



[YOKOHAMA — Africa will be an engine for world growth in coming decades, Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe said on Monday, wrapping up a meeting in which Tokyo pledged significant aid as it tries to match China's reach on the continent. Mr Abe said Africa would be at the leading edge of economic expansion and that Japan must make a commitment in a way that would benefit both sides. "Africa will be a growth centre over the next couple of decades ... it is time for us to invest in Africa," he said at the end of the three-day Tokyo International Conference on African Development (Ticad) in Yokohama.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

**RD Congo:Un enfant sans-papiers français coincé en RDC**  
source: : Rfi/04062013

RD Congo:Un enfant sans-papiers français coincé en RDC C'est l'histoire triste et peu banale d'un sans-papier. Un sans-papier français, en République démocratique du Congo. Il s'agit d'un enfant, parti de Paris en vacances avec son père, direction Kinshasa. Le père a abandonné l'enfant depuis le début de l'année dans la capitale congolaise. Un calvaire pour l'enfant, et un casse-tête pour le consulat de France.

Il s'appelle Joël, il a 12 ans, il a passé une enfance difficile dans des foyers en région parisienne avant que son père ne le récupère. Joël était en classe de sixième dans un collège de Nanterre. Au mois de février, son père, Français d'origine congolaise, l'emmène soi-disant en vacances à Kinshasa. Le père le confie à une cousine et disparaît. On apprendra plus tard qu'il a repris l'avion, emportant le passeport de l'enfant.

Joël se retrouve donc sans papier en RDC, son visa a expiré, explique Me Mopotu, l'avocat qui suit son cas : « Il est en situation irrégulière en RDC. On se demande, même, si les autorités apprenaient la situation, que serait le sort de l'enfant, parce qu'il vit irrégulièrement à Kinshasa. »

L'avocat et la famille congolaise ont donc pris contact avec les autorités françaises. « Nous sommes allés à l'ambassade de France à Kinshasa, nous avons emmené l'enfant pour qu'il soit identifié. Il a été reconnu comme citoyen français », explique l'avocat.

Les services français de la protection de l'enfance restent silencieux

Le seul but poursuivi par Me Mopotu est que l'enfant retourne en France. « Il est en train de perdre son année scolaire, il est important et urgent que cet enfant soit rapatrié ».

Mais ce n'est pas évident. Le consulat de France explique qu'il ne peut pas remettre un enfant de 12 ans dans un avion sans personne pour l'accueillir en France.

On attend depuis assez longtemps des nouvelles du service de protection de l'enfance de la ville de Nanterre. Pas très bavard, le petit Joël exprime cependant sa volonté : « J'aimerais rentrer en France, et reprendre mes études ».

© source: : Rfi

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

### South African Mine-Union Chiefs Shot

By DEVON MAYLIE/online.wsj.com/June 3, 2013

JOHANNESBURG—Two National Union of Mineworkers officials were shot at the union's office at platinum producer Lonmin PLC on Monday, threatening to further inflame tensions at the country's mines.

The union's chairman for the Lonmin mine was killed and another local union leader was hospitalized in critical condition, Union General Secretary Frans Baleni said. The identities of the two weren't released. Mr. Baleni said the shooting took place at the union's Lonmin Marikana office, northwest of Johannesburg.

The NUM said it didn't know who carried out the shooting. Lonmin said police were investigating the crime and that the company was "appalled and horrified at this senseless violence."

The shooting comes amid renewed intra-labor unrest at South Africa's mines. Workers at Lonmin's Marikana mine—the site of a walkout last year at which police killed 34 protesters—staged a two-day wildcat strike in mid-May demanding the NUM vacate the office where Monday's shooting occurred.

New labor dynamics at the mines are making it difficult for the government and for companies. After the violence in August last year, the NUM lost majority status at Lonmin to the Association of

Mineworkers and Construction Union, which wants to take over the office.

AMCU has usurped the NUM's dominance, by promising higher wages and better working conditions. And many workers have criticized what they see as a cozy relationship between NUM leaders and mine management. AMCU leaders didn't respond to calls Monday. A labor court recently gave the NUM until July to recruit enough members to regain a majority at Lonmin. If it fails, the union must vacate the Marikana office, the court said.

"We are concerned that people continue to kill each other when there is an open process for recruitment," said Solly Phetoe, North West province regional leader for NUM's umbrella union Cosatu.

Monday's shooting isn't the first union-related killing to hit the area. An AMCU organizer was recently shot dead in a community near the Lonmin mine. Labor Minister Mildred Oliphant said on Monday that given more shootings and violence around the Lonmin mine, the government might consider sending peacekeepers to the area.

The mine unrest has sparked concern among South Africa's leaders, and has highlighted their inability to get the problem at the mines under control.

The government, union leaders and management have held meetings in the past month to find a way to halt the slide in government revenue and company profits.

Of concern is the weak South African rand and the country's sluggish growth. After the violent strikes last year, three ratings firms downgraded South Africa's debt a notch, and the rand last week fell to a four-year low.

President Jacob Zuma last week urged the mining sector to address labor issues or risk damage to the country's economy. "We cannot allow unions to engage in wildcat strikes," Mr. Zuma said.

Separately, Glencore Xstrata said Monday it had dismissed about 1,000 workers who went on strike last week at three of its chrome mines in South Africa. The workers walked off the job over an allegation that management had abused one of them, bringing operations to a near halt. The workers can now appeal their dismissal.

The South African mining industry, meantime, faces the possibility of more strikes soon as wage talks in the coal and gold sectors over a new two-year contract begin this month. The NUM has submitted a wage demand to coal and gold companies that includes an increase of as much as 60% for entry-level workers.

Wage talks normally are accompanied by strikes, and given the backdrop of rival unions, falling commodity prices and employment reductions at mines already under way, the likelihood of more unrest is high. The recurrence of wildcat strikes also has called into question the ability of both the NUM and the AMCU to control their members.

The situation is complicated by the fact that many companies already have announced plans to close mines and dismiss employees because of lower commodity prices and escalating costs. Anglo American Platinum Ltd. wants to lay off around 6,000 workers. Sibanye Gold, a spinoff of Gold Fields Ltd., said it would have to reduce staff by about 1,000 people to keep some of its mines in operation. And Coal of Africa Ltd. said Monday it will need to stop production at its Mooiplats operation, which currently has 290 employees and 258 contractors.

Lonmin's share price shed 4.3% from Friday's close on news of the shooting. The company said its platinum output wasn't affected.

But the metal's price gained 2.2% to 1,487.50 a troy ounce from Friday. Despite its platinum's price gain Monday, the metal is down 14.5% from this year's February high, in large part because of weak automotive demand in Europe.

Platinum is used to manufacture auto catalysts that reduce vehicle emissions.  
—Alex MacDonald in London contributed to this article.

### Pistorius due back in court on murder charges

By News Wires (text)/AFP/04/06/2013

South African Paralympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius is due back in court on Tuesday, his first appearance since being released on bail. Pistorius is accused of fatally shooting his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, early on Valentine's Day.

South Africa's Paralympic hero Oscar Pistorius is due back in court on Tuesday for the first time since being freed on bail in February over the killing of his model girlfriend.

The Pretoria magistrate's court could set a date for the trial of the star sprinter who is accused of murdering Reeva Steenkamp in the early hours of Valentine's Day at his upmarket home in the South African capital.

Tuesday's hearing comes just days after a British television channel broadcast leaked crime scene pictures showing the blood-spattered bathroom where Steenkamp was fatally shot by Pistorius multiple times through a locked door.

The court session is expected to be brief, with both the defence and prosecution seeking a postponement as the police try to wrap up their investigation by August.

"The court will be told about the progress of the investigation and the matter is most likely to be postponed for trial," said lawyer Kenny Oldwage, one of the leading lights in Pistorius's high-profile defence team.

The prosecution has accused the 26-year-old of premeditated murder, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

But the athlete claims he mistook his girlfriend for an intruder in a "terrible accident" and the defence wants the charge reduced to culpable homicide, which risks up to 15 years behind bars.

Steenkamp, 29, who had been dating Pistorius for just a few months, suffered gunshot wounds to her head, elbow and hip.

The case is bound to be one of the country's most sensational trials, similar to that of American footballer and actor O.J. Simpson who was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife in 1994.

Courts in South Africa, one of the world's most violent countries, have a huge backlog of rape and murder cases. But some observers have suggested that Pistorius may get preferential treatment and a possible fast-tracking of his case.

The Johannesburg-born Paralympic champion became an inspirational hero to millions as the first double amputee to compete against able-bodied competitors at the London Olympics last year.

Since the killing, details emerged of his rocky private life of rash behaviour, beautiful women, guns and fast cars, although his aunt was quoted in the media this week as saying he has turned to reading the bible.

He admitted in an interview with British newspaper last year that he slept with a pistol, machine gun, cricket bat and baseball bat for fear of burglars.

His family said Monday it was shaken by the graphic crime scene photos showing bloodstains on the toilet seat and surrounding floor and the bathroom door marked with two bullet holes just below the handle.

However it said it continues to have "great faith" in the country's justice system and believes "that Oscar's account of what happened on that terrible night in February will be borne out by the evidence".

The position of the bullet holes appears to back Pistorius's claim that he fired the shots while standing on his leg stumps, using a gun he kept under his bed.

The police have said they do not know the source of the pictures, but that the leaks would not jeopardise their case.

The "traumatised" athlete openly wept when he first appeared in court after his arrest, which sent shock waves throughout the world and brought his stellar career to an abrupt halt.

His agent said last month would not be racing this season as he had to focus on the court case and was not "mentally and physically ready" to compete at high level.

Pistorius was freed on bail of one million rand (100,000 dollars or 78,000 euros) and in March the court lifted a raft of stringent conditions including a travel ban and mandatory drug and alcohol tests.

He has lost lucrative contracts with US sportswear giant Nike and French cosmetics firm Clarins, among others, and has reportedly also been fined about one million rand for undeclared taxes.

(AFP)

### Coal of Africa shuts unprofitable Mooiplaats colliery

by: David Winning/From: Dow Jones/theaustralian.com.au/June 04, 2013

COAL of Africa said it planned to suspend operations at a South African coal mine that's become increasingly unprofitable following global coal-price declines.

Coal of Africa, listed in Australia and London, said the Mooiplaats colliery had been making monthly losses of about 20 million rand since the beginning of the company's fiscal year on July 1. The mine currently employs 290 permanent staff and 258 contractors.

"This decision follows sustained and concerted attempts over the past two financial years to make the operation profitable and enable it to produce positive cash flows," Coal of Africa said in a

statement. "Efforts to improve productivity and establish profitable operations at Mooiplaats, including capital investment, have been hampered by the global downturn in thermal coal prices over the last year."

Coal of Africa, which has a market value of \$209.7 million, said the situation had been made worse by challenging geology and the colliery's inability to achieve production targets.

The company said it was working to minimise potential losses from a contract with the port of Maputo in neighbouring Mozambique to use 3 million metric tonnes of coal-export capacity annually.

So-called "take-or-pay" deals are common in the coal industry. Companies typically sign contracts with port operators at a fixed price for an agreed volume of material, whether they ultimately use the capacity or not.

### Precious metals close higher

AAP/June 04, 2013

PLATINUM futures have climbed to the highest price in almost three weeks on renewed concern about supply disruptions from top producer South Africa after a shooting at a mining union office.

The most actively traded platinum contract, for July delivery, on Monday rose \$US35.60, or 2.4 per cent, to settle at \$US1,497.40 a troy ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest since May 14. Platinum's rise was the largest in percentage terms since September.

A member of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers was killed and another wounded in a shooting at the union's office at platinum miner Lonmin PLC on Monday.

Production in South Africa fell 15 per cent last year as strikes rippled through the industry following clashes at Lonmin's Marikana mine beginning in August.

"South Africa can change the supply-and-demand balance very quickly," said Adam Klopfenstein, a senior market strategist with Archer Financial Services.

"Mining disruptions would support platinum" prices.

South Africa accounted for 73 per cent of platinum mine output last year, according to Johnson Matthey, a specialty chemicals company and major platinum user.

The NUM said it doesn't know who carried out Monday's shooting.

Lonmin said that police were investigating the incident and that the company is "appalled and horrified at this senseless violence".

Separately, mining giant Glencore Xstrata on Monday said it had dismissed around 1,000 workers who went on a strike last week at three of its chrome mines in South Africa.

They walked off the job over an allegation that management had abused one of the workers, bringing the operations to a near halt. The workers can now appeal their dismissal.

Gold also rose on Monday, as an unexpected contraction in US manufacturing weighed on the US

dollar. The ICE US Dollar Index touched a three-week low after the data, helping buoy gold. US dollar-denominated gold and the greenback tend to move inversely.

Gold prices have been hit this year as an improving US economy and steady global financial system drew investors to stocks and other assets. A renewed downturn could draw investors looking for a refuge back to gold, traders say.

The most actively traded gold contract, for August delivery, rose \$US18.90, or 1.4 per cent, to settle at \$US1,411.90 a troy ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Settlements (ranges include open-outcry and electronic trading):

London PM Gold Fix: \$1,402.50; previous PM \$1,394.50

Aug gold \$1,411.90, up \$18.90; Range \$1,388.30-\$1,416.50

Jul silver \$22.721, up 47.8 cents; Range \$22.175-\$22.915

Jul platinum \$1,497.40, up \$35.60; Range \$1,456.60-\$1,505.60

Sep palladium \$759.05, up \$5.40; Range \$748.65-\$763.00

TANZANIA :

#### **Tanzania: System in Place to Check Cyber Crime**

By Nasongelya Kilyinga/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/4 June 2013

Dodoma — IN an effort to deal with the challenges that has been created by ICT, which include cyber crime, the government has come up with Computer Emergency Response System Team (CERT), the National Assembly was told here on Monday.

Presenting the 2013/14 budget estimates for the Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, the Minister, Prof Makame Mbarawa, said CERT follows best-practice security policies to determine if there is any misuse and initiate appropriate response.

He said CERT operates under the functional arm of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and it acts as primary security service providers for government and citizens. At the same time, he said, CERT acts as awareness raisers and educators.

Prof Mbarawa also said to combat cyber crime, the ministry and other stakeholders including East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) was preparing to enact the Cyber Security Law. He said an initial draft Bill has already been prepared and will be presented to stakeholders to seek their views.

To start with, he said, the new law will incorporate Data Protection, Electronic Transaction and Cyber Crime. The minister insisted that secure communications has to be guaranteed through confidentiality and privacy laws, saying when the new law comes into effect it would help address, eliminate or mitigate existing security threats challenges in the country and the region at large.

He told the House that the government was committed to set up a Smart ICT Village in Kigamboni or at the Bagamoyo Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in which a total of 5bn/- was set aside in the 2012/13 fiscal year to compensate residents of the site to be chosen.

"Among others, this smart ICT village will be equipped with all necessary infrastructures including state-of-the-art premises to attract investors and entrepreneurs to conduct their business there," he said.

He also said that the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) will continue to control the use of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation sources for the hospital use, among others. It will also continue to promote, secure and ensure peaceful use of nuclear technology and atomic energy.

"The government has continued to receive support from the International Atomic Energy body (IAEA) and in the 2012/13 financial year, IAEA in coordination with the government bought Gamma Camera and Simulators for the Ocean Road Hospital in Dar es Salaam for cancer treatment," he said.

Prof Mbarawa also said the government through the support from the UK DfID was in its final stages to establish Human Development Innovation Fund to enhance technological innovation and creativity in in different sectors such as health, education and provision of safe clean water.

The minister requested Bunge to endorse 63.1bn/- for the coming fiscal year, in which 35.5bn/- is for development projects while 27.2bn/- will be for recurrent expenditure. Presenting Bunge Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Mr Mtutura Abdallah Mtutura, said the ministry failed to implement several development projects due to limited budgetary allocation.

He also suggested the ministry to stop switching to digital technology due to technical hitches the process has experienced so far. "The government, though TCRA, should form a task force to conduct an evaluation pro and cons of the implementation of the first phase switching from analogue to digital," he said.

Reading the opposition's statement, Ms Suzan Lyimo (Special Seats--CHADEMA) complained that decoders were being sold "at very high prices," which, she complained, could hardly be afforded by the majority of Tanzanians.

"The difficulties in accessing the decoders curtail freedom of information," she said, urging an immediate solution to the shortcomings. Ms Leticia Nyerere (Special Seats-CHADEMA) said cyber crime and misuse of mobile phone services were increasingly becoming rife in the country. She wanted stiff measures to be imposed to solve the problem.

Meanwhile, several MPs have pressed the government to put mobile phone operators in the country under the spotlight, lamenting that Tanzania was losing trillions in terms of unpaid taxes from the companies.

Contributing to the debate on the ministry's estimates, they said the companies have actually been paying taxes but said more could be still be done to improve collection. They called on the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to move in and plug loopholes in the regulations to check "tax planning."

Mr Mussa Azzan Zungu (Ilala-CCM) did not rule out tax planning or avoidance, saying it was clear that the country is losing billions of shillings through the current tax structure, with value added tax levied for service users.



He said the structure allows some firms to get away with unclaimed VAT for users who are exempted from VAT. He wondered why, for instance, gross revenue collection from Kenya's giants Safari Com was above that of all mobile phone operators in Tanzania last year, while the number of subscribers of Safari Com is almost the same to those who subscribe Vodacom services in Tanzania.

Mr Azzan further said that in Rwanda, 37 people out of 100 own mobile phones, while in Tanzania the number stood at 40 for each 100 people. He wondered why Rwanda is managing to collect up to 14 million US dollars in terms of tax from mobile phone operators, while Tanzania could only manage a meagre 1.7 million US dollars.

"The government should act quickly to review its income tax laws, which should prevent tax evasion by companies, including those which provide mobile operating services," said Mr Azzan. Ms Assumpta Mshama (Mkenge-CCM) also questioned the revenue collection from mobile phone operators, saying there was massive evasion in the system.

She said according to the 2010 report, Tanzania lagged behind Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda in revenue collection from mobile phone firms. She said Kenya had collected 79 million US dollars, Uganda 31.3 million US dollars while Rwanda recorded 14 million US dollars in tax collection.

Ms Mshama pointed out, however, that with over 23 million mobile phone users subscribing to six service providers, the Tanzanian market may well be yielding revenues of over 100 million US dollars, unlike the current figure of 1.7 million US dollars, the lowest in the region.

Ms Haroub Mohammed Shamisi (Chonga-CUF) said a lot of cash meant for the government coffers were in the hands of mobile phones operators. "The transaction of these companies is certainly above the government budget, but we have not realised the best from them.

Time is up for government to take action," he said. Deputy Speaker Job Ndugai also demanded proper explanation from the minister as to why the government was not collecting enough revenue in terms of taxes from the companies.

### Tanzania and Japan Ties Set for New Heights

By Sebastian Mrindoko/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/4 June 2013

interview

JAPAN supports Tanzania's endeavors to achieve sustainable economic growth as well as cutting down abject poverty.

The areas of assistance were attached to such areas as economic, social infrastructure and increased agriculture production. The 'Daily News' Senior Business Reporter, Sebastian Mrindoko interviews the Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania Mr Masaki Okada on bilateral relations between his country and Tanzania

Q. What makes Tanzania the largest recipient of Japanese assistance in the sub-Saharan Africa?

It is not by accident, but Tanzania deserves the kinds of assistances from Japan largely due to the peaceful situation that the country is enjoying compared to the rest in the Africa. Peace and security are among the fundamental factors which attract donors and investors.

The government of Japan has been attaching priorities to economic and social infrastructure

building such as roads, electricity supply and water supply as well as transfer of technology related to rice production or irrigation. Also Tanzania's government and Development Partners including Japan endorsed the Joint Assistance Strategy for Tanzania (JAST) on aid harmonisation and alignment to the systems.

The Division of Labour among development partners as policy dialogue based on General Budget Support (GBS) as stipulated in the JAST, continue to be conducted. Japan has been prioritizing its assistance in areas in which it has expertise and comparative advantage.

The cooperation between Tanzania and Japan is not limited to bilateral relations as they have been closely working together in international fora, such as the United Nations. To ensure peace, stability and development are attained in the African continent; Japanese government has pledged a further 550 million US dollars.

It is also committed to providing on the ground support across the continent conducting operations to prevent piracy off the east coast of Africa and provide humanitarian assistance in the Sahel region including Mali.

Q. Why is the number of Japanese firms operating in the country still limited despite a long established partnership between Tanzania and Japan?

The economic relations between Tanzania and Japan stagnated in the 1980s and 1990s due to the economic difficulties in Tanzania and the sluggish economy in Japan after the bubble burst in the early 1990s. Some of the Japanese companies which pitched their tents into the Tanzania market include Panasonic Energy Tanzania Co. Ltd, Sumitomo, Mitsubishi, Konoike Construction Co. Ltd, Nishizawa Tanzania Ltd and Sekikui Chemical Tanzania Ltd.

However, as Tanzania started to develop dynamically since the beginning of this century, more and more Japanese companies are becoming interested in Tanzania as a growing market endowed with abundant natural resources. It is sure that in the near future the economic relations between Tanzania and Japan will reach a new stage of cooperation.

After experiencing recovery and once again fast growing economy in the 1990's and 2000's to date, Japanese firms and other Asian companies have been expanding to Africa especially in the East Africa to grab the emerging opportunities in different sectors of the economy.

Q. Agriculture is still the backbone of most African economies including Tanzania. How is Japan supporting agriculture expansion, especially in area of value addition, for sustainable economic development?

The government of Japan is committed to ensure agriculture sector in Tanzania is modernized and yield high returns to both the farmers and increased contributions to the national economy. There already several projects like rice production in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region that has been run for several decades by both countries.

To establish sustainable agriculture growth, the government of Japan in collaboration with the Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives sent two professors to Arusha School of Technology to conduct courses on irrigation technology.

The training aims at empowering human resources because it will help the government to better explore vast resources and be able to produce some addition value in the resources. This will make development inclusive.

When President Kikwete was attending the TICAD meeting this year, he witnessed the signing of loan deal in the tune of 35.1 million US dollars (about 56.16bn/-) to renovate old and build new small scale irrigation projects. Upon completion of the projects, irrigation sector will grow at around 5 per cent and 10 per cent for the old schemes.

The funds will also help regional and district authorities implement the projects.

Q. More than 50 per cent of Tanzania's imports from Japan are automobiles but there is influx of substandard spare parts in the local market?

What is the government of Japan doing to address the situation? It is true the volume of business on automobiles from Japan with most African countries is huge and there is a shared concern on substandard spare parts.

What the Japanese government could recommend in this area is for the consumers to find the authorized dealers like Toyota to buy genuine spare parts. It is very difficult for the government of Japan to intervene directly in curbing the illegal business. But the Tanzania government is in good position to intervene and stop the illegal business.

KENYA :

**ICC delays trial of Kenya's Ruto until September**

3 June 2013/bbc.co.uk

The International Criminal Court has announced that Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto will go on trial for crimes against humanity in September.

It also recommended parts of the trial should be held in Kenya or Tanzania.

Mr Ruto denies orchestrating 2007 post-election violence, as does fellow indictee President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The news comes after weeks of pressure from other African states and the AU to drop the charges against Mr Kenyatta and his deputy, our correspondent says.

Mr Kenyatta's trial is scheduled to begin in July.

Time for preparation

On Monday, judges at the ICC accepted the request by Mr Ruto's lawyers for more time to prepare his defence.

They ruled that trial of the deputy president - along with his co-accused, broadcaster Joshua arap Sang - would be delayed until 10 September.

The ICC judges also said it might "be desirable to hold the commencement of trial and other portions thereof, to be determined at a later stage, in Kenya or, alternatively, in Tanzania".

However, the prosecution said that despite its concerns about security it favoured bringing the trial

closer to the victims.

In another major development on Monday, says the BBC's Anna Holligan in The Hague, the ICC announced the case against the former president of the Ivory Coast, Laurent Gbagbo, had been adjourned because of "insufficient evidence".

The judges said the evidence against Mr Gbagbo presented by prosecutors was not strong enough to allow the case to move to trial, but not weak enough for them to throw out the charges.

The news attracted rare criticism from Human Rights Watch, which said the decision "highlights the urgent need for the prosecutor's office to improve the way it builds cases".

Mr Gbagbo faces four charges of crimes against humanity relating to the violence that followed disputed presidential elections in 2010.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

**Japan ends summit with pledge of renewed ties with Africa**

by Kyoko Hasegawa/Sapa-AFP/juin 04 2013

YOKOHAMA — Africa will be an engine for world growth in coming decades, Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe said on Monday, wrapping up a meeting in which Tokyo pledged significant aid as it tries to match China's reach on the continent.

Mr Abe said Africa would be at the leading edge of economic expansion and that Japan must make a commitment in a way that would benefit both sides.

"Africa will be a growth centre over the next couple of decades ... it is time for us to invest in Africa," he said at the end of the three-day Tokyo International Conference on African Development (Ticad) in Yokohama.

"Japan will not simply bring natural resources from Africa to Japan. We want to realise industrialisation in Africa that will generate employment and growth," he said.

"The type of growth the Ticad recognises is not just figures ... it (aims to) achieve high-quality growth by distributing benefits widely and deeply among people in the society," he said.

Despite relatively longstanding connections, Japan's importance to Africa has slipped behind that of China, whose more aggressive approach has given it five times the trading volume and eight times the direct investment. Beijing is criticised for what is sometimes considered as little more than a resources grab, and for not linking investment with demands for improved human rights or more transparent governance in recipient countries.

Japanese officials have stressed the need to transform their country's relationship with Africa from

one of donor-recipient to a business partnership, as Tokyo's firms seek to tap a burgeoning market.

Mr Abe opened the Ticad on Saturday with a pledge of ¥1.4-trillion (\$14bn) in aid. The cash, half of which was to be dedicated to spending on much-needed infrastructure projects, is included in ¥3.2-trillion that Japan's public and private sectors will invest in Africa over the next five years.

The package will include \$1bn in aid to be spent on helping stabilise the Sahel region. Japan is also aiming to double jobs offered by its firms in Africa to 400,000 by the next Ticad in 2018. Mr Abe pledged to treble infrastructure exports to ¥30-trillion a year by 2020.

Participants at the conference — co-hosted by the African Union, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme — said they want to improve production for farmers. An "action plan" adopted on Monday set goals of boosting growth in the agriculture sector by 6% and doubling rice production by 2018 compared to 2008 levels.

China said it hoped Japanese assistance would contribute to Africa's peace and development.

Foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China had provided selfless help to Africa for a long time and we will continue to do so.

Sapa-AFP

**LETTER: African Union is judged unfairly**

juin 04 2013/bdlive.co.za

BUSINESS Day has commemorated the golden anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union (OAU/ AU) with a week-long, relentless barrage of criticism and denunciations in reports, features, editorials, and a cartoon.

Almost never could I read any significant achievement or positive aspect mentioned.

You judge the OAU/AU and its operations by far higher standards than those the media uses to judge other regional organisations.

For example, your reports themselves record without dispute that the AU adopted European Union (EU) practice and closed its premises to nongovernmental organisations during its summit. You repeatedly criticised this, but have not criticised the EU for the same practice.

Other reports denigrated the OAU for having dictators as members, and being paralysed during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. But the great majority of members of the Organisation of American States (OAS) were colonels who overthrew the previous colonels in coups.

The OAS and its Inter-American Court of Human Rights failed to save anyone when thousands were killed in Argentina's civil war, nor during the genocide of 250,000 in Guatemala.

I have not read South African media criticising the OAS for this.

Similarly, the media have not criticised the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) for admitting Indonesia as a member three years after the genocide of 500,000 Indonesians of Chinese ancestry.

The same applies to Asean and United Nations (UN ) inaction over the murder of 2-million Cambodians by the Pol Pot regime. The UN general in Rwanda was traumatised at the refusal to allow him to stop the genocide.

Business Day reports also criticise AU peacekeeping as being a "hotch -potch". Yet, the AU has sustained not a conventional peacekeeping exercise, but a major war-fighting operation of over 17,000 troops in Somalia, after even the world power, the US, withdrew.

This, and earlier AU missions, surely merit significant praise. Contrast this with the Arab League sending no peacekeeping army to the Syrian civil war.

Space permits only one last example of media double standards. Your coverage repeatedly criticises the AU policy on opposing the International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing arrest warrants for sitting African presidents, and only supporting ICC arrest warrants for African warlord militia.

This is a rather moderate position compared to the hardline policy of the US government, which goes beyond rejecting all ICC arrest warrants for any US citizen.

It demanded that South Africa and other African states sign treaties to refuse to arrest any US citizen living in their countries and extradite him/her to the ICC. When South Africa refused, some military aid was cancelled.

Why no media criticism of this? I argue that the AU has done far better than the OAS, Arab League, or Asean during the same decades. AU achievements are behind only the EU, which is resourced with 200 times more civil servants and 400 times more funds.

We should all support the African integration project for the Tripartite Free Trade Area from Cape to Cairo, along with fully tarred roads and an interconnected power grid.

Keith Gottschalk

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

**US announces bounty for African group leaders**

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Government offers unprecedented \$23m reward for heads of ultra-conservative armed groups in West Africa.

In an unprecedented move, the US has posted up to \$23m in rewards to help track down five leaders of armed groups active in West Africa.

The highest reward of \$7mn was offered on Monday for the Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, who last week called on those sympathetic in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq to join the fight to

create an Islamic-governed state in Nigeria.

The State Department's Rewards for Justice programme also targeted al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), offering its first ever bounties for wanted fighters in West Africa.

Up to \$5m was posted for al-Qaeda veteran Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the one-eyed fighter behind the attack on an Algerian gas plant in January in which 37 foreigners, including three Americans, were killed.

A further \$5m was offered for Yahya Abou Al-Hammam, senior AQIM leader, reportedly involved in the 2010 murder of an elderly French hostage in Niger.

Malik Abou Abdelkarim, a senior fighter with AQIM, and Oumar Ould Hamaha, spokesperson for Mali's Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), were also targeted with the programme promising up to \$3mn each for information leading to their arrests.

"AQIM has been increasingly active in North and West Africa. They're one of the pre-eminent kidnap for ransom groups in the terrorist world right now," a senior State Department official told AFP news agency, asking not to be named.

"They cause us a great deal of concern. Anything that we can do naturally to cut down on the capabilities of AQIM, anything that we can do to get information on these people so that we can get them in front of a court ... That is our goal."

'Lawless' Sahel

The US has been increasingly worried about the spread of ultra-conservative groups in Mali and across the vast and lawless Sahel since a military coup toppled the government in Bamako.

Former colonial power France has led a military offensive since January against the opposition fighters in Mali's northern desert, as the west African nation prepares for presidential elections on July 28.

There are fears, however, that the spread of such groups risks destabilising the entire West African region.

Belmokhtar, who was a senior commander for AQIM, broke away from the group last year to set up his own group dubbed the Signatories in Blood.

Branded "The Uncatchable", Belmokhtar also personally supervised the operational plans for the twin car bombings in Niger that killed at least 20 people late last month, according to a spokesperson for his group.

Monday's rewards, which will see a campaign of wanted posters launched in Mali, Nigeria and neighbouring countries, acknowledged the growing links between AQIM and Boko Haram, which is under pressure from a Nigerian army offensive.

"They've had a relationship for some time. They send people back and forth for training, they've done the provision of arms back and forth," the US state department official said.

"The links are ... not quite as solid as some of the other terrorist organisations," he said. "Nonetheless, it's a dangerous link, and it's something that we feel we should try and stop."

Shekau, in a video obtained by the AFP news agency last week, contradicted the military's assertions and claimed his forces had made significant gains against the army while sustaining little damage since the start of the offensive on May 15.

"Under his leadership, Boko Haram's capability has certainly grown," the state department official said.

He highlighted how the group set off "their first improvised explosive device in early June 2011. By August (2011) they used a car bomb against the United Nations facility," an attack which killed 25 people.

### Wickham: Obama faces bind on Africa and gay rights

DeWayne Wickham, USATODAY/ June 3, 2013

Upcoming trip with test U.S. president.

During a one-day visit to Africa in 2009, Barack Obama signaled an end to American hegemony on the continent that had long suffered this country's heavy-handed intrusion into its affairs. "Africa's future is up to Africans," the freshly minted president proclaimed in a speech to the Ghana Parliament.

That notion will be tested this month when Obama returns to Africa to tout its emerging democracies at a time when Nigeria, the continent's most populous country, is challenging the depth of his administration's global support for gay rights.

Last week, Nigeria's House of Representatives passed a law that criminalizes gay marriage and any public expression of affection between same-sex couples. It also makes it illegal for any group to publicly support gay rights. Those who violate this law could be imprisoned for up to 14 years. This action comes less than two years after then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton staked out America's worldwide support for gay rights.

"Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," she declared in a speech to the United Nation's Human Rights Council. Sub-Saharan Africa is a cauldron of anti-gay laws. In fact, 37 African nations outlaw homosexuality. Just one, South Africa, embraces gay rights. It legalized same-sex marriage in 2006.

Ironically, even Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a 2011 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and Africa's first female president, opposes decriminalizing homosexuality in her country. "We like ourselves just the way we are. ... We've got certain traditional values in our society that we'd like to preserve," she said last year when asked whether she would support an effort to strike down laws that make homosexuality a crime in Liberia, according to a report in the British newspaper The Guardian.

Two of the three African countries Obama will visit -- Tanzania and Senegal -- treat homosexuality as a crime, not a human right. While the White House has issued a statement saying the president "unequivocally advocates against violence and discrimination" against gays and lesbians around the world, it's unclear whether Obama will speak out against Africa's anti-gay laws during his visit to the continent.

But that's just what Micheal Ighodaro wants the U.S. president to do. A former gay rights activist in



Nigeria, Ighodaro sought asylum in the United States last year after being repeatedly beaten and threatened in that country. He says if Obama speaks out in support of gay rights in Africa that he will one day be able to return home without fear of being imprisoned -- simply for being gay.

"I think Obama's voice will go a long way if he says that African governments need to realize that we have rights, too. I think this is the right time for him to bring up this topic with (Nigerian President) Goodluck Jonathan," says Ighodaro.

But to do that, Obama must decide whether his global support of gay rights outweighs his grand pronouncement that "Africa's future is up to Africans."

If, in this case, he decides that his quest for global human rights really is more important than his support of African self-determination, what levers can Obama pull to move the continent's nations away from their intolerance of gays and lesbians? While many are heavily dependent on U.S. foreign aid, the Obama administration is probably reluctant to threaten a cutoff of this dole now that China has supplanted the U.S. as Africa's biggest trading partner. Instead, the president will have to rely upon public attempts at moral persuasion -- and private jawboning sessions -- with African leaders to bridge the divide between his position on a pullback from hegemony and his global push for gay rights.

DeWayne Wickham writes on Tuesdays for USA TODAY.

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