



[At least 20 vehicles loaded with anti-aircraft guns block road as 200 armed men demand removal of Gaddafi-era staff. Armed men have surrounded Libya's foreign ministry in the capital, Tripoli, to push demands that officials who had worked for deposed leader Muammar Gaddafi's government be banned from senior positions in the new administration. At least 20 pickup vehicles loaded with anti-aircraft guns blocked the roads on Sunday, while men armed with AK-47s and sniper rifles directed the traffic away from the building, witnesses said.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**Uganda: Interview - Museveni Using Guerrilla Tactics Against Kabaka**

By Deo Walusimbi/The Observer (Kampala)/28 April 2013

interview

The fight for Buganda's kingdom assets, commonly known as ebyaffe, is going into Parliament. Mukono Municipality MP Betty Namboozie, the prime mover of the impending ebyaffe motion in Parliament has infused raw energy into what has largely been Mengo's cautious political activism.

She has resisted calls from Buganda Katikkiro JB Walusimbi to stay the ebyaffe motion for at least two months. Deo Walusimbi spoke to Namboozie about her motion, which seeks a resolution to compel the government to return the Buganda assets.

Buganda Katikkiro JB Walusimbi last week urged the Buganda caucus not to table the 'ebyaffe' motion. Will you heed the advice?

Once you agree to be part of a closed meeting, you also agree to keep the details of that meeting confidential until otherwise agreed by the same meeting. The most senior person in that meeting was the Katikkiro of Buganda and if there is need to divulge what transpired in that meeting, he should be the one to address Buganda on those issues.

Now that stories are out in the newspapers, indicating that the Katikkiro is in disagreement with the Kabaka, I don't think it is my role to throw more light on that. And I am just requesting him humbly [to] come out and make a clarification on the same basing on what we discussed with him.

However, we are not withdrawing the 'ebyaffe' motion because I have already notified the speaker in accordance with rule 47 of our rules of procedure and we are pursuing the motion.

So, you are defying the Katikkiro?

We didn't go to Mengo to seek permission to move the motion. We went there to consult the Katikkiro because we wanted him to know what we were doing on behalf of Buganda. We thought that by that interaction, we would enrich the motion and indeed we discussed a number of issues.

In particular, we wanted the kingdom to assist us with the full list of all the assets and properties which are still in the hands of the central government and they promised to give it to us in two weeks' time from the date of the meeting. The motion is ready and even if the speaker gave it space on the order paper today, I would be ready to proceed together with the people who second me.

Aren't you moving against the tide, following the Mengo meeting?

But I don't think the Katikkiro is on record saying that. That is why I would request you to seek a clarification from him. I am not going to divulge the details of that meeting. The only thing I heard the Katikkiro say when journalists were inside was that the motion was to be given to Buganda Attorney General [Apollo Makubuya] for advice as the head of the committee which coordinates the Buganda caucus and Mengo. And the most important issue there was that we should broaden the motion to include all other cultural institutions which have anything to demand from government.

The Katikkiro is reported to have said that you are part of a clique which is fighting him...

All that is hearsay - I don't have any problem with the Katikkiro but one thing which you must realize is that Katikikis in Buganda are appointed from among us the commoners or bakopi, meaning that he is not among the princes or princesses. The Katikkiro is a politician like me, he can be challenged and he can be supported or opposed and this is all acceptable.

The only person you cannot oppose in Buganda is the Kabaka but the Katikkiro's policies are all subject to debate. You saw the Katikkiro the other day went and collected Shs 350m from Museveni for Naads and I Namboozie and others said it was not in order; we were free to express our opinion and I know he knows this.

Why are you now taking these matters to Parliament?

There has been enough blackmail. President Museveni did not confiscate Buganda properties; by then (1966) he was a young man and he was not part of the government. So, we are not demanding our properties from him but from the state of Uganda and he is not the State.

In Uganda, power belongs to the people and the people are represented by MPs in Parliament. So, I want Parliament to decide to surrender our properties but not Museveni, who does not have them.

This is not a matter for the presidency only but a national matter which should be tabled in the National Assembly.

Suppose your motion is defeated in the National Assembly, would Buganda emerge a winner or the loser?

Imagine I take your shirt and everybody accepts that it's your shirt and we go to the village council to ask for your shirt to be returned, if the council decides it shouldn't be returned. Does it cease to be yours? Once you acknowledge that these are Buganda's properties, why should the National Assembly, properly guided by reason, refuse to hand back our properties when even the law has ordered the same? So, I don't expect Parliament, aiming at creating harmony in the country, to oppose this motion.

What if your motion is shot down by Parliament, what would you do next?

In the unlikely event that Parliament turns down our request, then we shall know for sure that as Baganda, Uganda is here to extend colonialism and we shall fight for our independence.

How?

Of course once someone denies you the fruits of independence, you fight through all legal means including taking up guns at times to fight a government which is unconstitutional and to fight for what is yours is legal; so, if Parliament turns us down, then we shall have reasons to strategize for the next action but now that we have not talked to Ugandans, our first choice as Baganda is to remain part of Uganda. So for us, Parliament is our first choice and we would want to remain part of Uganda but with a certain form of autonomy.

Is Namboozie tribalistic?

Sure not. I am one person who is true to myself. I am a Muganda and that is a fact, I don't want to deny that. Those people who accuse us of being tribal are the very people who practise it. I am just saying that all of us in Uganda are equal and people should be allowed to say that 'I am an Acholi, Karimojong, Munyankore' and be given an opportunity to enjoy what is rightly theirs. You just have to come to my house to realize that I am not tribal because I look after a number of people of different tribes.

We heard that government agreed to return all Buganda properties on condition that Buganda agrees to have an elected Katikkiro; surrenders Bugerere and Buluuli to Ssabanyala and Ssabaluuli and recognize them as traditional leaders. What do you say to that?

The memorandum of understanding exists; we cannot hide this and conditions have been put up by the president but the [Traditional Rulers (Restitution of Assets and Properties)] Act of 1993, under section two, provides that the properties of traditional leaders shall be returned without any further assurance. That means that the law provided that no further conditions are going to be attached on

the return of the properties.

So, whoever is introducing the conditions is breaking the law. On the issue of traditional leaders of Buluuli and Bunyala, we have all been here and we have been reading the historical books. Since when did the Banyala or Baluuli start to have a cultural leader? But even when they have their traditional leaders, who has stopped them from paying allegiance to them?

The only issue which has resulted into all these problems is that they are now claiming a territory; not only the territory but even stopping Kabaka's subjects in those areas to pay allegiance to the King. It is not Kimeze or Mwogeza Butamanya but Museveni who is creating a rebellion in Buganda, who has been employing guerrilla tactics against us and our Kabaka and I am telling you that those kings will not exist after Museveni and they know that they are "their majesty the Pretenders".

Sometime in 2007, the Kabaka appointed you the Chairperson of Buganda Central Civic Education Committee, are you still serving it?

I must tell you that the Kabaka is still pleased that I keep that post, I have not been reshuffled, neither has my committee been disbanded; so, I still hold that post in Buganda kingdom and I am partly fulfilling my work by introducing the motion regarding 'ebyaffe'.

#### **Uganda: NRM Boxes Kadaga, Nyombi Into Corner**

By Sulaiman Kakaire/The Observer (Kampala)/29 April 2013

The expulsion of four outspoken MPs from the NRM brings 'relief and joy' for the ruling party but to Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, it brings an intricate problem. NRM, where Kadaga is a vice-chairperson, wants the MPs also removed from Parliament, which decision could have serious legal and political ramifications.

Announcing the party's decision to expel the MPs recently, the NRM Secretary General, Amama Mbabazi, said MPs Wilfred Niwagaba (Ndorwa East), Theodore Ssekikubo (Lwemiyaga), Muhammad Nsereko (Kampala Central) and Barnabas Tinkasiimire (Buyaga West) had violated the party's Rule 4 (a) which prohibits the formation of cliques or factions within the party, and (b) which prohibits members from acting as agents of foreign powers.

Though NRM wants them out of Parliament, the MPs have threatened to challenge such a decision in court, when and however it is made. But the political pressure seems to be piling on both the speaker and the Attorney General, Peter Nyombi, to do NRM's bidding, with the latter promising a prompt decision.

"We are still consulting on the matter but very soon we shall be giving our position and this will be next [this] week," Nyombi said, Thursday.

Complex:

Controversy revolves around the interpretation of Article 83 (g) of the Constitution which has been interpreted differently by different individuals depending on their political leaning.

It stipulates that an MP shall vacate his or her seat in Parliament if that person leaves the political party for which he or she stood as a candidate for election to Parliament to join another party or to remain in Parliament as an independent member.

During the debate on the amendment of the Constitution in 2005, the government had wanted to include a provision for MPs to also lose their seats upon expulsion from a party. However, this was defeated after MPs feared it could lead to party tyranny.

"I have a bit of a problem that we may actually suppress people's freedom... a party may degenerate from its original objective and some competent members may challenge the behaviour of individuals, who may have muscle, and under the circumstances, a member is sacked from the party and he loses his seat," argued Bright Rwamirama (Isingiro North) then in the seventh Parliament.

He also envisaged another implication "that a party which loses Members of Parliament will add an additional cost to government because we have to finance elections... I think we must make a law that protects individuals."

But Fred Ruhindi, currently the deputy attorney general but back then a member of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs committee, countered Rwamirama by saying that the provision was necessary to build multiparty dispensation.

"If you belong to a party, you belong to a party. If the party decides to say we do not want you, they are the ones who organized your election to this Parliament. If you say to yourself, "When I reached Parliament I started representing the broader spectrum of Uganda", you would be right but you should remember that you belong to a party, which did everything possible to bring you to parliament. If you do not belong to it, stand as an independent candidate or on any other forum recognized under the Constitution," he said.

But Abdu Katuntu (FDC, Bugweri) the current Shadow Attorney General, reminded the House about the spirit of the Constitution.

"When we are elected to Parliament, we are supposed to represent not only the interests of our political organizations but also those of the entire country. In every multiparty system, you will have two, three, four or more parties in the House, and if we leave this clause as it is, then it might lead to a House being polarized, where members even fear to vote against the party position because they will be expelled... I would, therefore, suggest that the first part caters for all this, and in any case, when you are elected, it does not mean that it is your party, which has borne the whole task; you also have a personal input in your election. So, it is not the party really to determine whether you should be in this House or not," he said.

Practical test:

Seven years later, a similar debate is raging. According to Mbabazi, Article 83 (g) does not only apply to willful leaving of a political party but also to members that are expelled by their parties.

West Budama South MP Jacob Oboth Oboth, a lawyer and former principal state attorney in the Attorney General's chambers, says when an MP is expelled from the political party through which he/she joined Parliament, he/she automatically "leaves" the party and, therefore, loses his/her seat.

"Some people are getting confused about the word leave by construing it only to mean a voluntary act being exercised by the member but the definition of leave means both voluntary and involuntary." Oboth says.

He adds that the above provision goes hand in hand with Article 84(7) of the Constitution which says that the right to recall an MP by their constituents shall not be exercised in a multiparty

dispensation.

"When you look at the wording of the provision it suggests that Parliament was appreciating the influence of a party in making an MP who uses its card to join Parliament. And, indeed even when the seventh Parliament was discussing both provisions they were debated together if you check the Hansards...," Oboth said.

Katuntu however, says that Kadaga's interpretation should be based on the Seventh Parliament's intention on the matter. "We debated this to the logical conclusion and a pronouncement was made as reflected thereto. So, whoever tries to impute Parliament's intention to the contrary will be usurping the role of Parliament," he said.

According to Prof Joe Oloka Onyango, a constitutional law lecturer at Makerere University, the wording of the provision is restricted to voluntary leaving of a political party and does not in any way permit party expulsion as one of the grounds for one to lose a parliamentary seat.

"If that was the intention of Parliament, they would have stated it but by the mere fact that it was a proposal that was eventually defeated, it was not envisaged as a meaning assigned to the clause," he said.

Oloka adds that it is also logical to appreciate the fact that an MP is not elected by parties only, like the case in a proportional democracy like South Africa, where MPs are nominated by political parties based on their scores.

"Our systems is based on direct elections or direct universal suffrage which means that everyone participates in the voting of someone irrespective of their political affiliation," Oloka says.

He adds that if parties assume such powers as sought by the NRM, it will be defeating the rights of those who supported the MPs much as they don't belong to NRM. On whether the abolition of the right of recall should be read to imply power control over MPs, Oloka says the clause was coined in an opportunistic way. "In my view, this clause was inserted due to some interests but it is not in line with the spirit of the Constitution, which appreciates the sovereignty of the people and this is reflected in the letter throughout," he said.

Rebel MPs today:

The focus has now turned to the MPs' status in the House.

"What position do they occupy now because it is clear that they competed as NRM, now what are they?" Oboth wonders. "These people competed with other parties as well as independents but if the voters chose them, that means they were choosing the NRM and if we are to support the view that they should remain in Parliament it will be promoting political hypocrisy," Oboth argues.

It is understood that the NRM whip has written to the speaker withdrawing the MPs from their respective committees. This also means that the status of the MPs also has an impact on their immunities and privileges.

So, when Parliament reconvenes tomorrow, where will the 'rebel MPs' sit, if they are not on the NRM side, not in opposition, and not independent? It seems they will be in some kind of uncharted territory - until Kadaga announces her ruling.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**THICK END OF THE WEDGE: South Africa more 'normal' than we think**

by Peter Bruce/bdlive.co.za/29 April 2013

THE Sunday papers were full of the spirit of Freedom Day. Lots of people writing earnest pieces about how we're not free, we're too free, some are more free than others and, of course, all of it expressed in the racial jargon you use depending on what convention you belong to.

It is amazing how seldom anyone writes about how normal we've become. In fact, when I suggested this a few years ago I was attacked for being racist, because to say, as I said at the time, "we're just another country trying to get along" was to ignore 300 (or was it 3,000?) years of colonialism, apartheid and other forms of racial oppression.

Well, no. Colonialism and apartheid may be what we fight about a lot, but the fact we have something to fight about is utterly normal. In a way it's a wonderful thing. We all have a lot to say, most of it simply to make ourselves feel good or to further ingratiate ourselves with whatever group we're already in or want to belong to. Just imagine trying to shut SA up, and you'll get an inkling of what most annoys President Jacob Zuma.

And not everyone's fights are as interesting as ours. Australian politics, for example, are a sort of sleeping balm. Argentina's, on the other hand, make ours look like, well, Australia's. And of course we are just trying to get along. We're trying to get closer to China without turning the West against us. We're trying to pay our debts with our exports. We're trying to get the poor to be less poor. The fact that we argue about how to do that is also perfectly normal and healthy.

So why do we beat ourselves up so? The poor, someone said, will always be with us. And we all have a duty towards them.

But our country is a glory nonetheless. In two of our main sporting codes we lead or almost lead the world (and if the state could concentrate, in the next 10 years we could be one of the top 15 soccer nations too). We have natural resources, mineral, visual and physical, that are beyond compare. Our democracy is as vibrant and open as it is possible to imagine. Our media is eye-wateringly free. Our currency still buys things. Our corruption stinks, but by no means do we have a monopoly on it.

Could we be doing better? You bet.

Time will fix a lot that is wrong, simply because as people grow and become better educated, the levels of governance and order and "delivery" they see around them will become unacceptable. But the world will change too, and take us with it. It may be that the US one day bursts out of this recession with a new vigour. We may be able to grow enough biofuel to make ourselves independent of oil. Fracking could change all of our lives in ways we cannot imagine.

I'm afraid I don't see the current opposition to the African National Congress (ANC) making much headway. Where the Democratic Alliance (DA) should be policy-driven, it resorts too often to gimmicks. It will pay a price for not, last year, crafting a truly alternative economic policy to the broadly market-driven ones of the ANC. It is an excellent opposition party nonetheless, but it may have to be that for longer than I, until recently, thought.

What is interesting is the rise of the new Jacob Zuma in the mould (sort of) of Ronald Reagan. He's

had enough and he isn't going to take it any more, sort of thing. Protector and promoter of the hugely unthreatening National Development Plan, he will have to see off union and communist opposition to it. That would mean the end of Zwelinzima Vavi's Cosatu career. But is there anyone left in Cosatu who can save it from the union and worker fragmentation sweeping the economy? Even the lickspittle Blade may have to go, though I reckon this guy is so devoid of political principle he could find a way to support almost anything.

I sometimes think JZ could surprise us all. On Saturday he gave a national honours award to Colin Eglin, once leader of the old Progressive Party. Half the leadership of Tony Leon's old DA seem to have returned recently from ambassadorships abroad. I still think JZ may prove true to his original intention to serve just one term as head of state, then whip a couple of unlikely suspects (Bobby Godsell? Tony Leon?) into the Cabinet and get his very capable former wife, Nkosazana, to run the country. Be a lot better than Addis.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

#### **Governor of Kenya's Nairobi County Seeks Funds to Exit Debt Hole**

By David Malingha Doya/bloomberg.com/Apr 28, 2013

Kenya's Nairobi county will tap commercial lenders and the World Bank for loans and may sell municipal bonds to finance plans for urban renewal as it also seeks to repay "monster" debt, Governor Evans Kidero said.

The county, formed on March 4 under Kenya's new devolved system of government, needs funds to build low-cost houses and new schools, upgrade hospitals and provide more clean water, he said. It also plans to repay about a fifth of its \$405 million debt, some of it owed to domestic lenders like Equity Bank Ltd., in the fiscal year that starts July 1, he said.

"We are in a huge hole," Kidero said at his office in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, on April 23. "The first thing is to strive to provide services but also get out of that hole."

Nairobi, which accounts for almost two-thirds of economic output in East Africa's biggest economy, serves as a regional base for companies including Google Inc. (GOOG), Toyota Motor Corp. (7203) and Standard Chartered Plc. (STAN) The city mushroomed from its start in 1899 as a rail-supply depot connecting the port of Mombasa to Uganda, with little consideration for city planning.

About half of Nairobi's 3.1 million residents live in slums and 70 percent of people are unemployed, according to Kidero, while poorly maintained infrastructure like roads and drainage cause regular traffic jams and flooding.

Kidero, the 55-year-old former chief executive officer at Mumias Sugar Co., Kenya's biggest producer of the sweetener, became governor after last month's election. The vote was the first since the enactment of a revised constitution in 2010 that devolved power to 47 newly created county governments.



## Government Guarantees

The administrations, which succeed local government structures of mayors and town councils, are being allocated funds by the central government. In addition, they can gather taxes, including property and entertainment levies, and borrow money as long as the national government guarantees it.

Nairobi's municipality previously announced plans in 2010 to sell as much as 100 billion shillings (\$1.2 billion) of bonds to finance upgrades to infrastructure.

"Nairobi is now in a better position to raise money from the markets because debt will be guaranteed by the government," Fred Moturi, a fixed-income dealer at Sterling Capital Ltd., said in a phone interview. "Their capacity for raising debt is significantly high."

In sub-Saharan Africa, Lusaka, the Zambian capital, said in January it was seeking legal and financial advisers for its maiden municipal bond sale. Nigeria's Lagos state sold a bond worth 80 billion naira (\$504 million) in November, while South African municipalities also have issued securities.

### Infrastructure Pledge

Kidero estimates he needs \$1.5 billion in his first year in charge to make good on his pledge to improve infrastructure.

"I want Nairobi to be known as the easiest place to set up business," Kidero said. "We will decide on a single business window for payment of all licenses to stimulate the interest of investors."

As Kenya's largest county by population, Nairobi will receive a central-government transfer of 16.9 billion shillings, or about half its 31.5 billion-shilling budget in 2013-14, Kidero said.

The remainder will come from collecting business taxes, permit fees and car-park charges as the county takes steps to automate payments and enforce tax compliance, he said.

The county will also pursue the 51.3 billion shillings it's owed by debtors including the central government, land owners and Kenya Power Ltd., the country's monopoly electricity provider, he said. The proposals must be approved by the county assembly.

### Repay Debt

The goal is to pay off 5.7 billion shillings of debt next year, Kidero said. Payments are owed to creditors including Equity and Cooperative Bank of Kenya Ltd., he said.

Kidero's government needs to pick investment priorities, Vimal Parmar, head of sub-Saharan Africa research at Nairobi-based Burbridge Capital Ltd., said by phone.

"He will not be able to do all these things at once," Parmar said. "He will need to ration capital and prioritize the things that add more value to Nairobi county first."

The county plans to cut wage costs to 550 million shillings a month from 800 million by cutting jobs. More than a-third of 11,000 employees on Nairobi City Hall's payroll are unaccounted for, Kidero said, citing an independent study. "We don't know where they are or what they do," he said.

"My administration is going to be participatory and have zero tolerance of corruption," Kidero said, adding that he's already fired 11 people for submitting fraudulent invoices.

## ‘Kidero Unchained’

Kidero characterized his no-nonsense approach by calling himself the “New Sheriff in Town” after winning his gubernatorial bid. A print of him in a cowboy outfit with the tag line “Kidero Unchained,” a play on Quentin Tarantino’s Oscar-winning film “Django Unchained,” is on display in his office.

A pharmacist by profession who has an MBA from the United States International University in Nairobi, Kidero’s previous jobs include managing director of Nairobi-based Nation Media Group’s newspaper division and regional director for SmithKline Beecham Plc before it was acquired by Glaxo Wellcome Plc in 2000 and became known as GlaxoSmithKline Plc.

## Mbooni residents mourn death of their son

Monday, April 29th 2013/By Daniel Nzia/standardmedia.co.ke

Mbooni, Kenya: Residents of Mbooni constituency were Sunday struggling to come to terms with the death of immediate former MP and Makueni Senator Mutula Kilonzo.

A sombre mood hung over his Utangwa village rural home as wananchi led by his successor Michael Kisozi Munyao thronged the home to mourn their departed son.

When The Standard team visited the home, scores of villagers were streaming to the homestead and could be seen talking in low tones.

They described the late Mutula as simple and humble person who mingled with people of all walks of life without discrimination.

The residents urged the Government to ensure his death is thoroughly investigated and truth revealed.

Efforts to reach close family members to give an account of their last moments with the late senator were fruitless as they were said to be engaged in a family meetings.

At home, relatives and neighbours could not hide their shock and disbelief following the sudden death.

Kisozi, who led scores of county representatives from Mbooni, said Mutula’s death was a big blow not only to his family, Mbooni and Makueni residents but to Kenya as a whole. “We are shocked by his death. He was a true hero to his people and the country.”

## Pastor’s testimony

A pastor at Utangwa AIC where Mutula worshipped whenever he visited his rural home termed his death a great loss to the family and Mbooni people.

“He helped build this church through harambees where he one time brought former President Moi to fundraise for the church construction,” said pastor Daniel Mwau.

## ICC Judge withdraws from Uhuru, Ruto case

Saturday, April 27th 2013/By Standard Digital Reporter

NAIROBI, KENYA: Belgium Judge has withdrawn from cases facing President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Deputy William Ruto at the International Criminal Court

In her withdrawal, Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert questioned the prosecution's conduct

"I fully concur with the elucidation in the decision of the prosecution's rights and obligations under article 54(1) (a) of the statute. However, I would have gone further in that I am of the view that there are serious questions as to whether the prosecution conducted a full and thorough investigation of the case of the accused prior to confirmation," said Wyngaert.

"In fact I believe that the facts show that the prosecution had not complied with the obligation under article 54 (1) (a) at the time when it sought confirmation and that it was still not even remotely ready when the proceedings before this Chamber started."

### Kenya: Ruto Defends Choice of Cabinet Nominees

By Judie Kaberia/Capital FM (Nairobi)/27 April 2013

Nairobi — Deputy President William Ruto has defended the nomination of cabinet secretaries saying the people selected reflected regional balance across the country.

Speaking on KTN on Friday evening, Ruto explained that it was not possible to ensure there is a nominee from all the 47 counties of the 42 Kenyan tribes given that there are only 18 slots.

"The men and women who are selected will serve Kenyans equally. They have not been selected to serve their communities or their tribes, or their religions or their regions. They have been nominated to serve every Kenyan equally. In as far as regional balance is concerned I want to confirm, not two of those nominees come from the same county," he asserted.

He urged Kenyans to cast their eyes above debates on nominations and draw their attention to checking if he and President Kenyatta will deliver their pledge to Kenyans which is addressing real issues affecting the society.

Ruto also appealed to Kenyans to keep them on their toes by demanding to see results of the pledges they have outlined in their strategies of reforming the country to better education, health and security among others.

"It will be a great disservice if we were to squander the goodwill that Kenyans have given to us in quarrelling about positions and missing the point and reason to which we were elected. We were not elected to fish out positions to communities but to tackle issues that matter to Kenyans. We want Kenyans to judge us on delivering on the issues that matter to the majority of Kenyans. We want Kenyans to hold us to account," he said.

The Deputy President reassured the country that they are committed to implement the Jubilee manifesto explaining that the team they have nominated clearly understands what they intend to achieve for the country.

He said they have also alerted all government ministries that there will be an overhaul of how things have been being done in previous governments to ensure Kenyans get services as rightfully required.

"Together with the President we will ensure we deliver on Jubilee manifesto. That is our responsibility. It will not be business as usual. We will work. The people who have met with us from ministries know that they have to pull up their socks," he pledged.

Ruto also said they will work with all Kenyans - those who voted for them and those who did not for them - to ensure equal delivery of services and leadership across the country.

"Every Kenyan is entitled by Constitution to a choice. Nobody is going to suffer any prejudice because they voted one way or another. We want to ask all Kenyans that elections are now behind us, we have one government not for people who voted for Jubilee but for all Kenyans. We will serve people of Kenya equally."

The Deputy President promised that by early next week they will reveal the names of two remaining nominees.

Kenyatta's and Ruto's nominations were met with mixed reactions with some opposing their choices while others supported.

Leaders from the Maasai community have complained that there was no candidate named from their community hoping that their wish will be fulfilled in the remaining two slots.

#### JUDIE KABERIA

Judie is a Special Projects Reporter. She has eight years experience in Journalism in Kenya and Germany. She has scooped awards in Reproductive Health, Population and Development and Gender and Development. She has participated in international conferences in Germany. She has a soft spot for human rights and justice stories.

#### ANGOLA :

##### **BP Says Angola Oil Project to Cost More**

April 28, 2013/Dow Jones Newswires/foxbusiness.com

A massive BP PLC (BP, BP.LN) oil development off the coast of Angola has come in \$4 billion over budget after being delayed by a year, The Daily Telegraph reported Monday, citing an executive.

The project, more than 100 miles offshore, was originally slated to start producing oil in late 2011 and to cost about \$10 billion, the newspaper said. Instead, it began production in December last year.

While analysts thought the project would cost nearer \$12 billion, the total is now expected to be "up over \$14 billion" once all the wells have been drilled and connected, Gerry McGurk, BP Angola's vice president, disclosed, according to the newspaper.

BP has a 27% stake in the project and costs will be divided among it and its partners, the newspaper said.

"We probably underestimated the length of time it was going to take--both doing the conversion in

Singapore, and the extent of the installation activity [in Angola]," Martyn Morris, regional president of BP Angola said, according to the Telegraph.

#### Angola Has Mining Potential Which Can Boost Country's Growth, Development

April 29 /BERNAMA-NNN-ANGOP

MENONGUE, Angola, April 29 (BERNAMA-NNN-ANGOP) -- Angola has mining potential capable of helping the country boost economic growth and national development, says Geology and Mining Minister Francisco de Queiros.

Speaking at the opening of the 2nd Broad Consultative Council of his Ministry in Menongue, in southeastern Kuando Kubango province, Sunday, he added that the growth of the sector called for achieving participatory, visionary and effective management in all mining activities.

According to the minister, the sector wanted to gather values to the mineral resources of the country, and this was why the ministry was concerned about increasing the geological potentialities of Angola.

The minister said his ministry had outlined new projects to give legal safety to the Angolan and foreign entrepreneurs as well as to promote good partnerships and ensure the supplying of minerals for civil engineering through an organised and operational market.

The meeting also debated issues related to technical aspects of the national plan for geology and mining, programmes and policies on training and capacity building in the perspective of modernisation of the national plan of geology.

The meeting also discussed advances, challenges and perspectives of the integrated siderurgical mining project of Kassinga and Kassala Kitengo, prospecting works for copper in Kuando Kubango, exploration and export of Angolan quartz, challenges, constraints and perspectives of ornamental rock production.

-- BERNAMA-NNN-ANGOP

AU/AFRICA :

#### Libya fighters surround foreign ministry

28 Apr 2013/aljazeera.com

At least 20 vehicles loaded with anti-aircraft guns block road as 200 armed men demand removal of Gaddafi-era staff.

Armed men have surrounded Libya's foreign ministry in the capital, Tripoli, to push demands that officials who had worked for deposed leader Muammar Gaddafi's government be banned from senior positions in the new administration.

At least 20 pickup vehicles loaded with anti-aircraft guns blocked the roads on Sunday, while men armed with AK-47s and sniper rifles directed the traffic away from the building, witnesses said.

Esaam al-Naas, a Libyan military official, said there were at least 200 armed men surrounding the ministry building.

He said negotiations with the protesters were under way and that no one had entered the building.

Ali Zeidan, Libyan prime minister, said armed groups also tried to storm the ministry of interior and a state news agency on Sunday.

Zeidan urged people to help the government in resisting such armed groups. "There are people who want to destabilise the country and terrorise foreigners and embassies. Hopefully, citizens will face them," he said.

Tension rising

The armed group warned that their actions could spread to other ministries.

Tension between the government and armed groups have been rising in recent weeks since a campaign was launched to dislodge the groups from their strongholds in the capital.

Since Gaddafi was toppled by Western-backed rebels in 2011, oil exporter Libya has been awash with weapons and roving armed bands who are increasingly targeting state institutions.

Sunday's protest was to demand a law be passed banning officials who had worked for Gaddafi from occupying senior positions in the government. The legislation is under discussion but has yet to be approved.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will remain closed until the political isolation law [against ex-Gaddafi officials] is implemented," the commander of the group told Reuters news agency.

He added that the foreign ministry had been targeted because some officials employed there had worked for Gaddafi.

Proposals on anvil

An official, who declined to be named, admitted that the armed men's demands were "legitimate" but he said it did not justify "paralysing the whole work of a ministry" and criticised the group's "extremely offensive" behaviour.

The General National Congress (GNC), Libya's highest political authority, is studying proposals for a law to exclude former Gaddafi regime officials from top government and political posts.

The proposed law could affect several senior figures in the government, and has caused waves in the country's political class.

In March, demonstrators encircled the assembly, trapping members in the building for several hours as they called for the adoption of the law.

After the siege was lifted, the attackers targeted the motorcade of Mohammed Megaryef, head of the GNC, without causing any casualties.

04/28/2013/huffingtonpost.com

I recently wrote about foreign direct investment in Africa and the prospect of engagement among developing nations and the BRICS. But in order for sustainable development to be achieved across the continent, smart input from Africa's own entrepreneurs and institutions must also occur. The question of intra-regional African investment is therefore a large one -- and an increasingly urgent one.

Last year in the Economist Magazine, Nigeria's minister of finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, suggested that in 2013 "'Africa investing in Africa' will become an important slogan." This is our hope. Currently, intra-African trade stands at around 10 percent, in contrast with 60 percent, 40 percent, and 30 percent intra-regional trade in Europe, North America and ASEAN.

As populations become more urbanized, sectors like the food and drinks industry will be ripe for investment. The opportunities for local entrepreneurs and innovators are more and more apparent and the need for interaction between African nations is only likely to grow. It is clear that greater engagement between African nations would have substantial benefits for the region.

Already, a number of African firms have been investing in the continent. First, there are the banks: Standard Bank, based in South Africa, is committed to sustainable investment. Ecobank, in Togo, facilitates banking across the continent; while the Moroccan-based AttijariWafa bank has operations in ten African nations. In ICT there is the MTN Group, a multinational telecommunications firm with branches in 21 countries across Africa and the Middle East.

There is plenty of activity in the consumer sector too. Shoprite Holdings has 400 franchise outlets in 17 African countries, and they are expanding, while Massmart, founded in 1990, employs 30,000 people. At the moment, most investment is led by South Africa, which has one of the continent's biggest economies; but other countries (such as Togo, with its EcoBank) are taking advantage of opportunities to grow across the region.

There are of course several factors that have slowed the progress of intra-African trade. One problem is an under-developed infrastructure, which hinders the transportation of goods between countries. Border crossing is often an over-complicated process. There are 54 countries in Africa, with 54 different markets and sets of laws. Complex customs and trade regulations make life difficult, especially for smaller, poorer traders. The African Development Bank estimates that for landlocked African countries, the cost of trading is 50 times higher than for coastal African countries.

Regional integration would solve many of these problems. The Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) offers an example of successful integration: most of its members are small countries, lacking power on their own to create an economic community. Regional integration would bring other benefits too, attracting investors through the appeal of access to a bigger market.

It may be possible to categorize the stages of African investment. First, there has been investment in natural resources. When that investment generates capital and jobs, we see a growth in banking, ICT and consumerism. Hopefully the next stage will be investments in small and medium enterprises and businesses. Big changes are needed if Africans are truly to benefit from the rich resources of their own continent. But those changes have begun, and I am optimistic about what the future holds.

L'état de santé du président Bouteflika « évolue bien »

Source: lavenir/lundi 29 avril 2013

## Algérie

Les nouvelles sont plutôt rassurantes quant à l'état de santé du président algérien Abdelaziz Bouteflika qui a subi un accident ischémique transitoire, samedi. «Son état de santé évolue bien et le président n'a subi aucune lésion irréversible, aucune fonction motrice ou sensorielle n'a été altérée», a affirmé le Pr. Rachid Bougherbal.

Le chef de l'État doit «compléter son bilan et récupérer un peu de la fatigue occasionnée par cette affection», précise-t-il.

Âgé de 76 ans, le président algérien n'en est pas à sa première alerte : en 2005, il avait été opéré d'un ulcère hémorragique au niveau de l'estomac et, depuis, son état de santé fait régulièrement l'objet de spéculations dans les journaux algériens qui mettent en doute les versions officielles, comme cela a encore été le cas cette fois.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

Chinese NGOs reach out to African countries

2013-04-29/By Meng Jing and Sun Yuanqing ( China Daily)

Groups give new impetus and direction for people-to-people exchanges in Africa with their community outreach programs, report Meng Jing and Sun Yuanqing.



At almost the same time that President Xi Jinping announced during his recent visit to Africa that China will extend a \$20 billion credit line to the continent over the next two years, Zhang Ming, a director of the Red Cross Society of China, was busy raising funds of more than 30 million yuan (\$4.85 million) from China to build public health centers in Africa, the first overseas project by her organization.

Though the project may not seem as generous as the \$20 billion credit line from the Chinese government, it is a giant leap for China's non-governmental organizations. Giving back to society with an enlightened self-interest is the common tag line used to identify NGOs globally. But with more than half of the nation's people living in poverty before the 1990s, Chinese NGOs were more likely to receive financial assistance from developed countries, rather than extending help.

"We have been receiving donations from other member nations of the International Committee of the Red Cross for quite some time. Though we did donate money to other countries for emergency disaster relief from time to time, we had never set up operations or run long-term projects outside China," said Zhang, director of the external liaison department of Red Cross China.

Her plan for the organization's first steps abroad include a three-year program covering Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, setting up community-based centers that offer first aid, healthcare and water supplies.

With the rapid economic development of China and the country's transition from an "upper middle income" economy to a "high income" economy over the next 15 to 20 years, a small but growing group of NGOs are eager to go outside China and give a hand to less well-off countries. The friendly relationship and increasingly strong trade ties between China and Africa have made the continent an ideal destination for Chinese NGOs wanting to test the waters.

Financial help from the Chinese government has been a big factor in the growing number of Chinese NGOs that are keen on undertaking projects in Africa. According to experts on the ground, Chinese NGOs have not only made meaningful contributions in Africa, but also played an important role in promoting bilateral relations between China and Africa through people-to-people exchanges.

There are no official statistics about the number of Chinese NGOs operating in Africa, but Liu Hongwu, director of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University, estimated that there are more than 100 Chinese NGOs operating in Africa, and 10 of them have permanent operations and local offices in Africa.

Liu, who is also an expert in NGO studies, said that the number of Chinese NGOs operating in Africa has seen tremendous growth over the past four to five years.

Li Liqing, board member of the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association, said that the rapid economic development of China is one of the major reasons pushing these organizations into Africa.

For Red Cross China, the decision to go abroad came in 2011, when China officially overtook Japan as the world's second-largest economy.

According to Zhang, membership countries of the International Committee of the Red Cross are broadly divided into two categories. Donors such as countries in northern Europe are partnership national societies, while receivers, such as Nepal and China, are operational national societies.

"When China became the second-largest economy in the world, we knew that we could not be a receiver forever. We needed to step forward and offer our help to other countries," she said.

Strong government support is another major driver. President Xi Jinping has in his keynote address to the 2nd China-Africa People's Forum indicated that a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership is being promoted, in which cultural and people-to-people exchanges are the key.

Li from the friendship association said there is a growing emphasis from the Chinese government on people-to-people exchanges being the foundation for strong China-Africa ties.

"China-Africa cooperation is mainly on the government-to-government level. To further develop strong ties with Africa, it is important to make more African people know and understand China," Li said.

You Jianhua, secretary-general of China NGO Network for International Exchanges and the organizer of the People's Forum, said unlike many other countries, the relationship between the Chinese government and NGOs is friendly.

"With strong government support, going to Africa is now recognized as the first step for Chinese NGOs to go abroad," said You, who recently organized a team of Chinese NGOs to build water wells in Africa.

"We can tell the trend from the increasing number of NGOs who took part in China-Africa People's Forum," he said. The forum, held alongside the ministerial conference of FOCAC since 2012, attracted around 300 delegates from NGOs in China and Africa last year.

"Not all the NGOs in China are ready to go abroad, but I think the top ones, which have the ambition to grow themselves into international organizations, are ready to step onto foreign shores," said Tu Meng, secretary-general of China Youth Development Foundation.

He added that being international doesn't necessarily mean extending financial assistance to other countries but also means in having operational and long-term projects in these nations along with representative offices.

Since March 2011, nearly \$3.5 million raised by WECBA has gone toward the construction of 17 schools in Tanzania, Kenya and Burundi. Thousands of African children in these low-income countries have benefited immensely from the project.

Yan Shi, deputy director of the department of Project Hope for Africa with CYDF, said the demand for help in Africa is quite strong.

"Many of the rural schools we visited in Africa are made of mud and animal dung. There is even one school in Kenya, which has no walls at all, and is just a blackboard under a tree with some stones on the ground for children to sit on," he said.

Yan, who worked for Project Hope China between 2008 and 2011, a program that has built around 17,900 schools in China since 1989, said in terms of help, the landscape in China and poor countries in Africa is quite different. "Project Hope in China has increasingly involved constructing schools to equipping schools with computers and other facilities, including training rural teachers, while the demand in Africa is still at the stage of school construction," Yan said.

Academics and insiders in NGOs said that China has progressed rapidly to something that is in

between a developed economy and a developing economy, which means Chinese NGOs are in a better position to help, and the experiences they gather in their operation in China suit African situation better than their Western counterparts.

Karla Simon, a law professor at the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, and an expert in civil society of China, said Chinese NGOs are closer in terms of their development to African NGOs, compared with Western NGOs.

"The civil society movement in China is really quite young. Nobody had heard of the term NGO until 1995 in China. But I think Chinese NGOs have a lot to bring to Africa as they are relatively recent," the Washington DC-based Simon said.

He Wen, director of project management center with the Amity Foundation, agreed, saying compared with NGOs from Western countries, it is easier for Chinese NGOs to fit their skills into African society because poverty alleviation is a much more recent event than in the West.

Since 2011, He's Nanjing-based foundation has trained dozens of people from Madagascar the skills of building biogas digesters and provided the country with 263 units of equipment for the building of biogas digesters in rural areas.

"A biogas digester, a practical equipment that turns organic waste into usable fuel, is very popular in rural China. We can take more useful technologies from rural China to meet demand in Africa. Western countries are quite developed and many of their skills may not fit into the African context quite well," he said.

However, every coin has two sides. The advantages can easily turn into disadvantages. Wu Peng, director of the International Development Department of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, said that the young civil society in China can also means inexperienced NGOs.

"We haven't been engaged in international relations as long as Western NGOs. Western NGOs have been in Africa for 10 or 20 years. We don't have local contacts, we don't have enough talented people qualified to work overseas and we know nothing about running a project in Africa," Wu said.

Four years ago, China surpassed the United States as Africa's biggest trading partner. Bilateral trade between the two sides has grown from \$10.6 billion in 2000 to around \$220 billion last year.

More Chinese companies now consider Africa as an ideal investment destination, said a 2011 report from China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The report said that the number of Chinese companies investing in Africa has sharply risen and out of the \$59 billion outbound direct investment that was invested abroad in 2010, 22 percent was invested in Africa. The strengthening business ties have prompted an increasing number of Chinese corporate donors, which are eager to give back to local communities after years of doing business in Africa.

Liu Hongwu, director of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University, said Chinese companies are the biggest financiers of charity projects in Africa.

Chinese businesses in Africa have enacted the role of NGOs, especially in terms of making a difference in local communities through their corporate social responsibility projects.

Hainan Airlines has been helping cure cataract patients in Africa since 2010, one year after the

Shenzhen-based airliner opened its Beijing-Dubai-Luanda route.

The program called China-Africa Brightness Action is sponsored by Hainan Airlines and Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group with help from doctors at the Beijing-based Tongren Hospital. The project, originally started in China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, where the strong sunlight results in millions of cataract patients, has cured more than 2,000 patients in Africa.

"When we entered Africa, we found that many African people suffered from cataract, which can be easily cured once you have doctors and medicines. So we decided to extend the project to Africa," said Li Xianhua, chief executive of Hainan Airlines. "We know we can't put money on top of our agenda; we also need to shoulder more responsibility and give back to local people."

According to Li, the company has invested 25 million yuan in the African project and the carrier would extend further assistance by sending a team of Chinese doctors to Africa in May.

Hainan Airlines is no exception. Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corporation, two high-tech giants in China, have also undertaken various corporate social responsibility projects in Africa.

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INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

### **Brazil's Foreign Policy: Putting The B In BRICS – Analysis**

By COHA/By W. Alejandro Sánchez and Amandha Lopes/[eurasiareview.com](http://eurasiareview.com)/April 29, 2013

In recent years Brazil has taken its ambitions of becoming a global power to the next level. The Portuguese-speaking giant has experienced major economic and social development over the past decade. As a result, it enjoys a strong military and growing influence both in the geographically defined Western Hemisphere and other regions of the economically defined Global South. Moreover, Brasilia has strongly lobbied for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), having already achieved backing from several nations and multinational blocs. It is no surprise that the country stands as the natural candidate to become the representative of Latin America and the Caribbean in the UNSC should structural reform ever occur. Furthermore, Brazil will ambitiously host two major sporting events in the coming years, these will be the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, which, if successfully organized, will enhance Brasilia's credentials as a rising global power.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to highlight that not all is well in the Portuguese-speaking giant. Public security continues to be a matter of great concern, along with cases of corruption among high governmental levels. Perhaps even more worrying, the country's economic growth rates appear to be stalling, which may signal the beginning of a potentially catastrophic burst of the "growth bubble" in the near future.

Problems aside, Brazil has been placed in an elite club of rising global powers known as the

BRICS, an acronym drawn from the names of its member states: Brazil, Russia, India, China and, most recently, South Africa. In this report, we will focus on the implications of Brazil's relations with each of its fellow BRICS countries.

## BRICS

The acronym 'BRICS' started as an abstraction created by Jim O'Neil, a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs, in a 2001 research paper. No formal alliance originally existed among these nations prior to O'Neil's research. His study, in fact, actually helped to promote the idea of closer ties between these countries. The BRIC's (sans South Africa) inaugural summit took place in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg in 2009.

A plethora of articles have been written about the BRICS nations since then, but a clearer picture can still be painted regarding inter-BRICS relations. It is worth noting that to a considerable degree fractionalization already exists within BRICS as Brazil, India, and South Africa have created a loose alliance known as IBSA (another acronym of the three nations' names). [1] The IBSA bloc predates BRICS as it was originally created back in 2003 and already has held several meetings. IBSA has even staged joint military exercises. But as with BRICS, IBSA is far from being a united bloc in spite of common foreign policy objectives among its three members (i.e. pushing for UNSC reform). The three-nation group will host its sixth summit this coming June in New Delhi.

In a March 2012 interview with the Council on Foreign Relations, the renowned British journalist and economist, Martin Wolf, provided a less idealistic view on BRICS. [2] He stated that, "these countries have basically nothing in common whatsoever, except that they are called BRICS and they are quite important...the grouping has very specific jealousies within it, particularly the two most powerful members – in terms of their potential, anyway – China and India. There's a lot of mistrust between the two." [3] In other words, Wolf was skeptical about whether there was a sufficient convergence of interests and views among the BRICS to form a united coalition. Meanwhile, Observer Research Foundation Vice-President Samir Saran and Associate Fellow Vivan Sharan published a February 2010 op-ed in the Indian daily The Hindu. In their commentary, the analysts explained that,

The challenge for BRICS has always been, and continues to be, the articulation of a common vision. After all, the member nations are at different stages of political and socio-economic development. While some have evolved economically and militarily they are yet to succeed in enabling plural governance structures, while others who represent modern democratic societies are being challenged domestically by inequalities and fault lines created by caste, colour, religion and history. [4]

Nevertheless, in spite of the absence of a united front, there have been numerous inter-BRICS initiatives. For example, the South African government has reported that, "Russia has expressed interest in cooperation with South Africa in the construction of nuclear power plants. South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan 2010 indicates that nuclear power should form part of the energy mix by 2030, with the first plant coming online as early as 2023." [5] Moreover, the BRICS nations continue to attempt major joint projects; among the most potentially game changing moves being discussed is the creation of a BRICS development bank, a project that has since become bogged down over disagreements over which country would host the bank. Nevertheless, experts believe that this project will eventually take form. COHA Senior Fellow and visiting professor at the Australian National University, Dr. Sean Burges, argues that, "my forecast is that this is going to happen because current IFI rules are preventing Brazilian, Indian and Chinese firms from snagging more infrastructure projects in Africa." [6]

In other words, given the diverging foreign policy interests among the BRICS nations, including

military, political, and cultural tensions among them, we should have realistic expectations of what this entity could become. It most likely will not become some kind of trans-continental security alliance, a la NATO. Perhaps at best, we could see the appearance of several joint financial and commercial projects, making the group a greater force in the international financial system. The following sections will provide a more in-depth analysis of Brazil's relations with fellow BRICS nations particularly from an economic stance.

#### Brazil and Russia

Brazil and Russia have enjoyed over 180 years of peaceful but modest diplomatic relations. [7] The history of these ties is long and generally uneventful, however they were substantially strengthened following the fall of the Soviet Union and the subsequent birth of the Russian Federation. It has only been in the last two decades that this bilateral strategic partnership has been pursued in a consistent manner. The many agreements signed by both countries, such as the Brazil-Russia Cooperation Treaty (1997), the Brazil-Russia Military Technology and Transfer Pact (2003), and the Brazil-Russia Strategic Alliance (2005) are but a few of the examples of their increasing cooperation. [8] Today, Brazil is Latin America's largest trading partner with Russia, and one of the leading suppliers of agricultural products and consumer goods.

Regarding military ties, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, signed an agreement in February 2013 to purchase Russian anti-aircraft weaponry. This decision is significant as it will increase Brazil's military strength in terms of defense capability and potentially spur greater militarization throughout Latin America –whether the region is or is not in an arms race is debatable. The agreement, according to General Jose Carlos De Nardi, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Brazilian Armed Forces, would envisage the construction of a factory in Brazil and the exchange of military technologies. The exchange will also open the doors to more bilateral negotiations with the possibility of preparing a contract for future purchases and joint development of new defense products. [9] The deal's origins date back to meetings held in 2012 between Rousseff and Russian President Vladimir Putin. [10] However, it was in February 2013, during a meeting between Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Rousseff in Brazil that the plan was further consolidated. Medvedev's agenda was primarily in agreement with General De Nardi, but he also addressed issues such as energy, petroleum, hydropower, nuclear power, and defense with the Brazilian head of state, according to reports from the Press Secretariat of the Presidency. Amid discussions over the logistics package for investment in Brazilian highways, railways, ports, and airports, Rousseff also used the meeting to invite Russian companies to participate in the infrastructure building process. [11]

#### Brazil and India

The relationship between Brazil and India owes its historical origins to the Portuguese Empire. This link goes back five centuries, probably the longest relation between Brazil and a BRICS nation. [12] The Portuguese connection led to the exchange of several agricultural crops between Brazil and India in the colonial days. [13] Diplomatic relations were officially established in 1948, and relations between New Delhi and Brasilia have strengthened ever since, as exemplified by the establishment of IBSA and BRICS. [14] Although geographically the two countries are separated by great distance, they share common values such as democracy and development aspirations. Both are developing countries, important cultural, and trade actors in their regions; both are relatively politically stable, democratic, secular, multicultural, and multiethnic; and both have booming trillion dollar economies. [15]

The two countries avidly advocate for a permanent position in the UNSC for developing countries as they both believe the UNSC should be more democratic, legitimate, and representative. The G4 (a loose political alliance between Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) is believed to be an innovative way to achieve this goal. Brazil and India are also involved in the IBSA initiative. IBSA,

as well as BRICS, should be a great tool to advance economic growth and diplomatic understanding between the countries.

Trade between Brazil and India is growing at the impressive rate of 35 percent per year, despite a decreased economic rate of growth in both countries and the physical distance between them, as Brazil's ambassador to India has pointed out. [16] The implementation of an air service agreement between the two countries is expected to overcome this gap. According to information available from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, "bilateral trade reached a figure of \$62 billion USD in 2012...This is the first time in the history of economic and commercial relations between the two countries that the bilateral trade has crossed the \$10 billion USD mark." [17] The report also explains that further areas of cooperation include,

oil and gas, automobiles, IT, pharmaceutical, engineering goods, bio-fuels, agriculture, allied areas (the bulk of Brazilian cattle livestock is of Indian origin and Brazil still imports fresh embryos from India to rejuvenate its cattle breed), and agro-food sectors. [18]

Oliver Stuenkel, professor of international relations at the University of São Paulo-FGV campus, has strongly advocated for greater BRICS and IBSA relations, especially between India and Brazil. [19] In a September 2010 commentary for The Times of India, he explained that, besides trade interests, notable common democratic values exist between the two states. As Stuenkel argues, "Brazil and India are the two principal emerging powers whose citizens enjoy a human rights-abiding liberal democratic system." [20]

Brazil and China

Even before BRICS was established, Brazil was regarded as having the potential to be the new China; whether or not this will become a reality is yet to be seen. According to studies, both countries have been hit in varying degrees by the global economic downturn. Brazil's current GDP growth has barely been above 1 percent, a huge difference compared to its rapid 7.5 percent expansion in 2010, and well below the 3.1 percent average expected for 2013 in Latin America. China, on the other hand, although decelerating, has the growth rate of 7.4 percent, still much better compared to most nations. [21] However, studies have shown that,

public contentment and perceptions of living standards appear not to have followed the same path. According to happiness indexes and gauges of consumer sentiment, Brazil has maintained a strong "feel good" factor, while many in China feel worse off. [23]

There could be many explanations for this phenomenon. An article in the British daily, The Guardian, regarding Brazil-China relations says inequality could be part of the reason. The article explains that, "the nominally capitalist and communist nations are moving in opposite directions from those that might be expected from their ideological labels." [24]

Relations between Brazil and China began in the early eighteen century, and although disrupted by the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, diplomatic relations officially reconvened again in 1974. [25] More recently, former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva along with 450 Brazilian business representatives visited China in 2004 to confirm the growing economic and political relationship between, not only the two countries, but with Latin America as a whole. [25] Over the past decade Beijing has aggressively sought the natural resources needed to sustain an emerging superpower, and Latin America would be its most obvious and natural choice. China's trade with Latin America reached \$241.5 billion USD in 2011, and as has also replaced the United States as Latin America's biggest trading partner. [26] China became Brazil's largest trading partner in 2009. [27] Additionally, "Former Brazilian President Lula and many in the Brazilian media consider China to be Brazil's most promising business partner and a strategic ally due to China's

rapidly rising demand for raw materials and agricultural produce.” [28]

Chinese investments in Brazil are concentrated mainly in the energy, mining, steel, and oil industries. Beijing’s investment portfolio infuses the Brazilian economy with capital and a huge growth potential, but often encourages questionable practices as well as unfortunate consequences. The country’s interest in raw materials benefits a few big Brazilian suppliers, but in turn exports back cheap manufactured goods which undercut Brazilian rivals both in domestic and regional markets. This deindustrialization trend happens not only to Brazil, but to all of China’s trading partners in Latin America. In addition to deepening Latin America’s dependence on the export of natural resources, many have good cause to grieve over the corrupt Chinese practices of buying up land from peasants and paying below-industry wages.

Despite generally having a friendly and relatively close trade relationship with China, Brazil has publicly criticized many of Beijing’s policies, especially in regards to the so-called Currency War. [29] Brazil has also criticized U.S. policy, advocating against escalating economic tension concerning trade and currency. Although many believe China is using economic diplomacy in Latin America to undermine or threaten the United States, as well as the relatively recent Latin American return to democracy, that hypothesis has yet to be proven correct. [30] Brazil’s well-established, working democracy is not threatened by China’s ideology. Still, China’s presence may affect political and economic developments in other parts of Latin America in terms of how to hone productive cooperation among China, the United States, and Latin American nations. Stanford University Research Fellow William Ratliff argues that although it is a constant challenge to get China and the United States to get along, so far in Latin America they have done relatively well. [31] Nevertheless, the meeting of the two nations has been complicated by the Latin American countries that require this engagement. The region’s particular characteristics could either draw China and the United States into greater cooperation or worsen the relationship, depending on Latin America’s readiness and its capacity to mediate between Washington and Beijing.

One of the most recent agreements between the governments occurred during the BRICS Summit in South Africa. It has been reported that Brasília and Beijing have agreed to a three-year arrangement in which they will trade using the other parties’ currencies, amounting to about \$30 billion USD per year. This has been interpreted as a challenge to the U.S. dollar. [32]

The relationship between Brazil and China is obviously a profitable one; the only question remaining is whether or not Brazil and the rest of Latin America will ensure this will be a mutually profitable relationship rather than one skewed towards China’s interests.

Brazil and South Africa

The dynamics between Brasília and Pretoria may be the least known of the intra-BRICS relationships, but there have been some interesting developments on issues such as binational governmental support of commerce-related initiatives. For example, in July 2010, the presidents of both nations signed a Strategic Partnership Declaration and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Intergovernmental Relations, to increase diplomatic relations. [33] Later, in November 2011, the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade (MDIC), the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations (MRE), and the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil), organized a delegation of entrepreneurs that traveled to South Africa. At the time, Apex-Brasil President Mauricio Borges stated,

the African continent is a prominent destination for Brazilian exports, especially manufactured products with higher added value. The region presents itself as an important platform for internationalization and the installation of new industrial plants. [34]



Some facts regarding concrete figures over South African-Brazilian trade include,

Over the period January – August 2011, Brazilian exports to South Africa totaled to \$ 1.12 billion USD. During the same interval, Brazil imported \$ 806.48 million USD from its South African counterparts. Brazilian exports comprised chiefly of frozen poultry, whole birds (\$ 134.44 million), motor vehicles with internal combustion engines (US\$ 71.23 million), road tractors for semi-trailers (US\$ 70.99 million), cane/beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose (\$58.8 million USD) as well as iron ore agglomerates and concentrates (\$ 36.27 million USD). [35]

In terms of cooperation regarding social initiatives, South Africa has tried to learn from Brazil's "Fome Zero" program, which combats hunger and poverty in the Portuguese-speaking country. Back in February 2012, a delegation of South African government officials, including members of the National Developmental Agency (NDA), the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Provincial Heads of Government (HOD), and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, visited Brazil to learn more about the successes of the aforementioned program. South Africa has launched a similar campaign called "Food for All Campaign." In a media interview, Vusi Mandonsele, Director of South Africa's Department of Social Development, explained that,

The objective of South Africa's visit to Brazil was to understudy how the country has managed to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition within a space of over a decade. As part of our mission, we visited the City of Belo Horizonte in the state of Minas Gerais, where the genesis of the Brazilian Journey began, to a society free from hunger and poverty. [36]

Furthermore, South African scholars are also fomenting greater analytical projects on BRICS. For example, a think tank called the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), based in Johannesburg, has promoted the analysis of African relations with the rest of the world, including Brazil, as well as South Africa's relationship with the BRICS nations. [37]

Nevertheless, not everything has been ideal in the relations between Brasília and Pretoria. For example, in June 2012, Brazil took South Africa to the court of the World Trade Organization (WTO), over tariffs that Pretoria had imposed on chicken imports from Brasilia. [38] According to reports,

South Africa imposed extra tariffs ranging from 46.6 percent to 62.9 percent (depending on the exporting company utilized) on whole chicken and chicken breast imports from Brazil, alleging that the Brazilian suppliers were dumping their products on the South African market. These tariffs were in addition to pre-existing 5 percent tariffs on whole chickens and 27 percent on chicken breasts. The Brazilian Ministry of Development has estimated that the South African measures are costing the Brazilian economy \$70 million USD a year. [39]

In a 2012 SAIIA publication, the think tank explained that "it is, firstly, not clear what South Africa's motivation for joining the BRICs is and what it seeks to gain from its membership. It is also not evident what South Africa's strategy towards the BRICs is, and how this fits into the country's wider global strategy." [40] In addition, SAIIA's Dr. Mzukisi Qobo and University of Cape Town's Dr. Mills Soko discussed how South Africa's BRICS membership will affect the aforementioned loose IBSA alliance. [41] With regards to the Brasilia-Pretoria relationship, relations remain in good shape, in spite of the aforementioned "chicken war." Even if the IBSA and BRICS do not create a united bloc, they have arguably helped bring both governments closer together.

The Road Ahead

Brazil is Latin America's rising star and it certainly has ambitious policy goals, such as a permanent

seat in the UNSC to go along with its rising status. With that said, its relations with its fellow BRICS nations, while strong, cannot be compared to the exemplary rock solid alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom, which is dubbed as the “special relationship.” It is preposterous to assume that close diplomatic and commercial relations, along with some military arms sales, translate into a military alliance between Brasília and Beijing, or Brasília and New Delhi. Military issues are not at the center of the BRICS initiative – naval exercises between the IBSA nations notwithstanding. Non-idealistic analyses of BRICS’s future see the loose grouping, as a commercial-oriented bloc to increase inter-BRICS trade and perhaps achieve some kind of unified stance on foreign policy issues. The underlying goal would be to challenge Washington’s supremacy over the global economic order.

Nevertheless, the fact that BRICS failed to agree on the creation of a development bank in South Africa gives validity to the idea that this alliance is still made up of governments, which have clear foreign policy goals and may not “give in” to the aspirations of other group members in order to promote the group’s unification. As for Brazil’s relations with each BRICS member, they have been generally positive in spite of occasional incidents such the “chicken war” with South Africa or the dispute with fellow BRICS nations over the headquarters of the group’s development bank. Nevertheless, as long as Brazil’s economy continues to grow and its domestic politics remain stable, it should easily find willing trade partners in Pretoria, New Delhi, Beijing and Moscow.

As an addendum to this analysis, Guido Mantenga, Brazil’s Minister of Finance, has declared that the BRICS heads of state and ministers of finance aim to have the final details of the proposed BRICS development bank finalized in 2014. [42] It will be interesting to see if this a premonition that comes true, signaling that Brazil and fellow BRICS nations can agree on major projects, or if this will be just another in a list of empty promises.

EN BREF, CE 29 Avril 2013... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 29/04/2013