



We Believe  
**LOVE IS NOT A CRIME.**  
STAND WITH LGBT UGANDANS.

[Thousands of civil society activists, including Amnesty International supporters in the UK, Canada, Spain and Germany are acting together today in solidarity with campaigners in Uganda to show their opposition to Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill and call on President Museveni to veto it. "If this deeply discriminatory bill is passed it will legalize the persecution of people on the grounds of their sexual orientation. Since the Bill was proposed there's been an increase in homophobic arrests and mob violence. This is turning into a witch-hunt. President Museveni must veto the bill before the situation worsens," said Gemma Houldey, Uganda Researcher at Amnesty International.]

BURUNDI :

**Rien n'est réglé au Burundi**

9/02/14 /Source: Belga

Le pouvoir burundais a été contraint de reculer dans le conflit l'opposant au principal parti tutsi, à l'origine d'une crise menaçant de briser le fragile équilibre politico-ethnique du pays, mais rien n'est encore réglé, selon les observateurs.

Le ministre de l'Intérieur, qui avait tenté fin janvier d'imposer un nouveau dirigeant à la tête de l'Union pour le progrès national (Uprona), allié du parti au pouvoir au sein du gouvernement, a dû faire marche arrière vendredi après que le candidat pressenti, Bonaventure Niyoyankana, proche du pouvoir, eut finalement décliné l'offre.

La manoeuvre des autorités, perçue comme une tentative de noyauter un parti devenu critique, a ouvert une grave crise politique dans ce petit pays d'Afrique centrale, qui a subi entre 1993 et 2006 une longue guerre civile.

Car la Constitution, issue d'accords de paix, garantit un partage du pouvoir entre la majorité hutu (85% de la population) et la minorité tutsi (14%). Cet équilibre s'articulait jusqu'ici autour du tandem formé par le parti hutu au pouvoir CNDD-FDD du président Pierre Nkurunziza et l'Uprona, principal parti tutsi.

La décision du ministre de l'Intérieur, Edouard Nduwimana, a d'abord entraîné le limogeage du premier vice-président du pays, Bernard Busokoza, tutsi issu de l'Uprona, coupable d'avoir désavoué le ministre, puis le départ des trois ministres Uprona du gouvernement, menaçant le précaire équilibre à la tête du Burundi où la question ethnique reste sensible.

Vendredi, M. Niyoyankana a finalement décidé de renoncer à la présidence de l'Uprona, contraignant les autorités à une série de marches arrières.

"Nous prenons acte de la décision de Bonaventure Niyoyankana de renoncer au poste de président de l'Uprona et nous demandons aux organes habilités de ce parti (...) de se réunir rapidement afin de doter l'Uprona d'un nouveau leadership", a déclaré M. Nduwimana.

La présidence a été contrainte d'annuler en urgence une session du Parlement, convoquée vendredi pour adouber le nouveau vice-président du pays... proposé par M. Niyoyankana en tant que président de l'Uprona.

Pour les observateurs, si accalmie il y a, la crise est néanmoins loin d'être terminée, l'Uprona, seul parti avec le CNDD-FDD à n'avoir pas boycotté les élections générales de 2010, entendant désormais profiter de cette victoire et négocier chèrement son retour.

"L'Uprona est prête à revenir au gouvernement, mais (...) pas à n'importe quelles conditions", a expliqué un des dirigeants du parti, Evariste Ngayimpinda, tenant d'une ligne radicale demandant le départ du gouvernement de l'Uprona.

Il a notamment exigé "des négociations sur les grandes préoccupations de l'heure avec le pouvoir Nkurunziza, sous les auspices de la communauté internationale". "L'Uprona peut revenir au gouvernement car c'est un droit constitutionnel, mais il n'y a rien à négocier entre nous", lui a répondu samedi Onésime Nduwimana, porte-parole du CNDD-FDD.

Alors qu'approchent les élections générales de 2015, le parti tutsi s'était récemment montré très virulent sur des sujets comme le troisième mandat auquel aspire le président Nkurunziza, le projet de modification de la Constitution - qui met notamment fin à la minorité de blocage d'un tiers au Parlement - ou les questions de la répartition des terres.

L'Uprona sort renforcée de cet épisode face au CNDD-FDD, jusqu'ici bénéficiaire du rapport de forces, selon les observateurs.

"Aujourd'hui, le président Nkurunziza et son parti sont dans l'impasse, car ils ont sous-estimé les frustrations et la détermination du parti Uprona", analyse un diplomate en poste à Bujumbura. Le CNDD-FDD et l'Uprona semblent bien condamnés par la Constitution au dialogue, à moins d'entraîner le pays dans une crise extrêmement grave.

"La Constitution du Burundi prévoit que le (nouveau) premier vice-président doit provenir du même parti que le sortant, c'est-à-dire de l'Uprona", rappelle un haut fonctionnaire onusien ayant requis l'anonymat. "Je ne vois pas comment le président Nkurunziza pourra éviter un minimum de dialogue politique avec ce parti, à moins de violer la loi fondamentale du Burundi".

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

### Global Day of Action against Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Bill

Monday, 10 February 2014/scoop.co.nz

Thousands of civil society activists, including Amnesty International supporters in the UK, Canada, Spain and Germany are acting together today in solidarity with campaigners in Uganda to show their opposition to Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill and call on President Museveni to veto it.

"If this deeply discriminatory bill is passed it will legalize the persecution of people on the grounds of their sexual orientation. Since the Bill was proposed there's been an increase in homophobic arrests and mob violence. This is turning into a witch-hunt. President Museveni must veto the bill before the situation worsens," said Gemma Houldey, Uganda Researcher at Amnesty International.

The Global Day of Action has been organized by Ugandan civil society groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) activists.

People around the world, including civil society groups in Europe and the United States, will show their solidarity through protests, petitions and action on social media demanding that Uganda's President Museveni vetoes the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in its entirety.

The Bill was passed by the Ugandan Parliament on 20 December 2013. The president only has until 23 February to veto or amend the bill to stop it becoming law.

Since the Bill was passed, Ugandan civil society groups have documented at least seven arrests of LGBTI people. Two were required to have anal examinations to 'prove' they are engaging in same-sex sexual activity. These examinations are tantamount to torture and scientifically invalid.

Ugandan civil society organizations report that anal examinations are becoming a routine procedure for men arrested on suspicion of engaging in sex with other men. LGBTI people are also increasingly being harassed and some individuals have been attacked by mobs.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill would increase the number of criminal offences related to same-sex sexual activity and violates Uganda's own constitution.

The maximum penalty for engaging in same-sex sexual activity remains life imprisonment. The death penalty for aggravated homosexuality has been removed.

People working on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes and LGBTI rights would face criminal charges and jail terms for promoting homosexuality

“The Bill would not only criminalize LGBTI people, it would have a devastating effect on healthcare professionals and human rights activists. It is effectively state sanctioned homophobia,” said Clare Byarugaba, a Ugandan LGBTI rights activist.

“Now is the time to stand in solidarity with LGBTI people in Uganda. President Museveni must reject this Bill and recognize that human rights are for all Ugandans.”

#### Further Information

According to Uganda’s Constitution, the President has 30 days to respond to a Bill passed by Parliament. He can give his assent, reject the Bill entirely or send it back to Parliament with suggested amendments. A Bill can become law without the President’s assent if it is returned to Parliament twice and Parliament votes in favour of it with a two-thirds majority.

This Global Day of Action is organized in response to the urgent need to ensure that the Ugandan President vetoes the Bill before the 30 day counter for his response expires on 22 February. The Ugandan Civil Society Coalition for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, a coalition of 51 Ugandan organizations working on LGBTI rights, has called for demonstrations, silent vigils, petitions, public solidarity messages and images and social media actions calling on the President to veto the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in its entirety.

The Ugandan Penal Code already criminalizes “carnal knowledge...against the order of nature,” with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The final text of the Bill has still not been released by Parliament, but there are reports that discriminatory provisions from earlier drafts remain. These include criminal penalties for the ‘promotion of homosexuality,’ which violate the right to freedom of expression and would criminalize the activities of individuals or organizations who work with LGBTI people.

Laws criminalizing consensual sexual activity violate Uganda’s own constitution, as well as people’s human rights, including the right to privacy, as guaranteed by international human rights treaties to which Uganda is a party.

ENDS

#### Three Foreign Firms In Oil Exploration Consortium Agree To Support Uganda Energy Roadmap Feb 10/BERNAMA

KAMPALA, Feb 10 (BERNAMA-NNN-NEW VISION) -- The joint venture oil exploration and production consortium of Tullow, CNOOC Uganda and Total has agreed to support Uganda's petroleum value addition road map which may cost between US\$7 billion and US\$9 billion.

The partners have decided on a plan to use oil and gas assets for electricity production in Uganda, and have agreed to supply crude oil to a planned Ugandan refinery before considering exporting the oil.

"The memorandum of understanding requires the oil companies to support the Government in its efforts to develop the refinery, including public endorsement of the project," said Irene Muloni,

Minister of Energy and Mineral Development.

She affirmed here over the weekend that before the refinery was constructed and commissioned, the oil companies would supply crude oil from the contact areas to be used for power generation.

"Excess associated and non-associated gas will be used for power generation or any other viable options," the minister said.

President Yoweri Museveni urged the oil companies to act quickly because Ugandans had waited for long to see the first oil production.

"I call upon the oil companies to be fast so as to revamp the economy of Uganda. We want fast development in order to go to double digits in the growth of Uganda's economic growth (GDP) of 11 and 12 (per cent per annum)."

The agreement followed protracted negotiations between the joint venture partnership and the Government, which delayed the signing of the memorandum expected in late September when the first production licence was issued for the Kingfisher field.

The Tullow-CNOOC-Total partnership has been against the refinery in favour of construction of the pipeline to the Indian Ocean to export the crude oil to the international market. However, Uganda has softened its stance and agreed to provide support to the oil companies to acquire approvals for studies for an export pipeline.

The government has also pledged to initiate discussions with neighbouring states in relation to a cross border framework for the pipeline.

This means that Uganda will develop the refinery with an input capacity of 60,000 barrels per day whereas the partners will develop a pipeline or any other viable options to export the crude.

The agreement also provides for the expansion of the refinery beyond the 60,000 barrels per day in the event that additional resources are confirmed in the licensed areas.

Uganda's oil commercialisation plan is based on the current discovered recoverable reserves in the country estimated at a range of 1.2 to 1.7 billion barrels of crude oil.

-- BERNAMA-NNN-NEW VISION

### Uganda to incur costs of military involvement in S. Sudan

Monday 10 February 2014/sudantribune.com

February 7, 2014 (JUBA) – Uganda may have helped restore stability in South Sudan, but its military involvement in the latter's weeks of conflict would be at its own costs, according to the status of forces agreement signed by both countries.

The agreement, which tabled before Ugandan lawmakers on 18 January, does not, however, indicate when Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) would be required to pull out of South Sudan.

"Member of visiting forces shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the sending state's law and courts in respect of any disciplinary or criminal offences which may be committed by them in the territory of the host state," partly reads the seven-paged agreement.

An ally of South Sudan, Uganda deployed its army in South Sudan, days after violence erupted in the capital, Juba in mid-December. Uganda initially claimed its troops entered South Sudan to rescue Ugandan nationals trapped in the violent conflict.

According to section 39 of the UPDF Act, Parliament can ratify the deployment of troops in another country for peace motives, but an agreement has to be signed with that particular nation.

“In case the host state establishes any member of a visiting force has committed any criminal act in the territory of the host state, the host state shall promptly inform the sending state of the alleged criminal act of its member and avail the sending state material evidence pertaining to the criminal act alleged,” the agreement further stipulates.

## NO COMPENSATION

According to agreement, Uganda would be tasked with compensating any third party claims emerging from its soldiers' involvement in the conflict and both armies would not be required to make claims of losses incurred during the war.

As Ugandan troops alongside South Sudan army (SPLA) loyal to President Salva Kiir continue fighting dissident forces loyal to former president Riek Machar, the United States on Friday called for withdrawal of foreign troops that have interfered in the South Sudanese conflict.

“We urge the redeployment or phased withdrawal of foreign forces invited by either side, and warn of the serious consequences which could result from any regionalization of this conflict,” Jen Psaki, the State Department spokesperson said in a statement.

The US latest call for the withdrawal of Ugandan troops comes as Juba and Kampala are finalise a military cooperation agreement between the countries, with the latter claiming it sent its troops helped to maintain South Sudan's stability.

“I like the rhetoric, now they [US] can give orders because UPDF stopped a potentially volatile situation,” Lt. Col Paddy Ankunda, Uganda's army spokesperson tweeted on Sunday.

## UGANDA NOT WITHDRAWING FROM SOUTH SUDAN

Meanwhile, Uganda says it would not withdraw its troops from South Sudan, despite US claims that its troops were in the country contrary to the recently signed ceasefire agreement.

Lt. Col. Ankunda said Uganda intervened in South Sudan at the behest of regional leaders from the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) after South Sudan's request.

“Does somebody out there still remember that Bor town has changed hands 4 times? Before they ask for UPDF [to] withdraw?” he asked.

South Sudan's ex-vice president, who now faces treason charges with three others, has openly criticised UPDF involvement in what he described as South Sudan's internal affairs.

(ST).

## SOUTH AFRICA :

### Zuma son probed for fatal crash in South Africa

February 10, 2014/AFP

JOHANNESBURG : Police are investigating a son of South Africa's President Jacob Zuma for manslaughter after a woman died in an accident involving his sports car, media reports said Sunday. Duduzane Zuma, a businessman, crashed his Porsche into a minibus taxi just before midnight on February 1 in the suburb of Sandton, the Sunday Independent, the Sunday Times and Eyewitness News radio reported. Police confirmed an investigation of manslaughter against the Porsche driver, but declined to name the person until charges are laid and he appears in court. "There was an incident where a Porsche collided in the rear of a taxi in the dark during heavy rain," said Johannesburg Metro Police spokesman Wayne Minnaar. "The taxi overturned and one person died; two were injured," he told AFP.

The fatality was 30-year-old Zimbabwean national Phumzile Dube, who was buried in her home country Saturday, the Sunday Times reported.

Her husband told the newspaper that no one had contacted the family.

"Zuma killed my wife and I want justice," said Themba Dube. "It doesn't matter whether he is the president's son -- justice doesn't have eyes."

Taxi driver Vusi Dlamini was hospitalised after he collapsed at the scene.

"I don't like what happened. He bumped me out of the blue and my taxi overturned. One passenger died instantly," he told the Sunday Times.

The officer on the scene did not take blood alcohol tests, Minnaar said.

Presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj told AFP he did not comment on Zuma family matters.

Duduzane, who turns 30 this year, is one of four children that Zuma had with his second wife Kate, who committed suicide in 2000.

Zuma currently has four wives and at least 21 children, some out of wedlock.

Duduzane Zuma has business relations with close family associates the Gupta brothers, and reportedly owns interests in their pro-government newspaper The New Age and ANN7 television news network.

The Gupta brothers, originally from India, made headlines last year when they landed a plane filled with wedding guests at a military airbase without proper authorisation.

## TANZANIA :

### Aussie warship makes second big drug bust off Tanzania

10 February 2014/nst.com.my

MELBOURNE: Australian warship HMAS Melbourne has made another multimillion dollar drug bust on the high seas off Tanzania, the second in a week, the Australian Associated Press reports.

A Melbourne boarding party seized 190 kilogrammes of heroin aboard a drug smuggling vessel on Friday.

The latest move follows the seizure and destruction of 385 kilogrammes of heroin from a vessel in the same area on Feb 5.

Based on possible street values, the two big drug hauls were worth more than A\$1 billion.

Melbourne is patrolling in the western Indian Ocean region under the command of the multinational Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150), which conducts counter-terrorist and counter-narcotics operations.

Commander of CTF-150 Commodore Daryl Bates, Royal Australian Navy said the combined maritime forces units had now seized 1.3 tonnes of heroin with an estimated A\$2.7 billion street value.-- BERNAMA

KENYA :

**Ocampo remarks spark fury over 'politics' around Kenyan ICC cases**  
Saturday, February 8th 2014/By FELIX OLICK /standardmedia.co.ke

Lawyers are concerned that former International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is legitimising claims that the twin Kenyan cases have been infiltrated by international politics. This comes even as a section of civil society expressed outrage that post-election violence murderers and rapists will walk free even as The Hague prosecutors signaled to what could be the beginning of the end of one of the twin Kenyan cases. In a candid interview, Ocampo, who began the investigations in Kenya admitted that some diplomats whom he did not name exerted pressure on him to block the two leaders from the ballot. "There were some diplomats asking me to do something more to prevent Mr Kenyatta or Mr Ruto to run in the elections. I said, it's not my job. Judges in Kenya should do that. And if they authorise them to run, people will vote. And if people vote for them, we have nothing to say," Ocampo opened up for the first time. Mr Kibe Mungai, an advocate of the High Court of Kenya says Ocampo has finally confirmed that the ICC cases have been riddled with political power games. "It was obvious people like Kofi Annan and some Western nations particularly Britain and Germany wanted Uhuru out of the race to create an easy path for Raila by eliminating competition," he told The Standard On Sunday. Law Society of Kenya Chief Executive Appollo Mboya said that Ocampo's comments were legitimising claims by the ICC defendants that their cases have been infiltrated by saying they are not helpful to Bensouda. "Ocampo should have followed the conventional wisdom that if somebody has taken over, you desist from making comments which may be interpreted as affecting your successors tenure in office," observed Mboya. "Look at former Attorney General Amos Wako, he has kept quiet about his stint in that office. Ocampo should have kept his words for his memoir," he added. Alleged plot Just recently, Ruto's lead counsel Karim Khan implicated former American Ambassador to Kenya Michael Rannerberger in an alleged plot to fix the DP. The British lawyer claimed that Rannerberger through the US funded programme-USAID, procured witnesses to testify against him at The Hague.

But amid the new development, the civil societies have trailed their guns at the Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko after he revealed that post-election offenders would not be charged locally. "The office of the DPP is failing its constitutional responsibility and duty. It is covering up for impunity. The holder of that office is being untruthful on investigations and prosecution of the serious post-election violence crimes," maintained Ndung'u Wainaina, Executive Director for International Center for Policy and Conflict. Mr Tobiko dashed the hopes of victims of the bloodshed on Wednesday and declared that cases arising from the violence are not prosecutable due to insufficient evidence. "The sad and painful truth therefore, is that at present, there are no cases arising out of the 2007/08 PEV that can be prosecuted before the International Crimes Division," the DPP told stakeholders in a workshop in Naivasha. On the same day, International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda gave the clearest indication that the case against President



Uhuru Kenyatta was hanging on a thin thread. The prosecution admitted it had exhausted all investigative avenues, except the examination of Uhuru's financial records, which it accused the Government of obstructing. They have now asked the three-judge bench to adjourn the case indefinitely until the Government provides Uhuru's financial records that they believe could be an important lead on whether the President bankrolled the violence. "In the absence of financial records, the remaining stones that are remaining are better characterised as pebbles and realistic prospects of turning them to yield conclusive evidence is minimum," Prosecution Attorney Benjamin Gumbert admitted. Legal experts are unanimous that it would be a miracle if the Gambian born Prosecutor rejuvenates the case to sustain a serious case against President Kenyatta. "It no longer seems the Prosecution can sustain a serious case against Kenyatta," Phil Clark, an expert in international justice at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies told The Standard On Sunday. Financial records The same concerns are expressed by Clair Duffy, Senior Legal Advisor at the International Bar Association who agrees "it's unlikely that the OTP is going to be able to save its case against President Kenyatta".

Ms Duffy says even if Uhuru financed the violence as the prosecution allege, that may not necessarily be reflected in his financial records. "When individuals are involved in criminal activity involving movement of large sums of money they tend to do it in more sophisticated ways than just moving it from one account to another with a transparent paper trail," she observed. Although the case against Deputy President William Ruto and Joshua arap Sang began on a strong note, it is also running into roadblocks with some seven star witnesses having refused to testify. Bensouda has now asked the judges to request the Government to compel the witnesses to testify a position that is already being contested by the State. Speaking in Naivasha, Tobiko said more than 4,000 cases reviewed by the multi-agency task force were not prosecutable whether as ordinary crimes or otherwise for inadequate evidence. But according to a section of the Civil Society, the DPP is being dishonest and his remarks are a manifestation of lack of courage and will to tackle the crimes decisively. This week, two key meetings are scheduled at The Hague that would define the future of the two cases. Attorney General Githu Muigai would be present during the status conferences on Thursday and Friday to 'set the record straight' on the controversial issues that have put them at odds with Bensouda. On Thursday, Mr Githu would explain why they have declined to disclose the financial records of President Kenyatta. The following day, the Government Chief Legal Advisor would be explaining to the Judges why the Government cannot compel witnesses to appear before the ICC.

### Alleged Chinese ivory smuggler caught in Kenya and extradited home

By The Associated Press /February 9, 2014

BEIJING, China - A suspected Chinese ivory smuggler has been apprehended in Kenya and extradited in the first time that China has arrested a wildlife crime suspect overseas, the country's official news agency reported Monday.

Xinhua News Agency said the countries worked together to catch the suspect who is alleged to have led an ivory trafficking group in Kenya and hired couriers to smuggle ivory into China.

Kenyan authorities working with Chinese customs officials and police apprehended the suspect with the surname Xue in Nairobi on Jan. 17 and extradited him a day later, Xinhua said, citing China's Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office. A man from the office's law enforcement branch said the Xinhua report was accurate, but wouldn't give further details.

Xinhua said the final two suspects of the group were arrested when entering China on Jan. 16 and 17. One was a man called Zheng who allegedly helped buy ivory in Kenya and paid smugglers 5,000 to 10,000 yuan (\$820 to \$1,640) each time, and the other a woman called Li, said to be Xue's

girlfriend who helped get the ivory through customs.

It said the arrests were part of an operation known as Cobra II, launched by parties including China, the United States, South Africa and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network to crack down on wildlife crimes. Overall it involved 28 countries in the four weeks up until Jan. 26

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

### Troops Halt Attack In Central Africa

By REUTERS/FEB. 9, 2014

BANGUI, Central African Republic — Rwandan peacekeepers intervened on Sunday to halt an attack on Muslims, shooting dead a member of a crowd that had killed two people here in the capital of the Central African Republic, a Rwandan military spokesman said.

Residents reported that at least nine people were killed in interreligious violence over the weekend.

Violence is raging in Bangui between the Christian majority and Muslims accused of having links to a former rebel group that seized power last year and ruled until January.

The presence of 1,600 French soldiers and 5,000 African Union troops has failed to stop the violence, which the United Nations says has killed more than 2,000 people and displaced nearly a quarter of the country's 4.5 million people.

A spokesman for Rwanda's military, which is taking part in the African Union mission, said its soldiers fired warning shots after "a mob of Christians" killed two Muslims. "They were in the process of killing other Muslims, so our troops responded by firing warning shots," said the spokesman, Brig. Gen. Joseph Nzabamwita. "One among the mob was unfortunately shot dead."

Residents said the Muslims were attacked after one of them went on a rampage with a gun and grenades, killing five people Saturday evening and a woman early Sunday.

"This morning, he shot at us again," said a man who identified himself only as Clinton. "That is why we attacked his house and set it on fire." Members of a crowd, many of them wielding machetes, dragged one man's body through the streets before setting it on fire, a witness said.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**Calls for British PM to boycott EU-Africa summit over Mugabe**

Monday February 10, 2014 /thezimbabwemail.com

BRITISH Prime Minister faces a huge decision over whether to attend EU Africa summit after Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe formally invited by the European Union

According to British media David Cameron faces a dilemma over whether to attend a summit between Africa and the European Union after President Robert Mugabe was formally invited to attend.

The European Union (EU) has cleared Mugabe to attend the meeting of African Union and EU leaders, but says the decision does not alter the fact that he is on targeted sanctions, together with some of his Zanu PF cronies.

The two-day AU-EU Summit is scheduled for Brussels in Belgium on April 2-3 and will explore ways of "strengthening political partnership and enhanced co-operation at all levels".

The crafty Zimbabwean leader, also banned from travelling to Europe, recently forced the European Union (EU) to invite him to Brussels for April's EU-African Union summit after African leaders threatened to boycott the gathering if Mugabe was not welcome.

It remains unclear whether African leaders will employ a similar threat to force Obama to invite Mugabe.

The invitation comes despite Zimbabwe's leader being officially banned from visiting any EU member state.

As prime minister, Gordon Brown boycotted an earlier EU-Africa summit attended by Mr Mugabe in Lisbon in 2007. He also ruled that no British minister would be present.

On Sunday, Downing Street declined to say whether Mr Cameron would stay away from the conference, due to take place in Brussels in April.

Kate Hoey, a Labour MP who chairs the all-party parliamentary group on Zimbabwe, urged the Prime Minister to boycott. "If he [Mr Mugabe] now is to be there, then I would call on our Prime Minister to follow the principled lead of his predecessor Gordon Brown," she said.

Mr Mugabe, the oldest leader in Africa who turns 90 on Feb 21, was re-elected last year amid accusations of widespread vote rigging. He is accused of presiding over serious human rights abuses, claiming thousands of lives, during his 33-year rule.

The EU banned Mr Mugabe and a raft of his allies from visiting any member state in 2002. This measure also froze any assets they hold in EU banks. However, the travel ban does not prevent Mr Mugabe from attending international gatherings.

Aldo Dell'Araccia, the EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe, confirmed that Mr Mugabe would be welcome in Brussels. "President Mugabe is invited to the summit and I hope he will attend along with all the other leaders who have been invited," he said.

The ambassador denied this was a softening of the EU's attitude towards Mr Mugabe. "There are international laws that have to be respected and these make exceptions for heads of state that are on targeted measures to be allowed to attend summits," he said.

In practice, the EU has taken a softer line towards Mr Mugabe since he established a coalition government in 2009. This process continued after he won last year's election, which was comparatively free of violence, and introduced a new constitution.

Last year, EU foreign ministers suspended from the list of Zimbabweans subjected to travel bans and asset freezes the names of 81 ministers and officials.

It also lifted restrictions on the state company handling exports from Zimbabwe's rich diamond fields. Only Mr Mugabe is still on the list, along with his wife, Grace, and eight generals and security officials.

The United States, by contrast, continues to impose targeted sanctions on a large number of ministers, officials and state companies. America has made clear that Mr Mugabe will not be welcome at an African Leaders' Summit due to be hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington later this year.

Britain wants to boost trade and investment with Africa, which now has the world's youngest population and some of its fastest-growing economies. The West also wants to counter Chinese influence on the continent.

But any dealings with Mr Mugabe would be politically poisonous for Mr Cameron. No senior British minister has met him since 2004, when Jack Straw, then Foreign Secretary, shook Mr Mugabe's hand on the sidelines of a United Nations summit. Mr Straw later said that he had failed to recognise Zimbabwe's leader.

#### United States-African Summit

Meanwhile the US government has said it was under no pressure to reconsider its decision to omit President Robert Mugabe from the landmark US-Africa summit in August.

The gathering will seek to widen Washington's trade, development and security ties with the African continent.

Mugabe, banned from travelling to the US over allegations of rights abuses and electoral fraud, was excluded from the list of 47 African leaders invited to the summit by US President Barack Obama.

US ambassador to Zimbabwe Bruce Wharton said Mugabe's exclusion was "a very conscious decision" by Washington and any plans to revise it would not be influenced by events in Europe.

"Those are decisions made by the EU but not by the United States," Ambassador Wharton said on the side-lines of a donation ceremony for anti-HIV/Aids programmes in the country.

Wharton however said it was within the prerogative of the White House to revise its decisions and "it would be a mistake for me to try and predict the sort of decisions that the White House would make".

The US diplomat said his country's decision not to invite Mugabe to Washington was linked to the controversial conduct of last year's elections which saw the 90 year-old leader register a thumping victory over bitter rival Morgan Tsvangirai and two other presidential hopefuls.

"We are pretty clear that we believe that the July, 2013 elections had some very fundamental problems," said the US envoy.

"The same issues that were raised in the AU report, the SADC report and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission report, the irregularities in the electoral process prevented us from saying we thought that it was a credible expression of the will of the people of Zimbabwe so that's the fundamental problem."

Ambassador Wharton gave his support to the current push by the opposition towards the establishment of another unity government in Zimbabwe adding that it was up to the political protagonists to initiate dialogue among themselves as opposed to waiting for help from outsiders.

"I think that dialogue and engagement are essential. People need to understand each other. They need to understand their positions and that's a critical step towards building a national consensus or an international consensus on anything," he said.

"If the people of Zimbabwe need or wish to have a dialogue then it's going to be up to the actors to players in Zimbabwe to create the space for that dialogue and have it."

The Tsvangirai led MDC has, in the past few days, been calling for a broad-based national dialogue to rescue the country from a looming economic catastrophe.

The opposition insists Mugabe and his Zanu PF were "clueless" on how to reverse the country's economic decline after this year's government expenditure took off on a deficit while companies continue to shut down, throwing thousands out of formal employment.

CHINA/AFRICA :

**China-Africa trade moves up**

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The nature of what Africa buys from China is slowly beginning to change

As what China buys from Africa continues to center on energy products and resources, its exports to the continent are shifting toward high-end products, a trend that will continue, experts say.

"China's imports from Africa last year changed little," says Li Wentao, a researcher with the Institute of African Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

"That's because the country's economic development needs the primary products of energy and resources that accounted for about 70 percent of the continent's exports. On the other hand, China's exports to Africa are shifting toward products with higher technology, such as mechanical and electrical products, motorcycles, televisions, cellphones and equipment."

The trend is becoming clearer and is driven mainly by fast economic growth in the continent, he says.

"Africa's consumption has improved significantly in recent years. At the same time, Chinese products have had the advantage of being cheap but of good quality. In recent years some Chinese businesses have moved to establish their brands and standards in Africa."

China's project contracting businesses in Africa have also increased exports of mechanical and electrical products to the continent, he says.

"The growth in trade between China and Africa will continue to be robust. In addition to increasing in size, the quality is also improving as mechanical and electrical products, rather than shoes and clothes, account for a bigger share of Chinese exports to Africa, a remarkable trend in recent years."

Bilateral trade would have been worth more than \$200 billion last year, he says.

Between January and October last year, bilateral trade between China and Africa was worth \$172.83 billion, up 5.5 percent from a year earlier, says Chen Hao, deputy director of the Coordination Division of the Department of West Asian and African Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

High value-added and high-tech products accounted for nearly half of China's exports to Africa, Chen says. African industrial goods such as steel and copper products have also started to enter the Chinese market.

China became Africa's largest trading partner in 2009. Africa is China's leading import source, second-largest market of overseas project contracting and fourth-largest outward investment destination, a Chinese government white paper on China-Africa economic cooperation published last year says.

Trade between China and Africa was worth \$198.5 billion in 2012, 19 percent more than in 2011, and accounted for about 5 percent of China's total trade and about 16 percent of Africa's overall trade. More than 2,000 Chinese businesses had invested more than \$20 billion in African non-financial sectors by the end of 2012, the white paper says.

Li Jinzao, vice-minister of commerce, says Africa's economic integration has provided new scope for bilateral cooperation in broader sectors and at a higher level. Economic cooperation between China and Africa is going through a period of rapid growth and change, he says.

Li Wentao says: "A highlight is that bilateral trade in services has grown rapidly in recent years. More Chinese tourists are visiting Africa, while African aviation and logistic services are going into China.

## China seeks to bolster cultural bond with Africa

Feb 10,2014/by Ronald Ssekandi, Yuan Qing/Xinhua

KAMPALA, Feb. 9 (Xinhua) -- The diversified Chinese culture has aroused interest in African people as China seeks to bolster its cultural bond with Africa.

Chinese television soap opera, A Beautiful Daughter-in-law, depicting young people's lives in the modern society, resonates with African audiences who come across the same problems in their families.

Another Chinese TV series, Beijing Love, aired on the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) program, is appealing for young people.

China Radio International aired a Chinese family television series, Nana and Dudu, in local Swahili language.

Bringing these television series into the living rooms of African families is a direct and vivid display of the modern Chinese culture and the common values shared by the Chinese and African peoples.

Chinese TV channels like China Central Television (CCTV) is airing in most African countries and African media have signed agreements with Chinese media outlets.

Through these television series and Chinese media, Africans are exposed to China's rich and ethnically diverse culture.

Bringing Chinese culture into the living rooms of Ugandans will facilitate cultural exchanges and skills development, said Rose Namayanja, Uganda's minister of information and national guidance.

"One of the attributes that makes China a great nation is their hardworkingness, creativity and patriotism," she said, adding that "I trust the films will entertain and mobilize Ugandans to emulate and adopt those similar values."

In addition, several Chinese cultural groups visited Africa to showcase Chinese culture, a critical factor in boosting people-to-people relations.

"We can organize some more cultural activities because that is very important for the mutual understanding between our two peoples and the two countries," China's ambassador to Uganda Zhao Yali said.

The Confucius institutes serve as another channel for African students to get closer to the Chinese culture and learn the Chinese language.

Now more than 20 such institutes have been set up across Africa, offering various language courses and lectures, exhibitions and performances to African students.

China also welcomes African artists, academicians and young people to see by themselves China's rich cultural history.

Taga Nuwagaba, an accomplished Ugandan artist, said his visit to Nanjing, capital of China's eastern Jiangsu province, left him a lasting impression.

"When you look at Chinese art it inclines so much to realism. They do not go so much for abstract art. The Chinese artists are so good with realism," he said.

"When you are a good realist it means that you are also a good impressionist. It means that you do have the means of creating basically anything. When you see an elephant it is not only about the elephant but also the many people it represents," he added.

He said that like China, Africa must guard its history and avoid elements that can distort it.

It was surprising to know that the first man to sail around the world was a Chinese named Zheng He, who began his journey in 1405, 87 years earlier than Christopher Columbus did, he said.

"It kind of changed the way I look at our history. It kind of changed the way I read history," he said.

China has also increased its scholarships for African students to go and study in China, who later returned home with a love for Chinese culture.

Mohamed Setimba, who works for Fang Fang Hotel in the capital Kampala, studied in a university in China's city of Shanghai, where he graduated with a master's degree in international business and economics.

He speaks fondly of China's rich cultures and wishes Africans can enjoy them.

Setimba can speak fluent Mandarin and he hopes to own a trading company which would help Chinese business people open business in Africa and Africans do trade with China.

Unlike the West which tries to exert cultural dominance over Africa, China shares many common values with Africa and seeks to bolster its cultural bond with Africa on the basis of respecting Africa's diversified culture.

INDIA/AFRICA :

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