



[Au moins 48 personnes ont été tuées dans une attaque menée dimanche soir par des hommes armés dans une ville côtière du Kenya, rapportent la Croix-Rouge et la police kényane. L'attaque n'a pas été revendiquée dans l'immédiat, mais la police retient entre autres la piste d'un commando islamiste.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

**South Sudan calls for more food aid, hails Uganda**

Date: Jun 17, 2014/By Francis Kagolo/newvision.co.ug

The South Sudanese government has asked humanitarian agencies to increase food aid to the war-torn country to avert an imminent tough famine.

Addressing the media at the South Sudan embassy in Kampala, Vice President Wani Igga said the humanitarian crisis was worsening by the day.

“Famine is imminent; so we want the people of goodwill to come to our rescue,” he said.

The UN said recently estimated close to four million people are in acute need of food aid and that \$1.3bn (about sh3.3trillion) was needed to arrest the food crisis.

A clash between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and those loyal to sacked vice-president Machar in a military barracks in Juba last year is what snowballed into full-scale fighting across the world’s newest nation.

At least 10,000 people died within the first three weeks of the conflict, according to a report by the International Crisis Group, a research and advocacy institution.

The group reported that more than 200,000 people have been displaced inside South Sudan, including about 60,000 taking shelter at UN compounds. More than 30,000 others fled to neighbouring countries like Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Accompanied by his minister Deng Deng, the vice president is in Uganda together with members of the National Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation (NDPR) which Kiir set up recently.

They are meeting both South Sudan nationals and Uganda government authorities soliciting suggestions to resolution conflict.

The team met President Yoweri Museveni on Sunday and is to travel to the other three IGAD member states before returning home for the national reconciliation and healing conference.

Recommendations will then inform the agenda for the national constitutional conference to deliberate on the necessary interim government. According to Igga, “the view on the ground is that the interim regime should be led by the existing democratically elected government.”

Igga commended Uganda’s army for their “professional” service in South Sudan.

“We agreed in January that for the sake of peace talks, troops from Uganda should not be active on the frontline anymore. The UPDF has not been on the front since then,” he stated.

Uganda deployed troops in South Sudan moments after clashes erupted mid-December last year and has raged on for close to six months now.

According to UPDF commander Gen. Katumba Wamala, Ugandan troops are in South Sudan on the invitation of the Juba government and will gladly pull out once the intervention force suggested by IGAD is in place.

**HIV battle: Uganda tests out rubber band circumcision**

Date: Jun 17, 2014/newvision.co.ug

With trousers around his ankles, Justin Igalla awaits a tight rubber band for his foreskin, an

innovative non-surgical technique rolling out in several African nations to encourage circumcision and cut HIV infection rates.

The simple device -- two plastic rings and an elastic band -- cuts off blood supply to the foreskin, which then shrivels and is removed with the band after a week.

"I felt nothing, not even a little discomfort," Igalla said after a procedure taking just minutes, noting there was no blood -- unlike traditional circumcision where the foreskin is sliced off by knife -- thus reducing the risk of infection.

Igalla, a father of two, said he opted to have his foreskin taken off for "health reasons".

Scientists have found that male circumcision can significantly reduce the chances of HIV infection because the foreskin has a higher concentration of HIV-receptors than the rest of the penis and is prone to tears during intercourse, providing HIV an entry point.

As well as Uganda, the device is being used in Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and other sub-Saharan countries. All have been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "priority" states where the risk of acquiring HIV is high and male circumcision, and access to conventional surgical procedures, is low.

Uganda hopes the device, called PrePex, will convince adult men to be circumcised as part of the battle against AIDS, now resurgent in the East African nation after years of decline, with as many as 80,000 people dying of the disease every year.

From a peak of 18 percent infected in 1992, Uganda's "ABC" strategy -- Abstinence, Be faithful, Condom -- helped slash rates to 6.4 percent in 2005.

But rates have crept back up, to 7.2 percent in 2012. As many as 1.8 million people in the country now live with HIV, and a million children have been orphaned after their parents died of AIDS.

The makers of PrePex boast that a man "can resume work and almost all daily activities shortly after the procedure," with the device "designed to be placed, worn, and removed with minimal disruption", although they should abstain from sex for six weeks afterwards.

- Safe sex still needed -

Doctor Barbara Nanteza, male circumcision project manager at Uganda's AIDS Control Programme, said that trials had shown that circumcision reduced risk of transmission from a woman to a man by as much as 60 percent.

Although some contest the validity of these studies, WHO and the United Nations AIDS programme push circumcision as an additional prevention measure in high-prevalence countries where HIV transmission is predominantly heterosexual.

The WHO says there is "compelling evidence" circumcision reduces risk of heterosexually acquired HIV infection in men. The organisation has "prequalified" PrePex, meaning the device has been assessed and meets international standards for efficacy and safety.

And with health budgets already overstretched, the device offers a cheaper way to tackle the problem, Nanteza said.

"If circumcision can help reduce the cost, that could very good for the country," she told AFP.

Uganda, long praised for its efforts in the fight against AIDS, launched a general circumcision programme in 2010, when some 9,000 had the conventional treatment.

Since then 1.2 million men have been circumcised -- or 13 percent of men over 15, including 800,000 last year alone, the health ministry said.

The introduction of the PrePex device is expected to boost numbers even further -- but it's still not enough, according to Nanteza.

Though the device greatly reduces the pain of traditional circumcision, she conceded the issue remained an awkward one for married men.

"It is difficult for them to explain to their wife that they want to get a circumcision to prevent HIV infection when they are supposed to be faithful to them," Nanteza said.

Despite massive health awareness campaigns, problems remain.

James Brian, a counsellor with the Walter Reid Project, a US-based medical organisation supporting the programme, said it was essential to emphasise that while circumcision reduces the risk of infection, it does not prevent it.

"After circumcision someone should not think that they are immune against HIV," Brian said, who works with patients to highlight the continuing need to practice safe sex.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

**Tanzania: 'We Will Meet Digital Migration Deadline'**

By Abduel Elinaza/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/17 June 2014

Beijing — TANZANIA is confident of meeting the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) deadline for global migration to digital terrestrial television set for June 17, next year.

The Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports Dr Fenella Mukangara, said the migration exercise is going on smoothly by switching off analogue by phases and awareness campaigns.

The migration, contrary to detractors' views, has also increased terrestrial digital broadcasting coverage to 25 per cent of the population from 24 per cent that was being covered by analogue.

Dr Mukangara said the increase shows that about one million set top boxes (STBs) have been sold to citizens since switching to digital broadcasting in December 2012.

"Nearly one million STBs have been sold to citizens who are able to watch 51 television channels,

which was not possible during the analogue era," Dr Mukangara said. The minister was delivering a key note speech during the 2nd Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation.

She was the only information minister honoured to deliver a speech out of 23 ministers who were invited to the forum. She said the country is confident to beat the deadline since it has already covered 14 regions including major cities like Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, thus the rest would be easier.

"It has not been an easy task, what we did was to ensure that we switched off in areas where digital services were made available. We did this in a coordinated manner and we started step by step in areas that were enjoying the analogue services," Dr Mukangara said.

Tanzania's success attracted a number of African countries to come to Dar es Salaam to learn techniques of smooth migration. Tanzania was the first country in Africa to migrate to digital television.

Countries that sought lessons from Tanzania include Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, to mention just a few. "To ensure smooth migration from analogue to digital broadcasting mode, a simulcast period is a must.

This is a situation whereby both digital and analogue free-to-air television signal are broadcast simultaneously," she said. Tanzania's success story has ushered in new challenges, according to the minister, as many local and overseas investors have been applying for content provision licences than never before.

China's Minister of State Administration of the Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT), Mr Cai Fuchao, said cooperation between Chinese and African media has become an important part and powerful driver to the people-to-people exchange for Sino-Africa relations.

"Breakthrough progress has been made in programme exchange, personnel exchange and technological collaboration," Mr Cai told the forum that was attended by over 500 participants from Africa and China in Beijing.

Morocco's Minister for Communication, Mr Mustapha El Khalfi, said the main challenge most African states face is digitalisation while restoring peace and culture.

China's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Zhang Ming said China-Africa media play an important role in giving the people of both ends undistorted first hand information due to its power of reaching the masses.

"It is not easy for all Africans or Chinese to travel to either side," Mr Zhang said, adding that through the media people of Africa and China could understand themselves better and easily.

The last China-Africa media forum was held in 2012 and ever since the cooperation has been integrated into the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which this year will be held in South Africa.

### **Tanzania to Build Three Satellite Cities Soon**

16 June 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Dar es Salaam — The government through the National Housing Corporation (NHC) will develop

three satellite cities in Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

NHC is now looking for investors to jointly buy into the venture.

The cities are Kibada (Dar es Salaam), Safari City and Usa River in Arusha and already investors from Dubai have shown some interest.

Last week Tanzania's Vice President Dr Mohammed Bilal officiated an investment forum in the housing sector, in Dubai, UAE.

Several international investors in the housing sector attended.

About 96 housing companies from Dubai participated together with others from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sweden, South Korea and India.

The meeting was jointly organized by the Tanzania Embassy in the UAE and the National Housing Corporation (NHC).

During the meeting NHC made a presentation about the three Satellite Cities Projects.

At the same time, the Managing Director, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Ms Julliet Kairuki had a chance to talk to investors about other opportunities apart from those in the housing sector.

She also told investors about the regulations and procedure to be followed by would be investors in Tanzania.

The National Housing Corporation is the outcome of the decision of the Tanzania government to dissolve the Registrar of Buildings (RoB) through Act of Parliament No.2 of 1990, which vested its responsibilities with the NHC.

### **Tanzania: Bank Touts Oil Dividend for Region**

15 June 2014/East African Business Week (Kampala)

Dar es Salaam — Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are expected to post strong growth supported by foreign direct investment flows into offshore natural gas resource in Tanzania, the onset of oil production in Uganda and Kenya, and agriculture in Ethiopia.

The authors of the World Bank Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released last week say economic activity was robust in much of Sub-Saharan Africa in 2013.

According to the report, 'At the sub-regional level, growth is expected to be strong in East Africa, increasingly supported by FDI flows into offshore natural gas resource in Tanzania, the onset of oil production in Uganda and Kenya, and agriculture in Ethiopia'.

In contrast, developing countries in general are headed for a third consecutive year of disappointing growth below 5 percent, as first quarter weakness in 2014 has delayed an expected pick-up in economic activity.

"Growth rates in the developing world remain far too modest to create the kind of jobs we need to improve the lives of the poorest 40%. Clearly, countries need to move faster and invest more in domestic structural reforms to get broad-based economic growth to levels needed to end extreme

poverty in our generation," World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said in an accompanying statement.

Despite emerging challenges, medium-term growth prospects for sub-Saharan Africa remain favourable. However the report emphasises that strong domestic demand underpinned GDP growth of 4.7 % in 2013, up from 3.7 % the previous year.

That the regional aggregate was depressed by weak 1.9% growth in South Africa due to structural bottlenecks, tense labor relations and low consumer and investor confidence.

The GEP report stated further that excluding South Africa, average regional GDP growth was 6.0% in 2013; fiscal and current account deficits widened across the region, reflecting high government spending, falling commodity prices, and strong import growth.

The World Bank's GEP states that regional GDP growth is projected to remain stable at 4.7% in 2014, strengthening to 5.1% in each of 2015 and 2016, supported by supported by firming external demand and investments in natural resources, infrastructure, and agricultural production.

The strengthening recovery in high-income countries bodes well for export demand and investment flows, although weaker commodity prices and slower growth in emerging markets will moderate growth of FDI flows to the region to \$32.5 billion in 2014, from \$31.9 billion in 2013.

Nevertheless, the report said the move would support growth in many countries.

"Besides FDI, the continued focus on expanding public infrastructure to ease supply bottlenecks is expected to provide further impetus to growth in the region. The inflation outlook is expected to remain favorable across the region, although prices will trend higher due to higher food prices in some countries or pass-through from currency depreciations in others, particularly Ghana and South Africa," stated the global economic prospects report .

Tight monetary policy combined with labor strikes and weak electricity supply will keep growth subdued in South Africa. In Angola, after a slowdown in 2013, growth is expected to pick up moderately in 2014, supported by improved oil production and infrastructure investment."

The global economy is expected to pick up speed as the year progresses and is projected to expand by 2.8 percent this year, strengthening to 3.4 and 3.5 percent in 2015 and 2016, respectively.[1] High-income economies will contribute about half of global growth in 2015 and 2016, compared with less than 40 percent in 2013.

The acceleration in high-income economies will be an important impetus for developing countries.

High-income economies are projected to inject an additional \$6.3 trillion to global demand over the next three years, which is significantly more than the \$3.9 trillion increase they contributed during the past three years, and more than the expected contribution from developing countries.

Short-term financial risks have become less pressing, in part because earlier downside risks have been realized without generating large upheavals and because economic adjustments over the past year have reduced vulnerabilities. Current account deficits in some of the hardest hit economies during 2013 and early 2014 have declined, and capital flows to developing countries have bounced back.

Developing country bond yields have declined, and stock markets have recovered, in some cases

surpassing levels at the start of the year, although they remain down from a year ago by significant margins in many instances.

Markets remain skittish and speculation over the timing and magnitude of future shifts in high-income macro policy may result in further episodes of volatility.

Also, vulnerabilities persist in several countries that combine high inflation and current account deficits (Brazil, South Africa and Turkey).

The risk here is that the recent easing of international financial conditions will once again serve to boost credit growth, current account deficits and associated vulnerabilities.

KENYA :

### Coast Town Is Attacked in Kenya; Dozens Die

By ISMA'IL KUSHKUSH and DAN BILEFSKY/nytimes.com/JUNE 16, 2014

NAIROBI, Kenya — At least 48 people were killed when dozens of militants attacked a Kenyan coastal town overnight, targeting a police station and two hotels, officials said Monday.

The government blamed a Somali extremist group, the Shabab, for the latest in a series of deadly assaults on civilians and foreigners in Kenya. On their Twitter account, the Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack “as a retaliation for Muslim clerics killed in Mombasa,” a port city on the Indian Ocean.

“Kenya is now officially a war zone,” the Shabab said in a statement, “and as such any tourists visiting the country do so at their own peril.”

The violence began Sunday evening as residents of Mpeketoni, a town near the tourist resort of Lamu Island, were watching World Cup soccer matches on television, officials said. Residents had been watching a match at the Breeze View Hotel when the attackers took aside some of the men and gunned them down in front of the women.

The authorities said that gunmen emerged from two minibuses before starting the assault, in which at least one police officer was killed. Some panicked residents ran for cover in nearby bushes as the shooting began, the police said.

Joseph Ole Lenku, Kenya’s cabinet secretary for the interior, said at a news conference that “the perpetrators of this heinous act will be pursued to the full force of the law.”

The Kenyan military pushed into Somalia in 2011 in an effort to drive the Shabab back, but since then, attacks inside Kenya have only increased. The latest killings are sure to intensify the debate already brewing in Kenya about what to do with the several thousand Kenyan troops inside Somalia.

Kenya’s border with Somalia is porous, essentially a line in the desert, and though Western officials have been urging the Kenyan security services to watch it more closely, militants seem able to come and go at will, often with disastrous consequences.



In September, four gunmen from the group targeted an upscale mall in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, killing at least 67 people. In May, twin explosions hit a market area in central Nairobi, killing 10 people and injuring 76 others.

In response, the Kenyan authorities have sought to beef up security, interrogating thousands of immigrants, refugees and members of Kenya's large Somali community. But the violence has continued, and the government's tactics have been criticized by rights groups.

Earlier this month, the United States Embassy in Nairobi warned American citizens to exercise caution when attending public events that may attract large crowds during the World Cup. It warned that places that could be targeted by terrorists include hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and public transportation. Britain, Canada and Australia have also recently issued warnings and called for added vigilance in the face of potential terrorist attacks.

Western embassies in Kenya are now considering withdrawing personnel, and many Western diplomats and Kenyans alike fear Kenya's security services are too corrupt and disorganized to stop the Shabab. On top of that, the recent assassinations of several Islamist clerics, who many Kenyans believe were killed by secret government hit squads, and government roundups of ethnic Somalis have heightened mistrust and anger among Kenya's sizable Muslim population. Many Kenyans fear the battle against the Shabab will be a long and unpleasant one, and already it has dented the economy, with tourism down significantly this year.

### Une cinquantaine de morts dans l'attaque d'une ville au Kenya

16.06.2014/journaldujura.ch

Au moins 48 personnes ont été tuées dans une attaque menée dimanche soir par des hommes armés dans une ville côtière du Kenya, rapportent la Croix-Rouge et la police kényane. L'attaque n'a pas été revendiquée dans l'immédiat, mais la police retient entre autres la piste d'un commando islamiste.

(ats) La ville de Mpeketoni a été prise pour cible par un commando d'assaillants non identifiés qui s'en sont pris à deux hôtels, une banque et un commissariat de police. Des habitants précisent que le commando était composé d'une trentaine d'hommes motorisés, munis d'armes à feu et d'explosifs.

Outre la piste d'un commando islamiste, l'hypothèse d'une attaque de séparatistes est également examinée par les autorités. "De nouveaux corps ont été découverts et nous parlons pour l'instant de 48 morts", a dit Leonard Omollo, le commandant de la police du comté de Lamu.

"Tous les morts sont des hommes. Aucune femme, aucun enfant (...) Nous ne pouvons dire s'il s'agit d'une attaque des Chabaab (ndlr, milice islamiste somalienne), du Conseil républicain de Mombasa (ndlr, mouvement séparatiste) ou simplement de criminels", a-t-il ajouté.

L'attaque contre Mpeketoni, située à trois quarts d'heure de l'île touristique de Lamu, est la dernière en date visant le secteur du tourisme au Kenya.

En décidant d'envoyer des troupes en Somalie combattre les islamistes d'Al Chabaab, le Kenya s'est exposé. En septembre dernier, une prise d'otages revendiquée par les Chabaab a fait 67 morts au Westgate Mall, un centre commercial de la capitale.

Mpeketoni se trouve sur la côte, à trois heures de route environ de la frontière somalienne.

Deux hélicoptères militaires survolaient la ville lundi matin mais la police n'a procédé à aucune arrestation en rapport avec ce coup de force.

Selon des médias, les assaillants auraient mis le feu à plusieurs bâtiments de la ville, dont un grand nombre d'habitants a pris la fuite. Sur place, un journaliste de Reuters a vu une dizaine de véhicules incendiés.

ANGOLA :

**Brazil backs Angola bid to join UN Security Council: President**  
Xinhua News Agency/ June 17, 2014

BRASILIA, June 16 (Xinhua) -- Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff Monday said Brazil will support Angola's bid to join the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member.

After meeting with visiting Angolan President Jose Edoardo dos Santos, Rousseff also underscored the two countries' increasingly close and expanded ties at a press conference.

"Brazil and Angola are sister countries, linked by linguistic, cultural, ethnic and historical ties (and) our relationship has progressed through the years and gotten stronger. Our strategic alliance will become increasingly more intensified," she said.

In the international sphere, Rousseff acknowledged Angola's key role in the economic development of Guinea Bissau.

"We agree that Brazil and Angola are important players in the democratization process of international ties," she said.

Rousseff said she assured Santos that Brazil will continue to participate in the Angola's industrial development through such Brazilian firms as Odebrecht, Vale, Camargo Correa, Queiroz Galvao and Andrade Gutierrez, all involved in infrastructure projects in the African nation.

Angola's national airline operates daily flights between Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro and Luanda, noted Rousseff, adding "we actively operate as strategic partners in very important areas, for the development of Angola and Brazil."

As part of defense cooperation, Angola's Air Force purchased six Supertucano aircraft from Brazilian firm Embraer in 2009, and the two countries are now exploring possible joint projects in the naval industry.

During their meeting, the two leaders looked at ways to boost bilateral trade and investment, said Rousseff, and signed a protocol to extend the validity of business visas to 24 months.

Santos began his official visit on Monday, after attending the opening match of the World Cup on June 12 in Sao Paulo.

The UN Security Council is composed of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members that serve for two-year periods.

AU/AFRICA :

### Egypt's new government is sworn in by president

AP/June 17, 2014

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's newly elected President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has sworn in the country's new Cabinet.

The ceremony took place on Tuesday morning in the capital, Cairo. State television aired live footage from the swearing-in inside the presidential palace.

The government of about 30 ministers is led by Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab. The Cabinet also includes four women and several technocrats.

It's the first Cabinet under el-Sissi, the country's former army chief and defense minister who last July led the ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

### AU marks Day of African Child with focus on education to children

Jun 17,2014/Xinhua

ADDIS ABABA, June 16 (Xinhua) -- The African Union (AU) on Monday marked the Day of African Child 2014 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital.

The Day presents an opportunity for all Stake-holders on children's rights, including government, non-governmental and international entities, to reflect on issues affecting children, according to AU.

The Day of African Child 2014 was commemorated under the theme "A Child Friendly, quality, free and compulsory education for all children in Africa."

AU said it aims to ensure the achievement of Article 11 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

In his remarks at the opening of the celebration today, Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, reiterated that AU celebrates the Day of African Child on 16 June every year in commemoration of the 1976 protests by school children in Soweto, South Africa.

The students protested against an education designed to further the purposes of the apartheid regime.

The AU Assembly in 1991 passed a resolution designating 16 June as a Day for the celebration of the African child.

Today's celebrations at AU include, children's performance of songs, drama, play, talent show as well as question and answer sessions among others.

In his opening remarks, Nigel Chapman, CEO of Plan International, noted that all children have the right to an education and the future of the African continent, and the world depends on them having access to that right.

"At Plan, we are calling on the AU to call on their member states and remind them of their commitments and responsibility to promote, protect and fulfill the right to education for all children," he said.

"We are calling on African governments to take action for you, their children and for their own countries, and invest achieving a quality education for all. And to target those investments on those children who need it the most, girls, children with disabilities, rurally isolated and those affected by conflict," he added.

### **Nigeria: The African Child - Brown Wants Sustained Global Attention for Chibok Girls**

16 June 2014/Daily Independent (Lagos)

A former British Prime Minister, Mr Gordon Brown, has urged the world to remember the schoolgirls kidnapped in Chibok, Borno, as 2014 Day of The African Child is commemorated.

Brown, who is currently UN Special Envoy for Global Education, made the call in a statement released in Abuja on Monday.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Day of the African Child is observed on June 16 every year.

The day was set aside by the Africa Union in 1999 in the memory of students who were massacred in Soweto in 1976 for protesting against education inequality in Apartheid South Africa.

Activities of the day are aimed at promoting children's rights.

Brown said: "young people throughout the world have dedicated today, Day of the African Child, not only to education but in solidarity with the 287 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram, in Nigeria.

Thousands of people have come together united with one cause - safe schools for every girl and boy.

While the global community has failed to deliver safe schooling, young people are demanding safe, quality schools for all children everywhere."

He said that young people stood in solidarity with the Northern Nigerian girls of Chibok and all those around the world who faced such struggles.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

### **US Stepping-Up Presence In Sub-Saharan Africa Energy Boom**

By D.A. Barber/afkinsider.com/June 17, 2014

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the fastest-growing economic regions in the world, with the International Monetary Fund predicting continued growth as part of the continent's economic transformation.

Much of that transformation has to do with a fast-growing middle class, as well as vast agricultural and mineral resources, which is attracting investors and businesses from around the world. According to the US Commerce Department, which is stepping up its involvement in sub-Saharan Africa, the region is now home to seven of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies.

In April 2014, the International Monetary Fund released its Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, which notes that the strong growth of recent years in the region looks set to continue, "accelerating from 4.9 percent last year to around 5.5 percent in 2014, underpinned by high levels of infrastructure and mining investment. Growth in the region's Low-Income Countries remains higher still at some 6.9 percent in 2014."

But, according to the report, the outlook is subject to some downside risks: "Some of the favorable factors that have supported growth in the region have started to weaken. In particular, the shift in the composition of global demand—and of growth in some large emerging markets—is causing commodity prices to weaken (particularly copper and iron ore). Tighter global financial conditions have also raised the cost of financing for many countries. Should these trends continue, they would likely act as a drag on growth in many countries in the region."

Nevertheless, the US Commerce Department's International Trade Administration is more than doubling its presence in Africa, opening its first offices in Angola, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mozambique to support White House initiatives like Trade Africa and Power Africa.

#### The U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa

In 2012, President Obama launched the US Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa, noting that Africa holds the promise to be "the world's next major economic success story." The US government is working to help businesses be part of that success story by promoting US trade and investment through its Doing Business in Africa campaign.

Trade Africa was launched by President Obama in July 2013 as a partnership between the US and sub-Saharan Africa to increase trade and economic ties between Africa, the United States and other global markets.

During oral testimony on the 2014 Trade Agenda at a May 1 Senate Finance Committee, US Trade Representative Michael Froman noted they were "working to conclude a comprehensive review of the African Growth and Opportunities Act, which expires next year.

Froman further noted that "the core of the Obama Administration's economic strategy is to create jobs, promote growth, and strengthen the middle class. Through our trade policy, we are contributing to that strategy by opening markets for Made-in-America exports, leveling the playing field for American workers and businesses by raising standards and fully enforcing our trade laws and our trade rights."

#### The Focus on Energy

But much of this US strategy in the past few months has focused on energy development,

particularly President Obama's June 2013 Power Africa initiative to double access to power in sub-Saharan Africa, starting with Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

With more than 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lacking access to electricity, the power development challenge is enormous. According to the International Energy Agency, sub-Saharan Africa needs more than \$300 billion in investments to achieve universal electricity access by 2030 — far beyond the capacity of any single development program.

“What we think is likely to happen in Africa is that there will be a much more decentralized model and approach to energy generation,” Shari Berenbach, President and CEO of the US African Development Foundation, told AFKInsider in an interview.

“And while the urban centers and large industry will likely be served by large power plants, we think that when it comes to rural communities and the broad areas of Africa, that there won't be any effort to really try and string transmission lines all across Africa the way it had happened in the United States.”

A US Trade Mission to Ghana and Nigeria in May and the US-Africa Energy Ministerial in early June were part of a US effort to get more American energy companies on the African development bandwagon.

The US Trade Mission to Ghana and Nigeria was led by US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker to help African countries develop and manage their energy resources, as well as build power generation, transmission and distribution projects. One of the main goals was to “find partners for American companies, work to navigate regulatory hurdles and support the development that will help Africa thrive.”

As a follow up to that meeting, the US-Africa Energy Ministerial to Ethiopia in early June was also designed to promote American energy companies to African nations with the theme of “Catalyzing Sustainable Energy Growth in Africa.”

Among that meeting's agenda was accelerating development of clean energy sources and energy efficient technologies, review of best practices in oil and gas resource development, and progress reports on the President Obama's Power Africa Initiative.

And entries are now open through June 20 for the second round of the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge, sponsored by the US African Development Foundation, the US Agency for International Development and GE Africa to offer 18 grants of up to \$100,000 each.

“Even though the operating environment could be challenging, Africa offers a huge growth opportunity,” Patricia Obozuwa, Director of Corporate Communications for GE Africa told AFKInsider. “We believe in Africa's potential. GE's growth and investment plans are long-term — we have been here for over 100 years — we are here to stay.”

Simon Gosling, Director of EnergyNet which sponsored the 3rd Annual Powering Africa conference in Mozambique last month, says businesses like GE are “transforming the sector, transforming the way they do their business and that all again is kind of tied to the whole Power Africa initiative.”

“There's some really interesting stuff that is all coming on the back of this Power Africa initiative, so people are really riding that coat tail and there's really an infused vibe around,” Gosling told AFKInsider in an interview.

All these developments came on the heels of an April US Department of Commerce Power Africa B2B Summit in Miami as an effort to connect American companies with opportunities to provide energy services on the continent. That meeting included Nigeria's CEOs of Africa's major power companies, and representatives from the US Export-Import Bank and the US Agency for International Development.

But for the private sector, American investors work through the Washington-based Corporate Council for Africa to obtain partnerships with African companies.

"We're the private sector coordinator for Power Africa. Just about every company that's engaged or interested in getting involved in power projects in Africa are members or close to our members, Corporate Council for Africa President Stephen Hayes told AFKInsider in an interview. "There is a high interest in energy overall, and that includes oil and gas, and Hydro and so forth."

During the World Economic Forum on Africa in May in Abuja, a ministerial meeting on the Africa Power Vision took place that included Ministers of Power and Finance from Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Rwanda, and Ghana, as well as private sector entities that included the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and the UN's Economic Commission for Africa.

Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, stated that there is a need for championing regional solutions to bring the Africa Power Vision to fruition. "The Power Africa Initiative is an enabler, and the Africa Power Vision, derived from Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa – PIDA – is focused on making projects more bankable and easier to sell," he said at the meeting.

Power Africa – and other trade activity in Africa over the last few months – is all leading up to the first US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC on August 5 and 6.

The Whitehouse Africa Summit will give US companies yet another opportunity to mingle with 47 invited African leaders to "build on the progress made since the President's trip to Africa last summer, advance the Administration's focus on trade and investment in Africa, and highlight America's commitment to Africa's security, its democratic development, and its people."

At the summit, the Obama administration plans to focus on trade and private investment rather than public aid.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

**Genetically-Modified Australian Bananas Are Ready For Human Testing**  
[gizmodo.com.au/17062014](http://gizmodo.com.au/17062014)

It's been nearly a decade in development, but a genetically modified breed of bananas that's designed to combat starvation will soon enter human testing. The bananas are rich in beta-carotene

which turns into vitamin A in the body. For the children in Africa suffering from vitamin A deficiencies, this is a godsend. Also these banana are orange.

The specific research is happening at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia thanks, in part, to nearly \$US10 million in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The idea, however, is to pass off the seeds for these super bananas to farmers in Uganda, where there's a huge food shortage and 70 per cent of the population survives on the fruit. Vitamin A deficiencies are not only killing children but also causing them to go blind, so the research moving forward is a very good thing.

These are no ordinary bananas. They're grown in far north Queensland to boost the beta-carotene levels. The flesh of the super bananas is also orange which provides a visual clue to their genetically-modified otherness. It's also sort of awesome.

This breakthrough is not entirely thanks to the possibilities of frankenfruit. A good old fashioned crossbreed of native banana with orange flesh in Micronesia called the "karat" has been used to improve eye sight in children for centuries. By the early 2000s, scientists in Queensland were exploring ways to cultivate the karat and, for whatever reason, decided to go the route of genetic modification.

Trials of the super bananas will take place in the United States and are expected to last through the end of the year. If all goes well — and the scientists are confident it will — Ugandan farmers will be growing the new bananas by 2020. "We know our science will work," says James Dale, who's led the research for years. And creepy as genetically modified foods may be, there's nothing quite like science that works. [Guardian]

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

**The Second Forum on China-Africa Media cooperation opens, Cai Fuchao delivers speech**

Editor: Zhang Jingya | CCTV.com/06-16-2014

BEIJING, June 16 (CCTV.com) -- The Second Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation is being held on June 16 in Beijing. More than 150 delegates from more than 40 African countries, as well as high level officials from the Chinese side are attending the forum. Cai Fuchao, Minister of China's State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, has delivered a speech at the forum.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Highly-anticipated by media from both China and Africa, the second Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation opened in Beijing today. On behalf of China's State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, I want to extend a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks to our African media counterparts.



A good beginning is half of success. In August 2012, the first Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation was held in Beijing in accordance with the rapid development of Sino-African relations. The forum marks media cooperation between China and Africa becoming a mechanism and integrated into the overall framework of the Sino-Africa Forum, opening a new chapter of friendly exchanges and close cooperation between media of both sides. Looking back over the past two years, both sides have provided each other with mutual trust, mutual understanding, mutual support, and taken practical and effective measures under the guidance of "Beijing Declaration on Sino-African Media Cooperation." Meanwhile, practical and effective measures have been taken in deepening cooperation in five key areas, namely inter-governmental communication and dialogue, exchanges and cooperation between media on both sides, exchanges of technology and industries' cooperation, building of human resources and international exchanges. Another peculiar feature is that both China and Africa have increased their coverage of news and reports in each other's countries, promoting the program exchanges and cooperation, expanding the scale of trade related to radio, film and television industries, and strengthening personnel exchanges and training. The forum has helped Sino-African interaction a lot, boosted traditionally friendly relations, which is highly appreciated and welcomed by both governments and their peoples.

All distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

China and Africa forged an enduring friendship a long time ago. Today, we open a new chapter. During a visit to Africa last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward a concept of being "genuine, frank, close, sincere" in the development of relations with Africa. This year, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang paid a visit to Africa, pointing out that China and Africa are entering a new stage of cooperation with broad prospects by upgrading the quality of their cooperation. The Chinese media organizations will hold firm and adhere to the implementation of the "genuine, frank, close, and sincere" principle, in line with the new requirements led by upgrading the cooperation quality so as to develop media cooperation with Africa in an all-round way. The Chinese media will work with their African counterparts to consolidate the basis for their cooperation, improve cooperation mechanisms, broaden areas of cooperation, expand spaces for cooperation and enhance the levels of cooperation in efforts to promote China-Africa media cooperation to a new level and make new contributions to the development of the new type of China-Africa strategic partnership. To this end, I am about to make three proposals:

One: strengthen unity and mutual trust and enhance international influence of media in developing countries. There is a Chinese saying that goes like this: "It is easy to live when we have many friends." I know Africa has a similar proverb, saying "When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." These proverbs in China and Africa vividly reveal a simple truth: unity is strength. China is the largest developing country in the world, while Africa is the continent that sees the densest distribution of developing countries. China and Africa have similar historical experiences, are faced with the common development tasks, common strategic interests and spiritual pursuits, and these common features constitute the solid foundation for a shared destiny of China and Africa and the root of our traditional friendship.

We must be aware that the western media has long been occupying a dominant position in shaping world opinions and the voice of developing countries is relatively weak, with these nations' interests less heard. Some people look at the China-Africa cooperation with biased perspective, and a lack of objective, fair and rational attitude. But time is a necessary ingredient for a perfect recipe. I believe that, as long as the Chinese and African media are truly sincere towards each other and treat each other as equals, enhance strategic mutual trust, seek comprehensive development and deepen all-round cooperation in the principles of fairness and justice, their combined strength is bound to generate a huge influence on a new pattern of public opinion around the world.

Two: promote communication between the two peoples to make China-Africa ties deeply rooted in

people's heart. People-to-people friendship is an important foundation for the development of state-to-state relations. There's an old Chinese saying: With increasing contacts, friends become closer and closer, relatives become more and more intimate. Africa has a similar proverb that goes like this: "Hold a true friend with both your hands." Chinese President Xi Jinping once said, "The Chinese and African people have a natural sense of intimacy, as long as we constantly strengthen people-to-people exchanges, Chinese friendship with the African people will blossom." Today, as the global economic integration and modernization process continue to accelerate, people are connected more closely. The closer ties demand more of communication and exchanges of ideas and emotions. The media serves as an important bridge for people-to-people exchanges and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship, shouldering an important task of the dialogues and exchanges among different civilizations. In Sino-African media cooperation, both sides need to adopt a close, united and cooperative attitude, and more importantly, via cooperation, they should convey friendship, promote traditional friendship and cultivate people's friendly feelings. Films, radio and television programs are the tools to educate the youth in China and Africa to better understand history and continue good traditions, so that China-Africa friendship will enjoy an enduring vitality.

Three: innovate forms of pragmatic cooperation, promote mutual benefit and win-win development in Africa. As the ancient Chinese saying goes, "All things grow up without bringing harm to each other; both can be implemented without coming into conflict." Today, Africa is moving towards integration, while China is striving to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The "Chinese dream" and "development dream" held by African countries are both common ideals of pursuing progress in human civilization. These dreams are interlinked and provide development opportunities for each other. In essence, the China-Africa cooperation is for the sake of providing their people with a better life and letting each country achieve a better development. The media cooperation serves the purpose of promoting bilateral friendship, unity, as well as common development. The Chinese media organizations will take a realistic and pragmatic attitude by telling the truth, proposing pragmatic advice, doing practical work and seeking practical results, and innovate cooperation models as well as detail cooperation projects. We'll try our best to help African media industries carry out basic construction, technical cooperation and training of personnel. On the basis of traditional cooperation, we would plan ahead, build consensus, and expand new areas of new media cooperation, so as to promote exchanges and communication to a new height. We sincerely hope that local media will work alongside Chinese media in order to create favorable conditions for advancing pragmatic bilateral cooperation.

All guests, ladies and gentlemen:

The new development of friendly and cooperative relations provides new opportunities for comprehensively deepening cooperation between Chinese and African media, and also puts forward new requirements.

Facing the future, Chinese and African media should work shoulder-to-shoulder and make concerted efforts to improve the quality and level of cooperation, provide the most powerful support in public opinion, the most favorable humanistic environment for realizing both Africa's "development dream" and the "Chinese dream." I firmly believe that, with the common efforts of all, China-Africa media cooperation will become the model of contemporary world media cooperation.

Thank you!

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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