournament walked into the field to plead with

Mahmoud Abbas, Harambee Stars captain, to resume play after his teammates opted to walk out to protest what they considered an undeserved penalty awarded to Uganda Cranes in the final.

Despite this great achievements in sports, Kenya's heroes in that regard have not commensurately evolved into national opinion leaders, particularly in politics.

The media has been lackadaisical in selling our sporting icons to other spheres of greater relevance in social motion. Indeed, it is unconventional for participants in sports to venture into partisan politics. It has even been said that sports being non-political unites the world regardless of diversity.

The Netherlands' football icon, Van Nisterooy shocked the world in the 1998 World Cup by associating the drive for the Holland team to beat Germany to the horrors they suffered during the Second World War at the hands of Germans.

His proclamation sparked uproars dominated by the view that sports icons should steer clear of politics. What the debate failed to capture was that there were virtually no sports tournaments during the dreaded war.

The European Player of the Year, George Wear tops the list among sporting icons that have broken this crippling norm in Africa. After witnessing an endless slaughter of the Sierra Leone's people year after year out by politicians under various regimes, he decided to run for president to enrich the menu from which a choice would be made.

His intention was to bring to an end rampant mismanagement of his country that had, as in the Kenya case, led to mass killings of innocent people.

Have Kenya's sports people been different? Ezekiel Kemboi, the world and Olympic Steeple chase gold medalist joined the ODM presidential candidate Raila Odinga on his tour of the Rift Valley endorsing him for presidency.

Weeks later, David Rudisha and Pamela Jelimo joined the reloaded team in a campaign tour of Keiyo, appealing to Kenyans to vote for Raila Odinga.

Kenyans may not have understood the driving force behind the move to support Raila Odinga. What has influenced their resolve to associate themselves with a candidate of the PM's credentials? Does the ICC issue have an influence on the move? The explanation for their brave move goes beyond sheer patriotism.

Where would they be without access to the sporting venues of the world? With a country sporting heroes, where would their future be if they did not have access to global marathons?

Why would they get involved in a brand of politics that would put their participation in international races in jeopardy? In the remaining months to the general election, the ICC suspects will generate propaganda that downplays the weighty matters presented by the reality of their being targets of global law enforcement and justice agencies.

The widely travelled sports icons are not oblivious to what befell the sporting generations of South Africa during the Apartheid regime. In the years that the comprehensive embargo was in force, the South African sporting fraternity was confined to the South African borders never to be heard of for over two decades. In athletics, Caster Semenya of this millennium is their firstborn while the Octogenarian Ben Jipcho is our first.



It may be recalled that in 1979, president Jimmy Carter demanded that the Soviet Union withdraws its troops from Afghanistan or face sanctions. It included a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980.

These were cold war times and Kenya was then allied to The United States of America in global politics. Kenya Boycotted the Olympics as ordered by Washington.

A Kenyan Athlete, Henry Rono, who was enjoying the prime of his career failed to fulfill his career dreams. Rono who had broken five world records got depressed by the cancellation of the games and never got his life back as he had it.

It is hence easy to understand why the Kemboi team has taken it upon themselves to oppose candidates whose election will invite sanctions.

ANGOLA :

#### Angola: Vice President Back From Tanzania

9 December 2012/AngolaPress

Luanda — The Angolan vice president, Manuel Vicente, returned to Luanda on Sunday afternoon from the United Republic of Tanzania, where he attended the Extraordinary Summit of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) held in Dar-Es-Salaam.

While in Dar-Es-Salaam, Manuel Vicente, who represented the Angolan head of State, was received in audience by the local president, Jakava Kikwete, to whom he delivered a message from José Eduardo dos Santos.

The vice president also attended the main event of the celebrations of the 51st anniversary of Tanzania, held in Dar-Es-Salaam, presided over by president Jakaya Kikwete.

On arrival at Luanda "4 de Fevereiro" International, the vice president was welcomed by the secretary of State for Cooperation, Ângela Bragança, the Luanda governor and members of his office.

The SADC comprises 15 countries. They are Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar (currently suspended), Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

AU/AFRICA :

#### Somalia: Somali and AU Forces Capture Jowhar From Al Shabaab

9 December 2012/Garowe Online (Garowe)

Jowhar, Somalia — Somali government troops backed by African Union (AU) forces, captured the city of Jowhar 90 KMs northwest of Mogadishu, after a brief clash with Al Shabaab fighters, Garowe Online reports.

The allied forces attacked the agriculture-rich district of Jowhar the administrative capital of Middle Shabelle region, which was an Al Shabaab stronghold.

AMISOM spokesman confirmed that on Sunday morning allied forces had a brief battle with the Al Shabaab fighters in Jowhar who later retreated from the city for "strategic reasons".

"This morning we captured the city of Jowhar after a brief battle, and we are now concentrating our efforts on tightening security in the city," said Col. Ali Adan Hamud.

The Commander of the AMISOM troops in Somalia Gen. Andrew Gutti stated that the capture was a big achievement for security in southern Somalia.

"Through this achievement we are now better able to maintain security in the Shabelle and Hiraa regions," said Gen. Gutti.

AU troops and Somali forces were sluggish in capturing Jowhar located on a main road, but now have a strategic city in their control which links southern and central regions in Somalia.

Al Shabaab spokesman who spoke to AFP, said that the terrorist organization would do everything in their power to recapture Jowhar.

Abdiaziz Abu Musab said that they would pursue the allied forces from "inside and outside Jowhar."

Al Shabaab has been deeply weakened by the allied forces offensive in southern Somalia, the terrorist organization may have been vacated from main cities but the Al Shabaab have reportedly fled to many remote villages in southern Somalia.

Jowhar during the Somalia Government led by Mohamed Siad Barre was one of the main agriculture industry cities in Somalia. Under socialist rule Jowhar's nationalized sugar plantations, cotton and banana industries made up a sizable portion of Somalia's exports.

### Egypte: pro- et anti-gouvernement campent sur leurs positions

le lundi 10 décembre 2012/rtbf.be

Si le président Mohamed Morsi a bien lâché du lest en renonçant au décret contesté qui lui conférerait des pouvoirs étendus, il maintient pour le 15 décembre son référendum sur le projet de constitution. L'opposition appelle à une grande manifestation mardi. Les partis et mouvements islamistes appellent aussi à manifester le même jour mais pour soutenir le président. Les deux camps campent sur leur position.

La vie politique égyptienne reste paralysée par l'opposition brutale entre partisans du président Morsi et leurs adversaires non-islamistes. Ce weekend encore les deux camps ont continué de se faire face dans le centre de la ville, aux abords du palais présidentiel.

Mohamed Morsi voulait les empêcher de passer, tous les accès menant aux rues jouxtant le palais présidentiel, étaient bloquées par d'énormes barrières de barbelés. Mais dans cette Egypte déchirée, même l'armée a des états d'âme et certains soldats laissent passer par endroit, les opposants.

Les deux camps ont appelé dimanche à défendre leur point de vue, à savoir pour le référendum sur

la nouvelle constitution disent les conservateurs-radicaux islamistes, ou pour son report au delà du 15 décembre réclament les milieux laïques, de gauche et libéraux.

Ces derniers - malgré le fait que le président a retiré samedi un autre texte controversé - dénoncent une constitution taillée sur mesure pour les islamistes et qui fera perdre les acquis de la révolte de l'an dernier.

Les adversaires du président craignent de perdre les libertés publiques, dans un scénario qui ne respecterait pas la diversité culturelle et religieuse de l'Egypte.

En témoigne une de ces manifestantes qui, il y a encore un an, pensaient avoir enfin obtenu leur visa vers une vie meilleure : "J'ai très peur, j'ai très peur, ce sera islamiste, ce sera l'Iran, vous me voyez, je suis voilée mais ma sœur porte un bikini, comme elle veut, chacun fait ce qu'il veut faire, j'ai peur mais j'essaie, j'ai l'espoir !", confie-t-elle.

L'espoir, qui, il faut bien le reconnaître, fond comme neige au soleil au fur et à mesure que l'échéance approche.

Quant à savoir si ces manifestants comptent boycotter ce référendum si la date est maintenue, cette manifestante répond : "Bien sûr, je suis 100% sûr que je vais boycotter le référendum parce que ça n'a rien à voir avec notre droit et notre rêve comme révolutionnaire".

Mais combien de temps vont-ils devoir courir après leur rêve de révolution dans un pays à l'histoire séculaire, cette page-là reste à écrire.

De son côté, l'armée a lancé ce week-end un appel aux manifestants pour qu'ils évitent de plonger le pays vers un désastre, ce que l'armée ne saurait accepter disent encore ses commandants.

C.B. avec Fr. Masure au Caire et W. Vandervorst

### Egypt opposition groups reject Morsi's overture

By Jeffrey Fleishman, Los Angeles Times/December 9, 2012

Egypt braces for more protests and the military is given greater authority to arrest civilians in lead-up to the referendum on an Islamist-drafted constitution.

CAIRO — Egypt's main opposition groups rejected President Mohamed Morsi's weekend move to ease political tensions as the country braced for fresh protests and the military was given authority to arrest civilians ahead of this week's referendum on an Islamist-drafted constitution.

Morsi early Sunday rescinded most of the decree he issued last month that gave him near absolute authority by declaring his office free from judicial oversight. At the same time, he rebuffed key opposition demands to delay a constitutional referendum set for Saturday and to order the writing of a new charter that protects civil rights against the influence of sharia, or Islamic law.

Holding a referendum now "risks pushing the country toward violent confrontation," said a statement from the main opposition group, the National Salvation Front, which is led by Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei and senior politicians. "We are against this process from start to finish."

Fearing clashes between Islamists and the predominantly secular opposition, Morsi has empowered

the army to arrest civilians and protect public buildings through the referendum vote. The move comes months after the military, which had ruled the country under martial law for more than a year, handed power to Morsi amid widespread accusations that its tribunals and detention of civilians violated human rights.

Over the last two weeks, at least eight people have been killed and more than 700 injured in protests nationwide.

This country of 82 million people has been swept into a dangerous political drama defined by sharpening differences between Islamists and secularists, an economy in turmoil and the lingering frustration for many that Egypt is no better off nearly two years after the overthrow of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Morsi huddles with advisors, protesters camp in tents and the opposition senses the president has been shaken by a revived protest movement that has drawn tens of thousands into the streets. But Morsi appears determined — and probably has the votes — to pass a constitution that will edge the nation closer to a political Islam desired by his allies in the dominant Muslim Brotherhood.

"It has been our fate to be ruled by a terrorist group that the current Egyptian president ... hails from," said a statement from the Alliance of Revolutionary Forces. "He lost his legitimacy in several ways after he split the nation and forced Egypt to show the first signs of civil war. We are with the strong demands of the street, which calls for the fall of this traitorous regime."

Such fervor has united an often disparate opposition movement. But leading dissident figures remain split over whether to boycott the referendum or use the movement's newfound spirit to rally a "no" vote against the charter.

Both scenarios have risks: A boycott gives Morsi an easy victory, but if a "no" vote fails in a transparent poll, the opposition faces a blow to its momentum. That energy may already be fading. The numbers of protesters in Tahrir Square and marching to the presidential palace were noticeably fewer Sunday than in previous days.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which has seen its offices around the country ransacked and firebombed, said in a statement that Morsi's rescinded decree means "there is now no excuse for mass mobilization.... This will reveal who cares about the country's interest and who serves particular agendas and personal interests."

If the referendum is defeated, a new constituent assembly will be formed to draft a new charter.

The current crisis began Nov. 22, when Morsi — fearing the nation's highest court would dissolve the current Islamist-led assembly — expanded his powers to shield the assembly from judicial oversight. Morsi said the action was needed to advance the country's political transition and open the way for parliamentary elections. But critics have called him a dictator and pharaoh intent on advancing the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist agenda.

There is a possibility that the Supreme Constitutional Court could rule against the legitimacy of a new constitution. Before Morsi's decree, the court was deciding whether to dissolve the constitutional assembly, which had been accused of not representing all Egyptians. But Morsi still wields sweeping executive and legislative powers, and it is unclear how much authority, if any, the courts will have since he has reversed his decree.

The opposition has called for strikes and nationwide rallies Tuesday.

"Protests and partial strikes will eventually lead to a general strike until the demands are met, but it takes time to organize and mobilize," said Karima Hefnawi, a member of the National Salvation Front.

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Special correspondent Reem Abdellatif contributed to this report.

### Ghana: President Mahama Wins Ghana Election

By Raliat Ahmed-Yusuf With Agency Report/Leadership (Abuja)/10 December 2012

Ghana's incumbent president, John Dramani Mahama, has secured a first round victory in an election which was extended because of the malfunctioning of voter-identification machines.

Mahama had over 50 percent of votes cast from the country's 275 constituencies, according to results declared by the electoral body. Nana Akufo-Addo, the main opposition candidate, had 47.7 percent, the result showed.

Ghana's election was peaceful and transparent even with the "logistical challenges that caused undue delays in completing the electoral process," an observer mission from the Economic Community of West African States said in a statement, yesterday.

Meanwhile, former Nigerian president and Head of the AU/ECOWAS Observer Mission, Olusegun Obasanjo, has described Ghana's election as free, fair and peaceful and should, therefore, be emulated by other African countries.

Equipment to scan fingerprints failed in 18 percent of the country's voting centers, according to the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers, which had 4,500 poll-watchers. Half of the centers were open 15 minutes after the scheduled start, yesterday, because of delays in providing voting materials, the group said in an e-mailed statement.

413 stations were open yesterday, or 1.6 percent of the total, according to the Electoral Commission. Polls closed at 5pm.

Mahama, 54, of the National Democratic Congress is contesting against New Patriotic Party leader Akufo-Addo, 68, for the presidency. Six others are also vying for the position. Mahama came to office in July after the death of John Atta Mills, who defeated Akufo-Addo by less than one percentage point in 2008.

UN/AFRICA :

### Doha climate change deal clears way for 'damage aid' to poor nations

Fiona Harvey in Doha/ The Observer/Saturday 8 December 2012

EU, Australia and Norway also sign up to new carbon-cutting targets as fortnight-long conference in Qatar closes

Poor countries have won historic recognition of the plight they face from the ravages of climate change, wringing a pledge from rich nations that they will receive funds to repair the "loss and damage" incurred.

This is the first time developing countries have received such assurances, and the first time the phrase "loss and damage from climate change" has been enshrined in an international legal document.

Developing countries had been fighting hard for the concession at the fortnight-long UN climate change talks among 195 nations in Qatar, which finished after a marathon 36-hour final session.

Ronald Jumeau, negotiating for the Seychelles, scolded the US negotiator: "If we had had more ambition [on emissions cuts from rich countries], we would not have to ask for so much [money] for adaptation. If there had been more money for adaptation [to climate change], we would not be looking for money for loss and damage. What's next? Loss of our islands?"

Ruth Davis, political adviser at Greenpeace, said: "This is a highly significant move – it will be the first time the size of the bill for failing to take on climate change will be part of the UN discussions. Countries need to understand the risks they are taking in not addressing climate change urgently."

Ed Davey, the UK energy and climate secretary, said: "It's about helping the most vulnerable countries, and looking at how they can be more resilient."

But the pledges stopped well short of any admission of legal liability or the need to pay compensation on the part of the rich world.

The US had strongly opposed the initial "loss and damage" proposals, which would have set up a new international institution to collect and disperse funds to vulnerable countries. US negotiators also made certain that neither the word "compensation", nor any other term connoting legal liability, was used, to avoid opening the floodgates to litigation – instead, the money will be judged as aid.

Key questions remain unanswered, including whether funds devoted to "loss and damage" will come from existing humanitarian aid and disaster relief budgets. The US is one of the world's biggest donor of humanitarian aid and disaster relief, from both public and private sources. It will be difficult to disentangle damage inflicted by climate change from other natural disasters.

Another question is how the funds will be disbursed. Developing countries wanted a new institution, like a bank, but the US is set against that, preferring to use existing international institutions. These issues will have to be sorted out at next year's climate conference, in Warsaw, where they will be bitterly contested.

Davis said: "This [text] is just the beginning of the process – you need to have a finalised mechanism. But it will concentrate minds on the fact that it is in the best interest of countries all over the world to start cutting their emissions quickly." Governments also rescued the Kyoto protocol, the initial targets of which run out at the end of this year. The EU, Australia, Norway and a handful of other developed countries have agreed to take on new carbon-cutting targets under the treaty, running to 2020.

A separate strand of the negotiations, set up to accommodate the US because of its refusal to ratify Kyoto, was closed. This will allow unified discussions to begin on a global climate treaty that would require both developed and developing countries to cut their emissions. The treaty is supposed to be signed in 2015, at a conference in Paris, and come into effect in 2020.

The next three years of negotiations on the treaty will be the hardest in the 20-year history of climate change talks because the world has changed enormously since 1992, when the UN convention on climate change was signed, and 1997, when the Kyoto protocol enshrined a stark division between developed countries – which were required to cut emissions – and developing countries, which were not.

China was classed then as a developing country, and although it still has about 60 million people living in dire poverty, it is now the world's biggest emitter and will soon overtake the US as the biggest economy. It has made clear its determination to hang on to its developing country status, and that the countries classed as developed in 1997 must continue to bear most of the burden for emissions cuts, and for providing funds to poor countries to help them cut emissions and cope with climate change

US/AFRICA :

### Susan Rice and Africa's Despots

By SALEM SOLOMON/nytimes.com/Published: December 9, 2012

Tampa, Fla.

ON Sept. 2, Ambassador Susan E. Rice delivered a eulogy for a man she called “a true friend to me.” Before thousands of mourners and more than 20 African heads of state in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ms. Rice, the United States’ representative to the United Nations, lauded the country’s late prime minister, Meles Zenawi. She called him “brilliant” — “a son of Ethiopia and a father to its rebirth.”

Few eulogies give a nuanced account of the decedent’s life, but the speech was part of a disturbing pattern for an official who could become President Obama’s next secretary of state. During her career, she has shown a surprising and unsettling sympathy for Africa’s despots.

This record dates from Ms. Rice’s service as assistant secretary of state for African affairs under President Bill Clinton, who in 1998 celebrated a “new generation” of African leaders, many of whom were ex-rebel commanders; among these leaders were Mr. Meles, Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Jerry J. Rawlings of Ghana, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda.

“One hundred years from now your grandchildren and mine will look back and say this was the beginning of an African renaissance,” Mr. Clinton said in Accra, Ghana, in March 1998.

In remarks to a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that year, Ms. Rice was equally breathless about the continent’s future. “There is a new interest in individual freedom and a movement away from repressive, one-party systems,” she said. “It is with this new generation of Africans that we seek a dynamic, long-term partnership for the 21st century.”

Her optimism was misplaced. In the 14 years since, many of these leaders have tried on the strongman’s cloak and found that it fit nicely. Mr. Meles dismantled the rule of law, silenced political opponents and forged a single-party state. Mr. Isaias, Mr. Kagame and Mr. Museveni cling to their autocratic power. Only Mr. Rawlings and Mr. Mbeki left office willingly.

Ms. Rice's enthusiasm for these leaders might have blinded her to some of their more questionable activities. Critics, including Howard W. French, a former correspondent for The New York Times, say that in the late 1990s, Ms. Rice tacitly approved of an invasion of the Democratic Republic of Congo that was orchestrated by Mr. Kagame of Rwanda and supported by Mr. Museveni of Uganda. In The New York Review of Books in 2009, Mr. French reported that witnesses had heard Ms. Rice describe the two men as the best insurance against genocide in the region. "They know how to deal with that," he reported her as having said. "The only thing we have to do is look the other way." Ms. Rice has denied supporting the invasion.

More recently, according to Jason K. Stearns, a scholar of the region, Ms. Rice temporarily blocked a United Nations report documenting Rwanda's support for the M23 rebel group now operating in eastern Congo, and later moved to delete language critical of Rwanda and Uganda from a Security Council resolution. "According to former colleagues, she feels that more can be achieved by constructive engagement, not public censure," Mr. Stearns wrote recently on Foreign Policy's Web site.

Ms. Rice's relationship with Mr. Meles — which dates from 1998, when she was a mediator in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to prevent war between Eritrea and Ethiopia — also calls her judgment into question.

In fairness, in her eulogy, Ms. Rice said she differed with Mr. Meles on questions like democracy and human rights. But if so, the message did not get through; under Mr. Meles during the past 15 years, democracy and the rule of law in Ethiopia steadily deteriorated. Ethiopia imprisoned dissidents and journalists, used food aid as a political tool, appropriated vast sections of land from its citizens and prevented the United Nations from demarcating its border with Eritrea.

Meanwhile, across multiple administrations, the United States has favored Ethiopia as an ally and a perceived bulwark against extremism in the region. In 2012 the nation received \$580 million in American foreign aid.

Eritrea is no innocent. It has closed itself off, stifled dissent and forced its young people to choose between endless military service at home and seeking asylum abroad. But I believe that the Security Council, with Ms. Rice's support, went too far in imposing sanctions on Eritrea in 2009 for supporting extremists.

President Obama has visited sub-Saharan Africa just once in his first term — a brief stop in Ghana. One signal that he plans to focus more on Africa — and on human rights and democracy, not only economic development and geopolitics — in his next term would be to nominate someone other than Susan Rice as America's top diplomat.

Salem Solomon is an Eritrean-American journalist who runs Africa Talks, a news and opinion Web site covering Africa and the global African diaspora.

CANADA/AFRICA :



AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**UK police unable to identify man who fell from sky to his death in September, appeal for help**  
By Associated Press/Monday, December 10

LONDON — Police believe he was from Africa, probably from Angola, but they don't know his identity, or how to notify his next of kin.

The mystery began in September when residents of a suburban street in the Mortlake neighborhood of West London woke up on a quiet Sunday morning to find the crumpled body of a black man on the sidewalk of Portman Avenue, near a convenience store, an upscale lingerie shop and a storefront offering Chinese medical cures.

Detectives believed at first the man was a murder victim and cordoned off the area. Within a day, however, police concluded the man — probably already dead — had fallen to the ground when a jet passing overhead lowered its landing gear as it neared the runway at nearby Heathrow Airport.

The apparent stowaway had no identification papers — just some currency from Angola, leading police to surmise that he was from that African nation, especially as inquiries showed that a plane from Angola was beginning its descent into Heathrow at about that time.

The macabre explanation made perfect sense to residents, who are familiar not only with the roar of the jets descending, but are also able to see the planes lower their landing gears as they pass overhead, said Catherine Lambert, who lives a few doors down from the spot where the man landed.

“You could see him, his body was contorted,” she said. “It was a beautiful blue day, really sunny, but we had to keep the children inside. I didn't want the children to see, and to have to explain to them and put fear into them every time a plane goes over.”

A post mortem conducted two days after the body landed listed the cause of death as “multiple injuries.”

In the days afterward, some neighbors put flowers on the spot where the stowaway was found, and a small group of Angolans who live in the London area came to place more flowers and to pray. Lambert, 41, said there is lingering sadness, since the man has not been identified and there has been no way to tell his family he is gone.

“I felt, what was he running away from? What made him think he could he could? And how will his family ever know? He's a lost soul now; his father and mother are probably waiting for him to make contact,” she said.

A London police spokesman, who wasn't authorized to speak on the record because of force policy, said Sunday that police are appealing to the public for help identifying the man based on an “e-fit” image of his face and a photo of a tattoo on his left arm. The unusual tattoo showed the letters “Z” and “G”.

Police also said attempts to identify the man with the help of Angolan authorities had been unsuccessful. They stressed there is only “circumstantial” evidence linking the stowaway to that country.

In a statement, police said the man is believed to be an African of slight build between the ages of 20 and 30. He was wearing jeans, white sneakers and a gray sweatshirt when he was found on Sept. 9, police said.

Although firm figures are not available, in recent years there has been a rise in the number of stowaways trying to get to Western Europe by hiding in the undercarriages of passenger planes.

Aviation safety specialist Chris Yates of Yates Consulting said Sunday that poor airport perimeter security at a number of airports in Africa — including the main Angola airport at Luanda — and in other parts of the world has made it easier for people to stow away on planes, but that most attempts fail.

“They so often end in fatality because more often than not stowaways climb into the wheel base or cargo hold, and those areas are not necessarily pressurized,” he said. “When you start moving beyond 10,000 feet, oxygen starvation becomes a reality. As you climb up to altitude, the issue becomes cold as well, the temperature drops to minus 40 or minus 50 degrees centigrade, so survival rates drop.”

He said the man who crashed to the pavement in Mortlake had probably lost consciousness and died within the first hour of his flight.

Police said the body is being held for possible repatriation in case the man’s identity is established.

Mortlake residents and business people speak of a similar death in recent years, but disagree about the timing and the details.

“People say the same thing happened a few years ago a few blocks away” said Jay Sivapalan, 29, who works at the Variety Box convenience store half a block from where the body landed. “We are near Heathrow and when they lower the landing gear, the body falls out.”

Others believe the incident may have happened 10 years ago. Police said they had no information about other stowaway deaths.

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### Uganda: EU Revels in Nobel Prize Win On Human Rights Day

By Emma Mutaizibwa/The Observer (Kampala)/9 December 2012

The European Union (EU) tomorrow marks the Human Rights day with particular excitement, after the organisation won the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

It was in recognition of its work on reconciliation, democracy and the promotion of human rights, which helped extend the area of peace and stability across the continent.

"It is fitting that the presentation of this prestigious prize comes on the day of the celebration of human rights. "Today[tomorrow], on 10 December, we celebrate Human Rights day. Standing up

for human rights, democracy and the rule of law is the silver thread that runs through EU external relations," said a news release from the EU.

The theme of this year's Human Rights day is inclusion and the right to participate in public life. It is a particularly timely theme in light of recent transitions to democracy and resistance to dictatorial leadership. The EU statement, however, warns that holding elections can only be a first step towards real democracy in which human rights take root. The key must respect for human rights.

Speaking to The Observer, at the weekend, Roberto Ridolfi, the EU head of delegation, said: "The day will be commemorated by giving the Nobel peace prize to the European Union. We are happy to receive the prize because Europe has used peace as the driving force for integration."

He said that the EU would continue to assist Africa, and specifically East Africa, to foster peace, stability, prosperity and integration. Commenting about Uganda's human rights record, Ridolfi said: "There is still some work to be done for example the right to food, water and employment."

### Belgique :Vingt Congolais rapatriés dans un airbus de 300 places

Belga /10 Décembre 2012

Un airbus doté de 300 places a été employé la semaine dernière par l'Etat pour procéder à l'expulsion de 20 Congolais en situation illégale, indique lundi Het Laatste Nieuws. Les personnes expulsées d'Allemagne, d'Irlande et de Belgique étaient des illégaux et des demandeurs d'asile. Le vol a été effectué dans un airbus de 300 places alors que seules 20 personnes personnes expulsées et une soixantaine d'accompagnateurs étaient à bord de l'avion. "C'est inefficace et beaucoup trop cher", estime le député fédéral Theo Francken (N-VA). D'après l'Office des Etrangers, il n'y a cependant pas d'autres solutions. "Dans le passé, nous employions un plus petit avion de l'armée mais nous devons alors procéder à deux escales pour remettre du carburant. Cette situation entraînait des pertes de temps et plus de papiers à remplir. Rapatrier des groupes plus importants n'est pas facile avec le gouvernement congolais", a expliqué le directeur général de l'Office des Etrangers, Freddy Roosemont, qui précise que le vol a été payé par le Fonds européen pour le retour. (WDM)

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 10 Décembre 2012 ... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 10/12/2012

