



[Kenya is preparing to employ drones as part of increased security operations along its borders with Somalia and Ethiopia to monitor and halt the movements of al-Shabaab and gunrunners, security officials told Sabahi. Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, are needed to help Kenyan security forces on the ground patrol the country's frontiers, said Patrick Ochieng, director of the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons. "We face an unprecedented security challenge," he told Sabahi. "Not only do we have threats from within the country, but also from al-Shabaab insurgents."]

BURUNDI :

Burundi : La stratégie de communication bénéficie d'un appui financier américain de 923.000 USD
Xinhua/Mardi 18 juin 2013

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le gouvernement américain a débloqué 923.000 USD pour soutenir une stratégie de communication de l'Office burundais des recettes (OBR) en matière de lutte contre la corruption.

Cette stratégie mettra l'accent principalement sur trois axes. Il s'agit de la sensibilisation générale du public burundais sur les nouvelles procédures fiscales et les services offerts aux contribuables, la diffusion des messages anti-corruption et la création d'un centre d'appel permettant au public de signaler les cas de corruption aux fins d'enquête.

Le ministre burundais des Finances et de la Planification du développement économique, Tabu

Abdallah Manirakiza, qui a réceptionné ce fonds, estime que ce soutien vient au bon moment vu les défis actuels existant au niveau de l'éducation contribuable burundais conformément au processus de modernisation de l'administration fiscale et douanière, dictée par les impératifs de répondre aux besoins d'intégration du Burundi dans la Communauté Est-Africaine (CEA).

Parmi les défis relevés, on peut citer le fait que les petits contribuables ne comprennent pas la nécessité d'avoir un Numéro d' Identification Fiscale (NIF).

"Le NIF est perçu comme un moyen d'être reconnu et par conséquent d'être contrôlé", a-t-il souligné.

Il s'est également inscrit en faux contre les procédures de vérification non acceptées par les contribuables et qui réclament le contrôle à base du risque.

Le ministre a aussi déploré le fait que la plupart des commerçants n'ont pas encore compris la nécessité de tenir à jour le journal des ventes et achats effectués, mais s'adonnent plutôt à une facturation biaisée qui n'épargne pas le calcul de la TVA.

Il a condamné les réticences de certains commerçants à déclarer leurs revenus, notamment en restant cachés dans des catégories qui ne correspondent à leur réalité en termes de chiffres d'affaires.

"Nous sommes confiants dans l'usage efficient et effectif de l' appui ici octroyé au profit des contribuables, et par ricochet, au renforcement du civisme fiscal au Burundi, notion encore incomprise à cause du poids de l'histoire. En effet, l'impôt reste mal perçu dans la conscience populaire burundaise qui garde l' image d'un impôt de domination et de contrainte publique. Il est donc temps que cette image, en la remplaçant par des attitudes de fierté lors de l'accomplissement des obligations fiscales", a recommandé le ministre.

Burundi : Appel à des investissements massifs dans le secteur de l'élevage

Xinhua/Mardi 18 juin 2013

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le gouvernement burundais a appelé à investir massivement dans le secteur de l'élevage tout en promettant l'appui du gouvernement dans le cadre du partenariat public et privé.

Le ministère burundais de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage, Odette Kayitesi, a lancé cet appel lors d'un colloque sur l'élevage ouvert lundi à Bujumbura, où les participants doivent analyser les moyens d'améliorer la compétitivité dans le secteur de l'élevage.

Elle a indiqué que la crise sociopolitique de 1993 avait emporté un grand nombre d'animaux, raison pour laquelle le gouvernement veut repeupler ce secteur avec l'appui de ses partenaires techniques et financiers.

Le vice-président burundais Gervais Ruffykiri a rappelé à cette occasion que le secteur de l'élevage contribue pour moins de 5% au Produit Intérieur Brut (PIB) du Burundi et que l'offre des produits laitiers, de la viande et des oeufs est insuffisante en quantité et en qualité face à une demande sans cesse croissante.

Il a affirmé que ce colloque a pour objectif d'harmoniser les approches d'intervention dans les différents domaines clés du secteur en vue d'une part d'une plus grande coordination et d'une

convergence des investissements futurs aussi bien publics que privés.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda: Museveni's 'Stress' of the Nation

By Peter Nyanzi/The Independent (Kampala)/14 June 2013

President's frustration, lamentations at poor service delivery fail to lift population from hopelessness

Of course it will be built, the question is when?" was a mechanic's terse response to President Yoweri Museveni's assertion during the State of the Nation Address on June 7 that the 600 MW Karuma dam "would be built."

Ideally, the address is supposed to fulfill a constitutional obligation by giving accountability of what has been done in the past 12 months as well as appraising the country about the plans and strategies of government for the next twelve months.

Analysts said the address did little if any to the achievement of those objectives. Though some NRM legislators said the speech was a rallying call to fellow leaders, critics were of the view that the president failed to decimate a sense of hopelessness in the population.

Karuma Dam, seen as the missing piece to solving Uganda's perennial energy puzzle, has been in the President's speeches for the last so many years. But by the time the president made his speech on June 6, the procurement process for the dam had hit a dead end, as allegations of corruption took their toll on one of the country's flagship projects.

Originally, the plan was that the government would foot the bill for the dam's construction from the Energy Fund - set up by the government to ensure that the country does not depend on donors.

In an apparent shift in policy out of apparent frustration over the delay, the president said that there is "even the possibility that we may get good and cheap funding for it so that we can switch our own money to something else."

Reacting to the address, various analysts said the MPs, who go through a hassle to listen to him, and citizens who spend a long time preparing to hear the address, expect a lot more than promises of "possibilities" from the chief executive officer.

Angelo Izama, an energy policy analyst, went as far as describing it as "institutionalised procrastination."

But apart from the citizens, the apparent procrastination has left a lot of people frustrated, including the President himself - his "main concerns," which include the socio-economic transformation of our society and economy, notwithstanding.

In fact as a fighter, Museveni described his main concern as "the battle for socio-economic transformation". But it is a battle that has apparently exasperated him and left him wounded and exhausted.

By his own confession, the bottlenecks or "the 10 strategic bottlenecks" as he referred to them, are well known, but conquering them once and for all is proving to be harder to crack than the pre-liberation enemies of the NRM. Long wars can be frustrating and energy sapping, especially if the enemy you are fighting is well-known to you.

According to the President, the "bottlenecks" include: ending ideological disorientation; building the State pillars to ensure that the State is capable of governing people and protecting them; developing the human resource through education and the improved health for all.

The others are; promoting the private sector, developing the infrastructure (especially electricity, the railways, the roads, ICT, etc); modernising agriculture; modernising services; integrating the African market to assist the private sector; and ensuring democracy.

Museveni scorecard

So what have we achieved on all those fronts in the past year? That is what the critics have been quick to ask.

MP Muwanga Kivumbi says every year, Ugandan tax payers and donors give President Museveni's government trillions of shillings to improve social services and develop the country. The state of the nation address, he said, is the one opportunity that tax payers have to get accountability for those resources.

Basing on out-puts instead of inputs, how many classrooms have been added to the education infrastructure? What addition has been made to improve health services? Indeed, the critics said the address lacked these critical details about government performance particularly on key issues.

Also, the President remained tight lipped on security issues, particularly the recent ramblings in the army, the closure of media houses for more than a week, peacekeeping effort in Somalia, the suspension of millions of dollars of aid by development partners over corruption and the Maladministration in Kampala City.

"If the President does not talk to Ugandans about these issues, who will?" an analyst who did not want to be named asked.

Instead, the president decided to dwell on regrets over what would have been achieved if people had done this or that. The real policy actions that the government would undertake to deal with the so-called "strategic bottlenecks" were conspicuously absent from the speech, according Kivumbi.

Uganda Federal Alliance president Beti Kamywa described it as "too superficial" and a re-launch of Vision 2040, which in itself is more of an NRM Manifesto" and not a document for all Ugandans.

"It has been going for the last 27 years and it has become a ritual, a chant, completely devoid of

conviction and passion," she said.

A few months ago, the President actually launched the Vision 2040, an ambitious plan that will set the development agenda that will propel Uganda to middle income status by 2040. However, he only made a passing reference to it in his speech, which some have described as a "missed opportunity" to sell the plan to the citizenry.

The speech was littered with things and generalities that needed to be addressed, but no mention was made about who will do them apart from urging this or that ministry to do this or that and urging "everybody do their assignment."

Despite the usual bravado, underlying frustration was clearly evident when the president lamented the "failure of some of the actors to do their assignments."

But at no time was the frustration more evident than when he came to the oil and gas, which he said is taking long because of his "haggling" with the oil companies.

"Although we did not, initially, have interest in a pipeline, our commercial partners, the oil companies seem to have a big interest in it as do their financiers we are told," he said. He pointed to the "failure" by these parties "to understand the new dynamics in Africa."

Even the gag on the Third world being an "endangered species" did little to conceal the frustration. "I have agreed to this re-packaging because, whatever the packaging, much of the money is ours - whether it goes through the refinery or through the pipeline," he said, as he called on everyone to support the pipeline. "We need the money to build our infrastructure and to do other important things," he said.

On investment, the President lamented that the Code of Investment and a one-stop-centre for registering and enabling investments "have never worked."

It was easy to see why most of his listeners smiled sheepishly when he said he would "insist that this Investment Authority becomes a real one-stop-centre." While the president urged various public institutions to "correct their ways" and lamenting about projects that "we have long been promoting without success" critics were wondering what policy actions are in place to support local investors. It was not lost on them that part of the problem is that Museveni has turned himself into one-stop-centre of everything.

The glaring lack of leadership on promoting the agriculture sector was also apparent from the speech as he cited "disappointments" in agriculture and fisheries. "What is amazing is the lack of seriousness by many of our actors," the president said, adding for instance that the zoning strategy had failed to work since 1996.

"It is a big shame. It is a type of suicide," the President said referring to over fishing in Lake Victoria. However, critics pointed to a glaring lack of policy direction on the fishing industry in the country, which the government and not the individual ministers, is mandated to address.

The president further appeared to vent his frustration on the media for "jubilating" that Museveni will have a hard time making the State of the Nation Address this year, because the promises he made in 2012 were not fulfilled.

Citing "limited resources," Museveni said the media and the opposition should not think that Ugandans cannot understand the situation. However, critics said Ugandans are wise enough to know

that the main problem is because the money was stolen by officials in his government and the donors withheld theirs in protest over the wanton thefts.

If anything was needed to show how little faith Ugandans have in the President's efforts to fight corruption, it was the laughter and jeers when he said something was being done about it.

"The evil of corruption is being handled," he said, amidst wild jeers. "You saw what happened to the officers who were accused of stealing money in the office the Prime Minister and in the Ministry of Public service by holding ghost seminars, in 2011."

His assertion that the thieves were "easier to handle" because the NRM had handled "bigger problems" appeared to fall on deaf ears. Even his promise to "give a special address on corruption" did not appear believable.

This is because in the same speech in 2011, he promised to constitute a Committee to investigate political leaders and senior public officers implicated in corruption-related scandals, which is yet to be implemented.

No wonder, Kanya says, there is a need for Parliament to review the whole concept of the State of the Nation address so that Ugandans can have "a more impassioned speech.

SOUTH AFRICA :

INM shareholders approve sale of South Africa assets, rights issue to go ahead

Thomas Molloy/independent.ie/17 June 2013

Independent News & Media held a shareholder meeting this morning to discuss the restructuring of the company's debts.

All motions were passed during the brief meeting, clearing the way for the company to sell its South African unit and issue new shares.

The few shareholders who spoke at today's meeting congratulated chairman Leslie Buckley and the rest of the board for reaching a deal with banks that will reduce the company's core debt by €350m to €118m.

The deal involves the sale of the South African unit, the sale of new shares in a rights issue, cost saving measures including redundancies and an agreement to reduce payments from the company's pension scheme.

Analysis: Desperate youth of South Africa

dailymaverick.co.za/Greg Nicolson/18 Jun 2013

Youth issues have become political issues. Each year on Youth Day, we hear of the crisis of education and unemployment. But as politicians use the "youth" to further their campaigns to the 2014 elections, they fail to acknowledge many of the struggles young South Africans face. By GREG NICOLSON.

Youth Day is about struggles past and present. Speaking in Newcastle, President Jacob Zuma focused his speech on the 1976 student uprising before turning to the current challenges facing young South Africans. The common factor, he said, is the desire to have a better life. Over half of the country is under 39-years-old and 72% of unemployed South Africans are under the age of 34.

According to Zuma, youth development faces several key challenges: unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, xenophobia and access to quality education. “As youth, your task is learn, learn and learn. Learn from the lives of those before you and, most important of all, learn the skills that are necessary to build a winning nation and a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa,” advised the president.

The Democratic Alliance performed a similar tune. Speaking in Johannesburg and Limpopo, party leader Helen Zille and youth leader Mbali Ntuli focused on the lack of decent education and unemployment.

In a press release, Cosatu said the structure of the economy needs to change and asked young people to be responsible for their future.

Newcomer to party politics, Mamphela Ramphela, criticised government for failing to improve the Apartheid state’s education model and asked young people to honour the spirit of the youth uprising of 37 years ago.

Out of touch and fond of paternalism, the politicians’ speeches were framed by the upcoming elections. There was talk of what needs to be done, but little on what is – the diversity of South African youth and the varied realities of individuals. There’s a failure to recognise that youth are real people, with their many issues and with broad struggles.

Judging from the Youth Day speeches, young South Africans have benefitted from the struggle against apartheid and have vast opportunities – such potential – but are crippled by challenges.

It’s a neat summary, but looks at the most important group of South Africans as children rather than citizens. It uses them to get votes rather than improve communities. The definition and the way young people are treated feels glib, too dry to take seriously; young people do have lives beyond education and employment.

What about those who weren’t able to finish high school and are struggling to survive in a squatter camp? How about young prisoners? Does the political narrowing of “youth” capture the 22-year-old with a part-time job who wants to party on the weekend and find a girlfriend? Does it capture the students completing a master’s degree? How about the management consultants or the young politicians?

Young people do need an education and a job, but there are other struggles. Think of the high school students who can’t afford a taxi to get to school and have to support siblings. Think of the university students pressured to sleep with lecturers or those in situations of sexual violence struggling to focus on an assignment. What about the boy who wants to be a man and go to initiation school but is scared after so many of his peers died?

Young people are vulnerable to many health risks. Racism and discrimination remain serious concerns. Teenage pregnancy, alcoholism and drugs are a massive threat. So is suicide. Politicians fail to recognise the many challenges that can define the lives of a diverse South African youth and yet it is the myriad of challenges that cause some of the problems they are so concerned about. Young people cut their identity in a society that continually wants to categorise them according to

gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity or class, yet they are at the very heart of the project social cohesion South Africa.

In the midst of such issues, youth continue living, waiting, struggling, crying, hustling, dying and even killing. While dealing with all of that, there are the ever-present dreams, ambitions and fears as they navigate an uncertain future in a society created by another generation that largely remains in control.

Meanwhile, those who get a chance to speak on the issue of youth, those controlling power and discourse, continue to tell young people what to do. Be in control of your own future. Be of service to the community. Be straight. Be a good student. Be safe. Be rich. Be modest. Be entrepreneurial. Be a good husband. Be a good man. Be inclusive. Be a woman. Be harder working. Be submissive. Be strong. Be funny. Be cool. Be drug-free.

There's little space for youth to just be, to carve an identity and future of their own and have their own voices heard on the most important issues in society.

As youth continue to be marginalised from discussing their own challenges, hopelessness rules. When you've repeatedly been promised a better future many times but have had a poor education, can't find a job, or don't feel your voice will be listened to, despair is a friend. Look at the struggling National Youth Development Agency and it feels like there's little hope to give help to those who need it.

It's a dramatic narrative but doesn't define "youth". Young people are not a single entity of despair. Look at the Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Youngsters released last week and you'll find some of the most impressive young people in the world. Their lives don't seem to be about unemployment statistics, but about opportunity, hope and hard work. Whether South Africans want to be on that list or just get a job or some help with the challenges they face, they need the space to aspire to something and have a voice on who they are and what they want.

To really honour Youth Day, society needs to stop trying to define "youth" as either a problem to deal with or an issue that can win elections. Young people need a voice in their own future. That's what people died for, isn't it? DM

South Africa's Mandela 'doing very well'

Reuters/ June 17, 2013

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Former South African president Nelson Mandela, who is being treated in hospital for a lung infection, is "doing very well", his daughter said on Monday.

The 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader, who became South Africa's first black president in 1994, was rushed to hospital early on June 8 with a recurring respiratory infection.

He has remained in a "serious but stable" condition, according to the government, but visiting family members have spoken of his improving condition in recent days.

While viewing flowers and cards left by well-wishers outside the Pretoria hospital where Mandela is spending his 10th day, Zenani Mandela-Dlamini, South Africa's ambassador to Argentina, told reporters: "He's doing very well."

She is the eldest daughter from Mandela's marriage to his ex-wife Winnie.

Mandela's current wife, Graca Machel, on Monday thanked people for their messages of support.

"So much love and generosity from South Africans, Africans across the continent, and thousands more from across the world, have come our way to lighten the burden of anxiety," she said in a statement.

(Reporting by Tosin Sulaiman; Editing by Alison Williams)

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: JK Unveils Dar Academy Partnership

By Chaby Barasa/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/18 June 2013

Sunderland — TANZANIA'S dreams for a state-of-the-art football academy inched closer to reality on Sunday with the unveiling of a ground-breaking partnership involving the government, English Premier League club Sunderland and Symbion Power.

President Jakaya Kikwete graced the kick off of the partnership here, that will see Sunderland AFC providing its expertise for implementation of the project to be developed by the global electricity giant Symbion Power in Dar es Salaam.

Mr Kikwete hailed the academy programme idea, saying it is the way to go if the country is to achieve its ambition of becoming among Africa's football powerhouses.

He reaffirmed his government's commitment to improve the country's sports standard and reiterated his call for local clubs to invest in youth systems.

He commended Sunderland chairman Ellis Short and Symbion Power Chief Executive Officer Paul Hinks for their efforts towards the project's implementation. On why the country was partnering Sunderland and not any other club, the president said it was because the English club chairman came up with the idea of an academy during a visit to Tanzania recently and expressed his willingness to share his experience to develop youth systems in the country.

The country's delegation, which included the Ministers for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Dr Fenella Mukangara and Housing and Human Settlements Development, Prof Ana Tibaijuka, were shown around the club's 49,000 capacity home, the Stadium of Light and state-of-the-art Academy of Light training facility.

The delegation also saw some of the ground-breaking work of the club's charity, Foundation of Light, widely recognised as the blue print for football community engagement in the United Kingdom.

The drawings for the Dar es Salaam academy, which is expected to benefit thousands of young talents, are ready and, according to Hinks, development would start as soon as government approves location of the project.

With the club providing technical and practical support, the project will see thousands of youngsters benefit from a joined-up approach combining football, education and community engagement,

harnessing the knowledge and expertise of Sunderland AFC and its own successful academy.

Hinks said the first phase of the development will see the building of a community football facility at Kidongo Chekundu area in Dar es Salaam, followed by the next phase, which will see the creation of an elite academy programme and facilities, to support Tanzania in the development of young footballers.

"I've been doing business in Tanzania since 1982 and today Symbion Power is its largest US investor and its largest independent power producer.

"As in the UK and countries across Europe, Tanzania is a nation blessed with an abundance of football talent. However, there is a lack of training resources. The collaboration between Symbion and Sunderland aims to provide first class facilities and training that will improve the standard of its football youth and in the future open up opportunities for them in Europe. Sunderland's commitment to Africa is extraordinary and impressive. The fans of this great club should be extremely proud. I applaud them," said Hinks.

The Sunderland AFC chairman said he was delighted to welcome Tanzania to the Sunderland family, further enhancing the club's relationship with the African continent.

"This exciting partnership, combining football and community engagement, will enable us to share our expertise to help Tanzania develop an effective football infrastructure. We are very much looking forward to working alongside Symbion Power and seeing this project come to fruition."

Sunderland AFC have established themselves as one of the most recognised English clubs across Africa in recent seasons. The club linked up with Invest in Africa in January last year, affording a springboard to the ground-breaking not-for-profit initiative to promote Africa as a leading investment destination and actively challenge misconceptions about investing on the continent.

Tanzania: Absence of Epz Projects Costs Arusha's Industrial Sector - Report

18 June 2013/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Arusha — THE absence of an Economic Processing Zone (EPZ) and Special Import Processing Zone (SIPZ) in Arusha is frustrating the manufacturing sector, rendering it unable to tap the advantage of the regional markets.

A new by Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture - Arusha region (TCCIA-Arusha) says that the manufacturing sector in the region faces a number of challenges that inhibit growth and trading of processed products under the East African Common Market Protocol (EACOMP).

The Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania Programme-Advocacy Component (BEST-AC) financed report blames legislations for not adequately complementing policy statements. The study has highlighted institutional weaknesses in regulatory functions and negative attitude towards private sector.

"Overlapping of regulations and excessive fees work against the development of entrepreneurship that could influence the growth and functioning of manufacturing sector," notes the report, adding that lack of EPZ and SIPZ in Arusha was subjecting most entrepreneurs to copying from one another due to lack of business incubation.

Low literacy level also limits innovation and technological adoption in the manufacturing sector, says the report. The researchers have recommended Tanzania to critically review her policies, regulations, institutional and regulatory framework for the manufacturing sector to thrive:

"The punitive and frustrating legislations in business should be repealed." The study suggests the positive change of attitude of government officials towards business and private sector to facilitate industrial manufacturing that has potential of creating decent employment for Tanzanians.

The study further advises that the TCCIA's potential in facilitating trade and economic growth should widen its space and include interaction with manufacturers and producers as well as government officials and politicians.

Other proposals include the need for TCCIA to lobby for the establishment of EPZs and SIPZs in the region and sensitisation of upcoming entrepreneurs in business clubs by TCCIA, Vocational Education and Training Authority and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

Reached for comment on the report in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Exports Processing Zones Authority's (EPZA) Director of Development, Zawadia Nanyaro denied claims that Arusha has no single EPZ project.

"The existing projects might be below demand but it's not true to say that Arusha has no single EPZ project... we have three EPZ industries operating on 70 hectares within the A-Z," said Ms Nanyaro, hinting that a huge EPZ project was being developed on the 4,000 acres at Malura area in the region.

KENYA :

Kenya to Employ Drones to Thwart Gunrunners, Al-Shabaab

By Bosire Boniface/Sabahi (Washington, DC)/17 June 2013

Garissa — Kenya is preparing to employ drones as part of increased security operations along its borders with Somalia and Ethiopia to monitor and halt the movements of al-Shabaab and gunrunners, security officials told Sabahi.

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, are needed to help Kenyan security forces on the ground patrol the country's frontiers, said Patrick Ochieng, director of the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

"We face an unprecedented security challenge," he told Sabahi. "Not only do we have threats from within the country, but also from al-Shabaab insurgents."

Gunrunning and infiltration by al-Shabaab into Kenya's north-eastern region have brought insecurity with deadly effects, he said, adding that the past two years have seen an increase in violence from illegal guns, with criminals and gunrunners devising new ways to smuggle in firearms.

The unarmed drones will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology including night-vision cameras to help Kenya stay ahead of criminals and evolving security threats, Ochieng said.

Security officers are receiving training on working with the drones, which will be operational by the end of the year, Ochieng said. He declined to reveal more details about the programme, saying that doing so could aid gunrunners.

Policing Kenya's porous, more than 800-kilometre border with Somalia is a difficult challenge, said north-eastern regional Police Chief Charlton Mureithi, and deploying drones will aid officers on the ground.

"We hope this technology will go a long way in addressing security threats in the region because the drones will keep an eye on the most remote routes the smugglers use," he told Sabahi.

Investing in security

Retired army Major Bishar Hajji Abdullahi said the government should invest in such technologies even if they are expensive because the goal of safeguarding the country should supersede the costs.

"Despite the drones being a controversial subject all over the country, in some cases, the government has the responsibility of protecting its citizens by whatever means," he told Sabahi.

Nonetheless, better technology will not yield desired results without proper training for security officers, he said. "The government has to be careful not to sink money into ineffective technology," Abdullahi said.

As security equipment becomes less expensive to acquire, Kenya should invest heavily in it to counter criminal threats, particularly from al-Shabaab, he said.

"For instance in the north-eastern region, where there are frequent al-Shabaab attacks, the government should provide security officers with armoured vehicles and bulletproof vests," Abdullahi said.

The government unveiled its national budget for 2013-2014 on June 13th, setting aside 67 billion shillings (\$784 million) for security.

National Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich said 4 billion shillings (\$46.9 million) of the allocated money will go towards security equipment, 4.5 billion shillings (\$52.7 million) for enhanced operations, and 1.5 billion shillings (\$17.6 million) for research into improving crime-prevention methods.

ANGOLA :

Chevron celebrates first gas in Angola

Peter Klinger, The West, Australian/au.news.yahoo.com /June 18, 2013

Chevron has received a much-needed confidence boost as it battles with the construction timetable of its \$US52 billion (\$54 billion) Gorgon and \$US29 billion Wheatstone LNG projects in WA's North after finally being able to celebrate first production of liquefied fuel at its Angola venture.

More than a year late, the \$US10 billion Angola LNG development has begun "initial production", Chevron said yesterday. The US giant has a 36.4 per cent in the joint venture, alongside the state-

owned Sonangol (22.8 per cent) and minority investors Total, ENI and BP (each with 13.6 per cent).

Angola LNG represented Chevron's first chance to take an active role in the development and operation of a liquefaction process, with investors hoping the West African experience will prove helpful as Gorgon and Wheatstone are built and production ramped up.

The Angola venture has a production profile of 5.2 million tonnes of the LNG a year. It is also supposed to produce 63,000 barrels of liquids and 125 million cubic feet of gas, for the domestic market, a day.

When Chevron and partners sanctioned Angola LNG for development in late 2007, they forecast first cargoes early last year. There was no commentary yesterday on when first LNG cargoes would set sail from Angola and how long the partners expected the ramp-up to nameplate capacity to take.

Woodside Petroleum sanctioned development of its 4.3mtpa Pluto LNG development near Karratha in mid-2007. The final cost of \$15 billion was 25 per cent above budget and first LNG not produced until last April. The original timetable had forecast first gas in late 2010.

Woodside has since stunned investors with Pluto's ramp-up performance, with the plant operating at 89 per cent capacity at the end of last year, compared with an internal forecast of 65 per cent.

The 15.6mtpa Gorgon is just over halfway through construction and first LNG cargoes are scheduled for early 2015. The 8.9mtpa Wheatstone is a year behind.

Angola LNG's milestone news came as Woodside and Chevron's 25 per cent Gorgon partner, Royal Dutch Shell, dominated the latest round of offshore permits awarded by the Federal Government. Woodside bid a \$73.8 million work program in return for being granted permit WA-483-P, about 100km off Onslow, outbidding five other parties. Shell picked up WA-489-P, WA-490-P and WA-491-P by pledging \$162.6 million of work.

AU/AFRICA :

West Africa piracy overtakes Somali ship attacks

18 June 2013/bbc.co.uk

Piracy off the coast of West Africa has now overtaken Somali piracy, a report by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and other seafarers' groups says.

It records a total of 966 attacks in West Africa in 2012, compared with 851 such incidents by Somali pirates.

West African pirates mostly steal fuel cargo and the crews' possessions, often resorting to extreme violence.

Five of the 206 hostages seized last year off West Africa have been killed, the document says. 'Sadistic methods'

The report, entitled The Human Cost of Maritime Piracy 2012, was released by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), the Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) project and the Maritime Piracy

Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP).

It says that despite the growing number of pirate attacks in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea region "the area has not received the attention that was brought to Somalia".

Pirates typically target fuel cargo, selling it on the lucrative black market.

"In Nigeria, money moves quite quickly unlike in Somalia," one seafarer is quoted as saying in the document.

"In Somalia, it would take months. In Nigeria, the pirates take our (oil) cargo and the money of the (shipping) company. It would take only weeks, it is quite fast."

Map of Nigeria

The report says that tackling piracy in both West Africa and Somalia requires "co-operation between efforts at sea and those on land to build maritime security and provide job opportunities to potential pirates".

At the same time, the findings show a 78% drop in piracy off Somalia last year compared with 2011.

The report says this is due to better practices by ship's captains and crews and the increasing use of armed guards aboard vessels in the region.

But it adds that at least 78 hostages are still being held captive by Somali pirates. Some sailors have been already held for more two years.

Many Somali pirates have used cruel and sadistic methods to extort ransom payments.

AU Says Africa Should Move Toward Prosperity

Lisa Schlein/voanews.com/June 17, 2013

GENEVA — A top African Union official says Africa has everything it needs to move toward a prosperous future and to become a leading player in global affairs. AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma says Africa has many hurdles to overcome, but she remains optimistic that the continent is up to the task.

The African Union is celebrating its 50th anniversary. AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma says this is a time for reflection - a time to look at past failures and successes, as well as to reflect on where Africa will be 50 years from now.

She says Africa has succeeded in liberating itself from its colonial past, but has not succeeded in becoming prosperous. She says Africa is poor, but need not remain so. She says Africa has a dynamic youthful population, hard-working people and countries endowed with minerals and other resources.

Zuma is the first woman to hold the AU Commission Chair and is a former foreign minister of South Africa. She says Africa must quickly develop its infrastructure to prosper. It must develop its transport, energy and ICT sectors. She says this would unlock the continent's potential so it can expand its internal trade and develop a flourishing tourist trade.

“We think that if we handle ourselves well, our resources well, invest in our people, we can be prosperous. But, we must also continue on the process we have started, which is going very well of democratization of our countries. And, most of our countries now are democratic and they are having regular elections,” said Zuma.

The AU commission chair does not gloss over the huge problems that exist, such as ongoing conflicts in Mali and Sudan, widespread corruption and criminality. But, she says these problems can be overcome, reduced or contained.

For example, she notes that 20 years ago, there were some 15 raging conflicts in Africa. She says this dreadful situation has been dramatically reduced. She adds that development is the only sure pathway to a sustainable peace. To encourage development, she is calling for investors to promote job creation.

In regard to current events, Zuma says she has low expectations that the meeting of the G-8 will produce any concrete or beneficial results for Africa.

“I think the G-8 and Africa is not an easy relationship because the G-8 has a different presidency every year. Each one decides on their agenda, so what was discussed last year is not necessarily followed through to the next year. So...maybe it works for the G-8, obviously it does - otherwise they would not be continuing to do it - whether it works for Africa, I am not sure,” she said.

Zuma says the African Union will be sending observers to monitor Zimbabwe’s elections, currently scheduled for July 31, in line with orders from the Constitutional Court.

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is pushing for the vote to be delayed until a number of legal reforms have been enacted.

Zuma says it is up to Zimbabwe's people to decide whether they want to obey the rule of law or not. However, she is quite adamant that whenever the election does take place, it must be free and fair.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

U.S. Africa Command head Carter Ham to testify on Benghazi for first time
CBS News/ June 17, 2013

The man who leads U.S. military operations in Africa will be testifying for the first time about last year's Benghazi embassy attack.

Gen. Carter Ham, head of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), will be responding to questions from the House Armed Services Committee in a closed hearing on June 26 at 9 a.m. ET.

State Department overhauls training and security for diplomats abroad
State Dept. budget issues raised at Benghazi hearing

Benghazi timeline: How the probe unfolded

Ham was head of the agency and based at the Pentagon during the Sept. 11, 2012 attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others. Lt. Col. Michael Gibson and Rear Admiral Brian Losey of Special Operations Command in Africa will also be questioned.

Gibson's name has made news in previous Benghazi hearings; diplomat Gregory Hicks had testified the Army lieutenant colonel was told not to go ahead and send reinforcements to Libya as violence escalated at the embassy, an account that differed from that of the White House's.

Congress and the White House have been embroiled in a heated debate over what happened in Benghazi that night, much of it divided along party lines. A Republican-led investigation committee released a report in April accusing the Obama administration of being dishonest in the aftermath of the attack, while President Obama dismissed the criticism as a "sideshow."

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