



[Le chef des Frères musulmans en Egypte Mohamed Badie a été condamné à mort lundi en même temps que quelque 700 partisans présumés du président islamiste destitué Mohamed Morsi. Le même tribunal, dans la ville de Minya, dans le centre du pays, a par ailleurs commué en prison à vie la majeure partie des peines capitales qu'il avait prononcées il y a un mois pour plus de 500 autres partisans de la confrérie.]

BURUNDI :

Le Burundi reste à l'état embryonnaire dans le respect de la propriété intellectuelle

Dimanche 27 avril 2014/Xinhua

BUJUMBURA (Xinhua) - Le Burundi est encore à l'état embryonnaire au niveau du respect de la propriété intellectuelle, estime samedi M. Donatien Niyungeko, directeur de l'Office Burundais des Droits d'Auteur et des Droits Voisins (OBDA), à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle.

M. Niyungeko a précisé que ce défi se trouve particulièrement au niveau de la propriété littéraire et artistique.

Le fait que de nombreuses années se sont écoulées sans que le Burundi soit doté d'une structure juridique pour la protection d'auteur a contribué à renforcer un sentiment de frustration et de résignation chez bon nombre d'artistes burundais, a-t-il indiqué.

M. Niyungeko a déploré par ailleurs la persistance de la problématique de piraterie artistique.

"Je ne dirais pas que ce problème est déjà maîtrisé actuellement, parce que l'institution de protection du droit d'auteur au Burundi est de création récente", a affirmé M. Niyungeko, en soulignant que l'OBDA n'a vu le jour qu'au 17 septembre 2011.

Pour remédier à cette situation, a-t-il noté, l'OBDA a inscrit prioritairement à son agenda 2014 la sensibilisation des usagers des oeuvres artistiques sur les droits violés notamment à travers l'exploitation gratuite de ces dernières et le phénomène de piratage.

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Resilience of Rwandans Kept Nation Alive - Kagame

27 April 2014/allafrica.com

President Paul Kagame on Saturday addressed Saddleback Church in Orange County, California, during an event held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Addressing the congregation, the President described commemoration as a time to honor the lives lost and the resilience of survivors:

"We remember the more than a million lives we lost in the Genocide. We honour the strength of survivors, as well as the resilience of Rwandans, that has kept our nation alive," he said.

Pastor Rick Warren described President Kagame's leadership as key to Rwanda's development.

"I have never met a leader like Paul Kagame, he is an uncommon leader in an uncommon country. When the nation of Rwanda was destroyed to ashes, people said it can't be done. But it was done and Rwanda confounded its critics. Rwanda has chosen forgiveness. They are not denying the pain, they are willing to work together and move forward," Pastor Warren said.

Ignoring negativity

Kagame pointed to reconstruction as one of Rwanda's challenges over the last twenty years.

"The Genocide destroyed Rwanda's social fabric which had been deliberately damaged over decades. Our work as a new nation in the last twenty years, has been about restoring social cohesion and the dignity of Rwandans," Kagame said.

Addressing the criticism Rwanda has received over the years, Warren said: "As Rwanda continues to be blessed, the criticism will ramp up. Those critics are not God and Rwanda does not need their approval. God chose a nation the world turned its back on during its darkest hour to give the world a new model."

President Kagame attributed Rwanda's progress to a common quest for human dignity.

"Human dignity and aspirations are the same for every human being. In Rwanda, we sank so low, we couldn't go any lower. Our only choice was to move up. We look back and say we deserve better and we can do better."

Saddleback Church was founded in 1980 by Warren. The church currently runs nine campuses in

Hong Kong, Philipines and Argentina.

Pastor Warren is also a member of the Presidential Advisory Council of President Kagame.

RDC CONGO :

RD Congo: Plus de 500 étudiants congolais regagnent volontairement Brazzaville

par: APA / le : 27/04/2014

Plus de 500 étudiants de la République du Congo inscrits dans les instituts supérieurs et universités de la RD

Congo ont regagne volontairement Brazzaville samedi, à appris APA dimanche de source portuaire.

Ils ont quitté Kinshasa en présence du ministre de l'intérieur de la RD Congo, Richard Muyej Mangez, qui a confirmé que « personne n'a chasse personne » dans ce pays.

Les étudiants du Congo ont dit avoir regagne Brazzaville à la demande de leurs parents préoccupés par leur sécurité suite aux expulsions des ressortissants de la RDC vivant au Congo.

Selon la direction générale de migrations de la RDC, ces étudiants sont pour la plupart des sans papiers.

Le gouvernements de Kinshasa avait annoncé que 2.434 ressortissants de la RDC ont été expulsés du Congo depuis janvier.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

End game nears on South Africa's strike-hit platinum belt

By Ed Stoddard/Reuters/Mon Apr 28, 2014

JOHANNESBURG

(Reuters) - The end game to South Africa's big platinum strike is drawing near after the producers said they would take their latest wage offer directly to employees after marathon wage talks to end the 13-week strike collapsed on Thursday.

South Africa's longest and most damaging mining strike in living memory is not about to come to an abrupt end as both sides strive to win rank and file hearts and minds in a high stakes war of attrition on the platinum belt.

Leaders of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) have signalled their

displeasure with the offer from the world's top three producers, Anglo American Platinum, Impala Platinum and Lonmin.

AMCU treasurer and negotiator Jimmy Gama was quoted in the City Press newspaper on Sunday as saying the union was consulting with its members about the latest offer through mass meetings that would last until Wednesday.

"We can't predict if our members will reject it," he told City Press.

AMCU's leaders have said they were "arrogantly rebuffed by the platinum cartel", so it seems unlikely their members will publicly accept the offer at mass meetings which are typically dominated by the union's shop stewards and most militant core.

"The guys do not want to go back to work, not for this money," Venter Mulutsi, an AMCU members with Implats who attended a rally on Friday, told Reuters by telephone.

But the producers are forcing the hand of AMCU and its president Joseph Mathunjwa by betting that most of the strikers have lost their resolve to strike as they face the third consecutive month without pay.

The strike is a headache for President Jacob Zuma and the ruling African National Congress with elections looming on May 7.

STRIKE BREAKING BY TEXT

The companies have been sending cellphone text messages to the 70,000 striking AMCU members urging them to accept the deal and they also plan to spread the message via radio and newspaper spots.

Mulutsi confirmed he had received the text messages.

An Implats' spokesman said three had been sent. One reads:

"NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED - WAGES ARE DEADLOCKED,;

Another refers briefly to the offer while a third says "All employees must now seriously consider this offer. We have to work together to find solutions that are affordable and possible to resolve this wage deadlock."

This campaign will also target the "labour sending areas", such as rural villages in the Eastern Cape province far from the shafts, where much of the mine labour force hails from and where many of the strikers have returned to sit the stoppage out.

The gap between the two sides has narrowed.

Initially demanding an immediate doubling of the basic wage - net salary before allowances such as housing - for entry-level workers to 12,500 rand (714.16 pounds) a month, AMCU has since said it would accept annual increases that would reach this goal in three or even four years' time.

The producers' latest offer was for wage rises of up to 10 percent and other increases that would take the minimum pay package - the basic wage including the allowances - to 12,500 rand a month by July 2017.

The companies say they can afford no more as they contend with rising costs and depressed prices for the precious metal used for emissions-capping catalytic converters in automobiles.

In fact, platinum's spot price is little changed since the AMCU miners downed tools on January 23 despite the unprecedented scale of the stoppage, which has hit 40 percent of global platinum production.

A painful restructuring is considered likely after the dust clears from the strike, with job losses expected, especially around Amplats' struggling Rustenburg operations, which it has signalled it could sell or mothball.

The sector's viability is also being shaken. Producers have lost over 15 billion rand (833.1 million pounds) to the strike so far, according to an industry website that gives a running tally.

(Editing by Stephen Powell)

TANZANIA :

Scott commends Tanzania for 50 years of unity

Sunday, 27 April 2014/daily-mail.co.zm

DAR ES SALAAM - Vice-President Guy Scott has commended the people of Tanzania for successfully commemorating 50 years of the unification of Zanzibar and Tanganyika into the United Republic of Tanzania.

Speaking to the Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) shortly after attending the commemoration of 50 years of the unification of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in Tanzania, Dr Scott saluted the people of Tanzania for the well-organised event.

He said Zambia has drawn special lessons from the manner Tanzania organised the 50 years union day as the country prepares to celebrate its Golden Jubilee independence anniversary this year.

Dr Scott wished the people of Tanzania continued peace and national prosperity.

Meanwhile, former President Rupiah Banda has paid growing tribute to the people of Tanzania for upholding peace under the union of the two states.

Mr Banda said it is gratifying to see what Tanzania has attained through the unification of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

He said the union can be achieved in Africa as demonstrated by Tanzania if only countries can put the interest of the people first.

The union celebrations attracted both current and former African leaders, international dignitaries and regional groupings.

The celebrations were characterised by various performances and cultural dances showcasing the rich cultural diversity Tanzania is endowed with.

Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete thanked the people of Tanzania for turning up in numbers to commemorate the historical 50 years Union Day.

In his keynote address, Mr Kikwete said Tanzania has made tremendous progress in the country's political and economic arena over the past 50 years.

Mr Kikwete saluted the founding fathers of the two states for making a historical decision to unite Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

He said the 50 years union celebrations would be incomplete without paying tribute to founding

fathers.

Mr Kikwete said the golden jubilee of the union is worth celebrating because of the development Tanzania has achieved.

He said the decision to unite the two republics changed the course of history for Tanzania.

Mr Kikwete said the union of Zanzibar and Tanganyika proves that a united Africa is possible and can be achieved. – ZANIS.

Tanzania: Kikwete to Grace Sino-Dar Diplomatic Golden Celebrations

By Abduel Elinaza/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/28 April 2014

Beijing — PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete is expected to visit China at the beginning of this year's fourth quarter for the climax of the Sino-Tanzania golden diplomatic celebrations.

Tanzanian Ambassador to China, Abdulrahaman Shimbo said on Saturday when celebrating golden jubilee of the Union Day and Tanzania-China diplomatic relations that the President will climax the jubilation late this year.

During his visit, among other things, the President will kick off the climaxing to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties between Dar es Salaam and Beijing.

The Ambassador said that last Saturday's celebrations were part of the first events in marking the 50 years of Sino-Tanzania's brotherly relations and would be followed by a number of activities.

"We will be having a series of activities in both China and Tanzania which eventually will be climaxed by the eventful visit to this country (China) by President Kikwete," Amb Shimbo said.

He added: "Éthe dates...will be confirmed later." However, sources close to the Tanzania Embassy in Beijing said the President will visit China in October, this year, and he will also officially inaugurate an Africa Village at Songzhuang in Beijing.

The village will be the venue for scholars to exchange cultural ideas.

Describing the last 50 years, the Ambassador said, the relations have stood the test of time despite the global social-economic turbulences, political paradigm shifts, leadership changes, and challenges of globalisation.

"Today, we are proud to mention that the relations between our two countries are brotherly and unwavering, thanks to the strong base of mutual respect, equality, strategic partnership and sincere friendship," Mr Shimbo said.

The ceremony, which was attended by over 500 invitees, was coloured by traditional ngoma dance from both side of the Union, the likes of Kibati, Masai, and Chinese traditional music.

Also a Swahili fashion show was staged. The guest of honour was Mr Chen Yuan, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Consultative Conference.

The China's Assistant Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ambassadors and member of diplomatic corps also attended. China Central Television (CCTV) News Journalist, Ms Su Yuting said she was most impressed by the traditional dances that symbolised the strength of Tanzanian cultural.

"The dances interested me a lot, it shows the strength of Tanzania's culture," Ms Su told the 'Daily News'.

China took the Union Day as the date of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania. Previous diplomatic relations with Tanganyika and Zanzibar started in December 9, 1961 and December 11, 1963 respectively.

Tanzania: School for the Deaf Gets Sh16 Million ICT Equipment

By Ashery Mkama/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/28 April 2014

PUPILS at Dar es Salaam's Buguruni Primary School that caters for the deaf have reason to smile following a donation of information technology equipment worth 16m/- by Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF).

The school is among 10 schools earmarked for the project that envisages assisting disabled pupils in the country with ICT equipment, including 10 computers and other related accessories according to their different requirements.

UCSAF Chief Executive Officer, Engineer Peter Ulanga noted that the Fund also focused on connecting other 25 primary schools with internet services, a project to be facilitated in collaboration with Avanti Communications company.

"We believe that the supplied ICT equipment together with internet connectivity will widen the pupils' ability to catch up with their studies for the nation to register professionals for social and economic development," Ulanga explained.

He said the government has through the fund begun its efforts to identify special needs primary schools nationwide in order to involve stakeholders and integrate them with Internet services.

Speaking at the ceremony to launch a satellite dish when UCSAF at the school, the guest of honour, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Professor Patrick Makungu, who was represented by his deputy, Dr John Mngodo said it was for the interest of the government that the schools enrol students from different parts of Tanzania.

"The aim is to offer the opportunity to a larger part of the community as the government wishes that ICT equipment provided to targeted groups is used for intended purposes," said Makungu in a speech.

He said the government through the Fund will bear the costs by paying for the internet services for one year adding that it is government's desire that the targeted schools would collaborate with district councils and municipalities to prove their commitment to stand on their own in terms of running costs.

Schools to benefit from the project include Buguruni, Uhuru Mchanganyiko, Mbuyuni, Kisiwandui, Mpilipili Maalum, Manyoni, Patandi Practical School, Dumila and Mtanga Maalum.

The head teacher at Buguruni school, Ms Winfrida Jeremiah, thanked UCSAF for the support, but decried frequent power interruptions, shortage of computer teachers and unsuitable computer rooms as some of the challenges facing the school.

She requested the government to assist in supplying solar panels for reliable power to solve the

problem, rehabilitation of computer room and the need to train teachers for effective use of information networks.

Buguruni school has 271 pupils of whom 135 are boys and 136 girls. The day and boarding school was founded in 1974 with the aim of providing education to children with special needs.

The school is owned by the government in collaboration with the Ilala Municipality and the Tanzania Society for the Deaf.

KENYA :

Kenya: Somalia in Bid to Ban Kenya Miraa Import

By Adow Mohamed/allafrica.com/26 April 2014

THE Somalia parliament is set to debate a motion seeking to ban miraa imported from Kenya. Kenya exports about three million kilogrammes of miraa to Somalia annually.

The motion was filed by an MP who lives in Nairobi after the parliament was 'angered' by the ongoing swoop in Kenya that has led to the deportation of hundreds of Somalis. A local media outlet said majority of MPs have supported the motion. The MP declined to be named for fear of victimisation.

Most Somalia MPs reside in Kenya and occasionally fly to Mogadishu for house sessions. "Somalia must be respected as an important trade partner to Kenya. Its citizens must be respected too," said the MP. He said Somalis have found themselves unwelcome in the country where they have sought refuge. "Claims of terror links are unsubstantiated."

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Local chiefs killed in attack on CAR town

27 Apr 2014/aljazeera.com

At least 22, including 15 tribal chiefs and three members of a medical charity, are killed in attack in Nanga Boguila.

At least 22 people, including 15 local chiefs and three local members of staff of the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, have been killed in an attack on a town in the Central African Republic, officials said.

The attack on Saturday was in Nanga Boguila, about 450km north of the capital Bangui.

Gilles Xavier Nguembassa, a former member of parliament for the area, said four people were killed as the assailants approached the town but most died when an MSF-run clinic was attacked while local chiefs were holding a meeting there.

"Fifteen of the local chiefs were killed on the spot," he told Reuters news agency, citing witnesses he had spoken to.

A spokesman for MSF confirmed the deaths of its staff but gave no further details.

Nguembassa said the incident took place when mainly Muslim Seleka rebels came to the clinic in search of money.

Seleka officials were not immediately available for comment.

The Central African Republic has been torn apart by cycles of religious violence that have forced a million people from their homes.

Mass exodus

On Sunday, heavily armed African and French peacekeepers escorted some of the last remaining Muslims out of Central African Republic's restive capital, trucking more than 1,300 people who for months had been trapped in their neighbourhood by Christian armed groups.

The latest wave of exodus further partitions the country, a process that has been underway since January, when a Muslim rebel government gave up power nearly a year after overthrowing the president of a decade.

The UN has described the forced displacement of tens of thousands of Muslims as "ethnic cleansing".

While previous groups have been taken to neighbouring Chad, Sunday's convoys were headed to two towns in the north on the Central African Republic side of the border.

The long-chaotic country's political crisis has prompted fears of genocide since it first intensified in December when Christian fighters stormed the capital in an attempt to overthrow the Muslim rebel government.

They soon began attacking Muslim civilians accused of having collaborated with the much despised rebels

Muslims escorted out of CAR capital Bangui

28 Apr 2014/Source:Reuters

Evacuation of hundreds of Muslims from Central African Republic's capital Bangui triggers looting in abandoned areas.

Peacekeeping troops have escorted around 1,300 Muslims out of the Central African Republic's capital city, removing one of the last pockets of Muslims from Bangui, in a nation torn apart by religious violence.

Peacekeepers stood by on Sunday, as Christians, some armed with machetes and bows and arrows,

swarmed into and looted houses in Bangui's northern PK12 neighbourhood, which had been a Muslim district in the majority Christian south.

"We are leaving to save our lives," Mohamed Ali Mohamed, who was born and brought up in the area, told Reuters news agency as fellow Muslims tied jerry cans to trucks ahead of the trip.

Foreign troops have escorted thousands of Muslims to relative safety in the north of the Central African Republic.

But some leaders fear that will make permanent divisions that have led to talk of partition after 18 months of conflict.

Central African Republic's minister for reconciliation last week criticised the evacuations, warning they would play into the hands of Muslim rebels who want to create an independent state in the north.

Auguste Boukanga, president of the URD party which remained neutral in the conflict, echoed these concerns, calling on the 2,000 French and over 5,000 African peacekeepers to instead stick to their mandate of disarming the gunmen.

Giuseppe Loprete, head of the local office of the International Organisation for Migration, the UN agency involved in the evacuation, said Muslims living near the central mosque and in PK5, another Bangui neighbourhood, did not want to leave.

"We are working on social cohesion ... I'm not sure that they want to leave. Actually they told us they prefer to stay in Bangui," he said.

'Religious cleansing'

Some of the departing Muslims torched their cars as they could not take them in the convoy but did not want Christians to be able to use them once they had left.

Mainly Muslim rebels, known as Seleka, seized Bangui last year after complaining they had been marginalised by President Francois Bozize's government. Their time in power was marked by abuses and killings that led to the creation of Christian self-defence militia.

Seleka leader Michel Djotodia stepped down in January under international pressure as violence spiralled out of control. Interim authorities, backed by French and African peacekeepers, are still struggling to restore order and rights groups say parts of the country have experienced "religious cleansing".

"It is a shame but there is nothing we can do," said Dieudonne Bignilaba, a Christian resident. "For many years we lived together but they were the ones who brought the weapons here to kill us."

After watching their former neighbours leave, from behind a thin white rope barrier put up by Congolese peacekeepers, hundreds of Christians, including women and children, took part in the looting. Many chanted "Liberation, Liberation!"

Egyptian judge sentences 683 to death in police officer's killing

From the Associated Press/April 28, 2014

MINYA, Egypt — Defense lawyers say an Egyptian judge has sentenced to death more than 680 alleged supporters of the country's ousted Islamist president over acts of violence and the murder of policemen in the latest mass trial in Egypt that included the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual leader.

Attorney Ahmed Hefni told reporters outside the court in the southern city of Minya on Monday that the death sentences first have to be approved by Egypt's mufti, the top Islamic official — a step that is usually considered a formality.

The case is linked to deadly riots that erupted in Minya and elsewhere in Egypt after security forces violently disbanded sit-ins held by Brotherhood supporters in Cairo last August.

Hundreds were killed as part of a sweeping campaign against ousted President Mohammed Morsi's supporters.

Egypte: 700 pro-Morsi condamnés à mort ce lundi
le lundi 28 avril 2014/AFP

Le chef des Frères musulmans en Egypte Mohamed Badie a été condamné à mort lundi en même temps que quelque 700 partisans présumés du président islamiste destitué Mohamed Morsi.

Le même tribunal, dans la ville de Minya, dans le centre du pays, a par ailleurs commué en prison à vie la majeure partie des peines capitales qu'il avait prononcées il y a un mois pour plus de 500 autres partisans de la confrérie.

Ces personnes jugées dans les plus grand procès de masse de l'Histoire récente, selon l'ONU qui s'en était ému fin mars, sont accusées d'avoir participé à des manifestations violentes à Minya, le 14 août, le jour même où quelque 700 manifestants pro-Morsi tombaient sous les balles des policiers et soldats au Caire.

Une large majorité de la population, à l'unisson des médias quasi-unanimes, applaudit la répression des islamistes. Depuis la destitution de M. Morsi par l'armée le 3 juillet, cette répression a fait plus de 1400 morts et 15 000 arrestations.

"Attaque haineuse"

Selon Khaled ElKomy, coordinateur de l'équipe d'avocats qui défend les 500 dont la peine de mort vient d'être commuée en prison à vie, 60% d'entre eux "ont des preuves démontrant qu'ils n'étaient pas présents lors de l'attaque du commissariat de Matay" pour laquelle ils ont écopé de la peine capitale.

Cité par le site de pétition Avaaz, il assure que "plus de 60 enseignants peuvent prouver qu'ils assuraient leurs cours au moment des violences, quatre médecins étaient à l'hôpital et d'autres peuvent prouver qu'ils étaient présents sur leur lieu de travail".

"Ceci n'est pas (un acte de) la justice, c'est une attaque haineuse des autorités contre des centaines de leurs citoyens dont les familles vivent le coeur brisé dans la terreur", a estimé le président d'Avaaz, Ricken Patel.

Le gouvernement intérimaire dirigé de facto par l'armée a toutefois défendu l'indépendance de la justice et affirmé que ces lourdes peines avaient été prononcées après "un examen attentif" du dossier. Un point sur lequel le procureur Abdel Rahim Abdel Malek a également insisté. "Nous

avons des preuves solides contre tous les condamnés à mort (NDLR, donc maintenant à la prison à vie)", a-t-il assuré, "des vidéos, des témoignages, des documents prouvant que les Frères musulmans avaient appelé à attaquer des commissariats (...) en cas de dispersion des sit-in (...) et c'est ce qui est arrivé".

Depuis décembre, au moins 1000 islamistes ont été condamnés à l'issue de procès de masse généralement expéditifs à des peines allant de six mois à la perpétuité, et, outre les 529 de Minya, deux au moins ont écopé de la peine de mort.

UN/AFRICA :

Africa's transformation requires visionary leadership – ECA boss

Monday, 28 April 2014/Source: GNA

Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), has called for a 'revisit of the global perception of Africa,' which continue to be one of the continent's most plagued by crises.

He noted that Africa is also a place where making investments is hazardous.

He said other regions in the world, particularly Asia, are just as fraught with conflicts and widespread unrest, and yet, they are not branded as unstable, but rather, hailed as "attractive and dynamic contributor to world growth".

Mr. Lopes was speaking at the opening of a two-day "Global Growth Conference on the Economic Emergence of the African Continent" at the weekend, in Rabat, Morocco, at the initiative of the Amadeus Institute, an independent Moroccan policy think-tank founded in 2008.

"But the rationale has to change," said ECA's Executive Secretary, stating that what Africa desires is, in fact, "structural transformation and not structural adjustment".

Mr. Lopes said industrialisation is indispensable to transformation, as it would help to generate employment, increase incomes and enable diversification.

He said the right starting point is "a leadership that provides a clear vision and mobilises all sectors of society behind the development imperative".

Mr. Lopes laid emphasis on the need "to change our approaches, attitudes, and priorities. We have to nurture a highly educated, healthy and skilled population that can imbibe the technology and build the infrastructure which is indispensable for progress".

While recognising that some of the fastest growing economies in the world are African, he, however, cautioned against embarking on false hopes and insisted that this growth experience "is not sufficient as it falls short of seven per cent, which is the minimum required to double average incomes in a decade. This is partly due to the fact that far too many of our economies are dependent on the production and export of primary commodities, and far too many are highly unequal".

This explains the need for real structural transformation through a "large scale transfer of resources from low to high productivity sectors.

“This means a significant change in the sectoral composition of Gross Domestic Product with the share of the primary sector in employment and output shifting to industry and modern services, and a greater use of technology and increased productivity across sectors.”

He said to achieve the industrialisation agenda to meet the needs of a plural continent, there is the need for Africa to use its bargaining position by leveraging its resources and maximising the demands in the commodities where it enjoys a dominant position.

Mr. Lopes said Africa ought to free itself from a particular technology preference or paradigm and follow a green and clean energy pathway, all the more since its vast hydropower, geothermal, biomass, wind and solar power potential is an amazing asset.

He advocated that Africa focuses on its domestic consumption.

The Executive Secretary said industrialisation should be giving a human face and should be inclusive and offer a window of opportunity to women and youth, through boosting their empowerment and economic contribution.

Mr. Lopes said more attention should be paid to domestic resource mobilisation, more robust data and better statistical systems, while accelerating the regional integration process, especially since its potential is still largely untapped.

Madame M’barka Bouaida, Minister delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco talked about the importance of adopting new approaches, such as promoting economic diplomacy, and south-south partnership and co-development.

Mr. Brahim Fassi-Fihri, Chair of Amadeus Institute has underlined harnessing technology to serve the transformation process, which Africa is bound to opt for.

He said this would be a key means for Africa to master its development, adding: “Africa needs to project such an image, all the more since the continent has a lot of potential.”

US/AFRICA :

Ethiopia: America Is Coming to Africa - a Comparison With China

By Melaku Muluaem/The Reporter (Addis Ababa)/26 April 2014

President Barack Obama visited some African countries in June 2013. Later, he announced that there would be an American-African summit in August of 2014 in Washington.

For this purpose he has extended invitation letters to African leaders with the exception of leaders "who do not have good relations with the US, or those whose membership had been suspended by the AU [the African Union]."

Based on the above criteria, so far 47 Heads of State have been invited to the summit to be held in Washington DC on August 5 and 6, 2014. However, leaders from Egypt, Sudan, Zimbabwe and Madagascar have not been invited.

Some of the uninvited countries have also criticized the US for setting such criteria for invitation to the Summit. Basically, the purpose of the US-Africa leaders summit is to "widen trade, development and security ties between America and Africa."

Even if Morocco is not a member of the African Union, the North African country is also invited to the summit. This shows that America's call to the summit is not to establish relations with the continental organization-the African Union-but with countries of the continent.

Thus this summit is not to be held "under the framework of the AU, but is a summit between the US and African states." On the other hand, it seems paradoxical to invite the head of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (Ph.D.) to the summit.

Jay Carney, White House Spokesman, said "the president is pleased to welcome the leaders of the African continent in the capital in order to strengthen ties with one of the most dynamic regions in the world." One can argue that the US is following the example set by China for establishing such relations with Africa.

It was in 2000 that China invited African leaders to Beijing and conducted the summit. The end result of the subsequent summit was the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC.) The end result of the US-Africa summit could also be the establishment of a similar forum with Africa. At this juncture the US may develop a detailed policy towards Africa.

African leaders should make scenarios on the future relations of Africa with China and America. Particularly, they should also think of the following questions - Why the US wanted to have a summit meeting with African leaders at this time.

Does America believe that FOCAC is a successful forum so that a similar forum can strengthen the US-Africa relations, or is it to compete with China in the global arena? What will be the advantage and disadvantage of African countries in such situations?

Can such situations make Africa a battleground for the two giant countries-on economic, security, political and cultural matters? Can these competitions lead to proxy wars in Africa? How can Africa get the utmost benefit from the two big countries-on trade, investment, tourism, and technology transfer?

Is this a good opportunity for Africa to lobby both powers for getting seat at the Security Council? The above questions are not exhaustively listed, but they are indicatives to develop similar queries that would help to develop scenarios on the future relations of Africa-China and Africa-US.

The US and China are the first and the second largest economies in the world respectively. They have great influences in international relations. They are neither intimate friends nor fierce enemies to one another. Both countries have developed their own foreign policies towards Africa. Comparing and contrasting their policies is helpful for envisioning the possible relations of Africa with them.

Still both countries should learn one from the other in their policy towards Africa. In the following lines I will show the similarities and differences of the US and China's foreign policies towards Africa. This article also sheds light on the implementation of their policies in the continent.

Being permanent members of the Security Council, their decisions have global impact. Both compete and cooperate on various international issues. Historically both did not participate in the Scramble for Africa in the colonial period. In this period their relations with Africa were very

minimal.

When we see their national interests both have economic interest in Africa i.e. trade, investment and resource. Moreover, both have geo-political and diplomatic interest-to win diplomatic support from Africa in the international arena. As a result of Transatlantic Slave Trade from Africa to America, a historical link between the two peoples is more considerable than the relation between China and Africa. The presence of Afro-American people is the effect of such past links.

The volumes of trade between China-Africa and US-Africa have increased through time. African countries import from both China and the US manufactured products. China has agreed with some African countries that their products could enter China through duty free trade relations.

By the same token the US has also allowed the duty free trade from least developed countries of Africa through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA.) Both big countries also have investments in Africa. Internationally there is agreement to provide official development assistance to least developed countries.

When their gross national product increases the amount of the assistance also increases accordingly. Hence, they have also increased their development assistance to African countries.

The US and China have interests to work together with Africa in controlling international terrorism. Since terrorism is a threat to all innocent human beings, both are committed to fighting terrorism. Relatively, the US is more affected by terrorist attacks than China. Some scholars underline that unlike the US, China is not a target to international terrorists because of her non-interference policy towards the internal affairs of other countries. Others condense the terrorist attack as if it is a competition between major religions, in which case China is free from such competition.

There are also other perspectives on the matter. Both China and the US are exercising their soft power towards Africa. In a cultural aspect, both of them use volunteers who work in other countries. Starting from 1960 the US has sent the Peace Corps to different countries.

China also launched Overseas Youth Volunteer Program in 2004. However, the cultural influence of the US seems more pronounced than the cultural influence of China in Africa. Particularly, the impact of Hollywood and CNN in Africa and the world at large is tremendous.

Moreover there are approximately a hundred sister city relationships between the US and African cities and towns. Regarding the soft power of the US, "products, schools, newspapers, journals, banks, movies, TV programs, novels, rock stars... culture, religious groups, ideas, NGOs, and other American institutions and values are liberally scattered over the global map."

Moreover, the Voice of America (VOA,) which was established in 1942 has global impact. VOA broadcasts to Africa in ten indigenous African languages and in English, Portuguese and French languages.

On the other hand, there are many differences in the policy and the implementation of the policy of China and the US towards Africa. One of the policies of America towards Africa is supporting democracy and the strengthening of democratic institutions including free, fair, and transparent elections.

However, China has no such foreign policy. China was a victim of foreign invasion in the 20th century. Because of this, China gives great value to independence and sovereignty. Thus China has the policy of adhering to independence. But we do not find such statements in the foreign policy of

the US.

China has a more detailed African policy than the US. Moreover, there is a big difference in the usage of terms in their written policies towards Africa. The policy of the US towards Africa says, "supporting African economic growth and development," "supporting democracy," "strengthening of democratic institutions," "conflict prevention" and the like.

These terms show that the US is on the side of supporter, and Africa is on the side of recipient of the support i.e. not mutual support. When looking at the policy of China towards Africa we find "mutual support," "common prosperity," "reciprocity" "learning from each other," "friendship" and "seeking common development."

These terms of the Chinese policy towards Africa place Africa on equal footing than the policy of the US. So US should revise its policy towards Africa in better terms and phrases. In providing aids and loans to African leaders, the US has conditions such as- level of democracy and human rights handling. Unlike the US, China provides aid and loan without such policy conditionality. Ironically, China is even giving loans to America without policy conditionality.

Regarding this issue China is saying that she is following the non-interference policy in the internal affairs of countries. On the other hand Westerners accuse China by saying that her support "may weaken African governments' motivation to pursue democratization, good governance, and transparency reforms, and adhere to universal norms of civic and human rights and the rule of law in Africa." Others say that China is not different from many African countries in handling Human Rights issues and placing democratic governance in the country.

Unlike the US, there are frequent State visits between China and African countries' leaders that win the hearts and minds of African leaders. In visiting China, African leaders also get high standards and warm welcome of Chinese president, which has made it so different from visits in the US. According to one source, "African elites are deeply appreciative of being given the red carpet treatment whenever they turn up in Beijing." Sarcastically, a writer once said that Beijing has become the Mecca and Medina to African leaders and other senior officials.

Unlike China, the US has established military command in Africa. The United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM or AFRICOM) was established by President George Bush's formal announcement on February 6, 2007. The mission statement of AFRICOM says, "Africa Command protects and defends the national security interests of the United States by strengthening the defense capabilities of African states and regional organizations... "

From this mission statement we understand that the organization is established for the national interest of the US in Africa. However, China has no such military command and soldiers in Africa (probably with the exception of some Chinese soldiers under the UN Peace Keeping Missions in Africa.)

Unlike the US, China has established Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC,) which helps to have institutional relationships between Africa and China. Since 2000, FOCAC Ministerial Conferences and Summit are being held. Every three years Chinese and African leaders meet together to discuss various common and international issues. While China came to Africa with soft power (FOCAC,) the US came to Africa with hard power [AFRICOM.]

The US demands American values (neo-liberalism concepts of democracy, free trade...) to be the value of other countries too. She is trying to implement it by soft or hard power. However, China was and still is not trying to spread her own Communist ideology to other countries.

In dealing with great powers, the major focuses of African countries are economic, political and security interests. The US has more security and political interests than economic interests in Africa. On the other hand, China has more of economic and political interest in Africa than security interests. The recent call of the US to African leaders to participate in the summit shows the enhancement of economic interests of the US in Africa.

Finally, it is good to mention that both big powers can learn from each other on their policies towards Africa. The US can learn from China about the friendly terms and regular high-level diplomatic contact with African leaders.

The policy of the US towards Africa focuses on the presence of democracy, good governance, human rights, resolution of conflicts, controlling of illegal transnational issues and the like. However, China lacks such policy towards Africa. In this respect China can learn from the policy of the US that may support security and smooth transition of power in Africa.

China and the US have developed their foreign policies towards Africa in order to fulfill their own national interests. In comparison with their primary national interest, fulfilling the interest of Africa is secondary to both powers.

Because of this Africa should develop her own scenarios and subsequent strategies in dealing with the US and China. Ed.'s Note: Melaku Mulualem is head of Training Department at the Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD). The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter. He can be reached at

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China set to play bigger role in Africa trade

2014-04-28/Shanghai Daily /Web Editor: Si Huan

Admiral Zheng He's seven seafaring expeditions in the early 15th century to Arabia and the eastern coast of Africa are legendary. What is less widely known is that China had been trading with Africa for centuries before those voyages.

The earliest historical records date back to 200 BC, and subsequent accounts by African, Arab and Asian scholars and travellers refer to a thriving trade in porcelain, silk, cotton, gold, ivory and iron. This trade, which lasted through the Tang, Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties, was profitable for both sides and flourished until the 1500s. China then withdrew from the rest of world for the next four centuries — until the new People's Republic under Chairman Mao Zedong started building ties with other developing nations and reviving the Indian Ocean shipping route. It was a slow start. China's trade with Africa surpassed US\$1 billion only in the 1980s. Since the establishment of the government-led Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2000, trade has ballooned 29-fold to US\$210 billion in 2013.

While recent growth has been impressive, there is scope for further expansion. Based on Standard Chartered's experience in financing trade and businesses in both China and Africa for over 150 years, we see the China-Africa partnership evolving across three mutually supportive channels.

Biggest trading partner

First, we see trade broadening beyond raw materials and low-priced items to higher-value goods and services as both economies rise up the value curve. Second, we expect trade and investment ties to encompass a larger number of African countries with the rise of the consumer class across the continent. Finally, we envisage the renminbi becoming a core currency for making payments, raising capital and as a store of value across Africa by the end of this decade. Let's examine these trends in more detail.

China is set to become Africa's largest trading partner in a few years, eclipsing the continent's centuries-old ties with Europe. Yet for all the growth in recent years, this trade has been largely confined to exports of oil and other mineral resources from Africa and, until recently, exports of textiles, clothing and low-value machinery from China.

The components of this trade are changing fast, however. China's exports to Africa of high-end machinery, telecommunications devices, electronics and electrical equipment, and road vehicles have risen sharply in the past few years. These high-end items now account for the majority of the country's exports to Africa. They support China's growing involvement in building infrastructure and its rising investments in Africa's energy and minerals exploration.

In the other direction, resource exports are likely to dominate Africa's exports to China in the coming years, given China's growing appetite for energy and its push to diversify its energy and mineral sources away from the Middle East. A third of China's oil imports are now sourced from Africa. While China's demand for African resources is welcome across the continent because it brings in much-needed funds, African governments are also taking steps to reduce their excessive reliance on raw-material exports to fund their budgets.

From South Africa to Somalia, governments are opening up their economies to foreign direct investment, with the aim of rising up the value chain. Chinese companies, in partnership with the government, have responded with billions of dollars of investment in roads, railways, ports, airports and power plants — at least partially filling Africa's estimated US\$93 billion annual infrastructure funding gap. As infrastructure develops, so will Africa's attractiveness to companies catering to the global supply chain. This will help the continent diversify away from resource exports. The food processing sector could be a big win for Africa as it pursues more value-added exports. The continent is home to 60 percent of the world's uncultivated but arable land. Moreover, only 10 percent of cropped land is prepared by tractor, and just 4 percent of cultivated land is irrigated. Introducing scientific farming techniques to boost productivity, then feeding the output to food processing firms and linking them to a Pan-African and global distribution network could create

millions of jobs across the continent. China, on the other hand, is facing pressure on its arable land because of rapid urbanization. It already imports agricultural commodities from the US and Latin America; Africa could be its next big source.

The rise of the African consumer is another big trend in recent years. Standard Chartered Research estimates that consumer spending across Sub-Saharan Africa will expand to US\$1 trillion by 2020 from US\$600 million in 2010.

China's companies are starting to harness this relatively untapped consumer market. Travelling across Africa, one sees newer and lower-priced "made in China" cars gaining market share against competitors from Japan and Europe. The same is true of Chinese high-tech electronic goods and home appliance brands, which compete against products from Korea and Japan.

Chinese companies are also becoming increasingly integrated across African economies, creating trade networks not just between China and Africa, but also within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world. Many are considering moving manufacturing to the continent to get closer to the market — as reflected in China-funded special export zones in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zambia, Mauritius and Egypt.

3 regional trading groups

This integration is being facilitated by the formation of three main regional trading blocs: the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the East African Community. These new trading blocs have played a defining role in jump-starting trade within the continent. The next logical step would be to combine these regional economic communities to form the Africa Free Trade Zone, spanning the entire length of the continent from Cape Town to Cairo.

Such a pan-African trading bloc would encompass more than 630 million mostly young people, US\$1.2 trillion in gross domestic product, some of the world's most bountiful natural resources, and its largest uncultivated farmland area. Given Africa's growing middle class and increased political and financial stability, the Africa Free Trade Zone could rival the world's other economic unions, giving African states the necessary heft to negotiate free trade agreements with other trading blocs.

Another mega-trend emerging is the growing circulation of the renminbi across Africa. Soaring trade, rising direct investment by Chinese companies, and financial aid and subsidized loans from China's government and its agencies provide a solid base for the regionalization of the currency across the continent.

Africa-China trade settlement denominated in renminbi totalled about US\$5.7 billion in 2012, or about 3 percent of annual trade. Looking at it from another angle, Africa constituted 5 percent of China's global trade that year, but its trade settlement in renminbi was just 0.2 percent of total payments, even after including Hong Kong. Thus, there is significant scope for growth. Since a major part of the trade consists of commodities, the big shift will come when commodities start being priced in renminbi instead of US dollars.

Africa: China and the Coming Reforms

By Saliem Fakir/The South African Civil Society Information Service (Johannesburg)/24 April 2014

analysis

On the drive to Pudong International airport from the centre of Shanghai, which takes an hour, you sometimes do not see the sky and nature has long been filled with a concrete jungle so dense that this has become the hallmark of the Chinese growth miracle.

Behind this lies the intricacy of Chinese-style economic policymaking and politics. Often the way things work in China remains opaque for us foreigners given the language and cultural barriers.

One way of thinking of China is assertive state control over capital accumulation aimed at a singular objective - building a strong national sovereign.

In this regard it would be fitting for us to consider that strong people oriented national sovereigns can do a lot more than empty democracies with weak sovereignty over national borders, economic policy and even the way one is allowed to govern.

The Chinese state is people orientated but it is also politically intolerant of dissent, openness and political competition. A paradoxical situation that will increasingly gain friction as China becomes more prosperous.

Skyscrapers are a sort of totem of Chinese progress, which also testify to the many positive and negative impacts of Chinese economic reforms since the late 1970s.

Despite the fact that over four hundred million have been pushed above the poverty line, this has left in its wake a poor environmental record.

China's environmental footprint is also not limited to itself because Chinese growth consumes resources from all over the world, especially mineral, timber and other resources.

Where people have been pushed out of poverty, the growth in inequality will become a new challenge. China's example raises many questions about the complementarity of state management of planning, export-led growth, industrial development and building a 'harmonious' society with economic progress.

The Chinese experience is worthy of study because it contains lessons of the trade-offs that high growth exacts on a country's natural resources and people for all of us.

Whether state-led growth with unique Chinese characteristics can be replicated elsewhere is a moot point. China has sustained several decades of double-digit growth. In all major fronts of economic development it has achieved what no country has done in such a short span of time.

China's economic world had to be created from scratch from within the bosom of communist ideology, where wisdom of what would work or not had to be worked out with some experimentation, taking risks with testing new ideas and then scaling initiatives that have been tried and tested elsewhere.

Ideological rhetoric was always the public face but pragmatism, as far as economic policy was concerned, managed to find its way in the often fractious debates within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) during the period of Deng Xiaoping whose premiership catalysed major economic reforms that laid the bedrock for China's economic success.

China is state-led but no longer communist. Long-term planning has been a key tool by which the state has created a managed economy.

This model has worked in China and perhaps also because a single party, the CCP, has dominated the country's politics for so long.

But where is China going given that its current growth rate has slowed down to below the 7.5% mark? Can it build a sustainable economy given its growing challenges?

At a China-Africa roundtable hosted in the city of Shanghai in mid-April this year, I had the good fortune of listening first-hand to a presentation by an economist from China's national bureau of statistics.

The presentation provided some useful insights into China's reforms and thinking for the next thirty years. Under the new President of China, Xi Jinping, the tilt will be much more internally focused.

China recognises it needs to rebalance its economy as it has become far too dependent on exports to sustain much of its economic growth.

It has to shift from export led growth to encouraging higher rates of domestic consumption to counter-balance dependence on foreign consumption to keep manufacturing and other services going.

Most of these foreign consumers happen to be highly indebted Americans who prior to the 2008/9 financial crisis let their cheap money chase after cheap Chinese goods.

This is no longer tenable given how deep the financial crisis is inhibiting consumption in the US and other major developed economies.

Despite growth in branded goods and malls in China, most Chinese people are not profligate consumerists. They are obsessive savers.

Chinese national savings are one of the highest in the world - close to 55% of GDP and putting a constraint on domestic consumption. Looking at it from a different perspective, the US' consumption share is around 70% of GDP, while China's sits at around 36%.

To get the right balance between its reliance on exports and domestic consumption the Chinese government has to fix health care, social security and education.

The Chinese bureau of statistics conducts annual surveys and it has emerged that these three issues together with environmental matters are the topmost concerns of Chinese people at present.

In fact, on the last point, the new Chinese five-year plan talks of building an ecological civilization. You see evidence of this in the numerous low carbon pilot cities, the intensity of investment in renewables and the growing pressure from citizens for the government to fix air pollution problems.

There are very good reasons why savings are high: lack of universal healthcare, social security and environmental health issues constrain Chinese disposable income, as Chinese households have to save to support themselves in old age and self-finance their healthcare.

China's population is aging and if birth rates do not improve, it will go the way of Japan. Healthcare costs will go up and China needs to maintain a viable birth rate to keep its economy sustainable and adaptable to changing conditions.

At the third plenum meeting of the Central Committee of the CCP this year, the Chinese government relaxed the one child policy and is looking to overhaul its national health security system.

If comprehensive social security is improved together with comprehensive healthcare planning, the Chinese will feel more confident to let go of some of their savings and spend more in the present.

The next decade or so marks a new journey in policy reform for China, which is aimed at boosting domestic consumption, focusing on infrastructure spend that has higher standards of quality and building or inter-connecting smaller cities with better links to larger economic centres for the spill over of economic benefits to spread wider, especially from the very prosperous coastal cities to the interior.

China has a strong state, but also a fragile one. The Chinese leadership understand this well. Former Chinese president, Hu Jintao's vision of a 'harmonious socialist society' is gaining more importance than a preoccupation with growth.

The rebalancing is not only economic. There is some inkling that it could find its way into the political and cultural setup of China.

There is a growing interest and receptivity towards a revival of humanistic religious practices that are closely aligned with the idea of a harmonious society and Chinese Confucianism. NGOs and organizations promoting these values are being given some freedom to manoeuvre.

China will continue to sustain high growth rates at least for the next decade, but its social and political challenges remain. Protests against local corruption, wage disputes and accountability of officials to the people continue on a daily basis.

There are close to 80 000 protests a year in China. These concerns can be met some way through economic measures, but new thinking filtering through the corridors of power recognises that society and social solidarity is not just built on material things.

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Xi Jinping's Africa policy: The first year

April 28, 2014/Author: Yun Sun/businessdayonline.com

It has been more than a year since Xi Jinping's inauguration as China's new president in March 2013 and his unprecedented visit to Africa in his first overseas trip as the head of state. During the first year of the Xi administration, China's policy toward Africa has shown several new trends that illustrate Beijing's evolving priorities and strategies in the continent. These new trends foreseeably will have significant implications for the future of Africa and Sino-Africa relations.

Peace and Security in Africa

Most strikingly, China under Xi has greatly and assertively enhanced its direct involvement in Africa's security affairs. Two months into Xi's reign, Beijing unprecedentedly dispatched 170 combat troops from the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Special Force to the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali. Compared with China's past tradition of dispatching only non-combat staff such as engineers and medical personnel, this is the first time China sent "combat troops" to a foreign country under a U.N. mandate. It remains to be seen whether the move changes

PLA's tacit operating principle of "no troops on foreign soil" given the U.N. authorization and local government consent. Nevertheless, China's choosing Africa to dispatch combat troops for the first time does suggest Beijing's rising interests, enhanced commitment and direct role in maintaining peace and security of Africa.

In another unprecedented but more surprising move, China under Xi engaged in open intervention in the South Sudan conflict through direct mediation. In 2013, China's special envoy for African affairs, Ambassador Zhong Jianhua, paid more than 10 visits to Africa to coordinate positions and mediate the South Sudan issue. Then, in January 2014, in a rare overt political intervention, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi publicly called for an immediate end of hostilities in South Sudan. At Ethiopia's invitation, Wang Yi traveled to Addis Ababa to meet with rebel and government delegations. He openly urged "immediate cessation of hostilities and violence," and publicly called for the international powers to back the Ethiopian-led mediation efforts. Given China's considerable oil stake in the unstable South Sudan (China imported nearly 14 million barrels of oil from South Sudan in the first 10 months of 2013, twice that from Nigeria), many believe that China is gradually abandoning its long-term "non-interference" principle to protect its overseas economic interests.

Under Xi Jinping, China has continued its naval escort missions in the Gulf of Aden but enhanced security cooperation with the Djibouti government throughout the process. China has dispatched a total of 16 fleets and escorted more than 5,300 ships and vessels in the area. Chinese missions have been carried out under a clear U.N. mandate. However, through these missions, China has been developing naval cooperation with Djibouti on such matters as local logistical supplies and emergency assistance. In his latest visit of Africa at the beginning of 2014, Foreign Minister Wang sang high praise for the "convenience" Djibouti had provided and called for "more stable and long-term" security cooperation with the country in this regard.

China's increasing direct involvement in the peace and security affairs of Africa is also reflected in its rising financial and military contribution to the regional organization—the African Union (AU)—to boost its security role in the continent. In 2013, China provided \$1 million in assistance to the AU to support its mediation and coordination efforts in the Mali conflict. It has also provided military material assistance to African countries involved in the AU peacekeeping missions under the same framework.

China's rising involvement in Africa's security affairs is motivated by multiple considerations. Most importantly, the instability and conflicts in Africa have increasingly become a direct challenge to China's economic presence in Africa. China learned the bitter, expensive lesson of its own inaction in the Libyan civil war in 2011, and now attempts to take initiative in preempting similar fallouts such as in South Sudan. Equally critical is President Xi Jinping's desire to build China's leadership role and image in the international community, and the peace and security issues in Africa are a perfect platform for such a goal. Last but not least, through working directly and closely with regional organizations and African governments, China hopes to diversify and strengthen its friendship base in Africa.

New Features of Chinese Economic Cooperation with Africa

China under Xi has expanded its financing to Africa. In a little more than a year, China has issued more than \$10 billion loans to African countries, half of the promised \$20 billion to be dispersed from 2013 to 2015. One striking feature of these loans lies in China's new priority in financing infrastructure, agricultural and manufacturing industries in Africa, a strategy that shifts away from its traditional heavy investment in Africa's extractive industries. Senior Chinese officials now claim that China's investment in African energy sector makes up only 20 percent of China's total investment in Africa.

China is strengthening its cooperation with African countries on building their manufacturing industries. In the case of Ethiopia, the country has tried to become the center for manufacturing in Africa based on Chinese investment. This would serve to upgrade China's own position in the global supply chain and transfer its declining industries to Africa, which is eager for industrialization. This does not necessarily indicate China's abandonment of the energy and natural resources Africa has to offer, but it does suggest that China is trying to diversify its investment portfolio in Africa in pursuit of new growth models and defusing wide criticisms on China's "exploitation" of African resources.

Diversifying Chinese-African Political Relations

In separate strategy to improve China's image in Africa, the Xi administration has significantly enhanced China's public diplomacy efforts on the ground. Senior Chinese diplomats are now eagerly engaging African media to explain and propagate China's positions and their benefits to Africa. Under the "China-Africa People to People Friendship Action" plan, Chinese embassies across Africa are seeking collaborations with African nongovernmental organizations and have implemented dozens of projects.

Some examples include technical training programs in Botswana with the local Gopong Support Group; material assistance in central Africa with the Central African Republic Renaissance Foundation; donations to local elementary schools in Uganda; vocational training for local unemployed youth in Cape Verde; and women's health programs in Benin. Although these projects are primarily led and implemented by governments, they serve to diversify China's aid models in Africa and promote the exchanges and cooperation with the civil society. They have won some loud praise from the local populations.

In its first year, China's Xi Jinping administration has demonstrated major new and diversified policy momentum in Africa. The continent awaits more. For a more detailed look at the evolving relationship between China and Africa, please read *Africa in China's Foreign Policy*.

Chinese activity has meant for African businesses and how the United States can maximize its investment opportunities in Africa.

Yun Sun

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EN BREF, CE 28 Avril 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 28/04/2014