



[Des combats ont opposé lundi les forces du général Khalifa Haftar à des groupes islamistes à Benghazi, dans l'est de la Libye, faisant au moins 21 morts, alors que le Premier ministre contesté Ahmed Miitig a pris possession du siège du gouvernement à Tripoli. Deux semaines après le début de l'opération "anti-terroriste" lancée par ce général dissident, les affrontements du lundi ont fait au moins 21 morts, dont 11 militaires, et 112 blessés, selon un bilan fourni par des hôpitaux de la ville. Un ambulancier, un étudiant et une femme figurent parmi les victimes civiles.]

BURUNDI :

Burundi: la société civile demande une enquête sur les possibles livraisons d'armes aux Imbonerakure

par RFI/le 03-06-2014

Deux mois après la fuite d'un câble diplomatique du Bureau des Nations unies, au Burundi, à propos d'éventuelles distributions d'armes aux Imbonerakure, les membres de la ligue des jeunes du parti au pouvoir, l'affaire continue de faire des vagues. Malgré les dénégations du pouvoir, l'expulsion d'un diplomate onusien et l'arrestation d'une figure de la société civile burundaise, celle-ci ne baisse pas les bras : elle a lancé dimanche une pétition adressée aux présidents du Burundi et de la République démocratique du Congo, ainsi qu'à l'ONU et l'Union africaine.

Ils s'étaient donné rendez-vous à la Maison de la presse à Bujumbura, et ils étaient tous là, du moins les principales figures de la société civile burundaise. Vital Nshimirimana, coordinateur du Forum pour le renforcement de la société civile (le Forsc), a été le premier à signer la pétition. Jusqu'ici, explique-t-il, les autorités burundaises « ont refusé catégoriquement la moindre enquête » sur ces allégations de distribution d'armes aux membres de la Ligue des jeunes du parti au pouvoir (le CNDD-FDD), ou sur d'éventuels entraînements paramilitaires que de jeunes Burundais suivraient dans l'est de la RDC.

L'objectif de cette pétition est de recueillir des dizaines voire des centaines de milliers de signatures dans les deux semaines, pour contraindre le Burundi et la communauté internationale à de véritables investigations sur la question. Pacifique Nininahazwe, à la tête du Forum pour la conscience et le développement (Focode), explique vouloir que la communauté internationale « donne une attention suffisante à cette question, et qu'on organise une enquête crédible et indépendante ».

Mais pire selon ces organisations, Bujumbura veut maintenir le couvercle à tout prix. Au moins une dizaine de simples citoyens qui ont évoqué des distributions d'armes dans leurs communes ont été arrêtés, des journalistes sont convoqués par la justice. La crispation du pouvoir burundais a poussé les organisations des professionnels des médias à s'impliquer dans cette pétition. Innocent Muhozi, président de l'Observatoire de la presse au Burundi estime qu'« il y a une véritable atteinte à la liberté de presse et d'expression dans cette affaire-là, d'où la mobilisation, l'implication totale des organisations des professionnels des médias dans cette pétition ». La société civile appelle la population burundaise à signer massivement cette pétition.

La fin de non-recevoir du gouvernement burundais

La réponse du gouvernement du Burundi ? Encore une fin de non-recevoir. L'ONU, les États-Unis ainsi que plusieurs autres partenaires de ce pays ont proposé au pouvoir une commission d'enquête neutre et indépendante, mais la réponse du gouvernement a toujours été un « non » clair et net. Le secrétaire général et porte-parole du gouvernement du Burundi l'a réaffirmé ce lundi au micro de RFI. Philippe Nzobonariba dénonce plutôt une société civile qui, aux yeux du gouvernement, roulerait pour l'opposition et ne chercherait qu'à nuire. Pas besoin d'enquête pour « de fausses allégations », estime ainsi Philippe Nzobonariba :

« Le gouvernement ne voit pas l'opportunité de mener des investigations sur des allégations qui n'ont jamais été étayées par une quelconque précision, une quelconque preuve. Normalement, on enquête sur des éléments palpables, et non pas sur des rumeurs ou des allégations tendancieuses.

Sur les prétendus entraînements en République démocratique du Congo, cela a été propagé par les mêmes milieux. Ils ont voulu donner crédit aux premières allégations qui disaient que la distribution d'armes se faisait au Burundi, précisément au sud du pays, à Nyanza-lac. Maintenant ils ont inventé autre chose au-delà de la frontière burundo-congolaise : ils prétendent qu'il y a des entraînements, qu'ils ont même des preuves, mais ne disent pas d'où ils tiennent ces preuves.

Cela a conduit d'ailleurs à de regrettables incidents, qui ont conduit en prison un représentant de la société civile, monsieur [Pierre Claver] Mbonimpa, qui lui aussi avait fait l'objet de manipulations. On lui avait donné de fausses photos pour donner crédibilité à ces allégations. C'est tout simplement une tactique pour faire capoter les prochaines élections ».

La communauté internationale attache une grande importance aux élections générales du Burundi
French.china.org.cn/le-03-06-2014

Le président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza a reçu lundi une délégation dirigée par la Représentante spéciale du secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans la Région des Grands Lacs, Mme Mary Robinson, pour discuter des élections générales que le Burundi organisera en 2015.

A l'issue de l'entretien avec le président burundais, Mme Mary Robinson s'est ainsi exprimée devant la presse : "Nous avons souligné l'importance du processus pour les élections de 2015, de l'espace politique pour tout le monde (les partis politiques, la société civile et même l'opposition) pour bien

préparer ces élections. Le processus doit être ouvert, transparent et paisible".

Elle a souligné que la communauté internationale attache une grande importance à ce processus électoral et s'est réjouie de la volonté du chef de l'Etat burundais de voir les observateurs venir avant et pendant les élections, et qu'ils puissent même rester après les élections pour éviter les erreurs des élections de 2005 et 2010 au moment où certains partis ont crié à la mascarade des élections.

Le président burundais a rassuré cette délégation que les élections seront libres, transparentes, inclusives, paisibles et démocratiques.

RWANDA :

Human Rights Watch's work on Rwanda

June 2, 2014/hrw.org

(New York) – Human Rights Watch is deeply concerned that the Rwandan Ministry of Justice has grossly misrepresented the work of Human Rights Watch and disparaged its staff in comments published in the Rwandan New Times on June 2, 2014.

Human Rights Watch has worked on Rwanda for more than 20 years, since before the 1994 genocide, documenting abuses against Rwandans and defending the human rights of all, regardless of their political or other affiliation. Human Rights Watch and its staff are independent of any government or armed group. The positions Human Rights Watch takes are guided solely by our intensive on-the-ground fact-finding, legal analysis, and careful organizational review process.

“Human Rights Watch uses the same rigorous methodology and objectivity in all the countries where we work, and Rwanda is no exception,” said Daniel Bekele, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “We strongly reject accusations of political bias and stand by our reporting on Rwanda.”

Human Rights Watch regularly shares information and discusses human rights concerns with the minister of justice and other government officials in Rwanda. Human Rights Watch will be writing to the minister to respond to numerous unfounded allegations from an official “assessment” published in The New Times.

How Dallaire Relived Rwanda in Canada

06/02/2014/huffingtonpost.ca

In what ultimately became the defining occasion of his life, General Romeo Dallaire knew he was alone -- without a clear mandate, sufficient resources, or even a sense of moral responsibility from world leaders. He had journeyed to Rwanda to implement the high ideals of human rights rhetoric in a manner that would protect a nation from destroying itself.

We all know what happened -- 800,000 killed, genocide on a significant scale, and dreams of international human security lying in ruins. Leading the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), he had every right to expect the backing of those who had sent him there. By the time it was over, the United Nations, United States, Belgium, and others left Dallaire isolated, incapable of dealing with an imminent situation that he warned would get out of hand. It did, and among the many casualties of that period was the General's health -- the attempted suicide,

depression, and abject feelings of failure.

Part of his eventual recovery came with his appointment to the Senate by PM Paul Martin in 2005. Hailed at the time as a pivotal selection, Dallaire entered the political fray in a fashion similar to his entrance into the military some 40 years earlier. His presence was immediately felt.

So it came as something of a shock for many last week to learn that this well-known Canadian was retiring from the Senate in order to pursue his human rights agenda on a broader stage. Believing in the Senate's purpose is difficult enough right now given all the scandal, but to lose the likes of Dallaire hollows out much of what is left of the institution's sense of morality and objectivity.

I worked with Romeo for my entire five years in politics and being in his presence always found me subconsciously sitting up straighter, speaking with gravitas, almost as if he was my presiding officer in the army. That was the effect he created on most, and in the Senate that deference many showed him at the time permitted him to make headway on issues that mattered to him: child soldiers, human rights, nuclear disarmament, and the Responsibility to Protect doctrine.

At times I would head over to his Senate office, or he to mine on the House side, and we would work away at legislation or gaining perspective on numerous global issues. But it was obvious that he was becoming disillusioned. As the House fell into a partisan shambles, the Senate was suddenly and firmly stocked with ideological appointees.

In ironic fashion, Romeo Dallaire was reliving the events of Rwanda, only on a less costly human scale. Sent to the Senate to bring intellectual rigor and disciplined experience, he was increasingly abandoned by a government that delighted more in waging domestic war in political ridings than in enhancing Canada's human rights and diplomatic record on the world's stage. He called for resources; they didn't arrive. He sought meetings with political elites; they didn't transpire. And when he ultimately called the government to account for its abandonment of Canada's diplomatic expertise in the world, he was ultimately abandoned and isolated. Parliament itself had become a tribal lair, but instead of Tutsis and Hutus, there were political tribes that swore oaths to destroy one another. It was brutal and ultimately self-defeating, but for Romeo it was history repeating itself.

In essence, he was a lion in a political winter, and since his very life and outlook transcended the paltry dealings around him, he did what he always does -- took the battle directly to the enemy. Tired of watching a government fiddle while the world burned, Dallaire has opted to travel around the world to fight for the causes he holds dear. He made a calculated and strategic decision: politics in Canada, as presently exhibited, is insufficient to play a strong hand on the global stage.

And so the lion has left, moving out into a global jungle that so desperately requires his perspective and ethical force. And the Canadian political scene? It is now without much of its moral centre and international acumen -- the lights are dimming. This is what darkened politics always does: reduces expectations and shoots its own.

Soldier on, Romeo. The world always needed you; it was blind political forces that didn't. Just remember that in all your travels, millions in this country yet desire to see Canada play its historic and innovative role around the world. You're now free to rise above the pettiness of the day. And in making your remarkable difference, we all salute you.

RDC CONGO :

La RDC et le Congo cherchent l'apaisement sur l'affaire des expulsions

par RFI /03-06-2014

La République démocratique du Congo (RDC) a accueilli, ce lundi 2 juin, une commission mixte sur le délicat dossier des expulsions de ressortissants de la RDC par Brazzaville. Pour tenter d'apaiser les tensions et trouver un terrain d'entente, les ministres de l'Intérieur et de la Défense et les responsables de l'immigration et de la surveillance des frontières des deux pays se réunissent aujourd'hui et demain.

Depuis deux mois, 140 000 ressortissants de la RDC ont quitté le Congo-Brazzaville. La plupart d'entre eux ont été expulsés parfois très violemment. Des expulsions qui sont à l'origine d'une véritable crise diplomatique.

L'objectif affiché de cette commission mixte était vraiment celui de normaliser les relations.

Les autorités kinoises ont parlé à plusieurs reprises de crise entre les deux pays et, de l'aveu de tout le monde, ces expulsions massives ont mis à mal les relations entre les deux voisins.

Richard Muyej, ministre de l'Intérieur de la RDC, est d'ailleurs largement revenu sur cette opération d'expulsions pour critiquer. Il a parlé de « surprise » accusant Brazzaville de ne pas avoir prévenu Kinshasa de l'ampleur de l'opération. Il a aussi parlé de « brutalité », de « conditions inacceptables » d'expulsions de citoyens de RDC avec des violations des droits de l'homme.

Le ministre de l'Intérieur de la RDC a également accusé Brazzaville d'avoir « violé » les accords de libre circulation qui lient les deux pays depuis 1999. Des termes assez durs, deux mois après le début de cette opération qui a vu 136 804 réfugiés congolais de RDC revenir dans leur pays d'origine.

En face, son alter ego, Raymond Mboulou, ministre de l'Intérieur du Congo-Brazzaville, s'est, pour sa part, montré imperturbable. Selon lui, les expulsions pourraient continuer et elles respectent les procédures.

« Nous ne pouvons pas dire que les expulsions vont s'arrêter. Tant qu'il y aura des criminels, les expulsions continueront. Les pots cassés se réparent si ce sont seulement des gens réguliers. Est-ce qu'ils sont réguliers ? Vous allez obliger le Congo à recevoir les gens irréguliers ?! Nous avons expulsé près de 1 945. Ce sont des criminels. Nous avons les dossiers », a déclaré le ministre de l'Intérieur du Congo-Brazzaville, à RFI.

Ecarts de points de vue

Ainsi, les autorités de Brazzaville refusent clairement de reconnaître qu'il y a pu y avoir des dérapages. Il y a également un écart de points de vue sur les chiffres puisqu'on parle de 1 900 expulsions. Le reste ne serait que des retours volontaires, selon Brazzaville.

Les deux pays, vont-ils s'entendre ? Là est toute la question et tout l'enjeu de cette commission. Désormais, des experts des deux pays doivent examiner l'ensemble de cette opération. Pour Kinshasa, l'enjeu sera de prouver qu'il y a bien eu des exactions commises et des violations des droits de l'homme - des documents filmés pourraient être projetés par les experts - et puis pour Brazzaville, l'enjeu sera de prouver que les procédures ont été respectées et que « seuls des criminels » ont été expulsés comme l'affirme le ministre de l'Intérieur, Raymond Mbandou.

Néanmoins, ce lundi soir, le ministre de l'Intérieur de la RDC, Richard Muej, s'est voulu plus conciliant.

« Chaque partie a peint son tableau tel qu'il le perçoit. Les experts devront travailler et nous arriverons d'ici demain à des conclusions. Nous ne sommes pas en contradiction avec les homologues d'en face. Ils ont parlé des expulsés. Ils ont aussi parlé des retournés. Nous avons dit la même chose. Les experts débattront sur les conditions qui ont poussé les gens à rentrer. Soyez calmes. Jusque-là, il n'y a pas de graves contradictions. La différence se situe au niveau du ton que nous allons essayer d'aplanir et de rapprocher avant la fin », a pour sa part déclaré Richard Muej.

Des envoyés spéciaux internationaux en RD du Congo

Mardi 03 Juin 2014/lexpressiondz.com

Les envoyés spéciaux pour la région des Grands Lacs de l'ONU, de l'Union africaine, de l'Union européenne et des Etats-Unis étaient attendus hier à Kinshasa pour une visite consacrée au rétablissement de la paix dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo, a déclaré la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco).

Les envoyés spéciaux - respectivement Mary Robinson, Boubacar Diarra, Koen Vervaeke et Russ Feingold - et le chef de la Monusco, Martin Kobler, doivent faire le point sur l'application de l'accord régional signé l'an dernier à Addis-Abeba et déterminer «ce qu'ils peuvent faire pour soutenir d'autres progrès», indique la mission onusienne dans un communiqué.

A cette fin, ils «prévoient de rencontrer des représentants du gouvernement, la société civile (associations, ONG, syndicats...) et la communauté internationale», a ajouté la Monusco. La visite de deux jours doit débuter lundi après-midi et se situe dans le cadre de missions régulières de suivi de l'application de l'accord d'Addis-Abeba. Parrainé par l'ONU, l'accord a été signé le 24 février 2013 par onze pays africains dont le Rwanda et l'Ouganda, deux voisins de la RDC. Par cet accord, la RDC s'est engagée notamment à mener des réformes politiques, sociales et sécuritaires. Les autres pays, eux, ont promis entre autres de n'apporter aucun soutien aux rebelles dans l'est congolais, en proie depuis près de 20 ans à une instabilité chronique causée par des groupes armés locaux et étrangers.

Dimanche, les envoyés spéciaux réunis à Bujumbura et le chef de la Monusco avaient demandé la «reddition complète de tous les combattants et hauts gradés (des rebelles hutu rwandais) FDLR dans les prochains jours» au risque de subir des attaques de l'armée congolaise et de la brigade d'intervention de la Monusco, qui avait participé à la déroute du M23 en novembre dernier. Les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda sont accusées d'avoir participé au génocide des Tutsi en 1994 au Rwanda, qui a fait au moins 800.000 morts selon l'ONU.

Réfugiées dans l'est de la RDC, les FDLR, aujourd'hui très affaiblies, comptent environ 1.500 rebelles selon l'ONU, Kigali avançant le chiffre de 4.000. Elles sont surtout disséminées dans les Nord- et Sud-Kivu, où elles sont accusées de graves exactions contre les civils (viols, meurtres, pillages, enrôlements d'enfants...), selon les mêmes sources.

RCA/RDC : HRW accuse le contingent congolais en Centrafrique de disparitions forcées

lundi 2 juin 2014 /par Le Monde - France

L'organisation Human Rights Watch a accusé lundi des soldats de la force africaine Miska appartenant au contingent fourni par la République du Congo de disparitions forcées. Selon les témoignages recueillis par HRW, un groupe de soldats congolais de la Mission de l'Union africaine en République centrafricaine a encerclé le 24 mars une maison appartenant à un chef des milices chrétiennes anti-balaka et capturé au moins onze personnes, dont on est sans nouvelles.

ENQUÊTE OUVERTE

L'incident s'est produit à Boali, une ville située à 80 km au nord de Bangui, après l'attaque d'un véhicule des forces congolaises par des miliciens anti-balaka. « L'Union africaine doit divulguer ce qu'il est advenu de ce groupe de personnes qui ont été arrêtées et emmenées par des militaires congolais chargés du maintien de la paix », a déclaré Peter Bouckaert, directeur de la division urgences à HRW.

« Les soldats de la paix sont là pour protéger la population civile, pas pour lui faire subir de nouvelles exactions », a souligné le responsable de l'ONG dans un communiqué. Selon HRW, la Misca a accepté d'ouvrir une enquête.

DES VIOLENCES DANS LA RÉGION

Le groupe de défense des droits de l'homme rappelle avoir déjà « recueilli des preuves qu'en décembre 2013 des troupes congolaises stationnées dans la ville de Bossangoa ont torturé à mort deux dirigeants du mouvement anti-balaka à la suite du lynchage d'un soldat congolais de la Misca commis le même jour ».

Les violences, opposant musulmans et chrétiens principalement, se poursuivent en République centrafricaine malgré la présence dans le pays des 2 000 soldats dépêchés par la France et des 6 000 hommes de la Misca

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Tutu's oilsands visit raises questions

By Ezra Levant ,QMI Agency/edmontonsun.com/Monday, June 02, 2014

Desmond Tutu, the 82-year-old millionaire celebrity, jetted from South Africa to Fort McMurray, Alta., to call the oilsands industry "filth."

"Do you want to live in a barren, treeless, flowerless desert? You have a choice," he said. He said this while sitting in the middle of Canada's boreal forest, one of the largest forests in the world.

The oilsands are filth, he said. We are destroying the world, he said. "Climate change is the moral struggle that will define this century," he said, blaming the oilsands for that. Saying that puts us on par with what Tutu would likely say was the moral crime he knew best -- apartheid itself. That is an extremist comparison, and one that profanes the victims of apartheid as much as it smears Canadians.

It's sad, really. In another time, Tutu won a Nobel Peace Prize for his moral leadership, helping to end apartheid. But for a presumed six-figure speaking fee, paid for in part by a law firm specializing in suing resource companies, Tutu was willing to rent out his reputation, to demonize Canada on demand.

What did Canadians do to deserve this? We were amongst the world's leaders in the battle against apartheid. Is this how Tutu repays us – by comparing us to racists, calling us filthy, and telling lies about our environmental record?

The oilsands are not filthy. Unlike Tutu's native South Africa, Canada's oilsands invest billions in ecological reclamation and emissions reductions. South Africa, by contrast, has amongst the world's worst pollution, especially smog and particulate pollution. Seventy-two percent of South African energy comes from coal – a much more carbon intensive source of energy, if you're worried about that sort of thing, which Tutu claims to be.

Canada is a world leader in the environment – our national greenhouse gas emissions have fallen in the past five years, unlike South Africa's, which have skyrocketed. And that's just harmless CO2. South Africa is one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to actual pollution – air and water quality. Let's not call it "filth" – we'll leave that sort of language to the bishop.

This isn't the first time Tutu has come to town to trash-talk us. And the mainstream media laps it up uncritically, treating Tutu as if he were an expert in the environment, or oil and gas, or even Indian treaties.

But Tutu's visit brings troubling questions – too troubling for his fanboys in the press, who were probably too busy asking him to sign his autograph than to ask him any tough questions. He was a sequel to the last know-nothing foreign celebrity millionaire to jet in to trash-talk us, namely Neil Young. Young compared us to Hiroshima, not apartheid. He got media tongue-baths too.

Both celebrities were hosted by Chief Allan Adam of the Fort Chipewyan First Nation. He's another millionaire, whose band-owned company, called Acden, earns about \$250 million a year from oilsands contracts.

And of course the final celebrity millionaire behind this visit was none other than Bob Rae, the former NDP premier of Ontario and interim leader of the federal Liberals. He has signed up with a ritzy Toronto law firm specializing in suing resource companies on behalf of Indian activists.

By demonizing the oilsands, Bob Rae's company increases pressure on them to make even larger pay-outs to his clients -- more than the \$250 million a year Chief Adams' band already makes. It's not real politics. It's U.S.-style pre-litigation campaigning, to soften up oilsands companies, to pressure them to settle -- with a healthy commission cheque to Rae and company.

And what was the role of the Tides Foundation, the San Francisco anti-oil extremists who have poured tens of thousands of dollars directly into Adam's companies?

Alas, reporters were too busy posing for selfies to ask such impertinent questions.

Court action looms for Department of Home Affairs

Author: Ray Mahlaka/moneyweb.co.za/03 June 2014

Discontent mounts over the new immigration rules.

JOHANNESBURG – The legality of the new immigration rules implemented by the Department of Home Affairs last week may be challenged in court.

Incoming Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba last week announced new immigration rules which extend to visa applications, permanent or temporary stay and foreigners looking to set up businesses in South Africa.

But the new rules have come under fire, as some immigration lawyers are gearing up for possible litigation to have the rules reviewed and amended.

Gigaba says the new rules are in a bid towards “strengthening security elements” in South Africa, as immigration rules in the past have been open to abuse. He further adds that the stipulations in the legislation are consistent with international standards and benchmarked with the South African constitution.

Specifics of new immigration rules

The new immigration law prohibits foreigners from using agents or lawyers for visa applications, calling for all applicants to apply in person. People who enter South Africa as visitors are also barred from renewing or changing their visa status while in the country - foreigners must renew visas from the country they reside in.

The new regulations have a wide reaching impact on personal relationships. Visa applicants will have to prove that they have been in a relationship with their foreign spouses or life partners for at least two years to qualify for a visa. Life partners are subject to interviews on the same day to confirm the authenticity of their relationship. Overstaying after a visa has expired is prohibited. Rather than being fined, such offenders will now be declared “undesirable”.

Premise for court action

The Forum of Immigration Practitioners of South Africa (FIPSA) has taken particular umbrage to a clause dealing with spousal visas, saying the government cannot impose on personal matters.

“That cannot be constitutional. The Constitutional Court says ‘you cannot deprive someone the right to live (however they want). We don’t want an environment of anarchy, we want a constitution in line with the international law,” FIPSA chairman Gershon Mosiane argues.

Chairman of the Immigration Law Specialist Committee of the Law Society of South Africa Julian Pokroy agrees: “family life and anything like, that prevents people from being together (under the constitution) is unconstitutional”.

Pokroy says that the Law Society is not considering any court action, as they are “carefully considering” all options before reverting to litigation.

If the new regulations go on unchallenged, then the “immigration system is going to collapse” as there are so many flaws with the regulation, says Mosiane.

FIPSA is currently taking legal advice on whether to consider legal action against the department, but Mosiane dismisses Gigaba’s assertions that if legal action is imminent, then the various checks and balances are in place to defend the immigration rules.

FIPSA says the department did not allocate sufficient time for public comment in February when draft immigration regulations were gazetted under then minister Naledi Pandor.

Cape Town based Craig Smith & Associates, an immigration law firm confirmed to Moneyweb that

it is looking at legal options, but nothing is cast in stone yet.

Department of Home Affairs spokesperson Ronnie Mamoepa says the department has not received any notification of litigation related to the amendment of immigration laws. "It is a constitutional right to take the matter to court, we are convinced that the new immigration laws adhere to the constitution," he says.

The immigration rules also apply to the business community. Foreigners looking to set up businesses in South Africa have to ensure that 60% of their workforce comprises South Africans. Under the previous law, foreigners would be granted business visas if they would commit at least R2.5 million into the country.

Mosiane says under the new regulations, foreign investors might be forced to commit R5 million. The Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Labour will be involved in every application for foreign businesses to set up in South Africa.

South Africa ranked worst in maths, science education quality

IANS | Cape Town/business-standard.com/June 3, 2014

South Africa's maths and science education quality is the worst in the world, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report.

The overall perceived quality of South Africa's education system has also plummeted from 140 to 146 of 148 countries surveyed, Xinhua reported citing the WEF's 2014 Global Information Technology Report made available Monday.

Internet access in South African schools has slipped down by five slots to 116 of 148, the report said.

Last year, a ministerial task team was established to investigate the progress of teaching programmes in maths, science and technology across South Africa. The team released a damning report that exposed gaping holes at every level of South Africa's education system.

"The WEF ranking does not reflect the ability of South Africa's learners, but an education system that needs urgent intervention," the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) said in response to the report.

DA Shadow Minister of Basic Education Annette Lovemore lambasted Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga for not doing enough to address the maths, science and technology education crisis.

Quality education is a crucial necessity for creating more globally competitive young adults, much-needed jobs and entrepreneurs, said Lovemore.

"Minister Motshekga's inaction has not only jeopardised our education system, but the very future of our country and its children."

"The time for complacency is over, the minister must now act," Lovemore added.

South Africa: Amcu Case Struck Off the Roll

2 June 2014/allafrica.com

Johannesburg — An urgent court application by the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) was struck off the roll in the Labour Court in Johannesburg on Monday.

Judge Rob La Grange struck the matter off the roll as it lacked urgency.

Amcu approached the court in a bid to prevent Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) and Impala from conveying a pay offer settlement to workers.

The union also wanted to prevent Impala from conducting a survey of whether workers want to return to work.

Amcu members at Lonmin, Impala and Amplats downed tools on January 23 demanding a basic monthly salary of R12,500.

They rejected the companies' offer that would bring their cash remuneration to R12,500 by July 2017.

The strike, now on its 130th day, has cost the companies over R20 billion in revenue and workers over R9bn in earnings according to website www.platinumwagene negotiations.co.za, created by the companies.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania Steps Up Effort to Develop Oil & Gas Sector

By Nicholas Bariyo/blogs.wsj.com/Jun 2, 2014

Tanzania plans to present a new natural gas bill to parliament in November, the country's Energy and Minerals Minister said on Monday, as the East African nation steps up efforts formulate a regulatory framework for its fledgling oil and gas sector.

Sospeter Muhongo said the government expects to get the final input from various stakeholders on draft legislation in the next few weeks. The legislation, which is expected to pass in the first quarter of 2015, is designed to unlock huge investments in the country's fast-growing natural gas sector.

"The draft natural gas bill is complete and will be presented to parliament in November," Mr. Muhongo said in the ministry's 2014-15 budget report. "Completion of relevant policies and laws will strengthen the supervision of the oil and natural gas sector for the benefit of present and future generations."

Exploration companies have discovered more than 45 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the past few years, according to analysts, with at least 83% of the discovered reserves in deep-sea offshore blocks. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that East Africa's coastal region holds up to 441 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Norway's largest energy company StatoilSTL.OS -0.05%, U.K.-based BG GroupBG.LN +0.12% and Exxon MobilXOM -0.59% are planning to build the first liquefied natural gas plant in the country to export natural gas to Asian markets. The plant is expected to cost between \$20 billion

and \$30 billion, according to company officials.

Nabhani reviews Tanzania ties in Dar El Salaam

omantribune.com/Tuesday, June 03, 2014

DAR EL SALAAM Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Minister of Defence of the United Republic of Tanzania, received Lieutenant General Ahmed Bin Harith Al Nabhani, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) within the framework of his current visit to Tanzania.

The meeting discussed aspects of the existing joint military cooperation between the two friendly countries and issues of common concern.

Nabhani conveyed greetings of the minister responsible for defence affairs to the Tanzanian minister. On his turn, the Tanzanian minister asked Nabhani to convey his greetings and best wishes to the Sultanate minister.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Nabhani, the Tanzanian Chief of Defence Forces and officials at the Tanzanian ministry.

KENYA :

Kenya: KDF Kill Two Muslim Cleric in Mandera Suspected of Terrorism

By Stephen Astariko/allafrika.com/2 June 2014

The Kenya Defence Forces has gunned down two Kenyan Muslim clerics who are believed to be members of the Al shabaab group in Mandera town and recovered eight hand grenades.

The two were felled at Khadija Haji, Shafshafey near the border at 11pm on Sunday night.

Police at the scene say the two were planning to carry out an attack in Mandera town.

Police suspect a Somali believed to be a key member of the militia group escaped and entered Somalia on foot after the ambush.

"Our officers had prior information of this militias coming to attack Mandera town. And at around 11 pm local time, they entered our borders and our officers led by those from the Kenya Defence Force opened fire at them. They then retaliated back," said Mandera County Commissioner Michael Ole Tialal.

He added: "Our officers plea for them to stop failed as they instead started shooting back at them and hurling grenades. It is at this moment that two of them were gunned down." He said police later realized that the two were renown clerics in Mandera town.

The incident led to a major security operation in Mandera town in a bid to arrest the culprits who had fled after the ambush.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

La presse tunisienne continue de se faire l'écho

le : 3 juin 2014/lematin.ma

La presse tunisienne paraissant lundi continue de se faire l'écho de la visite de S.M. le Roi Mohammed VI en Tunisie et de commenter le discours prononcé samedi par le Souverain devant l'Assemblée nationale constituante tunisienne.

Dans ce cadre, l'éditorialiste du journal «Achourouk» souligne que «la visite du Souverain à notre pays a renouvelé l'appel pour relancer les instances de l'Union du Maghreb arabe (UMA) et l'activation de l'action maghrébine commune pour le bien des pays et des peuples de la région», ajoutant que «c'est un appel sincère qui intervient dans le cadre de la dynamisation de l'UMA».

Le journal «Al Bayane» a, de son côté, indiqué que la visite royale a abouti à la signature de plusieurs accords entre le Maroc et la Tunisie dans différents domaines, s'arrêtant sur les résultats du forum maroco-tunisien tenu à la veille de la visite de S.M. le Roi Mohammed VI.

La publication poursuit que les recommandations de ce Forum concernent notamment l'élargissement de la liste de reconnaissance réciproque des spécifications des produits pharmaceutiques et de l'industrie alimentaire, la facilitation de l'accès à l'information économique aux acteurs économiques des deux pays à travers le lancement d'un site Internet commun entre les organisations patronales, le développement des opportunités de partenariat des Chambres sectorielles, la baisse du coût du transport maritime et aérien et la mise en place d'un fond commun pour le financement et le développement du commerce et des investissements.

«Tunis Hebdo» a, pour sa part, mis en avant les différentes activités de S.M. le Roi Mohammed VI en Tunisie, indiquant que le Souverain est arrivé à Tunis pour une visite officielle accompagné de SAR le Prince héritier Moulay El Hassan et de SAR le Prince Moulay Rachid à la tête d'une importante délégation composée de 11 ministres et de 90 hommes d'affaires. «c'est la visite la plus importante qu'effectue un Souverain marocain à la Tunisie», note-il.

Le journal «Assarih» s'est, quant à lui, intéressé à la signature de plusieurs accords entre les deux pays dans des domaines vitaux, comme la sécurité, l'énergie et l'économie» à l'occasion de cette visite royale.

Libye: au moins 21 morts dans les combats à Benghazi

Afp/03 Juin 2014

Des combats ont opposé lundi les forces du général Khalifa Haftar à des groupes islamistes à Benghazi, dans l'est de la Libye, faisant au moins 21 morts, alors que le Premier ministre contesté Ahmed Miitig a pris possession du siège du gouvernement à Tripoli.

Deux semaines après le début de l'opération "anti-terroriste" lancée par ce général dissident, les affrontements du lundi ont fait au moins 21 morts, dont 11 militaires, et 112 blessés, selon un bilan

fourni par des hôpitaux de la ville. Un ambulancier, un étudiant et une femme figurent parmi les victimes civiles.

Il s'agit des affrontements les plus violents depuis ceux du 16 mai, lorsque le général Haftar a lancé une offensive destinée selon lui à éradiquer les "groupes terroristes" implantés dans l'est du pays, faisant au moins 76 morts.

Depuis la chute du régime de Mouammar Kadhafi en 2011, les autorités de transition n'ont pu rétablir l'ordre dans un pays plongé dans le chaos et sous la coupe des milices.

Ainsi le pays a deux gouvernements qui se disputent la légitimité du pouvoir, mais, lundi soir, le cabinet contesté d'Ahmed Miitig a annoncé avoir pris possession du siège de la primature malgré le refus du cabinet sortant d'Abdallah al-Theni de lui remettre le pouvoir.

M. al-Theni avait affirmé mercredi qu'il s'en remettait à la justice pour déterminer s'il devait céder le pouvoir au nouveau cabinet, évoquant les recours déposés par des députés contre l'élection chaotique de M. Miitig au Parlement.

A Benghazi, les combats ont éclaté après une attaque à l'arme lourde lancée par des groupes islamistes, dont Ansar Asharia, contre un camp militaire de l'armée libyenne, a déclaré le colonel Saad Al-Werfelli, commandant de la base aérienne de la ville et loyal au général dissident.

- Ville quasi paralysée -

Ces groupes radicaux ont bombardé tôt lundi "le camp 21", cernant les soldats qui s'y trouvaient et faisant des morts et des blessés, a poursuivi le colonel Werfelli. Ce camp appartient aux unités d'élite de l'armée à Benghazi qui avaient apporté leur appui au général Haftar.

Des forces de l'armée de l'air loyales au général dissident sont venues à la rescousse et ont mené des raids aériens contre les assaillants, a ajouté cet officier.

Avant même le lancement de l'opération "Dignité" du général Haftar, des combats opposaient régulièrement ces forces spéciales de l'armée aux groupes radicaux, en particulier Ansar Asharia classé organisation "terroriste" par les Etats-Unis.

Ce regain de violence a entraîné la suspension des examens de fin d'année dans les lycées de Benghazi, selon le ministère de l'Education.

Des familles se sont retrouvées prises entre deux feux, en particulier dans la région de Sidi Fradj, fief d'Ansar Asharia, à l'ouest de la ville, selon des témoins.

Les habitants se terrent chez eux et la ville est quasi paralysée, même si le calme semblait revenir dans l'après-midi et en début de soirée, a-t-on ajouté de mêmes sources.

- Méfiance y compris parmi ses alliés -

Des médecins et responsables du corps médical ont appelé sur des télévisions à épargner les civils, déplorant l'incapacité de l'Etat à stabiliser la situation dans cette ville, berceau de la révolte de 2011.

A Tunis, les Affaires étrangères ont appelé les ressortissants tunisiens à quitter Benghazi.

Le général Haftar, 71 ans, qui affirme avoir un "mandat" du peuple pour combattre le "terrorisme",

a proclamé la semaine dernière qu'il n'y aurait pas de retour en arrière dans son offensive.

Mais depuis le lancement de cette opération le 16 mai, les forces de Haftar se sont contentées de mener des raids aériens éclairs sur des positions présumées de groupes islamistes armés.

Le général dissident affirme régulièrement que son opération "se poursuivait" et qu'elle a porté un coup dur aux groupes radicaux. Mais ses détracteurs islamistes minimisent l'impact de ces opérations: "Haftar a sorti plus de communiqués que de balles", ironisent-ils sur les réseaux sociaux.

L'opération "Dignité" est accueillie avec beaucoup de méfiance y compris parmi les alliés du général Haftar, qui avait participé à la rébellion contre le régime Kadhafi en 2011 et assure que son objectif ultime est d'"éradiquer le terrorisme" et de former une "armée nationale". Toutefois, des doutes planent toujours sur ses intentions réelles.

Par ailleurs, le chef d'état-major de l'armée régulière libyenne Abdessalam Jadallah Al-Abidi, est sorti indemne d'une attaque lancée par des hommes armés contre son convoi à Tripoli, a indiqué à l'AFP son porte-parole.

IMF sees infrastructure as key to unlocking investments in Africa

BY MARK KAPCHANGA/standardmedia.co.ke/Monday, June 2nd 2014

Kenya: Poverty in Africa could be reduced if the continent invested in infrastructure and ruthlessly fought corruption, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said. In the just concluded Africa "Rising: Building to the Future" conference in Mozambique, the Fund's Managing Director Christine Lagarde observed that energy, roads and technology grids are crucial ingredients "of any strong and durable edifice". This, she said, meant that Africa should close its infrastructure gap, given that over the past three decades, per capita output of electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa have remained virtually flat. "Only 16 per cent of all roads are paved, compared with 58 per cent in South Asia. These shortfalls represent huge costs to businesses," said Ms Lagarde. She argued that investments in infrastructure are critical for growth to be sustained. She lauded the steps taken by Ethiopia and Mozambique, including the promotion of cross-border trade in electricity and in upping their energy supplies that would translate to reliable and affordable supplies. Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire, too, were acclaimed for initiating regional infrastructure projects in power, roads and rail. Kenya is expected to import more than 500 megawatts (MW) of power from Ethiopia's controversial Gibe III power project that will generate about 1,870 MW upon completion. Often compared to China's Three Gorges, the Gibe III Dam will be the world's fourth largest hydropower project. Ethiopia expects to earn over \$400 million (Sh35b) annually from power exports, besides Kenya, Djibouti, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Eritrea.

"High quality infrastructure can be a magnet for foreign investment. It can accelerate diversification and employment creation, and support further regional integration," said Ms Lagarde. Currently, over \$93 billion (Sh81.84 tr) is needed annually to close infrastructure gap in Africa. The 70-year-old Bretton Woods institution, which has for a long time been closely associated with the Western powers, says it is ready to help in realising such investments.

Financing options

"We are working with many of our member countries to strengthen public investment and debt management capacity. This helps to put these countries in a much better position to take advantage of increasing financing options," said the Fund. Critics say the unusual soft stance assumed by the Fund is aimed at "cutting to size" the overwhelming infrastructure support Africa is getting from China. Chinese financing commitments in infrastructure scaled up from less than \$1 billion (Sh88b) per year in 2001-2003, to about \$6 billion (Sh528b) per year in 2006-2007. These finances usually

on concessional terms are more concentrated in power and rail. More recently, the Chinese have added roads to its portfolio. But it is corruption, the vice that seems to be deeply ingrained in the African culture that threatens the continent's battle against poverty. Ms Lagarde observed that while Africa is the home to more than 30 per cent of the world's mineral reserves, little help, if any, have come out of these vast resources due to lack of institutions. "Properly managed, these endowments offer unparalleled opportunity for economic growth. Yet—and let me be frank—in too many countries, the rents from extractive industries are captured by just a few," she said, "We are working with many of our member countries to strengthen public investment and debt management capacity. This helps to put these countries in a much better position to take advantage of increasing financing options," said the Fund. Critics say the unusual soft stance assumed by the Fund is aimed at "cutting to size" the overwhelming infrastructure support Africa is getting from China. Chinese financing commitments in infrastructure scaled up from less than \$1 billion (Sh88b) per year in 2001-2003, to about \$6 billion (Sh528b) per year in 2006-2007. These finances usually on concessional terms are more concentrated in power and rail. More recently, the Chinese have added roads to its portfolio. But it is corruption, the vice that seems to be deeply ingrained in the African culture that threatens the continent's battle against poverty. Ms Lagarde observed that while Africa is the home to more than 30 per cent of the world's mineral reserves, little help, if any, have come out of these vast resources due to lack of institutions. "Properly managed, these endowments offer unparalleled opportunity for economic growth. Yet—and let me be frank—in too many countries, the rents from extractive industries are captured by just a few," she said, "Mining can account for an important share of output and export earnings, but often contributes relatively little to budget revenues and job creation," Lagarde said, adding that this corrodes the fabric of the economy and its social cohesion."

Enormous resources

For the enormous resources to help Africans, the IMF boss said that the continent must strengthen the institutional and governance frameworks that manage these resources. Transparency, she pointed out, can also help increase accountability. The International Monetary Fund and the Government of Mozambique high-level conference in Maputo, Mozambique, on May 29 to 30 brought together policymakers, the private sector, and civil society from sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. The participants discussed the challenges facing the continent as it builds upon the strong economic gains made since the 2008 global economic crisis.

UN/AFRICA :

UN considers Africa holding centres for migrants

Tuesday, June 3, 2014/timesofmalta.com

The United Nations has been forced to consider establishing refugee holding centres in north Africa and the Middle East due to the spiralling numbers of migrants attempting perilous journeys across the Mediterranean, The Guardian newspaper has reported.

The UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, has said for the first time that the large-scale processing of migrants and refugees outside Europe, in countries such as Egypt, Libya or Sudan, may be necessary as frontline authorities claim they have been abandoned by Brussels in the face of a "colossal humanitarian catastrophe".

Campaigners for refugee rights have hitherto rejected the idea of large processing camps outside Europe, fearing refugees would be at the mercy of states with poor records on human rights and justice.

Greece, which currently holds the EU presidency, is also pressing for the establishment of holding centres in north Africa and the Middle East in order to process refugees and migrants before they reach European soil.

"The shaping of a comprehensive immigration policy is one of the main priorities of [the Greek presidency], as well as the Italian presidency, which follows ours," Greece's deputy prime minister, Evangelos Venizelos, said.

Malta is also involved in the diplomatic efforts.

"The Mediterranean countries of the EU are working together closely. But the Greek coastline is longer than the total coastline of the other member states. Without a substantial reassessment of [policies] ... we cannot confront the crisis," Mr Venizelos said.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

Mutharika seeks 'new friends' in SA, China

June 3 2014 /By Felix Mponda/iol.co.za

Blantyre -

Malawi, traditionally dependent on Western aid donors, will look for "new friends" in countries such as China and Russia, newly elected President Peter Mutharika said at his inauguration on Monday.

The ceremony at a stadium in the commercial capital Blantyre was boycotted by outgoing president Joyce Banda, who was soundly beaten by Mutharika in disputed elections held on May 20.

Mutharika, who takes power in one of the world's poorest countries where 40 percent of the budget comes from aid, said the donor nations were “welcome to stay here”.

Foreign policy would be based on what is best for Malawi, he said.

“We will continue with traditional relationships, but we are now looking for new friends in emerging economies such as Brazil, China, India, South Africa and Russia.”

Britain and the United States have pledged to work with his government.

Mutharika said he regretted Banda's absence, saying she had “declined to come here and hand over power to me.

“I was looking forward to shaking her hand and burying the past. I have an olive branch in my hands.”

A spokesman for Banda said: “She was not officially invited and her official presidential convoy was withdrawn early hours of Saturday as soon as it was announced that Peter Mutharika had won the presidency.

“It would have been difficult for the outgoing president to travel to Blantyre.”

Banda received a further political blow when her party was declared to have won only 13 percent of the parliamentary seats, according to results announced by the electoral body late on Monday.

The Malawi Electoral Commission said the People's Party won 26 of the 192 seats which were contested by 1 293 candidates from 17 political parties.

The Democratic Progressive Party of winning presidential candidate Peter Mutharika, won 50 seats, representing 26 percent, while the Malawi Congress Party led by Lazarus Chakwera, who came second in the presidential race, won by 25 percent, bagging 48 seats.

Up to 52 independents won their seats across the poor southern African state, representing 27 percent.

A party needs 100 seats to enjoy a simple majority in parliament.

According to the results, the trend was similar in the municipal elections, with Banda's party winning 65 of the 462 wards.

Mutharika's party won 165 seats, followed by the MCP with 131.

Mutharika takes over despite facing treason charges for attempting to conceal the death in office two years ago of his brother, Bingu wa Mutharika, in an alleged bid to prevent Banda - then vice-president - from assuming power.

“It's been a long journey,” Mutharika said of his ascent to power. “We didn't know we would reach this far and be here today.”

“I have been imprisoned and tried on flimsy charges of treason,” he said. “I have been teargassed three times. But that's all in the past.”

He said he had no intention of “revenging or vengeance”.

The treason charges against Mutharika are likely to be dropped as Malawian presidents have immunity from prosecution while in office.

But there has been speculation that Mutharika might now try to turn the tables on Banda and have her charged with corruption over a \$30-million graft scandal dubbed “Cashgate”.

Banda has claimed the credit for uncovering the fraud, which saw aid money siphoned into top government officials' pockets. But critics, including Mutharika, suggest the funds went into her party's election war-chest.

“Those who have broken laws of this country will meet the full course of justice,” he warned in his speech.

Banda had alleged anomalies in the election and sought to have the vote nullified.

Legal attempts to force a recount failed and the electoral commission declared Mutharika winner with 36.4 percent of the votes cast against Banda's 20.2 percent.

Banda on Saturday congratulated Mutharika on his victory.

Mutharika, wearing a black suit with a white shirt and blue tie, entered the stadium in a Land Rover, waving a blue hat to a cheering crowd that filled the stadium.

Having worked under his brother as an advisor and minister, Mutharika has a task to prove that he is his own man.

“I hope this one will be a better president than his brother who was very confrontational with donors and critics,” said housewife Jean Namondwe from the Chinyonga township in Blantyre.

She vividly remembers the “serious shortages” of fuel, food and medicines in hospitals during the last months of Bingu wa Mutharika’s rule.

“We cannot go back to those dark days,” she said. - Sapa-AFP

China Swaps Gusto for Rigor in Africa as It Learns From Mistakes

By Franz Wild/bloomberg.com/ Jun 3, 2014

China’s gung-ho foray into Africa is waning. As trade with the continent surpasses an annual \$160 billion, its companies are avoiding risk by taking smaller stakes in projects close to making money.

Cowed by capricious commodity prices, political instability and a string of lost investments, Chinese financiers aren’t as gutsy as when state-owned giants used their heaps of cash to propel the nation’s “Go Out” drive and whip up business abroad 15 years ago.

“There was a lot of enthusiasm and momentum,” said Clement Kwong, whose Beijing-based Long March Capital Ltd. clubbed together with other investors last year to take over a South African gold company. “That momentum is definitely reined in by a new level of risk aversion and caution.”

China surpassed the U.S. as Africa’s largest trading partner in 2009. Trade volumes soared 11-fold

in the decade through 2013, according to data from the Geneva-based International Trade Centre. The quest for profit now trumps the wider aim of creating a Chinese footprint abroad.

Smaller private companies are taking the lead from the state-owned giants that prepared the ground. After many African leaders doubled back on the initial fervor for China, the new players are less conspicuous and score quicker returns.

China's enthusiasm for the mega-deals of the past, such as the landmark \$2 billion oil-for-infrastructure accord with Angola in 2004, is tempered by failures.

China's Missteps

Gabon scrapped China Machinery Engineering Corp.'s \$3.5 billion project to develop the Belinga iron-ore deposit in 2012, while a Chinese copper-cobalt mine in Democratic Republic of Congo has been delayed as the companies await legislation guaranteeing tax exemptions.

Jinchuan Group Co. Ltd.'s search for nickel and copper in Tanzania failed in 2011, when the world's fourth-biggest nickel producer realized it wouldn't get a license to dig up a nature reserve. Project leader Jianke Gao was sent to build a South African mine as Chief Executive Officer of Wesizwe Platinum Ltd. (WEZ) Jinchuan had bought a 45 percent stake.

"Before coming to buy a project here, Chinese companies will now do more research before making a decision," Gao said in an interview. "When Chinese investors come to other countries to invest, there are lots of examples of failure."

Libya gave China its biggest wakeup call, when the 2011 civil war forced Chinese construction companies to abandon billions of dollars worth of equipment and business, and 30,000 Chinese workers were evacuated.

Political Calculations

"We need to price in things like regime change and the cost of operating in a somewhat less than transparent environment," Kwong, 47, said wearing a checked shirt, blue jeans and white sneakers and sipping iced coffee on the terrace of his Johannesburg hotel. South Africa's business hub is Kwong's base from which he looks for other African acquisitions.

Examples of the new pattern abound. China National Offshore Oil Corp. is partnering with Tullow Oil Plc and Total SA to develop Uganda's oilfields, which they estimate hold 3.5 billion barrels of crude. Beijing Haohua Energy Resource Co. Ltd. last year bought a 24 percent stake in South Africa's Coal of Africa Ltd. for \$100 million.

China National Petroleum Corp. last year bought a fifth of an off-shore Mozambican gas field for \$4.2 billion. China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. purchased a 10th of an Angolan oil and gas field for \$1.5 billion. In Sierra Leone, China Railway Materials, Shandong Iron and Steel Group and Tianjin Materials and Equipment Corp. between them invested \$1.8 billion in London-listed African Minerals Ltd. (AMI)'s Tonkili mine, Africa's second-largest iron-ore producer, including in rail and port infrastructure.

Africa Appetite

With growth in developed economies sluggish, Chinese appetite for Africa is undiminished.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on a visit to Africa last month that the government will boost its line of credit to African nations by half to \$30 billion. He repeated a pledge to almost double capital in the China-Africa Development Fund, which gives financing to Chinese companies for private

equity deals including Long March Capital's, to \$5 billion.

Chinese capital growth has been "frighteningly explosive" and has spread to private groups, which need to invest abroad to make greater returns, according to Kwong.

"The more de-risked a project, the easier it is to get funded today, so something without even a pre-feasibility report is a little difficult to swallow," Kwong said, before flying to Zimbabwe to look at another possible project. "But if it is near production, but requires a substantial amount of capex to take it into production in order to unlock value, that is probably our favorite type of profile."

Diversifying Investments

China Investment Corp., the country's \$575 billion sovereign wealth fund, has entered the fray, joining Huawei Technologies Co. (002502) to diversify from oil, minerals and infrastructure to include telecommunications and finance.

"Africa is by far and for sure the single most important and most welcoming destination," Changhui Zhao, the chief country risk analyst at China Exim Bank, said in an interview from Beijing. "For many outsiders these countries may seem risky, because of the order disturbances, ethnic tensions or even foreign incursions. If you understand the place you are in, then you will see how much premium you will be awarded."

Platinum mine chief Gao's experiences during his four foreign postings tell of the difficulties many Chinese have in bridging the cultural gap with Africans. Speaking through an interpreter, he said he failed to understand the resistance by South African engineers to Chinese technology, which has proven to make the construction of new mine shafts more efficient.

Catholic School

Kwong went to a Catholic high school in Singapore and studied at the University of British Columbia, and is just as fluent in English as in Mandarin and his native Cantonese. He is part of a new generation of Chinese entrepreneurs who've overcome some of the cultural differences impeding their African adventure.

"The fact that they have a lot more exposure in Africa now, a lot more experience, a lot more knowledge, they are a lot pickier," said Standard Chartered Plc Director for Corporate Finance in Africa George Lo, who moved to South Africa at the age of 10 when his father, a property developer, wanted to escape the Hong Kong rat race. "They know where the stuff is. They're very knowledgeable now."

Lo advised the China Investment Corp. on its first investment in Africa in 2011, when it bought a 16 percent stake in Shanduka Group, the diversified investment group started by South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

African Opposition

As well as political risks, Chinese companies know they need to overcome opposition from Africans who sometimes feel they exploit the continent. Zambian workers in 2012 killed the Chinese manager of a coal mine over a wage dispute. Two years earlier, two Chinese managers at the same mine wounded 11 protesting workers when they opened fire on them.

"The Chinese go there with a mentality to conquer," Elias Masilela, the outgoing chief executive officer of the Public Investment Corp., which manages \$153 billion of mainly South African state worker pensions, said in an April interview. Chinese companies demand regulatory breaks because of the amount of investment they bring, he said.

“I cannot blame the Chinese entirely for that,” Masilela said. “I also blame the receiving governments.”

Even though many Chinese companies have the highest operating standards, that attitude is something Kwong says Chinese companies need to address.

“In Africa, many enterprises have learnt lessons along the way,” he said. “We may do things a little differently the next time round.”

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 03 Juin 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 03/06/2014