



[Alors qu'une nouvelle personne a été tuée dimanche lors d'affrontements entre coptes et musulmans, le président égyptien a ordonné une enquête. Mohamed Morsi, le président égyptien, est intervenu dimanche soir pour tenter de mettre fin aux violences religieuses entre coptes, les chrétiens d'Égypte, et musulmans. "Je considère toute attaque contre la cathédrale comme une agression contre moi-même", a-t-il déclaré dans un communiqué, en référence aux heurts ayant eu lieu dimanche autour de la cathédrale Saint-Marc du Caire.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda's gone from failed state to amongst Africa's most successful: Williams Nkurunziza
Kim Arora/timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Apr 8, 2013

Williams Nkurunziza is Rwanda's high commissioner to India and a poet who's written on Rwanda's genocide. Speaking with Kim Arora, Nkurunziza discussed this violent past, the current standing of President Kagame — and how Rwanda went from genocide to becoming one of the fastest growing nations in the world:

What was your experience of Rwanda's 1994 genocide?

I was in Namibia. My brothers were actually at the frontline — but whether you were inside or outside, 1994 was a terrible time. In part, the experience of suffering as a stateless person then also finds expression in my poetry.

After the genocide, I went back and was confronted by a post-genocide society, with all its tensions

and conflicts.

How does society move on after that?

In Rwanda, we built a genocide memorial where we record these experiences — in remembering, you create a consciousness that stops that thing from happening again. We have gone through a traumatic time. We can't forget it. You acknowledge the pain and move on.

Rwanda's certainly moved on. A recent study shows Rwanda beating India in poverty reduction — how's this been achieved?

In 1994, Rwanda was written off as a failed state, a basket case. Social, political and economic structures had collapsed. Over the last 19 years, by every measure, Rwanda's become one of the most successful countries in Africa.

Today, 56.6% of Rwanda's national assembly is controlled by women. Between 2005-12, Rwanda reduced its poverty levels by 12.5% — the highest level ever recorded anywhere in the world. We did this by creating opportunities for people to create work for themselves — for example, giving farmers access to fertilisers, seeds and services.

A study finds corruption nearly negligible but critics suggest this is because Rwanda functions like a police state — your response?

People doing business with Rwanda enjoy the absence of corruption. And Rwanda doesn't function like a police state. Everything we do is provided for in our laws, benchmarked against best global practices.

If people say Rwanda is a police state because it respects laws, then Rwanda is a police state — but if it were, it wouldn't be rated as the safest country in the world and people wouldn't be celebrating an absence of corruption.

There's a buzz about a constitutional amendment for President Paul Kagame to have a third term — the Constitution only allows two. How likely is this?

Constitutional amendments take place all the time. In 2003, the court provided for two terms after a referendum. Kagame's said he's not interested in a third term. But that is not to say he won't accept the plea of the people.

If this provision is changed after a referendum, the world should respect it.

Speaking of the world, Rwanda lobbied successfully for a temporary UNSC seat when President Kagame faced human rights violations charges. Was this a diplomatic coup?

The charges were trumped up by political opportunists, with no basis in fact. Kagame led a rebel force stopping the genocide. He inherited a country where two million people had committed genocide. Survivors could have started revenge killings — Kagame led citizens to embrace reconciliation.

However, comment's been caused with an opposition leader recently discovered dead — your view?

Politicians will say anything — but we have a duty to balance facts. You are saying someone does not respect human rights. But you have a grateful nation saying, i was poor yesterday, i'm better off

today.

Are you going to listen to a political aspirant who couldn't get votes? In accusations against Kagame — the decision of the UNSC was a vindication.

UGANDA :

America sees war in Uganda in 2014

Monday, 08 April 2013/Written by Emma Mutaizibwa/mutaizibwa@observer.ug

Uganda's relative calm will be shaken by violent instability in 2014; the US has projected in its latest National Intelligence report.

“Despite gains in peace and security in the past decade, the [Great Lakes] region endures the chronic pressures of weak governance, ethnic cleavages, and active rebel groups, the US Government-sponsored modelling suggests that Burundi, Congo (Kinshasa), and Uganda are all at risk of violent instability during the next year,” reads a report authored by Lt Gen James R Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, the United States.

The report titled, ‘Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community’ was presented to the Senate select committee on Intelligence on March 12, 2013. Uganda is listed in the category of the volatile Great Lakes region alongside Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and amongst countries which will be prone to conflict in future. But the minister of state for International Affairs, Henry Oryem Okello, hit back at the author of the report, saying he is naïve.

“Unfortunately that report exposes America's ignorance about the region. That is why President Museveni always says African problems need African solutions. How do they appreciate the security challenges while sitting in their Washington offices? You cannot compare Uganda to DRC,” Oryem said by telephone at the weekend.

Oryem said Uganda would remain stable for years to come because it has a well-revered army and intelligence services in the region. But while presenting the report to the Senate select committee on Intelligence, last month, Clapper said: “My statement reflects the collective insights of the intelligence community's extraordinary men and women, whom it is my privilege and honour to lead.”

He argues that, “This year, in both content and organization, this statement illustrates how quickly and radically the world—and our threat environment—are changing. This environment is demanding re-evaluations of the way we do business, expanding our analytic envelope, and altering the vocabulary of intelligence.”

Clapper further argued: “The intelligence community is committed every day to providing the nuanced, multidisciplinary intelligence that policymakers, diplomats, war-fighters and international and domestic law enforcement need to protect American lives and America's interests anywhere in the world.”

According to the US intelligence report, “Despite gains in peace and security in the past decade, the [Great Lakes] region endures the chronic pressures of weak governance, ethnic cleavages, and active rebel groups.” However the report does not give details on how the issue of weak

governance, ethnicity and rebellion will trigger violent instability in Uganda.

For a while now, northern Uganda, which was the last sanctuary of rebellion, has enjoyed relative peace since the rebel LRA changed its locales and moved to the Central African Republic (CAR). Since 2008, Uganda has deployed troops across Congo, South Sudan, and Central African Republic to pursue Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), with US assistance, including approximately 100 US military advisors. In 2012, an assessment of global trends by a US-based intelligence council warned that Uganda was at high risk of becoming a failed state within the next 18 years.

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Uganda to ban sexy things and sexy people like Beyonce

08042013/hnow.msn.com

Looks like Uganda will no longer be synonymous with sexy. The country, much like Indonesia, is officially sucking the fun out of life via their Ethics and Integrity Minister (aka Control Freak Extraordinaire) Simon Lokodo. Ladies who like to dress cute will face steep fines or jail time if they wear "any attire which exposes intimate parts of the human body ... Anything above the knee is outlawed. If a woman wears a miniskirt, we will arrest her." In addition, "Television should not broadcast a sexy person." Meaning, Beyonce will be banned from TV (in terms of sexiness, that makes sense), as well as Madonna; the Internet will also be monitored for Ugandans trying to enjoy porn.

TANZANIA :

Chinese TV series well-received in Tanzania

By Wang Mengru/china.org.cn/April 8, 2013

President Xi Jinping especially pointed out in his speech at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on March 25, how popular Chinese TV series "The Beautiful Daughter-in-Law Era" had made the Tanzania audience aware of the lives of Chinese modern couples.

The well-known Chinese TV series was first aired in Shanghai in November of 2009. It was first dubbed in Swahili and broadcast across East African countries in 2011. Kenyan actress Josephine Moeni Waweru and actor Khamis Juma Swaleh were chosen to take on the voice dubbing for the leading roles in the African version of the series. It plays a vital role between China and African countries in understanding each other's cultures.

Revolving around urban families, the 36-episode light comedy focuses on marital issues and the new attitude adopted by the post-1980 generation. The show tells the story of three women, who encounter various predicaments before tying the knot. Their relationships with their mothers-in-law aren't smooth and their attempts to please the parents spark hilarious and sometimes bitter confrontations, which reflect the prevalent marital problems in today's society.

Wang Liping, screenwriter of the TV series, said she had her doubts as to whether African audiences would be able to connect with the show. To her great relief, however, it has proven a success in

Africa. "The overseas market is eager to know young Chinese people's state of mind in modern times," Wang said.

Liu Dong, cultural counselor of the Chinese embassy in Tanzania, said the series was a huge success. "Now in Tanzania, Doudou, the name of the lead character, has become a synonym for Chinese daughters-in-law. Whenever Chinese girls are mentioned in a conversation, local people refer to them as 'doudou.' We have received very positive feedback from the local audience." Liu Dong said the show reflects the real lives of contemporary Chinese people and truly resonates with local audiences.

Joe Lugalabamu, vice director of Tanzania State TV, said that the Tanzanian audience have been able to understand the series due to the emotional entanglements and personal relationships depicted in the show, as they resonate with African people as deeply as they do with the Chinese.

Kenyan Janet Nzomo said the tension between the show's mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law also exists in Kenya.

In Africa, the husband plays a vital role in traditional family life and the wife should abide by his way of living – for life. However, in many modern Tanzanian households, wives and husbands are challenging and questioning one another's constantly shifting roles. Women begin to seek independence and therefore the conflicts between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law will upgrade as well. People may be able to find ways to solve their personal problems by watching the series.

Tanzania: Efforts Needed to Curb Deadly Cosmetics

8 April 2013/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on Saturday destroyed 750 cartons of cosmetics worth over 100m/- in Rukwa Region which were believed to contain harmful chemicals.

According to TRA, the cosmetics were imported three years ago from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where they are not banned. The businessman who smuggled in the consignment through Kabwe Port in Nkasi District has been arrested and will face the wrath of the law.

The Rukwa Regional Pharmacist said all the seized cosmetics were not suitable for human use. They included Carolight Lotion, Top Lemon, Princess Cream, Princess Claire, Top Claire Plus Lotion, Diproson Cream, Betasol, Mont Claire Cream, Dernotly cream.

We commend TRA for the job well done. However, the incident shows that there is still a long way to go to win the war against banned cosmetics. Efforts to curb importation and sale of such products are paralyzed by availability of a readymade market, simply because they are inexpensive, stable and have a long shelf-life. Demand for the products is exploited by manufacturers, importers and retail sellers.

Consumers love them, but the results from long-term use could be deadly. These products contain toxic ingredients that can cause cancers and other fatal illnesses. Consumers have decided to turn a blind eye and deaf ears to calls and warnings from relevant authorities on the dreadful risk that these products pose to their health.

It is understandable that everybody likes to look good, but that should not be at the expense of one's own life. Various studies have shown that a good per cent of those products which normally have long lists of not only difficult to pronounce ingredients but also contain one or more ingredients

which are never publicly assessed for safety by manufacturers.

Most people use beauty products in one way or another but very few of them take trouble to find out and consider what hidden dangers may hang about within those bottles, boxes or tubes with colourful advertising.

Consumers may be blinded by words like "Pure" and "natural" featuring prominently on some hottest products. While relevant authorities such as TRA and the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) play their part in getting hold of such products, consumers on their side should be extra careful when buying such products. Awareness campaigns should also continue to the fullest. Let us take serious note of not just the pretty face of cosmetics but also the ugly side of them.

Tanzania to Send Troops to DR Congo

7 April 2013/Sabahi (Washington, DC)

The Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) will send 850 soldiers to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of a peacekeeping mission with a mandate from the UN Security Council, Tanzania's The Guardian reported on Sunday (April 7th).

"The government has agreed to send soldiers to the DR Congo for peace-keeping purposes ... not to fight the rebels," the TPDF said in a statement, referring to the March 23rd movement (M23). "The soldiers will operate according to the rules of engagement set up by the UN Security Council."

The UN peace-keeping mission in DRC, MONUSCO, has protected some 1,500 civilians since clashes renewed late last month between the M23 fighters and the DRC government, the UN News Centre reported.

Since fighting began in February, tens of civilians have been killed, hundreds have been wounded and thousands have been displaced. The UN Security Council recently upgraded the capacity of MONUSCO, authorising it to deploy an intervention brigade against armed groups threatening security in the country's east.

Tanzania: Digital Migration Leaves Behind Arusha Residents

6 April 2013/The Arusha Times

Many Arusha and Moshi residents woke up to greyish screens on their Television sets when they tuned on the sets on Monday, the 1st of April 2013 shortly after the Tanzania Communications Regulating Authority switched off analogue broadcasting in the Northern Zone.

The move affected Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions but it is only the TV signal recipients in Moshi and Arusha who felt the pinch because Manyara region was yet to be covered by 'free-to-air' television broadcasting and for years the residents of Babati, Mbulu, Simanjiro, Hanang' and Kiteto districts in the region relied on satellite dishes.

Demand for decoders in Arusha has risen in recent days.

Mama Ketty Ainea who lives in Unga-Limited, said she thought the blank TV screen on her set had something to do with the weather, because it is currently raining in Arusha and usually the downpour, with its related thunderstorms affects Radio, TV and even mobile phone

communications.

And she was not alone either, few people in Arusha and Kilimanjaro have been following the TCRA announcements relayed through various media outlets last week that effective from the first day of April, analogue TV transmissions in the two regions will be unplugged, signaling a new era of digital broadcasting in the Northern Zone.

Many people here had no idea what happened to signals on their TVs. Even worse those who own the so-called 'flat-screen' (LCD, LED and Plasma) sets were even more dumbfounded because they believe that if a TV is 'flat' then it is supposed to be 'digital!' which isn't the case.

The TCRA Manager in charge of the Northern Zone, Engineer Annette Matinde said Tanga was the first region in the vicinity to enter into digital TV broadcasting era in February 2013 and the transition went on smooth.

A spokesperson for TCRA Mr Innocent Mungu said Tanzania intended to beat the 2015 global deadline of analogue to digital migration and that the country started to change the system on the eve of New Year 2013 when the old broadcasting method was switched off in Dar-es-Salaam.

Arusha city reported to have 70,000 households needed a similar number of top-set decoders to receive digital signals and according to TCRA, a total of 50,000 such decks have been sold here since 2010.

However investigations conducted here indicated that many of those decoders have been installed in offices, hotels, bars, drinking pubs and other public places which means many domestic TVs were still relying on analogue transmissions.

Tanzania: TPSF Vows to Develop More Young, Women Entrepreneurs

8 April 2013/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Mbeya — THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has said youths and women are priority groups in the country's development agenda.

Speaking at a meeting to sensitise TPSF members in Mbeya Region over the weekend on the need to work in clusters, TPSF Executive Director, Mr Godfrey Simbeye, said involvement of youths and women will help empower them economically.

"There are a lot of women dealing with businesses, that is a reason why we have decided to recognise them in the coming new setup," he said. He said unemployment problem facing youths is a serious one that need serious solutions.

Under the new system, a new TPSF board structure will be based on clusters and inclusion of special interest groups such as women, youths and the disabled. There will be ten clusters to be expanded depending on the changes in the economy. The clusters are agriculture; manufacturing/industry; extractive industries and energy and tourism and natural resources.

Others are banking and financial services; services; trade and commerce; private sector organizations based in Zanzibar; regional business associations and women entrepreneurs. According to recommendations of the subcommittee of the task force on strengthening the common voice of the private sector in Tanzania, TPSF will have 11 board members of which 10 are elected based on representation from the proposed clusters and one position reserved for the outgoing

chairperson.

He said that TPSF will strengthen training given to youths in the country and make them value entrepreneurship instead of depending on employment. "In this era young people should be creative and entrepreneurs," he said, adding that the foundation works with various stakeholders in and outside the country in building such capacity to youths.

He said that TPSF will forward its recommendations to the government seeking her support in programmes toward women and youths development. "We want to have a very huge impact in the government's five-year development plan especially in regard to youth and women entrepreneurial and business skills," he said.

The one day seminar that took place in Mbeya also involved members from other Southern Highlands regions of Iringa, Rukwa, Njombe, Katavi and Ruvuma.

KENYA :

ICC case against Kenya's next president in doubt

AP/Apr 8, 2013

NAIROBI – Kenya's power brokers and voters carried out a mostly violence-free election five years after tribal clashes ripped apart the country. The next big scheduled event is another potential flash point: the trials of the new president and deputy president.

President-elect Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President-elect William Ruto both face trials later this year at the International Criminal Court on charges of crimes against humanity over allegations they helped orchestrate the vicious tribal attacks that followed Kenya's 2007 election, when more than 1,000 people died.

Now, after the Supreme Court on March 30 affirmed their March 4 election victory, there appears to be the beginnings of a push for the ICC to drop the charges.

Ngunjiri Wambugu, who worked on the political campaign of Raila Odinga, Kenyatta's top rival, wrote in a weekend newspaper column that the 6.1 million people who voted for Kenyatta and Ruto show that Kenyans have learned from the 2007 violence, made political adjustments and want to "leave it behind us."

"Now the International Criminal Court must take note and adjust accordingly. Kenya has put two individuals the ICC has indicted into our most powerful political offices. There will be great difficulty should the ICC now wish to parade them on the world stage as international criminals. Kenyans will not take this kindly, neither will they support it," Wambugu wrote.

J. Peter Pham, an Africa specialist at the Atlantic Council, a Washington, D.C., think tank, said Tuesday that the ICC suffers a "crisis of legitimacy" in Africa, and that many on the continent perceive it, rightly or wrongly, to be a tool of interference used by Western governments.

"Now, with much of Africa watching closely, the continuing prosecution of Uhuru Kenyatta threatens to turn into an embarrassing fiasco which could irreparably harm the court's image. Already key witnesses have recanted their testimony or outright refused to cooperate with the court,

undermining the prosecution's case," he said.

"Kenyatta's lawyers have wide leeway to delay the proceedings," he added. "Meanwhile, Kenyatta will get even more sympathy if, ignoring the principle of innocent until proven guilty, Western countries treat him as a pariah."

The ICC prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, has vowed that she will continue to press her case against Kenyatta and Ruto even if they are placed into Kenya's highest offices. Ruto's trial is scheduled to begin in late May; Kenyatta's in July.

Last month a Kenyan civil servant who had been charged alongside Kenyatta saw his case dropped by the court. Bensouda said witnesses against Francis Muthaura died, were killed or were bribed, forcing her hand. Kenyatta's lawyer responded that the new president's case should also be dropped.

Some average Kenyans, for a variety of reasons, also think the ICC is unlikely to carry out a case against Kenyatta, who has said he will report to The Hague for trial even as president. If he does not, Kenya will be in line for international sanctions.

"He may choose not to honor his obligations with the court. Coming to arrest the sitting head of state is not easy," said George Owiti, an electrician.

"This was his goal in becoming president," said Andrew Mwakazi, a 27-year-old supporter of Odinga, Kenyatta's top political rival.

Another Kenyan sees a split decision to press ahead with the two cases: "Uhuru's case will be dropped but Ruto's case will continue," said Kagoya Mwaura, a 29-year-old mechanical engineer.

AU/AFRICA :

Egypte : le président Morsi dénonce les violences contre les coptes

AFP/le 08 avril 2013

Afrique

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Mohamed Morsi, le président égyptien, est intervenu dimanche soir pour tenter de mettre fin aux violences religieuses entre coptes, les chrétiens d'Egypte, et musulmans.

"Je considère toute attaque contre la cathédrale comme une agression contre moi-même", a-t-il déclaré dans un communiqué, en référence aux heurts ayant eu lieu dimanche autour de la cathédrale Saint-Marc du Caire. Il a ajouté avoir ordonné une "enquête immédiate" sur ces affrontements.

Le président égyptien et son parti des Frères musulmans ont notamment été visés lors des obsèques des quatre coptes tués, ainsi qu'un musulman, dans des violences vendredi soir à Al-Khoussous, une région déshéritée du gouvernorat de Qalioubiya, au nord du Caire. A l'issue de ces funérailles, qui ont lieu dans la cathédrale Saint-Marc, de nouveaux affrontements ont fait un mort.

Egypt's President Denounces Violence Outside Coptic Church

April 08, 2013/by Reuters and AP

Egyptian President Muhammad Morsi has condemned violence outside Cairo's main church that left one person dead and dozens more wounded.

Clashes erupted after the funerals of four Coptic Christians at St. Mark's Cathedral on April 7.

Mourners leaving the church fought with local residents. Police fired tear gas to break up the violence.

State media said Morsi denounced the violence in a phone call to Pope Tawadros II, the head of the Coptic Christian Church. Tawadros called for calm.

The four who were buried on April 7 had died in clashes with Muslims on April 4 in a town north of Cairo.

That violence was allegedly sparked by accusations that local Christians had made offensive drawings on the wall of a local religious school.

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