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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda: Drama As Cranes Fans Arrive

By Norman Katende/The New Vision/7 September 2013

Marrakech — Who told you that while on a flight, all you have to do is watch movies or read your novels?

Uganda soccer fans today gave Ethiopian Airlines staff a whole new flying experience when they turned the chartered flight to Marrakech into a stadium.

Led by Joseph Muwonge, commonly known as Kamodo, the fans picked their drums, vuvuzuelas, whistles and all they had brought and turned the flight into a carnival of sorts.

They sung patriotic songs to cheer on the Cranes, praising Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni for the offer he had made and also former FUFA president Lawrence Mulindwa for taking the team this far. They then forced incumbent FUFA head Moses Magogo to dance around the plane corridors with the fans

Even the air hostesses were not spared, and they joined the dancing after being given Uganda Cranes T-shirts.

The fans even forgot local rivalry, and Express led by Jackson Ssewanyana and Haruna Mawanda, Villa led by Lukiya Sanyu and Deborah Nakamanya, KCC Lawrence Ddamulira Kaliba a fisherman who has attended almost all the matches and Pule of URA all sung one theme - we have to beat Senegal.

"We will not get tired, we have enough gas to sing the whole day. You wait when we beat Senegal," Kamodo, who played the vuvuzuela with mastery said.

President Yoweri Museveni chartered the flight that took 153 fans at a cost of sh558m.

Senegal vs Uganda 11pm

Uganda: M23 Rebels to Resume Peace Talks

By Shifa Mwesigye/The Observer (Kampala)/8 September 2013

The rebel M23 group have agreed to resume talks with Kinshasa in Munyonyo, in three days, time, after a respite in fighting in eastern DR Congo.

Regional leaders, meeting in Munyonyo, Kampala, last week, had given the rebels a 14-day ultimatum to conclude the talks. The rebels, who had protested the resumption of fighting back home, are now understood to have indicated a willingness to talk, according news agency reports at the weekend.

M23 leader Bertrand Bisimwa was reportedly angry that the UN and Kinshasa ignored the talks and resumed the fighting, attacking his bases. The latest ultimatum followed an extra-ordinary meeting of the chiefs of defence forces and Foreign Affairs at the Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo, last week. The meeting also had representatives of the M23 and DR Congo.

After the meeting, President Museveni, who heads the regional peace effort, said: "Dialogue between the two parties if carried forward, we can get M23 to come out peacefully so that UN forces deal with the other criminal forces that have been in Congo for years."

The meeting resolved that as the dialogue resumes, the forces ensure maximum restraint on the ground to allow for talks to conclude. They also want M23 to end all military activities and stop war

and threats to overthrow the Kinshasa government.

The delegates pledged to continue exerting pressure on the M23 and all other negative forces in eastern DRC to ensure that the war stops. They also requested the UN to find a definitive solution to the former M23 combatants interned in eastern Rwanda since March 2013.

Uganda Backs Kenya Vote to Quit ICC

By John Masaba/The New Vision/ 8 September 2013

The Government of Uganda has supported the decision by the Kenyan parliament to pull out of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Kenyan lawmakers on Thursday backed a motion to pull out of the ICC, ahead of next week's trial of their vice-president William Ruto. Uganda says the decision was long overdue.

"Kenya voted to join the Rome Statute by themselves and they are free to withdraw," said Uganda Government spokesperson, Ofwono Opondo. He added that Kenya was right to withdraw because ICC has showed a lack of fairness in its indictment of leaders.

Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, vice-president Ruto, and radio presenter Joshua Arap Sang are accused of inciting violence in 2007. "Uganda has made its position clear. Our disappointment is with the way the indictment against the Kenyan leaders was selectively done.

Perhaps they wanted to make them withdraw from the race but the Kenyan people stood their ground by voting them in. The withdrawal (from ICC by the Kenyans) is an indictment to the credibility of the ICC," Opondo said. Career diplomat, Jack Wamai Wamanga, who is also the MP for Mbale municipality, said a country has the right to withdraw if it feels the decisions of the court are going against their interests.

"If you join and ratify an international treaty you are bound by it, but you can jump out. So the Kenyans have the right to withdraw from the treaty," he said. Wamanga, however, said the decision could be regrettable because it may cause leaders around Africa to commit crimes against their people with impunity, and withdraw from the treaty whenever the court goes for them.

The symbolic vote offers a defiant message to the ICC, but does not impact upcoming trials of the East African nation's leadership, and parliament must now vote on a Bill within 30 days to formalise steps for an actual withdrawal. Kenya is the first country to hold such a vote. The motion "to suspend any links, cooperation and assistance" to the court was overwhelmingly approved by the National Assembly through a voice vote.

On Tuesday, the ICC is due to start the trial of Ruto on three counts of crimes against humanity for allegedly organising 2007-2008 post-election unrest that killed at least 1,100 people and displaced more than 600,000.

Ruto's trial comes about two months ahead of that of President Kenyatta, who faces five charges of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, persecution and deportation.

Both Kenyatta and Ruto have said they will cooperate fully with the court and deny the charges against them.

Many Kenyan politicians have branded the ICC a "neocolonialist" institution that only targets Africans, prompting the debate on a possible departure from the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Uganda: Rebel MPs Reject Ruling, Vow to Stay in Parliament

By Henry Sekanjako/The New Vision/6 September 2013

Four rebel MPs have rejected a ruling by the Constitutional Court barring them from accessing Parliament premises and engaging in parliamentary proceedings pending hearing of a case against them in court.

They are: Theodore Ssekikubo (Lwemiyaga County), Mohammed Nsereko (Kampala central), Barnabas Tinkasimire (Buyaga west) and Wilfred Niwagaba (Ndorwa East).

Earlier today, the Constitutional Court issued orders barring the MPs from accessing Parliamentary premises and engaging in proceedings of parliament until a case in court against them is heard.

Addressing a news conference briefly after the court's ruling, the MPs led by Theodore Ssekikubo vowed to continue their work at Parliament saying the decision to bar them from carrying out their Parliamentary work was unlawful and pre-judgment.

"We are going to continue coming to Parliament no matter the ruling, we cannot respect Justice Kavuma's ruling it was unlawful and politically motivated," Said Niwagaba.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: TAZARA Workers Ordered to Report Back to Work

7 September 2013/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Dodoma — THE two week strike staged by workers of the Tanzania and Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) has caused a loss amounting to USD 1.4 million.

The standoff has now been resolved and all workers have been ordered to report to work next Monday, without fail.

Minister for Transport, Dr Harisson Mwakyembe, informed the National Assembly in Dodoma that despite the fact that the strike, organised by the Tanzania Railway Workers' Union (TRAWU) was not legal, government took into consideration the suffering of workers and their families and issued instructions that no punitive measures should be taken against the workers.

The strike started on August 23, 2013 with workers demanding arrears in payment of salaries for the months between May and August this year. Mr Mwakyembe assured the workers that effective Thursday monies were deposited at the bank and remission to individual accounts is going on.

"Assessment by the two governments (Tanzania and Zambia) on the mode of operation revealed that despite a growth in volume of cargo transported with TAZARA, the company's expenditure

exceeded profits.

Over the last six months, TAZARA collected USD 1.53 million per month but spent US Dollar 2.5 million monthly," Mwakyembe explained.

He said salaries and fuel consumption alone amount to US Dollar 1.9 million a month and the rest goes to other managerial expenses.

"After long discussions with my Zambian counterpart, Yamfwa Mukunga, the government of Zambia has disbursed US Dollar 5 million already received by the management of TAZARA and Tanzania has given 2bn/- as contingency for TAZARA.

The company has been instructed to recover debts from clients amounting to USD 3.17 million," he said.

The minister assured the House that the workers have already received salaries for the month of May and arrears for the months of June, July and August would be taken care of.

Commenting on the effects of the strike, the minister said 13 freight trains with 252 wagons carrying 10,080 tonnes of copper, manganese, fertilizers, oil and cement suspended activities. Again more than 46,000 passengers missed out on the services.

"I call upon all workers to resume duties and work to bridge the loss created during the strike. TAZARA Board of Directors has been instructed to meet ahead of a ministerial summit scheduled for this month to review the situation for appropriate measures. TAZARA was established as a turnkey project in the early seventies.

The project was financed by an interest free loan of USD 500 million from the Peoples Republic of China. It started commercial operations in July 1976. TAZARA is an integral part of the southern Africa Regional Rail Transport Network.

The railway line currently handles exports and imports of both Tanzania and Zambia, as well as Malawi, The Democratic Republic of Congo and the rest of the Great Lakes Region.

KENYA :

Kenyans fear fallout of ICC trials

09 Sep 2013/aljazeera.com

Concerns of old wounds being reopened are voiced, as president and deputy president prepare to face trial at the Hague.

Fears of old wounds being reopened are weighing heavy on Kenyan communities as the country's president and his deputy prepare to keep their date with their trials for alleged crimes against humanity at The Hague.

When Deputy President William Ruto enters the dock at the International Criminal Court on Tuesday, to be followed by President Uhuru Kenyatta in November, members of their two ethnic groups fear the course of justice could bring old rivalries to the surface again.

Their victory in this year's peaceful election under the Jubilee Alliance has done little to heal rifts on the ground between Kenyatta's Kikuyu and Ruto's Kalenjin clans, which clashed after a disputed 2007 poll, when the two backed rival campaigns.

It leaves East Africa's biggest economy, where tribal loyalties have long driven politics or fuelled violence, on tenterhooks.

It also worries the West, which sees a stable Kenya as vital to regional security.

For the ICC, the first trial involving a sitting president is its biggest test to date. The institution set up in 1993 faces mounting opposition in Africa, where it is seen as biased for having only charged Africans.

"The alliance between Kenyatta and Ruto bought us time," said 34-year-old Regina Muthoni, who lives near the western city of Eldoret, close to where her mother and about 30 other Kikuyus were burned to death in a church torched by a Kalenjin gang.

"We don't know whether their union will survive the trials," she said, calming a wailing infant strapped to her back.

Adding to the uncertainty, a parliamentary vote last week demanding Kenya withdraw from The Hague court's jurisdiction has raised concerns that Nairobi is building political cover for the two men to halt their participation in the trial, though diplomats see such a move by men who have attended pre-trial hearings as unlikely.

Kenyatta, 51, and Ruto, 46, have long insisted they would continue to cooperate to clear their names of charges of crimes against humanity.

"The two believe they can win at trial," said Macharia Munene, a university lecturer in Nairobi. "The court also has a poor record of convictions," he said, referring to its sole conviction to date of Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga.

Kenya's 2007 elections were marred by allegations of vote rigging, but what began as political riots quickly turned into ethnic killings and reprisal attacks, plunging Kenya into its worst wave of violence since independence in 1963.

Kenyatta and Ruto were fierce rivals in the 2007 vote, but teamed up together and were elected in March in peaceful polls.

Army colonel Edward Loden killed in Kenya

8 September 2013/bbc.co.uk

A retired British army colonel has been shot and killed during a robbery at his son's home in Nairobi, Kenya.

Edward Loden, who commanded the unit involved in the Bloody Sunday shootings in Northern Ireland, was on holiday when he was shot on Saturday evening.

The attack happened after armed men forced their way into the compound in the Langata suburb.

A family statement described Col Loden as a "devoted family man" and said his death was a "brutal tragedy".

The BBC's East Africa correspondent Gabriel Gatehouse said he died on the way to hospital.

Exonerated

A former colonel in the Parachute Regiment, Col Loden served on numerous operations around the world and was awarded the Military Cross for service in Aden in 1967.

In 1972, he was in command of a Parachute Regiment unit that fired more than 100 shots during a civil rights march in Londonderry.

Thirteen civilians were killed at the scene and a 14th victim died from his wounds five months later.

Col Loden was exonerated by the Saville Inquiry into the killings, which said that he did not realise his soldiers might be firing at people who did not pose a threat.

He retired from the Army in 1992, and after following a career in business management, retired to pursue his love of sailing in 1999, his family said.

The statement added: "Edward, married to Jill, father of Jamie and Will, was a devoted family man and proud grandfather of Oliver, Amelia, Joshua, Harry and Emily.

"Jill and her sons would like to say thank you to all the overwhelming messages of love and support from wider friends and family, and request that the family be given time to come to terms with this brutal tragedy."

The killing comes after the murder of another former British army colonel, David Parkinson, who was killed by an armed gang at his home near Nanyuki, Laikipia, in August.

Col Parkinson, an ex-commander of a base in the area, and his wife were attacked after a gang of suspected robbers, armed with machetes and a gun, smashed their way into the house.

Mrs Parkinson escaped after hiding in a strong room.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Tropical Depression Forms off Africa

September 9, 2013 /(AP)/Associated Press

MIAMI

A tropical depression has formed off Africa and is moving west.

A tropical storm warning has been issued for several of the southern Cape Verde Islands.

The center of the depression was located about 160 miles (260 km) southeast of the Praia, Cape Verde Islands, late Sunday. Its maximum winds were 35 mph (55 kph), and forecasters said the system could become a tropical storm on Monday.

Its center was expected to stay south of the Cape Verde Islands.

UN/AFRICA :

People smuggling, heroin trade on the rise in East Africa: UN report
Monday 9 September 2013/sudantribune.com

September 8, 2013 (KAMPALA) - A new report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) says more than 100,000 people were smuggled out of East Africa last year, bringing in \$15 million for criminal gangs operating in the region.

The report, titled "Transnational Organised Crime in Eastern Africa: A Threat Assessment", was released on 4 September.

The UNODC said more than 100,000 people paid smugglers to transport them across the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea to Yemen in 2012, in what was one of the key findings of the report.

The UN report says about 80,000 of the 100,000 migrants who attempted to cross into Saudi Arabia from Yemen were "waylaid by smugglers and subjected to a range of abuses, including confinement, beatings, extortion and rape".

The report also noted an increase in the heroin trade in the East African region.

"Heroin has been trafficked to and through Eastern Africa since at least the 1980s, but a series of recent large seizures suggests that this flow has increased", the report said, adding that East Africa has become a regional hub for the illegal sale of the drug and that the local market is now worth millions of dollars.

"The local market is estimated to consume at least 2.5 tonnes of pure heroin per year, worth some \$160 million. The volumes trafficked to the region appear to be much larger, as much as 22 tonnes", the report said.

Despite the quantity, researches noted that East Africa acts mainly as a transit point for drugs destined for South Africa and West Africa.

A weakness in the rule of law and a growing illicit market are the primary drivers of the drug trade, according to the UNODC.

The report recommends strengthening law enforcement measures in order to make the East African region less attractive to drug traffickers.

(ST)

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

Canada ranks 6th in global happiness survey

CBC News/Sep 9, 2013

Main factors include social ties, freedom, UN-sponsored report says

Canada has some of the happiest people on the planet because of long life expectancy, high average income and robust social ties, according to a survey sponsored by the United Nations in which Canada ranked sixth.

And it appears our cold, harsh winters make us merrier, not morose, since the only people who say they feel happier than Canadians are citizens of fellow northern nations, in order: Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands and Sweden.

The United States ranked 17th in the report, trailing the United Arab Emirates, Panama and Mexico. Libyans were in the middle of the pack in 78th, while the globe's most sorrowful citizens reside in West African neighbours Benin and Togo.

"One thing that struck me this time is that of the 150 countries we look at — and we're measuring a period roughly from 2005 to 2010 — is how many had significant increases or decreases — 60 had big increases but 40 had a big decrease," co-author John Helliwell, professor emeritus of economics at the University of British Columbia, told CBC News.

Overall, the world is getting happier, the report says, though there are stark regional contrasts.

While people in Latin America and the Caribbean are more content — by seven per cent since 2007 — residents of the Mideast and North Africa, many of whose countries have been racked by political turmoil in recent years, are 11.7 percentage points more miserable.

"The Arab Spring wasn't good for a lot of people in those regions," Helliwell said. "But the major declines were the countries that were hardest hit in the euro crisis — i.e. Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal."

The happiness rankings are largely based on the so-called life-evaluation results from the Gallup World Poll, conducted in more than 150 countries every year since 2005. The poll asks people to describe their happiness on a scale from zero to 10. The average happiness level in the 2013 World Happiness report was 5.1. Canadians scored 7.48, below Denmark at 7.69 but well above Togo at 2.94.

The paper's authors say six factors account for three-quarters of the differences among residents of surveyed countries:

- GDP per capita.
- Life expectancy.
- Perceived national corruption.
- Freedom to make life choices.
- Generosity of fellow citizens.
- Having someone to rely on in times of trouble.

However, they emphasize that while the most cheerful countries on the planet are also some of the wealthiest, income is a less important contributor than things like personal freedom and social supports.

Jens Norlem, who lives in Denmark, told CBC News he wasn't surprised his country led the rankings, which he said is a national point of pride.

"It's a very equal country," Norlem said. "There's not a lot of very rich people and there's not a lot of very poor people. There's a very big group of the middle class. And people have a high level of education, so people participate very much in elections and stuff like that."

However, Norlem said, what sets Denmark apart from a country like the United States is simple peace of mind.

"You feel that you have confidence in the system — in the governmental system and in other people also," he said.

"It's a very typical thing here that if you walk up to people in the street and ask them a question, they'll try to help. They wouldn't think, 'Who is this person coming up to me? He's probably trying to rob me.'

"Which I guess is a bit different in the United States, just taking an example, where lot of people have guns and try to protect themselves, so they can shoot anybody coming up to them."

The report, co-edited by Helliwell co-with Jeffrey Sachs, a professor of development and health policy at Columbia University in New York, and London School of Economics professor emeritus Richard Layard, urges more countries use citizen happiness as a measure of progress, citing the South Asian kingdom of Bhutan, which has developed a Gross National Happiness Index and aims above all to maximize it.

Helliwell said this year's report, was created under the aegis of the UN Sustainable Development Research Initiative, is meant to be a kind of blueprint for governments to consider.

"It's so the objectives of governments should include happiness," Helliwell said. "It's important we have the science and the measures there so they are taken and understood. The report is intended to play into discussions about world development goals for 2015 to 2030."

Other countries using happiness levels or similar measures of wellbeing to gauge policy include Brazil, Britain and New Zealand, the study says.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

East Africa: EAC for Diplomatic Engagement With EU

9 September 2013/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

THE East African partner states are considering diplomatic engagement with the European Union member states to clear unsolved issues on Economic Partnership Agreement.

The EAC ministers responsible for EPA negotiations with the EU have agreed to use diplomacy to resolve the outstanding issues, as the clock ticks towards the 2016 deadline.

At the moment, the ministers are undertaking national consultations on the way the diplomatic engagement with EU countries would be carried out.

Director General for Customs and Trade at the EAC Secretariat, Mr Peter Kiguta says that the EAC position under the EPA negotiations is more critical before facing the EU.

"We need to have our position as the EAC under the EPA negotiations so as to ensure that we have an EPA that best serves the interests of the EAC region," Mr Kiguta explained.

Among the EPA outstanding issues in which the EAC needs to come up with its position, is a clause on Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and export taxes.

The EA trading bloc fear that if signed, the MFN will block all the signatories to enter into bilateral talks with other partners on areas where the EU does not enjoy preferential terms.

Negotiators said the EU has been keen on the clause to shield itself against emerging economies like India and China.

Again, the EAC negotiators have maintained that they need policy flexibility on issues of export tax to allow value addition and industrial development.

The EAC concern with the export taxes article is the impact that this restriction will have on its policy space in the use of export taxes as a trade policy instrument. EU, however, insists on measures disciplining the use of export taxes in the EPA.

Some of the sectors where current production will be at risk are processed oil products, chemical products for agriculture, medicines, vaccines and antibiotics.

The EAC document seen by The Daily News highlights other unresolved clauses on agriculture; some provisions of the protocol on rules of origin and some product specific rules.

On the negotiations under agriculture, outstanding issues remain on the domestic support and export subsidies; and on geographical indications.

The agricultural products in which the EAC are competitive in producing or have the potential-- are hardly affected by the EPA as these have largely been excluded from liberalization.

The EAC will be liberalizing seven agricultural items -- six products attracting 10 per cent and one

product at 25 per cent, which are currently significantly, sourced from the EU, hence the potential loss of revenue.

These include maize starch, flours and meals of soya beans; seaweeds and other algae; animal food preparations; casein; other modified starches and colza Oil. In the list of outstanding issue include some provisions on institutional arrangements, dispute settlement and final provisions.

There are also the new issues submitted by the EU such as good governance in the tax area and consequences from customs union agreements concluded with EU. The EAC has not agreed to the inclusion of these issues in the negotiations.

EPAs negotiations started at ACP level and in 2003, the negotiations were moved to regional level. Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda were negotiating in the East and Southern African configuration under the coordination of Comesa while Tanzania was negotiating under SADC.

In 2007, all the EAC partners agreed to negotiate as a bloc. The EU represents an important trade partner for the EAC region, with around \$4.8 billion of imports from the EU -- mainly oil products, medicines, machinery and mechanical equipment, cars, aircraft and electrical appliances -- and around \$3.18 billion of exports to the EU --mainly coffee, tea, fresh cut flowers -- as per 2010 trade data.

Recently the Tanzanian Ambassador to the EU, Dr Diodorus Kamala said it was decided that African regions negotiating Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union (EU) should hold signing of the agreements until the Africa-EU summit slated for April, next year.

The decision was reached recently in Libreville, Gabon, during the EPA's Negotiations Coordination Meeting organized by the African Union Commission, according to Tanzania's Ambassador to the European Union, Dr Diodorus Kamala, who attended the meeting.

"The EPAs should be included in the agenda of the Africa EU Summit scheduled to be held in April 2014. It was also agreed that the African Union Commission and EPA negotiating regions will have to prepare a joint matrix of challenging issues in the EPA negotiations with possible solutions," Mr Kamala said in a statement.

According to the Tanzanian envoy, the joint matrix will have to be submitted to the principals for consideration during the Africa - EU Summit. "An assessment needs to be done on the impact of the EPAs on economic and envisaged EAC -SADC (Southern African Development Community) and COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)'s tripartite Free Trade Area," he explained.

Tanzania and the other four members of the East African Community (EAC) namely Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi are negotiating the agreement through the regional bloc.

The Libreville meeting also resolved that the EPA agenda be taken up to the AU Trade Ministerial Conference in October, this year, and the High Level Technical Committee and at the January 2014 AU Summit.

"AU should propose alternatives to the EPAs and should develop and agree on common positions on all divergences with especially in the following areas export taxes, most favoured nation clause, agricultural subsidies in EU, development finance for EPAs, rules of origin, exclusion and non execution clauses," the statement read in part.

It called on the European Union to review EPAs negotiating mandate to ensure flexibility and conclusion of Africa's regional integration agenda.

The meeting also requested the EU to consider providing a non reciprocal trade arrangement for Africa the same way has done for Moldova and the Western Balkans to support their economic development.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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