



[UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on Monday voiced his "extreme concern" over a deadly weekend rebel attack on the city of Kidal in northern Mali, underling the importance of a political solution to the current crisis in the West African country. Eliasson called Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on Monday morning and "expressed his extreme concern at the recent violence over the weekend which included the killing of eight civilians in Kidal," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here.]

BURUNDI :

**Burundi: seulement 17,9% de la population bénéficie de l'assurance maladie en 2012/2013**

Source: Xinhua/20.05.2014

Les mécanismes d'assurance maladie couvraient seulement 17,9% de la population en 2012/2013, révèle une "Enquête Démographique et de Santé" (EDS) réalisée entre janvier 2012 et janvier 2013 sur tout le territoire national auprès d'un échantillon de 8 220 ménages dans le cadre du programme gouvernemental de protection sociale.

Selon cette enquête, l'assurance maladie, à travers la Carte d'Assurance Maladie (CAM), la Mutuelle de la Fonction Publique (MFP), les mutuelles de santé communautaires et les attestations d'indigence, qui bénéficiait seulement à 17,9% de la population en 2012/2013, pourrait cependant avoir augmenté légèrement depuis lors, suite aux efforts du gouvernement pour promouvoir l'adhésion à la CAM.

D'après la direction générale des ressources au ministère burundais de la Santé publique et de la Lutte contre le SIDA, 23% de la population adhère actuellement à la CAM, mais la croissance future des adhésions à cette dernière pourrait être affaiblie par les réserves exprimées sur la longue période d'attente pour le remboursement des frais consécutifs aux prestations sanitaires rendus.

Selon une seconde enquête réalisée en 2012/2013 portant la dénomination de "Paquet Minimum des Services de Santé au Burundi" (PMS), la CAM souffre de faiblesses de conception et de mise en oeuvre.

Même si c'est une initiative audacieuse pour étendre l'assurance-maladie au-delà du secteur formel à la masse populaire dépendant de l'agriculture familiale, relève l'enquête PMS, la réintroduction de la CAM en 2012 sans études techniques préalables menace l'efficacité et la pérennité du mécanisme.

En effet, explique-t-on dans cette enquête, la cotisation annuelle de trois mille francs burundais (1,96 USD) par ménage n'a pas été décidée sur base de calculs paramétriques de la viabilité du mécanisme, prenant en compte à la fois le coût des services couverts, la capacité contributive des ménages et le niveau potentiel du subventionnement public.

En conséquence, fait-t-on remarquer, la CAM est sous-financée. Cette situation conduit à de longs retards de remboursement des factures et ainsi à l'accumulation des dettes par les formations sanitaires.

Par ailleurs, l'enquête PMS fait remarquer que la Mutuelle de la Fonction Publique (MFP), qui fournit une assurance maladie aux employés du secteur public, bénéficie à une couche extrêmement faible de la population (3,4%).

Il en est de même des mutuelles de santé communautaires, souligne-t-on, car leur taux de pénétration est "extrêmement faible" puisqu'elles ne couvrent que 1,3% de la population.

La MUSCABU (Mutuelle de Santé des Caféculteurs du Burundi), considérée comme la plus importante pour avoir réussi à rassembler 14.830 ménages adhérents (31% des membres des associations des caféculteurs) et 79.896 bénéficiaires en août 2012, a cependant des revenus aléatoires. En effet, ceux-ci sont exposés à une instabilité cyclique selon les "caprices du climat", avec pour effets pervers la possibilité de soldes déficitaires.

Ceci montre que la viabilité des mutuelles de santé communautaire est précaire, martèle-t-on dans les conclusions de l'enquête PMS.

RWANDA :

**Rwanda Through AfDB Figures**

By Ivan R. Mugisha/[allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com)/20 May 2014

In A new statistical report by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Rwanda's recent work stands out prominently.

Presented yesterday by the director of AfDB's statistics department, Charles Lufumpa, the publication titled "Tracking Africa's Progress in Figures" looks at past key trends that defined the continent and those that shape its future.

In general terms, the report shows that African economies have scored exceptional rates of growth driven by strong domestic demand, improved management of economic affairs, a growing middle class, and increased political stability.

"With Africa's population expanding rapidly, from around 1 billion today to an estimated 2.5 billion by 2060, we will have a young and increasingly urbanised workforce, which presents an opportunity to reap a demographic dividend," Lufumpa said in his presentation.

"Seizing that opportunity will depend on access to education and skills, the quality and scale of public investment in infrastructure, and the associated private investment in business and jobs," he added.

However, the report warns that the impressive performance of certain countries is overshadowed by other countries' poor results.

"Madagascar, for example, has significantly reduced its adult mortality rate. Liberia, Rwanda, Algeria, and Burkina Faso also performed remarkably well. However, Swaziland and Lesotho registered a twofold increase in their mortality rates between 1990 and 2011," the report states.

The report further shows that 97 per cent of pregnant woman in Rwanda receive antenatal services, which is way above Africa's average of 74 per cent.

The report says that over 18 million African women still do not give birth in a health facility.

On average, the time required for business start-up reduced on the continent by nearly half in the past seven years, Rwanda stood out for making major reforms in property registration programmes, improving cross border trade and strengthening investor protection. Other countries that scored highly in this category include Burkina Faso, Burundi, Egypt and Mali.

Rwanda also falls in the category of countries with relatively high rates of poverty reduction, along with Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, Mali and Uganda.

Those that suffered acute increase in poverty levels over the past few years include Chad, Ivory Coast, Egypt, and Zimbabwe.

On gender development, Rwanda has an unprecedented 64 per cent of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies held by women, the report says. Seychelles, Senegal, and South Africa also stand out in this category with more than 40 per cent female representation in Parliament.

Countries where women have less than 10 per cent of parliamentary representation are Egypt, Comoros, Swaziland, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Benin and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Yusuf Rurangwa, the Director General of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, welcomed the report, saying that harmonised statistics throughout Africa will make development goals more realistic.

"Countries must exploit advanced research modules in order to cut cost of data storage. Private businesses must also improve the way they use national data to better understand opportunities and risks in investments," Murangwa said.

Rwanda's main challenge according to the report lies in its significant reliance on aid.

## Solar Unit to Boost Rwanda Electricity

May 19/AllAfrica

A 10MW Solar Power plant worth \$20 million is to be constructed in Kayonza Eastern Province and when completed enable Rwanda to achieve its energy target of 563 MW by the year 2017.

The deal was struck last week between the government and Goldsol II. According to a Memorandum of Agreement signed in Kigali, Goldsol II is an energy consortium composed of three companies TMM Renewable of South Africa, Gesto Africa company registered in Malta, and 3E Power registered in Rwanda. They will jointly carry out the project.

"Government of Rwanda has a target of increasing the access to electricity of Rwandans by 2020 and therefore as the country still faces such a challenge. It is further enhancing efforts towards responding to the present and future needs of the country," Emma Francoise Isumbingabo, the Minister of State in charge of Energy and Water said.

"There is need therefore of strong collaborative efforts between government and the private sector which will promote socio-economic development of the Rwandan people," she said.

Current installed generation capacity is close to 120MW which gives the country hope of meeting its target of access to power by the population to 70% by 2017 currently standing at 19.4%.

"A successful energy intervention can bring multiple impacts that will support achieving Rwanda's Vision 2020 objectives," Isumbingabo said.

Amb. Valentine Rugwabiza, the CEO of Rwanda Development Board said the country was keen on conservation of the environment and therefore was using an expansive approach that embraces a range of clean energy solutions.

"Working with experienced investors like Goldsol II who are contributing 10MW is fundamental to further boosting Rwanda's GDP," she said.

When the project is concluded, it will serve over 38,800 households and will contribute to job creation and improve standards of living of Rwandans.

According to Ntare Karitanyi Director General of the Energy Water and Sanitation Authority (EWSA) of Rwanda they will be buying electricity at Rwf120 per Kilowatt.

Miguel Barrato representative Goldsol II said solar power offers good prospects and, it does not pollute the environment and therefore was an alternative to Rwanda in her aim of conserving the environment.

"In 21 months (about 2 years) we will be concluding this project which is one of the largest solar plants in East Africa," he said.

Rwanda aims at looking through all resources available to create a balance that will facilitate low costs of energy to the population.

Rwanda is also developing its geothermal and gas energy sources found in the Lake Kivu area.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**Orange set to sell mobile division in Uganda to Africell**

Monday, May 19th 2014/By Macharia Kamau/standardmedia.co.ke

French telecoms giant Orange has started a process to sell its operation in Uganda to a Gambia headquartered operator, Africell. The move brings to a conclusion a strategic review that Orange was undertaking in its Ugandan operation. The French operator has since the first quarter of this year been undertaking a review of some of its businesses in Africa – including Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There is, however, no word on when it would conclude the review of its Kenyan operation, Telkom Kenya, despite reports it has notified the National Treasury of its plan to sell its shareholding in the operator. South Africa's MTN and Vietnam's Viettel are among the firms that have expressed interest in buying Orange's stake in Telkom Kenya. Orange owns a 70 per cent stake in Telkom Kenya while the Government holds the remaining 30 per cent. Majority stake In a statement Monday, Orange said it had signed an agreement with Africell for the sale of a majority stake in orange Uganda. Africell has operations in the Gambia, Sierra Leone and DR Congo. "In the framework of a regular review of its portfolio of assets, today, the Orange Group announced that it has signed an agreement with Africell Holding for the sale of its majority stake in Orange Uganda," it said. The transaction is subject to approval from the relevant authorities. It will enable the company in Uganda to continue its development. "This transaction marks a new step in the Orange group's asset portfolio optimisation strategy for which Africa and the Middle-East remain a strategic priority." Orange Uganda has grown its subscriber base to 620 000 customers as at December 2013 since setting up shop in 2008. The French operators said in March that it was evaluating its two units in Kenya and Uganda to determine the way forward.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**Lonmin fires over 200 striking South Africa essential workers: report**

Reuters/20052014

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa's Lonmin has dismissed 235 essential services workers who were on an unsanctioned strike and defied orders to return to their jobs, the Business Report newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted Lonmin spokesman Happy Nkhoma as saying the workers embarked on the boycott on January 23, when members of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) went on strike demanding higher wages.

Under an agreement with AMCU, essential service workers are not allowed to strike.

"A court order to this effect was obtained on February 27 requiring all essential workers to return to

work by May 12," Nkhoma told Business Report.

Lonmin officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

On Monday, the company said it had lost a third of its annual production due to the industry strike which its chief executive described as a "bleeding" that might lead to the firm's death if not stopped in time.

The strike has also hit the South African operations of Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum, taking out 40 percent of global production of the precious metal used for emissions-capping catalytic converters in automobiles.

(Reporting by Olivia Kumwenda-Mtambo; Editing by Stella Mapenzauswa)

TANZANIA :

### Major shakeup in airport handling in Tanzania

By Prof. Dr. Wolfgang H. Thome, eTN Africa Correspondent/eturbonews.com/May 20, 2014

French global ground-handling service provider Worldwide Flight Services, concessioned by the Tanzanian authorities to launch operations at the Julius Nyerere International Airport, will set the stage for some major competition to market leader Swissport, which has been dominating the scene almost at will.

The French company is reportedly investing some US\$6 million in their new venture, which will for the first time give airlines serving Tanzania's largest aviation hub a real choice and opportunity to get more competitive quotations for ground handling.

With more than 100 ground-handling contracts in over 20 countries around the world, the company is notable under-represented in Africa where after South Africa, where WFS launched operations two years ago, Tanzania is only the second country in which WFS will be present. Worldwide Flight Services is expected to launch their operations in late quarter three or early quarter four of this year.

No comments were received from other ground handlers nor from market leader Swissport which has in turn been investing in new equipment and staff training, apparently in preparation for the market entry by a major global rival.

### Tanzania: TAZARA Workers Stick to Their Demands

By Rose Athumani/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/20 May 2014

TANZANIA Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) workers have vowed not to go back to work until their salaries have been paid and are given assurance of future payments.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Dr Shaaban Mwinjaka told the 'Daily News' that his office is following up on the outstanding salaries for the workers, noting that any time from now the money will be paid to the TAZARA accounts.

"I have been following up on the issues with Treasury...the money will be paid into the TAZARA

accounts soon," he stressed.

On his part the Chairman of Tanzania Railway Workers Union (TRAWU), Dar es Salaam Zone Mr Yusuf Mandai told the 'Daily News' that the TAZARA workers will not resume duties until all outstanding salaries are paid and that they are given assurance of future payments made.

Mr Mandai said paying out the money in batches will not help the workers who have escalating debts to pay including school fees of their children. "We want to be paid all the three months salaries and given assurance of future salary payments," he said.

He added that the workers want the rail authority to allow the handling cargo at regional offices in both Tanzania and Zambia which will allow for more cargo to be transported.

"If autonomy could be given back to regional offices, we will see more cargo transported but currently it is only the headquarters that deals in bulk cargo especially from large businesses in Zambia who mainly transport fertiliser and copper are handled," he lamented.

"Once these businesses refuse to use the railway line or delay payments it means you have no other sources of raising money. But if the regional offices were allowed to handle cargo, we would have both bulk and small volume cargo being transported," he explained.

He added that if the autonomy is given back to the regional offices, revenues will increase and both governments will not need to dip into their pockets to foot salaries for workers, every time TAZARA fails to raise money. He noted that TAZARA regional offices handle passengers, but they do not handle cargo.

Mr Mandai urged all Tanzanians who use the TAZARA line to bear with the workers who are fighting for their rights. TAZARA workers went on strike last Monday demanding payments of salaries from February in some cases and March and April in all cases.

Permanent Secretary (PS), Ministry of Transport, Dr Shaaban Mwinjaka, told the 'Daily News' that the government will settle salaries of February and April while Zambia will settle salaries of March and May.

KENYA :

### **Ambush in Kenya leaves 12 dead**

May 20 2014/By Noor Ali/Reuters

Isiolo, Kenya - Suspected Somali al-Shabaab militants killed at least 12 people in an ambush in northern Kenya on Monday, a day after Kenyan jets pounded the Islamists' bases over the border, disaster and police officials said.

The East African nation, which sent its troops into Somalia in October 2011 to pursue the militants, has suffered a string of gun, bomb and grenade attacks that it blames on al-Shabaab, including an attack in the capital Nairobi on Friday.

Britain, the United States and other Western governments have warned holidaymakers against visiting Kenya.

“Twelve individuals, among them three police reservists killed in Mandera County in an ambush by suspected al Shabaab militia on Monday afternoon,” the government-run National Disaster Operations Centre said on its Twitter feed.

It said two police vehicles had been destroyed. Reservists work alongside the police, and are not usually in official uniform but sometimes wear camouflage jackets.

Mandera County, near the border with Ethiopia and Somalia, has seen a marked escalation in tension, with low-key clan clashes displacing hundreds of people in the past year.

The region is awash with guns due to its proximity to Somalia, where al Shabaab has been fighting to topple the government, and Ethiopia, where the armed Oromo Liberation Front has made incursions into the country.

The NDOC was not immediately available for further comment about how the ambush happened or who else had been killed.

Noah Mwivanda, Mandera County police commander, said police were searching for another seven people “missing in action” and that the attackers had also set fire to a van transporting qat, a plant chewed as a stimulant.

“Two regular police, three reservists and two civilians are missing in action, an operation is being conducted to find them. They are either dead, abducted or missing,” Mwivanda told Reuters.

On Sunday, Kenyan military officials said its warplanes hit an explosives-making compound at Jilib, about 300km south-west of Mogadishu, two days after explosions at a market in Nairobi left at least 12 people dead.

Al Shabaab killed at least 67 people in a gun and grenade raid on a Nairobi shopping mall last September, claiming it as revenge for attacks on its fighters by Kenyan troops in Somalia. - Reuters

### **CORD threatens to impeach President Uhuru Kenyatta as payment row rages**

By RAWLINGS OTIENO/standardmedia.co.ke/Tuesday, May 20th 2014

Kenya: CORD leaders have argued there is no justification for payment of Sh1.4 billion to Anglo-Leasing companies. They said the contracts were illegally procured and that Kenya should not commit to fraudulent dealings. The Opposition also threatened to impeach President Uhuru Kenyatta over his directive to the Treasury to pay the debt. Kakamega Senator Bonny Khalwale asked why the Jubilee government is not implementing what was in the report when Uhuru chaired the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC). Fleece taxpayers In 2006, Uhuru, then the Opposition leader, chaired the PAC, which authored the report that described the more than Sh50 billion contracts as a system hatched by a few individuals to continually fleece taxpayers. Khalwale claimed Anglo Leasing companies were owned by two Indians and two Kenyans, whose names are in the report which Uhuru submitted when he was the PAC chairman. “We are the representatives of the people, and if he goes on doing this he will be the first President in Kenya to be impeached,” warned Khalwale. In particular, the Opposition coalition dared the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich to authorise the payments and face censure Motion in Parliament and Senate. Deputy Minority Leader Jakoyo Midiwo castigated the move to pay the two companies, terming Uhuru’s authorisation to pay as unconstitutional. “This is will be the final onslaught to bad governance. Our people cannot keep on suffering because of a few individuals at



Harambee House. If Rotich pays this Anglo-Leasing money then, we will jail you, humiliate you and recommend that you are hanged at Uhuru park in public, because this is people's money and you are the accounting officer," said Jakoyo. He went on; "The President has money; if he wants to pay with his own money then he can go ahead and pay, but not the public money  
In a parked political rally at the famous Kamkunji grounds in Kibera, Jakoyo tore into Uhuru's declaration that Kenya has no option but to pay, saying the President does not have any mandate in law to authorise the release of money without passing through the Parliament. Awendo MP Jared K'Opiyo asked how Kenyans can be sure that the money Uhuru is directing to be paid would not benefit some few people in the Government if the faces behind the Anglo Leasing are not made public. K'Opiyo argued that the Jubilee government had failed to be transparent and is not keen on fighting the ghost of corruption and impunity. His counterpart Suna East MP Junet Mohamed claimed that the Government was rewarding those who politically helped Jubilee fund its campaigns ahead of last year's General Election. Mohamed accused the Jubilee administration of launching aggressive attacks on reforms.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

**Top UN official voices "extreme concern" about Mali violence**

May 20,2014/Xinhua

UNITED NATIONS, May 19 (Xinhua) -- UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on Monday voiced his "extreme concern" over a deadly weekend rebel attack on the city of Kidal in northern Mali, underling the importance of a political solution to the current crisis in the West African country.

Eliasson called Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on Monday morning and "expressed his extreme concern at the recent violence over the weekend which included the killing of eight civilians in Kidal," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here.

"Mr. Eliasson said the United Nations condemned these atrocities," the spokesman said. "He also conveyed, on behalf of the secretary-general his sincere condolences to the aggrieved families and to the entire Malian people."

Separatist Tuareg rebels launched an assault on Kidal over the weekend, killing eight soldiers, storming government buildings and taking 30 hostages in what the government officials saw as a "declaration of war" on the Malian government, reports said.

The fighting began on Saturday morning and continued throughout the day, the reports said.

"Mr. Eliasson added that he understood that these recent attacks had unleashed a strong emotional reaction in large parts of the population," he said. "He appealed for calm and stressed the need to de-escalate tensions."

"The deputy secretary-general stressed the importance of following a political path to solve the current crisis in Mali," Dujarric said.

The UN Mission in Mali has condemned the attacks, calling them a gross violation of the Ouagadougou accord Mali's government and separatist groups signed after a French-led intervention drove the Islamists from major cities and towns last year.

Mali held a successful presidential vote in August 2013 to end a crisis unleashed by a military coup in March 2012.

Al-Qaida's branch in North Africa AQIM and other rebels had swept through northern Mali after the coup before being routed by French and African troops in January 2013. The West African country has restored control of its northern part, but is grappling with a situation where rebels are capable of sporadic attacks.

US/AFRICA :

#### Renewed conflict possible in Mali - US

May 20 2014/By Tiemoko Diallo/Reuters

Bamako - The United States warned on Monday that northern Mali risked sliding back into war and called for the government and Tuareg separatists to return to talks after deadly clashes in a traditional rebel stronghold at the weekend.

The Malian army was preparing to launch an assault on the northern town of Kidal, where at least eight soldiers and eight civilians including six government officials were killed when rebels attacked the regional governor's office on Saturday while Prime Minister Moussa Mara was in the town.

Thirty-two civil servants taken hostage in the attack were released on Monday after negotiations, according to Radhia Achouri, spokesman for MINUSMA, the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali.

President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita outlined a twin-track strategy in a national address on Monday evening, and said the government would pursue negotiations with the separatists but also that the army would play its role.

"The authors of the hostage-taking and summary executions will be pursued by national and international justice because these crimes amount to crimes against humanity," he said.

"Our forces of defence and security... will carry out fully the mission that the Malian constitution assigns to them," he said.

Mali's international partners have been pushing for a final, negotiated settlement to a long cycle of Tuareg independence uprisings since al-Qaeda-linked fighters hijacked a Tuareg rebellion in 2012 and seized northern Mali.

After a French-led intervention drove the Islamists from major cities and towns last year, Mali's government and separatist groups signed a deal in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou to hold talks about greater autonomy for the north.

But the lines between the independence fighters and their erstwhile Islamist allies remain blurred, and it has been difficult to get government and separatists to sit down together.

“We are very concerned about what happened, and that the response might lead to this region going back into conflict,” US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Linda Thomas-Greenfield told journalists in Paris on Monday.

“It is important for the government to continue to talk to them (the rebels) and work on a reconciliation that will bring them back into the fold.”

Kidal is the stronghold of the Tuareg National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and, while the rebels now claim to control the town, they said they had only fought back after coming under attack by the Malian army.

Attaye Ag Mohamed, a spokesman for the group based in Kidal, denied government accusations that the MNLA had renewed its previous alliance with armed Islamist groups.

“They can say what they want. They're just trying to dupe the Malian people,” Ag Mohamed told Reuters.

MINUSMA urged both sides to refrain from violence that could endanger civilians. The force is not yet at its full strength of 13 000 and, while it was present in Kidal on Saturday it was unable to stop the fighting.

“The rebels and the army are reinforcing their positions,” an elected official in Kidal, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, told Reuters. “I'm shut up in my house. The next hours will be decisive.”

France, which led an offensive against armed Islamist groups but pressed Bamako to negotiate with the northern separatists, said it would stay out of any fighting between the army and the Tuareg rebels.

“We are not there to intervene with regard to tensions between Malians,” French army spokesman Colonel Gilles Jaron said. “We are 1 600 (soldiers) in Mali now and their role is to fight armed terrorist groups.”

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian cancelled a visit to Mali this weekend in light of the latest developments though he will still travel to Chad in a trip designed to announce new French policy, officials said.

France is seeking to reduce its numbers in Mali to around 1 000 while redeploying soldiers elsewhere in the region to tackle the rising threat of Islamic militant groups that have spread across West Africa since last year's intervention.

“This is a real turning point in the crisis,” said Rinaldo Depagne, West Africa programs director for the conflict prevention think tank International Crisis Group.

"It's clearly the end of the Ouagadougou agreement and the situation is as it was at the beginning of the crisis." - Reuters

### Nigeria Crisis Puts Spotlight on Africa Command

May 19, 2014/by Richard Sisk/military.com

Army Gen. David Rodriguez was in Nigeria last week trying to pin down whether the government would permit the U.S. to help find the schoolgirls kidnapped by the Boko Haram terror group.

The fate of the girls is the most recent in a broad range of challenges Rodriguez has faced as head of U.S. Africa Command, the newest of the combatant commands with responsibility for U.S. military relations across the expansive continent.

Rodriguez also ordered about 180 Marines and four MV-22 Osprey aircraft to move to Sicily from their base in Moron, Spain, to be closer to the turmoil in Libya.

"The contingent was moved because we have concerns about the security situation in North Africa," Navy Capt. Greg Hicks told Stars & Stripes without giving specifics on the particular threat that prompted the forward positioning of the Marines.

The Marines sent to Naval Base Sigonella, Sicily, came from a Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response unit that was formed to support AFRICOM and deal with threats to U.S. personnel and facilities in Africa following the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

Residents fled Benghazi over the weekend following warnings from a renegade general leading the Libyan National Army who said he was preparing to renew attacks on Islamic militants in the city.

Authorities in the increasingly dysfunctional government in Tripoli said that recent fighting in Benghazi killed 43 and wounded more than 100, Reuters reported.

In addition to Libya and Nigeria, AFRICOM has been facing terror threats compounded by long-standing ethnic and religious rivalries in Mali, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Somalia.

To deal with the crises that have killed thousands and forced millions to flee their homes, Rodriguez has about 5,000 troops focused on training and advisory roles and partnering with allies to combat the rise of terrorist groups in the region.

Rodriguez has his headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, but the hub of operations for AFRICOM sits in Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti. President Obama and Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh agreed on a new 10-year, \$630 million lease for Camp Lemonnier earlier this month.

"Obviously, Camp Lemonnier is extraordinarily important not only to our work throughout the Horn of Africa, but throughout the region," Obama said.

Through Libya, Boko Haram has connections to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, AFRICOM officials said.

"We're very concerned about that because those connections expand opportunities, expand capabilities," Rodriguez told the Voice of America last June. "Boko Haram is a very, very violent network. It is one that has had a very, very negative impact on the northern part of Nigeria, as well

as Niger and Chad."

Currently, AFRICOM has a 16-member team working out of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja to assist the Nigerians.

"The purpose of the AFRICOM team is to coordinate with the Nigerian military and assess their needs and determine what assistance we can provide them to help in their search," said Col. Tom Davis, an AFRICOM spokesman. "The team consists of experts in communications, logistics and intelligence."

At a Pentagon briefing last month, and in testimony to the Senate and House in March, Rodriguez warned that the current conflicts across the African continent "share a few basic traits -- complexity, asymmetry and unpredictability."

He also warned that "where a country lacks good leadership, external actors have only a modest capacity to positively influence the country's future."

Rodriguez's emphasis on the need for effective leadership underlined the dilemma now faced by AFRICOM in working out a cooperative arrangement with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan in the search for the girls.

"The government's ineptitude has been astonishing" in organizing the search, said John Campbell, the former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria.

Jonathan made no public statement about the April 14 kidnappings of more than 200 girls and "he still has not visited Chibok," the town in northeastern Nigeria that was the site of the girls' school, Campbell wrote in a recent post for the Council on Foreign Relations.

Jonathan enraged the families of the girls by canceling a trip to Chibok last Friday to go to Paris to attend a regional summit of West African leaders convened by French President Francois Hollande on the Boko Haram threat.

"Boko Haram is acting clearly as an al-Qaida operation," said Jonathan, who only recently agreed to accept U.S. and international help after years of claiming that Boko Haram was an internal problem.

However, Campbell and other Western experts have argued that Boko Haram has little contact with al-Qaida and funds itself mostly through bank stickups and other criminal activities.

At AFRICOM, Rodriguez, along with Gen. Carter Ham before him, faced the problem of "offering assistance without trampling on Nigeria's rather prickly sensitivities" over its self-image as the "giant of Africa," said J. Peter Pham, director of the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council.

Boko Haram gained power in mostly Muslim northern Nigeria after decades of neglect by authorities in the mostly Christian south, Pham said in an interview.

The Nigerians, the international allies and AFRICOM will now have to face up to "the recognition that Boko Haram is a challenge that defies a truly military solution," Pham said. "There is no purely military solution."

In Paris, Jonathan claimed to have sent 20,000 troops into the northeast to find and rescue the girls, but over the weekend Boko Haram reportedly launched more attacks.

A village in northeastern Nigeria was burned down and 40 residents were killed on Saturday. In neighboring Cameroon, a Chinese engineering firm's camp was attacked and 10 persons were killed, Cameroon officials said.

The U.S. has been flying manned and unmanned surveillance aircraft on missions to search for the girls.

Britain over the weekend announced that it was sending a Sentinel R-1 spy plane with ground mapping radar to join in the search. The Sentinel, which has also been used in Afghanistan, will fly out of nearby Ghana.

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CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Après « Serval », les risques de guerre au Mali

LE MONDE /19.05.2014

Les propos belliqueux des uns et des autres font craindre un retour de la guerre au Mali. Les affrontements meurtriers de samedi 17 mai à Kidal, dans le nord-est, entre l'armée et des groupes rebelles touareg, rappellent de mauvais souvenirs. Ils soulignent l'impérieuse nécessité de ne pas laisser tomber ce pays – en dépit de quelques autres dossiers brûlants sur ce continent, du Nigeria à la République centrafricaine.

Le bilan du week-end est lourd. Sur le plan humain, d'abord : une trentaine de morts, dont huit soldats et plusieurs officiels maliens. Sur le plan politique et sécuritaire, ensuite. L'élément déclencheur des violences a été la visite du premier ministre malien, Moussa Mara, à Kidal, perçue comme une provocation par la communauté touareg, et tout spécialement par son bras armé, le Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA).

Malgré l'élection présidentielle d'août 2013, l'Etat n'est pas perçu comme légitime sur l'intégralité du territoire. De nouveau, surgit le spectre d'un retour de la guerre et celui de la partition. C'est inquiétant. En 2012, c'est le MNLA, déjà, qui avait lancé l'offensive à partir du nord du Mali, avant d'être débordé par des groupes djihadistes, entraînant l'intervention française « Serval ».

Sur le terrain, les militaires français poursuivent la traque des djihadistes, liés pour certains à Al-Qaïda. Mais Paris estime que « Serval » n'est pas concernée par la question touareg, laquelle est politique et relève de Bamako. Ce n'est pas faux.

## LA RESPONSABILITÉ DE PARIS EST ENGAGÉE

Le problème est que les autorités maliennes ont tellement tardé à se saisir de ce dossier que les accords de paix de juin 2013 sont moribonds. Ils avaient mis un terme aux affrontements armés. Mais ils devaient, surtout, organiser le retour de l'Etat dans le Nord et ouvrir la voie à des discussions sur le statut administratif et la stratégie de développement de l'Azawad (nom donné par les Touareg au nord du pays). Ces deux points forment le socle historique des revendications touareg, qui balancent entre autonomie et indépendance.

Or ces négociations n'ont jamais commencé, accréditant la thèse que, malgré ses promesses électorales, le président Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, élu en août 2013, n'a pas la volonté politique de faire avancer le dossier de la réconciliation.

La responsabilité de Paris est aussi engagée. Bamako ne manque pas de rappeler que le MNLA est revenu à Kidal dans le sillage de l'armée française. On peut raisonnablement imaginer que les forces françaises et africaines déployées au Mali ont les moyens de faire taire les armes du MNLA.

Paris et l'Union européenne disposent aussi du puissant levier de l'aide financière, indispensable pour la reconstruction du pays, pour amener Bamako à dialoguer avec les représentants du Nord. Au risque, sinon, que les incidents de samedi se multiplient et plongent de nouveau le Mali dans le chaos.

## CHINA/AFRICA :

### Africa50 fund complements China's spend

by Rene Vollgraaff and David Malingha Doya/Bloomberg/mai 20 2014

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) is stepping up plans to finance power and rail projects as China boosts lending on the continent by half.

The Tunis-based lender is set to endorse this week the Africa50 Fund, which is targeting \$10bn of equity from an initial capital of \$3bn, to finance infrastructure projects. Central bank governors and finance ministers across the continent will meet from Tuesday at the bank's annual conference in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, to back the plan.

African nations have a funding shortfall of \$50bn a year to ease energy shortages and transport bottlenecks, according to the World Bank. The AfDB's spending on the continent is dwarfed by China, which invested more than \$13bn in infrastructure in 2012, as the world's second-largest economy boosts its reliance on Africa's oil, coal and other commodities.

"The AfDB is investing significantly into African infrastructure," said Joe Cosma, head of government and infrastructure at Ernst & Young in Johannesburg. "They are investing a lot of time in working out how they can work with African governments to define infrastructure requirements and investment options. In a sense, they are competing with the Chinese."

The AfDB said it approved funding of \$9bn in 2011, with infrastructure projects accounting for \$3.4bn. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on a visit to Africa this month the government will boost its line of credit to African nations by \$10bn to \$30bn. He also pledged to almost double capital in the China-Africa Development Fund, which gives financing to Chinese companies for private

equity deals, to \$5bn.

Sub-Saharan Africa, a region of 48 countries with a population of 800-million, generates the same amount of electricity as Spain, with a population of 45-million, according to the World Bank. Only a third of Africans in rural areas are within 2km of an all-season road, compared with two-thirds of the population in other developing regions. "Chinese investors provide both funding and technical expertise, a full implementation package, which African governments find attractive," Mr Cosma said. "The AfDB is much more connected to the African governments and they can use this relationship to their advantage." Its fund will complement China's investment in Africa given the scale of the infrastructure shortfall in the region, said Alastair Herbertson, an investment specialist at Investec Asset Management.

Bloomberg

INDIA/AFRICA :

### Why Modi's Win Is Good News for Africa

By Stephen Hayes/usnews.com/May 19, 2014

India's new prime minister will likely look to Africa for economic opportunities.

The election of Narendra Modi of the Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, as India's next prime minister has global ramifications. Until now, Modi has been essentially persona non grata in the United States for his alleged role in Hindu nationalist riots in which hundreds were killed in 2002. Now Modi heads the world's second most populous nation and the world's largest democracy, and it would be in America's highest interest that President Obama and Modi meet soon in the United States. The two nations have too much in common to remain apart. Indeed, President Obama congratulated the newly elected prime minister and is expected to invite him to Washington soon.

Much has been written about Modi as the leader of the Hindu Nationalist Party, but it was not his religious nationalism that moved the electorate. Prominent Muslim leaders also supported Modi because the issue in India is the economy: jobs, employment and a growing competition with China. Modi campaigned on moderation and tolerance, and ignored the more militant right wing of his own party. The thrust of his campaign was almost entirely on the need for economic reform in India.

The Congress Party, led by the Gandhi family, had ruled for too many years over a stagnant economy, with a population growing younger and with more expectations. The party had no new ideas and represented a status quo that is no longer acceptable to most in India. More than 537 million voters turned out at the polls, representing two-thirds of all eligible voters.

Modi has promised to make India more competitive in the global economy, and domestically he has promised to create 10 million jobs and invest in infrastructure. According to The Guardian, international investors have poured more than \$16 billion into the Indian economy over the past six months in anticipation of a Modi victory. Modi clearly will need to work with the Indian private sector far more closely than the Congress Party ever did. And Africa will play an important role in his international economic plans.

The Federation of India Chambers of Commerce International, the world's largest national Chamber of Commerce, had for many years been unhappy with the lack of cooperation between the



government and the private sector, and most of India's businesses are believed to have also backed Modi's election bid. Rajan Bharti Mittal, one of the industrial giants of India, was recently elected as the organization's president, with an expressed desire to find ways that the private sector and the government of India can work more closely together. He especially wants the Indian government to support greater investment and cooperation in Africa, believing that Africa offers significant opportunities for the Indian economy. His company has significant investments in Africa already, especially in the mining sector, a sector important to India's future infrastructure.

Although Modi is said to have a good relationship with China, he also realizes that China has moved its economy beyond India and that China represents major competition for the future in Asia. China has significant investments in India, and those will no doubt be scrutinized more closely domestically, but if India is to turn towards a more active investment structure internationally, Africa will be a primary target. There already is a significant Indian diaspora in Africa that will be useful to Modi.

The Indian government will also need to develop a partnership with Federation of India Chambers of Commerce International if it is to be more successful in Africa. Mittal is more than ready for such an alliance. This may bode well for the United States in Africa as well. Mittal was educated in the United States and his company has joint ventures with many U.S. multinationals including Wal-Mart, AXA and Del Monte. Wal-Mart's entry into India, deliberately stalled by the previous government, will now be much easier, and with its entry will be more jobs for Indians. Such alliances between Indian and U.S. companies will no doubt be useful to the economies of the USA and India, as well as for Africans open to more international joint ventures. Look for the new prime minister to reach out to Africa very early in his administration.

#### Voda buys Tata Africa unit

May 19/telegraphindia.com

May 19: Tata Communications Ltd will sell its 67 per cent stake in South African company Neotel to Vodacom, a subsidiary of Vodafone.

The Tata group company today announced that the shareholders of Neotel and Vodacom SA have reached an agreement, paving the way for Vodacom to acquire 100 per cent of Neotel at an enterprise value of \$626 million.

The announcement comes almost eight months after the two companies agreed to explore a potential deal.

The transaction, which will give Vodacom the largest fibre optic network for high-speed Internet, is expected to close by the end of this fiscal.

Tata Communications holds around 67.32 per cent in Neotel. The rest is owned by Communitel, a private consortium, and Nexus Connection, a black empowerment group.

Neotel is South Africa's second biggest fixed-line telephone operator with 1.52 lakh customers and around 1,000 employees. It also provides a range of value-added voice, Internet and data services.

Tata Communications had initially acquired a 26 per cent in the company in 2006 for \$250 million. The investment was one of the first overseas greenfield projects for the Tata company, which subsequently raised its stake in phases.

It is understood that the transaction, which excludes Neotel's debt, will help Tata Communications to ease the burden on its balance sheet. However, this could not be confirmed.

Vodacom said it would fund the deal through cash and loans. The deal, which is subject to regulatory approvals, will give the Vodafone subsidiary the much needed airwaves to roll out third-generation telecom services.

Vodacom group chief executive officer Shameel Joob said the buyout fitted the company's aim to grow its data business.

The Johannesburg-listed company reported a 40 per cent jump in revenue from data on the back of an increase in smartphone Internet access.

"Tata Communications is pleased with the outcome of this deal. It is in line with our financial objectives while paving the way for Neotel to improve its value proposition in the South African market," Vinod Kumar, managing director and CEO of Tata Communications, said.

Following the announcement, the shares of Tata Communications rose nearly 4 per cent, or Rs 11, to end at Rs 340.80 on the Bombay Stock Exchange today.

Tata Global

Tata Global Beverages today said its UK subsidiary had acquired a 100 per cent stake in the equity capital of Australia-based Bronski Eleven Pty Ltd for an undisclosed sum.

Bronski Eleven is engaged in the coffee business under the MAP brand, Tata Global Beverages said in a statement.

The company said this investment was in line with Tata Global's vision to become a leader in natural beverages —tea, coffee and water.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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