



[The head of a United Nations inquiry said on Monday it was seeking to establish who should face prosecution for killings and other crimes in Central African Republic in order to halt for good bloodshed that has raised fears of genocide. Thousands have been killed since the Seleka, a coalition of mostly Muslim northern rebels, seized power a year ago and launched a campaign of looting, torture and killing in the majority Christian country, triggering Christian reprisals. The UN estimates some 650,000 have been displaced by religious violence, while nearly 300,000 have fled to neighboring states.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi: l'ONU appelle à la retenue et au dialogue
par RFI /11-03-2014

Au Burundi, la communauté internationale ne cache pas sa profonde inquiétude, après les violents affrontements qui ont opposé durant toute la journée de samedi la police aux militants du parti d'opposition MSD, et surtout un assaut à la kalachnikov du siège de ce parti, officiellement pour libérer deux policiers pris en otage par ces militants. De nombreux diplomates parlent d'escalade de la violence et de radicalisation au Burundi, des termes repris également par la société civile burundaise.

C'est finalement le Bureau des Nations unies au Burundi qui a dégainé le premier, dans un communiqué rendu public samedi soir. Le Benub renvoie dos à dos pouvoir et opposition, dans des termes plutôt diplomatiques. Il estime que les affrontements de samedi sont la conséquence d'une

radicalisation des positions qui entretiennent une logique de confrontation.

Pacifique Nininahazwe, l'une des figures de la société civile burundaise ne fait pas lui dans la dentelle. Il juge que le parti MSD d'Alexis Sinduhije s'est livré à une provocation en organisant sa manifestation clandestinement. Il aurait donné aux autorités un prétexte tout trouvé pour justifier la répression. Quant au gouvernement burundais, l'activiste dénonce un usage excessif de la force.

Samedi, plus de 100 policiers ont attaqué à l'arme de guerre le siège du parti MSD où étaient retranchés quelque 200 militants qui répliquaient essentiellement à coups de pierre, même si la police burundaise les accuse d'avoir tiré les premiers.

A moins d'une année des prochaines élections générales au Burundi, le Bnub appelle aujourd'hui pouvoir et opposition à la retenue et au dialogue politique. Mais personne ne se fait guère d'illusions sur la réponse réservée à cet appel.

RWANDA :

Rwanda tops Africa again at International Tourism Bourse

By Prof. Dr. Wolfgang H. Thome, eTN Africa Correspondent/eturbonews.com/Mar 11, 2014

Following earlier awards as Best Exhibitor from Africa in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, Rwanda has this year once again reclaimed the top spot at the just-ended ITB 2014 to the delight of the Rwandan delegation, which exhibited in a joint pavilion together with partner countries Uganda and Kenya with the latter two also appearing in the top 5 choices of the judges for African exhibitors.

Tourism has remained on top of the economic performance scale in Rwanda for 2013 and is on course to do even better in the current year, when as one of the country's key events the 10th Kwita Izina Gorilla Naming Festival will be held on the 21st of June this year in Kiningi, outside Musanze.

Rwanda's delegation leader, the CEO of the Rwanda Development Board Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza, expressed her personal delight, attending the ITB for the first time, when she said: "This recognition is important as it is evidence that the market is responding positively to our region. Being in the top 5 among 200 African exhibitors is proof that our region is a preferred destination on the continent. We will continue to work together to reap fruits from these new arrangements in the northern corridor," making reference to the so called "Coalition of the Willing" within the East African Community, namely Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda, which in recent months have announced a number of joint major infrastructure projects to link the three countries closer together and integrate the respective economies.

Second place was claimed by previous winner Burundi, with Kenya claiming the third spot while Uganda still came a respectable 5th for the African continent, underscoring the attraction East Africa holds for visitors from around the world.

Meanwhile Rwanda back home has launched an intensified domestic tourism campaign, trying to bring more Rwandan's to visit the three national parks of Akagera, Nyungwe Forest and Volcanoes (Gorilla National Park) but also the main cultural sites which RDB in recent years helped to restore and modernized like the National Museum in Huye, the King's Palace in Nyanza and other key sites across the country.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Televising the Pistorius trial is a first for South Africa but it might not work here

Hugh O'Flaherty/independent.ie/ 11 March 2014

The trial of Oscar Pistorius in South Africa has generated huge media attention worldwide since TV cameras have been allowed – for the first time in South Africa. Many media outlets (including independent.ie) are carrying streams of the trial on their websites.

There is no doubt that the proceedings are of absorbing interest, featuring an outstanding athlete and a very glamorous, but now deceased, young woman.

However, the trial judge, Thokozile Masipa, ruled that some evidence, from the pathologist, should not be broadcast because the testimony was too graphic.

Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympic sprinter, is charged with the premeditated murder of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

He accepts that he fired four shots, three of which struck the victim, into his bathroom, but he claims that this was because he mistook her for a burglar.

In addition, he faces a number of separate firearms charges. Evidence was given that he discharged a firearm in a crowded Johannesburg restaurant and asked the owner of the gun to take the blame.

This was just a few weeks before he shot Ms Steenkamp.

A former girlfriend, Samantha Taylor, told of his firing a shot through the sun-roof of a car after being stopped by police.

The state seeks to portray Pistorius as being pretty gun-happy and on occasion not so pleasant to his girlfriends. The state case, in essence, is that there was a heated argument between the couple and that the screams heard by neighbours were before any shots were fired and that they were a woman's screams.

The defence case is that the screaming came after the shots were fired and came from a distressed Pistorius.

There is no jury at this trial so the media can enjoy an open season that would not be possible in a

jury trial. For instance, there was shown an emotional interview with Reeva Steenkamp's mother. The testimony of the witnesses is dissected in social media. TV channels conduct interviews with legal experts and other pundits.

Is there a possibility of having TV cameras in Irish courtrooms?

The Constitution is very clear that justice must be administered in public "save in such special and limited cases as may be prescribed by law". The doors of the courts must always be open so that members of the public may come and see for themselves that justice is done. The purpose of having public criminal trials is so that the accused is fairly dealt with and not unjustly condemned.

Pistorius vomit à l'audience pendant le récit du légiste

Par Damien Brunon avec AFP/le 10 mars 2014

L'athlète n'a pas supporté les détails concernant l'état du crâne de sa compagne Reeva après qu'il lui ait tiré dessus.

Pistorius pris de nausées. Le champion sud-africain Oscar Pistorius a été pris de nausées au tribunal et vomit lundi durant le compte-rendu de l'autopsie de sa victime, la jeune Reeva Steenkamp qu'il est accusé d'avoir tuée la nuit de la Saint-Valentin 2013. Le témoignage du médecin légiste Gert Saayman a été interrompu plusieurs fois par les sanglots et les haut-le-coeur de l'athlète de 27 ans.

Prostré dans le box des accusés, se tamponnant les yeux avec un mouchoir, le jeune homme de 27 ans s'est plié en deux, croisant les mains derrière la nuque, serrant sa tête dans ses coudes, avant de vomir tandis que le médecin légiste venait de décrire l'état du crâne de Reeva fracassé par une balle. Pistorius, qui affirme avoir confondu sa compagne avec un cambrioleur, l'a touchée à la tête, la hanche et le bras.

Des balles extrêmement létales. La défense n'a pas souhaité que le procès soit ajourné, arguant qu'une interruption n'améliorerait pas l'état d'esprit du champion paralympique et olympique.

L'ancien athlète handisport a utilisé des balles "Black Talon", lorsqu'il a tiré sur sa compagne. Ces munitions, qui s'ouvrent en pétales à l'impact, sont connues pour faire des dégâts impressionnants chez leurs victimes.

Suspension de la retransmission. Un peu plus tôt dans la matinée, le juge avait décidé de l'arrêt de la retransmission en direct du procès, par respect pour la famille de Reeva Steenkamp. Il avait précisé que cela concernerait également les messages postés sur les réseaux sociaux. Les caméras sont autorisées à filmer une partie des audiences, à la discrétion du juge, qui s'était en effet réservé le droit d'interrompre ces retransmissions en direct.

S. Africa mums over diplomatic row with Rwandan, Burundi

Mar 11,2014/Xinhua

CAPE TOWN, March 10 (Xinhua) -- The South African government on Monday kept silent on a reported diplomatic row with Rwanda and Burundi.

South Africa and Rwanda reportedly have expelled each other's diplomats in the past recent days as bilateral relations soured.

Despite widespread reports about the tit-for-tat expulsions, the South African government have neither confirmed nor denied the news.

But this is not the whole story. On Monday, Burundi demanded an explanation from South Africa after the latter expelled an official from Burundi's embassy in Pretoria.

When pressed for an explanation on South Africa's diplomatic row with Rwanda and Burundi, Clayson Monyela, spokesperson of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), refused to comment but referred questions to the state security cluster.

In turn, the State Security Department insists that this matter be handled by the DIRCO.

The South African government's silence over this matter has irritated the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA).

"A murky game endangering civilian lives and South Africa's broader diplomatic relations on the African continent cannot be allowed to continue unchecked," the DA said.

"Parliament must be briefed and kept completely informed as to what is transpiring," Justus de Goede, DA Shadow Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, said over the weekend. Earlier this month, South Africa expelled three Rwandan diplomats whom evidence linked to attacks on prominent Rwandan exiles living in South Africa.

In retaliation, Rwanda expelled six South African diplomats on Friday, claiming that South Africa harbors dissidents responsible for terrorist attacks in Rwanda.

South Africa and Rwanda have been at odds for years over the latter's alleged meddling in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Relations apparently deteriorated rapidly after former Rwandan spy chief Patrick Karegeya was found strangled to death in a Johannesburg hotel room on the New Year's Eve. Karegeya was an active opponent of Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Late last Monday, armed men broke into the Johannesburg home of former Rwandan army chief General Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, another critic of President Kagame.

The Burundi official, who was expelled by South Africa, was also believed to be involved in the attempted assassination.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Tourism Boosts Growth As Gold Export Earnings Falter

11 March 2014/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

TOURISM has emerged the top foreign exchange earner last year and basing on its great potential, the sector has much to be confident about in 2014.

The Central Bank said in its latest monthly economic reviews tourism had maintained growth to become the leading earner of hard currency overtaking gold whose performance was undermined by low output and a decline in global price.

According to the report, foreign exchange earnings from tourism for 2013 were US \$ 1.88 billion up from US\$ 1.7 billion in 2012 and US\$ 1.35 billion in 2011.

The Central Bank said in the report that gold earnings had declined in 2013 due to a fall in export volume and global price. Africa's fourth-largest gold producer earned \$1.73 billion in 2013 from the precious metal, down from \$2.11 billion a year before.

"The value of gold exports declined following a fall in both export volume and unit price," the Central Bank of Tanzania said in its latest monthly economic review.

"The price of gold declined mainly on account of India's action to restrict importation of gold in efforts to control its current account deficit."

Experts say the tourism sector holds great potential because of the government's resolve to diversify the source market to focus into Far East and ambitious strategies to improve transport infrastructure which include air transport, roads and railways.

Asia was one of the world's travel hotspots in 2013 mainly driven by China's strong economic growth. According to World Travel Trends Report 2013/2014 Outbound trips by Asians grew by 8 per cent over the first eight months of 2013 and outbound trips by Chinese travellers soared by 26 per cent.

Strong economic growth is also another factor that brightens the future of tourism in the country. Presently Tanzania is among a few countries in the sub-Saharan Africa with a fastest growing economy.

It has experienced strong growth rates of more than six per cent for almost a decade. The growth for 2013 was 7 per cent and it is projected it will increase to 7.2 per cent in 2014.

The potential for the sector also lies on business tourism which grows in bustling and beautiful settings due to increasing number of hotels that offer conference facilities of international standards.

The hotels now join the Arusha International Conference Centre and the newly built Mwalimu Nyerere Conference Centre to promote congress tourism in the country. International tourism trends also underscore the potential for tourism in Tanzania.

The trends show Africa is most desired among the young travellers. According to the World Travel Trend Report of 2013/2014, young people around the world are travelling more, spending more and exploring new destinations.

Youth travel was long seen as a small part of the travel and tourism industry, characterised by cheap prices and low spending. However, the picture has changed in recent years, according to diverse studies. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates that youth travel generated US\$ 182 billion in international tourism receipts in 2012, and represented more than 20 per cent of the more than one billion international arrivals.

This happens when Tanzania is increasingly being recognised as a leading tourist destination with world-class properties and luxury safari products. In 2010 The Travel and Leisure magazine's World's Best Awards 2010 shortlisted seven Tanzania hotels in the category for 20 Top Lodges and Resorts in Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Among the hotels is the Serengeti Sopa Lodge, located on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the plains of the south-western Serengeti National Park which is home to many thousands of wild and rare animals.

Others include the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge, Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge, Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge and Zanzibar Serena Inn.

The Tanzania hotels were chosen by readers of the magazine for many different aspects including value for money, facilities, accommodation standards, food and drinks, and level of service.

KENYA :

ANGOLA :

Chinese chamber of commerce in Angola sets up service center
(Xinhua)/March 11, 2014

LUANDA, March 10 -- The Chinese chamber of commerce in Angola set up a service center on Monday in the capital Luanda to provide legal assistance and logistic support to increasing Chinese enterprises and expatriates in the African country.

Currently there are at least 500 Chinese enterprises operating in Angola and more than 100,000 Chinese expatriates working in the post-war reconstruction process, making a remarkable contribution to the social-economic development of the African country.

The Chinese are also meeting with immense challenges and difficulties due to the lack of knowledge of local laws and cultural differences between the two countries, Secretary General of the Commerce Zhao Hongbing told Xinhua. The service center is expected to provide legal assistance to Chinese expatriates in Angola in terms of business registration, visa acquisition and renewal and arbitration in business disputes. It is, among others, to provide assistance to Chinese expatriates in difficult financial conditions.

The Chinese chamber of commerce will cooperate with the Chinese Embassy to Luanda to provide necessary help to Chinese workers in Angola, as visa acquisition and renewal emerged as an urgent problem confronting with the Chinese expatriates as the Angolan government will conduct the first national census in May, Zhao said.

Angola expels thousand of illegal immigrants each year, mostly from neighboring countries who flock to Angola for better job opportunities.

AU/AFRICA :

BHP Billiton to sell west African iron ore assets

AAP/March 11, 2014

GLOBAL miner BHP Billiton plans to sell its west African iron ore assets, its president of iron ore Jimmy Wilson says.

“We want to move out of our West Africa position,” Mr Wilson told an iron ore conference in Perth.

The company is still targeting overall Pilbara iron ore production of 212 million tonnes a year in full year 2014.

Mr Wilson said BHP Billiton anticipated global iron ore supply to outpace demand in the medium term.

He said Chinese steel demand was expected to peak at 1.1 billion tonnes a year about 2025.

Recent world iron ore growth had been driven by Australian production, he said.

Mr Wilson said demand in the next 10 years would be maintained as 1.2 billion people globally moved to urban areas, including 240 million people in China.

Meanwhile, Rio Tinto chief executive of iron ore Andrew Harding said his company’s iron ore production ramp up to 290 million tonnes a year was expected to be achieved ahead of schedule.

“I’m confident overall 360 million tonne production will be delivered on time and on budget,” Mr Harding told the conference.

He said the recent steep falls in iron ore prices, to about \$US105 a tonne, had been caused by a credit squeeze in China as stockpiles remained high.

“So sentiment has turned to a rapid change,” Mr Harding said.

“I expect volatility on a regular basis.” Still, Rio Tinto has maintained its forecasts were underpinned by global urbanisation.

“The longer term is still intact,” he said.

“I can’t see any change to forecasts.” China was now taking its environmental concerns more seriously which would lead to a gradual improvement in price premiums, he said.

UN/AFRICA :

UN aims to bring killers to account in Central African Republic

Stephanie Nebehay/independent.co.uk/Monday 10 March 2014

The head of a United Nations inquiry said on Monday it was seeking to establish who should face prosecution for killings and other crimes in Central African Republic in order to halt for good bloodshed that has raised fears of genocide.

Thousands have been killed since the Seleka, a coalition of mostly Muslim northern rebels, seized power a year ago and launched a campaign of looting, torture and killing in the majority Christian country, triggering Christian reprisals. The UN estimates some 650,000 have been displaced by religious violence, while nearly 300,000 have fled to neighboring states.

"We want to present to the Security Council a complete file so that the appropriate action can be taken," Bernard Acho Muna, who chairs a commission of inquiry set up by the UN Security Council in December, told a news briefing.

"The Central African Republic has had many coup d'etats. And basically after each coup d'etat there is reconciliation, and nobody is held accountable and then in the end we have people sitting in the cabinet, in government with blood on their hands and this has never helped the situation."

Muna, a former judge in Cameroon, said that a team of UN investigators would arrive in Bangui on Tuesday to begin interviewing Christian and Muslim victims of attacks, senior political and military officials and activist groups.

They would draw up a confidential list of suspects for eventual prosecution, to be submitted to world powers later this year, and would also be in touch with a preliminary inquiry by the International Criminal Court (ICC), he said.

"Our role is definitely in going towards the establishment of law, the bringing of people who have committed offences to book," Muna said.

He hoped his investigation would signal to people making what he called "hate propaganda" that they should not embark on greater bloodshed.

"We have also heard reports of genocide. But one thing I can tell you from my Rwandan experience, is that there is definitely a question of propaganda already, hate propaganda, that is usually a very bad sign when they say propaganda."

"We don't wait until genocide is committed and then we call for prosecution. I think it is in our mandate to see how one can stop any advances toward genocide," said Muna, a former deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which investigated 1994 mass killings.

The commission, which includes former Mexican foreign minister Jorge Castañeda and Fatimata M'Baye, a lawyer from Mauritania, will spend two weeks in Central African Republic and also look into Chad's role in the violence, he said.

US/AFRICA :

Clinton calls for cooperation at Africa conference

Jonathan Starkey, The (Wilmington, Del.) News Journal/usatoday.com/March 10, 2014

WILMINGTON -- Americans can act to help those in Africa, along with those in need here, by first deciding specifically how they want to help, former President Bill Clinton told a crowd gathered Monday to discuss trade opportunities in Africa.

The difficulty is that "we live in an interdependent world that is full of possibilities," but one that is "severely constrained by too much inequality," Clinton told the gathering of about 1,200 attending the Opportunity Africa trade conference at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington.

"The first thing I want to say to all of you is, you have to do what I made up my mind to do," Clinton said. "Decide what you care about and do it, and don't fail to do it because you can't do everything. You can do something. We can all do something."

Clinton, offering insight into how he chose to serve through his private foundation after leaving the presidency, urged political leaders to act with greater cooperation.

He praised President Barack Obama for continuing work on AIDS relief in Africa and criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin for using Ukraine as "a giant, important piece on a chessboard of international politics."

Clinton waded into the crisis in Ukraine. "The people underneath get lost," when leaders use the country's fortunes as a political pawn, he said.

"It's a crazy way to approach the 21st century," he said. "The only thing that works is creative cooperation."

The former president offered praise for protesters in Ukraine, saying they "stormed" the presidential palace but did not steal or loot. "They just wanted people to see the excess," Clinton said.

But he focused much of his 40-minute speech on his Clinton Foundation's efforts in Africa and on the need to share economic prosperity broadly.

"That is very important to remember right now about people who feel desperate not only in Africa, but the United States," Clinton said. "People need something to look forward to when they get up in the morning."

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat who leads a Senate subcommittee on African affairs, hosted the third annual Africa conference.

"Africa is at a real crossroads with enormous opportunities for the future but real challenges that may constrain its potential," Coons said during opening remarks, citing a lack of infrastructure, human rights challenges and security concerns in North Africa.

During his speech, Clinton offered examples of work the Clinton Foundation is doing in Africa to improve health care access and economic opportunity, including a project underway to train health care workers in Rwanda with the goal of standing up a self-sustained health care system by 2020.

"Hundreds of Americans are going to Rwanda to retrain the workforce according to a plan they approved, not us," Clinton said.

He also talked about a foundation project in Malawi that subsidizes the purchase of higher-quality seed and fertilizer and uses anchor farms of 100-200 acres to teach local farmers skills to improve production and boost incomes.

"We need to seriously look at in America what we can do to dramatically increase food production in South Africa, without throwing the small farmers off the land," Clinton said.

Clinton used the story of Nelson Mandela, the former South African president and anti-apartheid leader, to urge political leaders to act with greater cooperation.

"Somehow, in 27 years of prison and being physically and emotionally abused, never seeing his kids grow up ... he still came out of it understanding, whether we like it or not, we need each other," Clinton said.

"Any place you see that is being dominated by a conflict model is not doing it very well," he said. "Any place that is being dominated by vigorous, vibrant, sometimes screaming debates, but if they end in an effort of creative collaboration, they're doing it pretty well."

Clinton opened his remarks with humor, saying he feels at home in Delaware. Like Arkansas, his home state, Clinton said, "you've got more chickens than people."

On Delaware politics, he said the state is "small enough where people know each other, where they can have differences and argument and still actually come to a conclusion, which is actually quite important."

For Delaware politicians, and some vying for statewide office, Clinton's appearance served as an opportunity to glad-hand.

Brenda Mayrack, the Democratic opponent to Republican Auditor Tom Wagner, worked the room before Clinton's remarks. As did Sean Barney, the Democrat who has filed to challenge state Treasurer Chip Flowers in the September primary election.

Among the elected officials in attendance were Gov. Jack Markell, U.S. Rep. John Carney and Wilmington state Sen. Harris McDowell, all Democrats.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

No need to fear Chinese media in Africa

by Bob Wekesa/bdlive.co.za/mars 11 2014

ACROSS Africa, analysis of the implications of China's relentless engagement continues to draw

unprecedented attention. Browse some of Africa's notable news media and the sheer surfeit of news items discussing one or another aspect of Chinese activity is conspicuous. This focus on China-in-Africa was anything but a hot topic just a few years ago.

China, as the news story of the moment, reclines on our news values — is it big and sexy enough to warrant airplay or column inches? From schisms over Chinese migrations in Zambia and Ghana to building oil extraction infrastructure in Angola and a dual-carriageway in Nairobi, the story is compelling.

What news media have not perhaps considered is that China is diversifying its engagements into their own turf. Not that China is new in African media. Radio Peking and Beijing Review, precursors of today's China Radio International and China Africa magazine, made their forays into Africa in the 1960s to support the propaganda of liberation struggles — mostly in southern Africa.

Many have worried that the present entry of Chinese media into Africa poses threats to the practice of journalism in democracies. Analysts have looked at state-party media control systems in China and concluded that these would be exported to Africa.

Fears of an ideological co-option are mostly misplaced if one cares to analyse content in recent Chinese entrants, such as China Daily and CCTV. There is hardly a bent towards a communist persuasion even in the opinion and commentary slots of these Chinese media. Rather, one sees Chinese media on a public diplomacy mission, angling stories to show the benefits of China-Africa relations while avoiding narratives that cast China in a negative light. Once in a while, Xinhua News Agency — the sole Chinese news agency — is compelled to counter articles or statements from western media and politicians vociferously. But this is often in the context of responses to US and European elites' framing of China as a neocolonial predator in Africa.

In the case of CCTV Africa, the broadcaster may indeed be advancing the cause of pan-African coverage, seeing as it is the only TV station that airs a 90-minute daily news programme exclusively focused on Africa. Indeed, CCTV Africa has challenged BBC's Focus Africa and Reuters' Africa Journal with a suite of programmes such as Faces of Africa, a weekly features programme, and Talk Africa, a talk show often dominated by African thought leaders.

In these respects, CCTV Africa may be doing what broadcasters such as the SABC and the Union of National Radio and Television Organisations of Africa tried to do in the past, but whose goals of going continental largely faltered. Knowing that CCTV Africa is on a public diplomacy mission would perhaps spur pan-African entities — the African Union for example — to roll out a similar effort.

Strategy can be delineated in studying the entry of Chinese media into Africa. While Kenya has been chosen as the headquarters of Chinese media's continental drive, there is a huge presence of the same Chinese media operations in South Africa. Nairobi has long been the city of choice for other international media, while Johannesburg (and Cape Town) are attractive by dint of South Africa's economic prowess.

In Kenya, Chinese media have forged partnerships with local state-owned media, using, for example, the airwaves of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. In South Africa, Chinese media links tend more towards pursuing boardroom deals, as five recent events have shown. While the entry of StarTimes, the Chinese pay TV and digital media company, was relatively easy in Kenya, its approach in South Africa was much more sophisticated. StarTimes had to bide its time for an opportunity, which eventually presented itself in the collapse of On Digital Media, the owner of TopTV, now renamed Starsat.

Why was it smoother for StarTimes to enter Kenyan and other African media markets and tougher for them to grab a piece of the lucrative South African market? The laws on foreign investment in the media sector in most African countries are not as strict as South Africa's.

The argument from some quarters that Chinese media would reverse press freedom gains in Africa is clearly overblown. In any case, China has not only welcomed African media in China, but South African companies such as Naspers and e.tv have established thriving operations in China.

INDIA/AFRICA :

India, Africa should form working group on healthcare: Experts

SME Times News Bureau/11 Mar, 2014

India and the African countries should mull forming a working group to explore healthcare cooperation, stakeholders and experts said here Monday.

"Cooperation in sharing local-level experiences in healthcare of both the regions will help," Naresh Trehan, chairman and managing director of the Medanta group of hospitals, said at a discussion on "Delivering affordable healthcare solutions for Africa".

The discussion took place at the 10th CII Exim Bank conclave of India-Africa Project Partnership.

Trehan said one of the similarities in the healthcare scenarios of India and Africa were that both regions have not been able to eliminate communicable diseases like malaria and were burdened with non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension.

"A working group to explore issues of healthcare cooperation between India and Africa should be considered," he said.

Asserting that India was committed to help Africa as far as healthcare was concerned, Ranjan Chakravarti, head of transformation and business consulting at Ranbaxy, said: "The setting up of a centralised cell should be explored to address such issues. This will play an effective role in sharing experiences".

A.K. Khanna, executive director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited, said: "In Africa, each and every healthcare provider is focusing on HIV/AIDS."

Though HIV was one aspect of the health issues facing Africa, there were others which were affecting the economy much more. "The disease burden is shifting to diabetes, hypertension and anaemia," he said.

"India also has to think of Africa as an opportunity. Medical tourism is very important and it should be developed properly," he added.

Remy Lamah, health minister of the Republic of Guinea, said: "Africa, specially Guinea, needs to improve the quality of healthcare at the national level."

"We need to focus on pre-natal care and HIV," he added.

Africa Wants Longer Loan Tenure

By Felex Share/allafrica.com/11 March 2014

The 10th India-Africa Conclave opened here on Sunday night amid calls for Asian banks to extend the repayment period of lines of credit they offer to African countries. The extension of the repayment period, delegates said, was necessary as African countries were going through different stages of development and some of them, like Zimbabwe, were reeling under economic sanctions from Western countries, making it difficult for them to pay back the loans in time.

The three-day India-Africa Conclave is a business congress organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the EXIM Bank of India with the support of the Indian Ministries of Commerce and External Affairs to foster greater dialogue and co-operation between the two parties.

Industry and Commerce Minister Mike Bimha and Small to Medium Enterprises and Co-operatives Development Minister Sithembiso Nyoni are leading a Zimbabwean delegation that includes representatives of various State enterprises and parastatals.

In his address at the inaugural session at Taj Palace, Lesotho Prime Minister Dr Thomas Thabane called for increased co-operation between Africa and India, saying the Asian giant played a catalytic role in Africa's capacity building initiatives.

"With this in mind, we appeal to the EXIM Bank of India to review the times for lines of credit, taking into account the different stages of development and difficulties of African countries," he said.

Dr Thabane said co-operation between the two sides should not be one-sided but should offer a "win-win" situation. Africa, he said, had the resources while India had the funding and expertise to unlock those resources.

"We must therefore explore innovate ways in which we can fully utilise these lines of credit to unlock Africa's vast development potential," he said.

"We need to identify projects that would lead to rapid and sustainable economic growth and which transform Africa into a major economic power and strategic partner.

"Africa represents the next and last frontier for global business and investment. It offers enormous opportunities and India should take advantage of this."

Dr Thabane said India was a social inspiration to Africa and the two parties shared a common history.

"We have stood together for liberation from colonialism and apartheid and we continue to work together for equitable and just international governance systems at the United Nations and other international forums," he said.

"Even when India is still faced with challenges like eradicating hunger and poverty, which many African countries are facing, it has always managed to extend a helping hand to African States in their quest for economic growth."

Minister Bimha said the increase in the number of projects in Africa financed by the EXIM Bank

was an indication that the Conclave was growing.

Close to 2 000 projects worth US\$172 billion have been initiated since the Conclave began 10 years ago.

Said Minister Bimha:"This is a worthwhile event and that is why we support the calls for the review of the repayment period of credit facilities.

"When they come up with these facilities, they are standard but our countries have different backgrounds in terms of hardships.

"We want facilities that take into account the hardships and each country should be considered on its merit."

Minister Bimha said Zimbabwe would use the conference to follow up on the US\$100 million credit facility the country was working on with India.

"We are looking at a number of facilities to resuscitate our industry and as a result any facility that comes up we are interested in it," he said.

"We are still finalising modalities with the Ministry of Finance on the (US\$100 million) credit facility and we are going to engage the Indians on the way forward."

India Minister of Commerce and Trade Mr Anand Sharma said there was need for skills and technology transfer from India to Africa as the latter had made remarkable progress in the information technology sector.

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