



(A framework for a transitional government in Burkina Faso has been agreed after talks between political, military and civil leaders. A spokesman for the talks in Ouagadougou said the charter project was agreed unanimously. The transitional body is intended to return the country to civilian rule and prepare for elections next year.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

WHO confirms Uganda is Marburg-free

Date: Nov 13, 2014/AFP

THE World Health Organization confirmed on Thursday that Uganda was free of the Ebola-like Marburg virus after completing a 42-day surveillance period with no new cases.

The Marburg virus is one of the most deadly known pathogens. Like Ebola, it causes severe

bleeding, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea and has a 21-day incubation period.

It is also transmitted via contact with bodily fluids and fatality rates range from 25 to 80 percent.

A hospital worker in the Kampala died on September 28 after contracting Marburg. Following that, 197 people were placed under isolation and monitored but no one tested positive.

"Since there have been no active cases of Marburg for 42 days, the outbreak is considered to be contained," the WHO said in a statement.

Heightened surveillance and public awareness campaigns would continue, it added, in view of the ongoing Ebola outbreak in west Africa.

Uganda determined to become a top tourist destination

Date: Nov 14, 2014/newvision/By Titus Kakembo

Uganda is determined to assert herself as a must tourist destination. This was revealed by Minister of tourism Maria Mutagamba at Speke Resort Munyonyo during the ongoing Africa Travel Association attended by guests from USA, EU, Asia and Africa.

"We have something to interest even the most sophisticated traveler," boasted Mutagamba.

"Other than having the source of the Nile and being voted the best bird watching destination, there are lots more out there," she added.

Tour operator Idris Kisambira said Kampala alone can exhaust visitors seven days.

"We have the Kasubi Toms, Martyres Shrine in Namugongo, Religious Cathedrals and birds in flight," he said.

Adding that, "When night falls, there is the red district of Kabalagala, discotheques, Cinemas, theaters and restaurants serving traditional and continental cuisines."

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa: Cosatu/Numsa Split Indicative of Deeper Structural Problems in SA Trade Union Sector

The South African Civil Society Information Service (Johannesburg)/12 November 2014

interview

Back in March 2012, a good five months before the Marikana massacre exposed the internal weaknesses of the South African trade union sector, SACSIS' Fazila Farouk interviewed labour expert, Ighsaan Schroeder, who said that Cosatu was well on its way to demise and could collapse within a mere 15 years due to serious structural weaknesses in the trade union sector. Soon after the Marikana massacre, Schroeder revised his prediction saying that he gives Cosatu just another five years before it ceases to exist.

Well, two years later, Cosatu has expelled its largest affiliate, Numsa, and its unravelling is taking place faster than any of us could have imagined. SACSIS caught up with Schroeder again who argues that "alliance politics" is a mere cover for much deeper structural problems facing the labour movement in South Africa. Both Numsa and Cosatu are in for further shocks, if they do not take cognisance of the changing nature and needs of workers.

Ighsaan Schroeder is the Co-ordinator of the Casual Workers' Advice Office. Fazila Farouk is the executive director of SACSIS.

Transcript

FAZILA FAROUK: Welcome to the South African Civil Society Information Service, I'm Fazila Farouk coming to you from Johannesburg.

On Saturday, the 8 November 2014 in the early hours of the morning, South Africa's major trade union federation COSATU expelled its biggest affiliate, NUMSA.

Now NUMSA's expulsion has been brewing for some time now.

NUMSA's expulsion is linked to the factionalism inside COSATU. But long before these issues came to the public's attention, way back in March 2012, I interviewed Ighsaan Schroeder of the Casual Workers Advice Office who said that COSATU's demise was on the cards. Back then when I interviewed Ighsaan he said COSATU's demise was probably going to come along in 15 years time. That was more than two years ago. I interviewed him (again) shortly after the Marikana Massacre and he revised his prediction saying he doesn't give COSATU another five years.

Well, here we are just over two years later and it seems Ighsaan's prediction is coming true. COSATU seems to be unravelling much faster than any of us would have imagined or could have imagined.

Welcome to SACSIS Ighsaan.

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: Hi, thanks for having me.

FAZILA FAROUK: This is something you predicted long before anybody else. And I was wondering, given the current situation with NUMSA being expelled from COSATU, what do you think of what's going on? Can you reflect on, especially recent happenings, what's the meaning of NUMSA's expulsion from COSATU now today?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: Well, I think, the first thing is that it's as you said in the introduction. This unravelling has been taking place for quite some time now. So you know the - none of us could have predicted how exactly COSATU would sort of formerly unravelled. But the process of the collapse of the organisation has been going on for some years now and Marikana was a very graphic expression of that collapse of COSATU and its disintegration.

I think what we're seeing with the, you know, with the NUMSA expulsion is the more - almost the more formal side of the kind of - the detail almost of the kind of formal unravelling of the federation.

And - because you must bear in mind that although the federation seems to be now split down the middle as everybody reports. In both camps, the camp that is supporting NUMSA and in the camp that is opposing NUMSA, in both camps there are unions that are really on their knees. If you take a

union like CEPPWAWU (Chemical, Energy, Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union), for example, the - it was issued with a deregistration notice. So it was going to be deregistered at the end of September. If you take some of the big unions in the block that's supporting NUMSA like SAMWU (South African Municipal Workers' Union) -- in a court case, in September, the judge found that the leadership, effectively, was responsible for the disappearance of something like R136 million and there's a big fight in the union at the moment.

So, you know, this process has been going on. And what -- at some level the expulsion of NUMSA in a way almost, you know, although everyone talks about, you know, what this means and what's the significance -- in some way, it almost hides the real story.

Because if you look at NUMSAs expulsion, the reason given for its expulsion is that it called for a break with the ANC and that it's begun to poach members of other unions. So it can give the impression that it's a - you know that the difference in COSATU is a political one. That the real problem or the underlying basis for its collapse is this disagreement over the question of support for the ANC or non-support for the ANC.

But in reality that's not really what is going down here. That's the immediate reason for NUMSAs expulsion. But in reality, these unions have been in a state of decay and decline for some time now. And this simply is one more confirmation of that.

So if you look at the General Secretary's report to the CEC, for example - this CEC that has just sat - he mentions in his report that at least seven affiliates were riven completely with factionalism, with problems of corruption and generally his tone in his report is that the federation is dysfunctional.

If you... compare that report to the report he tabled in 2012 in the Congress of 2012, its much - the theme is the same and that's long before the expulsion of NUMSA. So, in many ways, this is really a confirmation of that long process and what it might well do, it may, it may formalize...you know it might accelerate the formal collapse of the federation.

But that process has been in progress for some time now.

FAZILA FAROUK: It is interesting watching this thing from the outside and what's... you know COSATU has played such an important role in society and in politics in general in South Africa. What does this mean now that it's starting to unravel like this?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: It depends on what perspective you want to take on that.

I think from the point of view of ordinary workers, it's not going to mean much. COSATU has long ceased to represent ordinary blue collar workers you know the sort of lower paid workers... the workers, labour broker workers, contract workers. COSATU has long ceased to represent those workers and that's been part of the... you know, the process of its unravelling is that it's become a middle class organisation that in a way masquerades as a trade union.

FAZILA FAROUK: On African politics though?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: On South African politics, COSATU has been the voice for the middle classes, even at the level of South African politics.

If you take the issues that it has taken up. You know it's taken up the question of e-tolling. At the same time as it takes up the issue of e-tolling, there's been a million jobs lost and yet it didn't take

up a campaign, you know, in defence of a million workers who lost their jobs. So the issues that COSATU has chosen to take up is a reflection of that.

I mean, if you take now the changes made to the legislation in August of this year the state has made major legislative changes giving important new rights to precarious workers, to labour broker workers, to contract workers, part time workers and so on.

The labour... COSATU has been dead, dead quite about any of that. There's no question that COSATU is going to start a campaign of mass awareness-raising amongst these workers or anything like that. But COSATU can comment on the fights you know at Generations you know the soapie, soap drama.

You know, it can comment on things like that because that's become the style of COSATU's politics. It is a, you know, an "opinion maker" - whatever you want to call these funny names. It's not really a fighting formation any longer. It makes statements, it takes on poses and that's about it.

FAZILA FAROUK: Look alliance politics seems to have played a big role in what has happened. But what do you make of the fact that the ANC did actually say that it's a tragedy that NUMSA got expelled from COSATU?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: Look, I'm not - you know, the alliance politics... the question of the ANC and support for the ANC, was clearly one of the, sort of, factors that lead to NUMSAs ultimate expulsion and the fact the NUMSA is intransigent on that question -- for which I think it must be commended, certainly.

The... so that was certainly a factor. The fact that the ANC can piously now say, you know, it's a you know it's a pity that NUMSA has left, is a reflection of an understanding of the role that COSATU has played.

I mean the point that you alluded to earlier about COSATU's role in South African politics. If you boil it down to its real essence, I mean the role that COSATU has played has been to, you know, to sort of in a way camouflage the real class character of the ANC.

COSATU, in this election we had this year, you know, COSATU still pedals the idea that the ANC is the only vehicle through which the working class is going to realise its interests.

And that's the real role of COSATU in South African politics. It disguises, you know, the real agenda of the real ruling class and by that I don't mean the ANC, I mean big business. It disguises the role that COSATU - the ANC - plays in furthering the agenda of the real ruling class. And to that extent, you know, the expulsion of NUMSA, the question mark now against the future of COSATU doesn't suit the ruling class agenda at all. Because the role that COSATU plays is to disarm you know, to demobilise and to confuse politically.

So instead of the working class arriving at greater - instead of COSATU contributing to a process of the working class arriving at a greater clarity about the true class nature of the ANC - that it's really a party of big business - COSATU does the opposite, it obfuscates, it confuses and it misleads.

So that is the source of the ANC disquiet that NUMSA has left. It's not that they're concerned about COSATU now no longer being a fighting formation, taking up the issues of ordinary workers -- that's not the concern.

It's a bit of a setback for the real ruling class agenda, in my opinion.

FAZILA FAROUK: So there have been reports now that NUMSA is going to appeal this expulsion. What do you think of that?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: NUMSA was never wanting to leave COSATU. You know at its special Congress, NUMSA was very, very clear that there was no question of it leaving COSATU.

And I think the, you know, the legal route, is in line firstly with that position that it had that it didn't want to leave COSATU. The strategy is also in line with the, you know, the sort of taking COSATU to court around Vavi's suspension. So I'm not surprised by any of those.

The question, of course, is that if NUMSA does get reinstated into COSATU, which is, I think, unlikely even from a legal point of view. Even if it does get put back into COSATU, if the expulsion is overturned, I think the division is now so deep seated that I can't see that COSATU would at any point in the future cohere either politically - but even it coheres politically - organizationally it doesn't exist. There's no COSATU.

So, I don't think that NUMSA's being put back into COSATU is going to make any real difference to the future of COSATU. It's a - it's a house of cards.

FAZILA FAROUK: Are they on the right path though to be challenging this expulsion?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: I think NUMSA has a responsibility probably to - you know - to demonstrate actively to the rest of the working class that it is serious about worker unity; it doesn't want to break whatever workers might be left in the federation or you know the extent that the federation that might still represent, you know, workers' interest. I think it's correct in demonstrating that it never wanted to leave COSATU. I think tactically that is correct.

I think what is far more important is what NUMSA now does. I think for the working class, for workers more narrowly defined, I think what NUMSA does next is going to be much more important.

We're sitting in a very fluid period. I think that's been the case long before NUMSA's expulsion.

Marikana was a very graphic expression of the fluidity of the old labour movement being exposed as being a sweetheart movement in collapse. But I think the working class is in a process of still trying to discover what do we put in its place. Do we just make new unions or do we try and find new ways of organising through these worker committees, the farm committees and so on?

So we in a very fluid period in our - certainly in our labour history - we're in a very fluid period.

FAZILA FAROUK: Let's turn back to COSATU again. NUMSA was a big supporter of its embattled leader, Zwelinzima Vavi. With them being expelled what does this - what do you think this means for his future inside COSATU?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: I don't think he has a future. I think he has to decide either to resign or he's going to be kicked out. I don't think there's any other way that we can see that one working out.

I think, the, you know, the battle lines have been drawn so sharply already that there's no question of - despite his attempt post his reinstatement to keep a very low profile, to not be particularly sort of contentious or controversial, not too critical. Despite that attempt I think, I think the die has been cast and, as I say, if he doesn't resign he's going to be dismissed around this disciplinary inquiry

that's sort of hanging over him.

There's still the outstanding question of the corruption charges against him, which still has to be finalised as well. And I think, you know, the misconduct and this investigation around his corruption, alleged corruption, I think between those two... between those two, there will be sufficient basis for him to be dismissed.

So I think that's most likely what's going to happen, if he doesn't resign before that.

FAZILA FAROUK: So, since you're so good at predictions, let's talk a little bit about what you think about the South African labour movement in a decade from now. Where do you see it?

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: I think our focus must increasingly be the self organising initiatives of workers. For me, that's where the focus must be. And that's what I am saying also is... if NUMSA doesn't see that as its future, then there's going to be a brief period where NUMSA might emerge really strong and the preeminent organisation and then it too will go down the route of all these other unions.

So, for me, the - you know the... I don't think there's much to lament about the collapse of COSATU and I think when we spoke in March (2012), my attitude was the sooner an organisation like COSATU collapses, the clearer the political task will become for ordinary workers.

I think we're reaching - we've reached that point and in fact we're sort of well on the road to workers beginning to organise themselves. And that self organisation for me is what holds the key for where the labour movement is going to go.

Now I was... again, I want to stress I think we're in this very fluid transitional period.

Some workers are taking the route of, they've been in these unions, if you take the AMCU (Association of Mining and Construction Workers' Union) experience, you know workers were in NUM (National Union of Mineworkers), they left NUM, they've gone to AMCU. Already we've heard the rumblings of discontent in AMCU that in many ways the organisation is undemocratic and unaccountable leadership, etc., you know. So already even in AMCU there are this rumblings of workers wanting to move out.

We've seen workers leave their unions and form independent committees. That was very much the Marikana experience. We've seen how the massive farmworkers' strike was cut through these independent farmworker committees.

So, there's this kind of messy combination of independent initiatives. But in some cases, workers, still, even though they're tired of their existing union, they still want to form new unions. I think that's still very much part of this transitional period that we're going through - that workers are testing out for themselves what works and what doesn't work.

We could see in the next 5-10 years, however long, we're going to see this kind of messy combination of these different forms of organisation. Some workers are going to try and form the old, traditional union again and maybe discover - maybe it works better than others. Maybe they might discover actually this thing doesn't work.

The problems are far deeper seated than just the leadership being corrupt. This fighting tool is no longer sufficient against the bosses.

So I think that in this next period we're going to see far more workers' self initiatives. And I think the important point is going to be the extent to which we take those seriously. We try and draw the general lessons from them and see to what extent some of that experience can be generalised.

And we're going to have side by side with that; we're going to have, still these old trade union forms like the industrial unions.

So it's going to be a very, very messy period. I think maybe by the end of that 10 years, it will be a bit clearer, you know, what is the replacement for these old industrial trade unions.

We might have institutions like the CCMA (Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration) that maybe look very, very different. I mean, if you just take a practical example.

Historically the CCMA is not allowed institutions - from the workers' side - institutions other than registered trade unions to represent workers. Now with the emergence of these farm committees and worker committees in workplaces that are not taking that traditional form of a registered trade union, the CCMA has a challenge of, does it permit institutions like those to come and represent workers because they are the actual representatives of these workers in these workplaces? Does it permit organisations like that to begin to come and represent workers?

Even the whole LRF (Labour Relations Forum) framework, the model that's ingrained in the Labour Relations Act, in terms of forms of worker representation, is very much that old industrial trade union model. And although there have been amendments made now, those amendments, even are very much along the lines of the allowing minority unions representation. But it's still based on this model of the - of the trade union - of the industrial trade union.

I think we're going to see that that sort of framework that the LRA sets up for forms of worker representation, worker bargaining and forms of bargaining and institutions of bargaining; those will have to change. If they don't, all the pulling out of hair on the side of employers and the state about violence that attends these strikes and so on, they will remain; because the problem is not just tightening up strike violence, it's a reflection of this transitional period, that the old framework is finished, it doesn't work.

So I think we're going to see something, you know down the line, we're going to see a very different form of organisation to what we have now. I think we're going to see very different institutions to which workers bargain.

The CCMA, I think, will look quite different in how it functions and who can come there and who can't come there. And depending on the intensity of struggles that workers can mount in their own defence, a labour law that will look very different -- that will reflect these change forms of organisation, mediating institutions and bargaining institutions.

I think it will look quite, quite different.

FAZILA FAROUK: Ighsaan Schroeder, thank you very much for joining us at SACSIS.

IGHSAAN SCHROEDER: Thanks for having me. Cool. Bye.

FAZILA FAROUK: And thank you to our viewers and listeners for joining us at the South African Civil Society Information Service. And remember, if you want more social justice news and analysis, you can get that at sacsis.org.za.

South Africa Mine-Killing Probe Draws to Close After 2 Years

By Amogelang Mbatha and Paul Burkhardt /bloomberg.com/ Nov 14, 2014

More than two years after 34 protesters were killed in the deadliest police action in South Africa since the end of apartheid, the state is completing its investigation.

The Commission of Inquiry into the August 2012 killings near Lonmin Plc (LON)'s Marikana mine, led by retired Supreme Court Judge Ian Farlam, is holding its final session of hearings today in the capital, Pretoria. Initially appointed by President Jacob Zuma in August 2012 with a five-month mandate, the committee now has until March 31 to present its findings.

The families of victims sat through months of evidence from witnesses ranging from Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa to Lonmin officials and mineworkers, including one employee referred to as Mr. X to protect his identity. The commission was tasked with investigating the police's shooting on a crowd of striking workers at the mine, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, on Aug. 16, 2012, as well as the deaths of 10 people, including police officers, in the previous week.

"The families are hopeful that justice can be delivered through the commission," Nomzamo Zondo, director of litigation at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute, a non-profit group representing the families of the slain miners, said by phone yesterday. "Their biggest concern is whether the commission will recommend criminal prosecution of those who are implicated in the killings."
'Strong Recommendations'

The decision by police to take offensive action against the protesters who gathered at a hill at the mine was correct because people had been killed earlier in the week and officers had been assaulted, Ishmael Semenya, senior counsel for the South African Police Service, told the commission today.

"The police could have used teargas, stun grenades and the water cannon which has the power to push them back," Farlam said.

Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega defended the action of officers at Marikana, saying they were trying to disperse and disarm the workers, some of whom were armed with machetes and pistols.

Dali Mpofu, a lawyer for wounded and arrested miners, said Lonmin collaborated with police and should be held responsible for most of the deaths because the company refused to speak to the workers who were protesting over pay.

Labor Laws

Barnard Mokwena, who was Lonmin's executive president of human capital and external affairs at the time of the strike, told the commission the company couldn't negotiate with the strikers because they had embarked on a stoppage that didn't comply with labor laws, the Johannesburg-based South African Press Association reported on Sept. 15.

"I have no doubt that the commission will make a series of very strong recommendations on how the police have to deal with this type of situation so we never ever see something like this again," Gary van Staden, an independent political analyst at NKC Independent Economists, said by phone from Johannesburg.

Ramaphosa was questioned at the commission in his capacity as non-executive director of Lonmin, a position he held before becoming deputy president in May.

He tried to persuade the government to address violence fueled by union rivalry at the mine prior to the police shootings, according to e-mails written to Lonmin executives that were submitted as evidence at the commission. He was heckled while giving evidence by protesters calling him a murderer and sell-out.

Witness Mr. X told the commission he was among protesting Marikana miners who underwent a ritual carried out by traditional healers, known as sangomas, that would protect them from bullets, SAPA reported on June 19.

"When people write about this, they will say this was 20 years into democracy, in many ways it took South Africa back to the dark days of apartheid and that was hopefully the last such incident," Van Staden said.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Female circumcision rife in rural Kenya

14 November 2014/health24.com

Over a quarter of Kenyan women have undergone female circumcision, seen as a rite of passage for girls, despite government efforts to end it.

Draped in animal skin and covered in white paint, four teenage girls squat over large stones in a remote western Kenyan village after being circumcised – a life-threatening custom banned in the country three years ago.

Rite of passage

Like the four neighbours, over a quarter of Kenyan women have undergone the ordeal, seen as a rite of passage for girls despite government efforts to end it in the East African country.

"It's a tradition that has been happening forever," the father of one of the girls, who asked not to be named fearing reprisal from the authorities, told Reuters from the isolated Pokot settlement some 80km (50 miles) from the town of Marigat.

"The girls are circumcised to get married. It's a girl's transition into womanhood," he said.

Wrapped in bright colored shawls, the girls spent the night huddled around a fire in a thatched-roof house as local women gathered to sing and dance in support. One woman fell into a trance after sipping a local wine.

At its most extreme, circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation, involves cutting off the clitoris and external genitalia, then stitching the vagina to reduce a woman's sexual desire.

Practitioners use anything from razor blades to broken glass and scissors.

'A sign of strength'

The UN's Children's Fund, UNICEF, says more than 125 million women have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where genital mutilation is carried out.

Circumcision is heavily practiced among the Pokot community, and one of the girls' mothers believes it is a sign of strength.

"The pain will make her strong. She can show the rest of the community that she can endure it," the woman said after having her daughter circumcised by a Pokot elder donning a beaded neck collar and large brass earrings.

"I'm proud of my daughter for doing this," she said.

Kenyan law provides for life imprisonment when a girl dies from the procedure, which in addition to excruciating pain, can cause haemorrhage, shock and complications in childbirth.

It set up a prosecution unit in March and is currently investigating 50 cases.

It will end

Officials are optimistic they can force a change in attitude but still worry that the practice is too ingrained for legal threats to have an impact.

"We face a myriad of challenges," said Christine Nanjala, who heads the prosecuting unit. "You will find the practice is something highly valued. You will keep quiet and you will not report it – if you do, you face reprisal."

Still, Nanjala was optimistic that genital cutting would be eventually wiped out. "Not tomorrow but it will end, she said. "At the end of the day, without hope, you have nothing."

IMF, Kenya agree on precautionary loan deal

Fri Nov 14, 2014/Reuters

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Kenya and the International Monetary Fund agreed on a stand-by loan deal to support the country's economic reforms and give it a cushion against outside shocks, the IMF said on Thursday.

The fund added that Kenya plans to treat the loan, which would total \$700 million to \$750 million, as precautionary. The deal must still be approved by the IMF's board, which should meet on the issue in late January.

East Africa's biggest economy had first asked for such a facility at the beginning of 2014 to protect it against unforeseen shocks, such as weather-related problems for the farming industry.

"This arrangement would serve an insurance purpose, providing Kenya with access to IMF resources in the event of exogenous shocks," the IMF said in a statement.

The fund said the stand-by loan could help Kenya pursue initiatives such as a multibillion-dollar

standard gauge railway, while keeping its debt sustainable.

The railway should help boost Kenya's economic growth to 6.9 percent next year, compared to 5.3 percent in 2014.

Kenya: Court Orders Akasha Brothers Detained for 17 More Days to Complete Extradition Process

By Mkamburi Mwawasi/allafrika.com/13 November 2014

The Mombasa Chief Magistrate's court on Thursday ordered the detention of the Akasha brothers and two others for 17 more days to allow the state to wind up formal extradition procedures.

"The four respondents have been in custody for four days since the day of their arrest and I therefore grant the State 17 more days to complete their procedures," Chief Magistrate Maxwell Gicheru said.

Gicheru said the 21-day limitation sought by the State to detain Baktash and Ibrahim Akasha, Indian Vijay Goswami and Pakistani Hussein Shabakash was lawful. He said Kenya is obliged to comply with International law having significantly suffered because of international crimes.

Gicheru said the law empowers the Kenyan court to issue provisional warrants of arrest without the production of original documents in court.

"I have no reasons to doubt the documents produced in court by the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions," he said.

He informed the suspects that compelling reasons to deny them their freedom, beside the Interpol Red Notice, had been produced in court.

The US on November 11 wrote to the Foreign Affairs ministry and the DPP's office asking for the extradition of the four to stand trial in a US court over drug trafficking.

The respondents were arrested on Sunday night after months of investigations by Kenyan police and the FBI.

"The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya honouring the provisional arrest of the four," read a report presented in court by State counsel Alexander Muteti.

Muteti told the court that the DPP's office received the notice requesting Kenya's cooperation for the extradition on November 10. He said that Kenya, having adopted international laws, is under obligation to put the warrants into effect.

"The DPP has considered the Note Verbal and is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds to seek provisional warrants of arrest, pending the receipt of original warrants from the US government as required by law," he said.

The four suspects face charges of conspiring to import narcotics.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Successes against Ebola grow in Africa

November 14, 2014/bostonglobe.com

While the threat of Ebola remains — Mali just reported a new outbreak — the news has generally improved in the United States and Africa. The last Ebola patient in the United States, New York City doctor Craig Spencer, was released Tuesday from the hospital. Then on Thursday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the rate of infections has slowed enough to lift the three-month state of emergency in her country that closed schools, quarantined some neighborhoods, and restricted personal movement and public gatherings. But it's important for the world community to keep up its efforts, especially amid lingering fear and misinformation about the disease.

Health care workers have beat back the scourge in other nations; both Senegal and Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, were declared Ebola-free last month by the World Health Organization. Nigeria accomplished this with a massive effort to track down and monitor people exposed to the virus. But with the current global death toll surpassing 5,000, and bordering Sierra Leone and Guinea still struggling to combat the disease, Sirleaf wisely tempered the praise Thursday, saying Liberia cannot be declared Ebola free "until our neighbors are also Ebola free."

Health officials are moving beyond tracking and monitoring as well, with a new effort to accelerate development of Ebola cures. Doctors Without Borders is now partnering with the University of Oxford, France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research, and the Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine to conduct drug and plasma clinical trials in West Africa. African bankers and business leaders, defying the old stereotype that the continent just waits for Western handouts, are committing millions of dollars to fight the disease.

Despite these glimmers of hope, Ebola and the outbreak of raw fear that accompanies it continues to prove divisive. Morocco asked for a postponement of the Africa Cup of Nations next January and February, saying it was not prepared to handle the task of screening visiting soccer fans. The Confederation of African Football responded by expelling Morocco from the tournament altogether. The confederation vowed the tournament would go on, but it has yet to announce a replacement host.

But just as domestic abuse in the National Football League has given that issue a much-needed higher profile, a successful Africa Cup of Nations could lower paranoia about Ebola. Sports can be a great convener; after months of bleak news about the epidemic, hopefully another nation will step forward — and courageous doctors and public health officials will continue to beat back a disease that has terrified the world.

Burkina Faso leaders agree transitional framework

13 November 2014/bbc.com

A framework for a transitional government in Burkina Faso has been agreed after talks between political, military and civil leaders.

A spokesman for the talks in Ouagadougou said the charter project was agreed unanimously.

The transitional body is intended to return the country to civilian rule and prepare for elections next year.

The army took power after President Blaise Compaore was forced to resign on 31 October amid mass protests.

"Today was the day of compromise," said Herve Kam, a member of the Balai Citoyen civil society group.

"Both soldiers and civilians agree on a civilian transition. The institutions of the transition will be led by civilians."

Lt Col Isaac Zida declared himself head of the West African state on 1 November after President Compaore fled to neighbouring Ivory Coast after 27 years in power.

Last week the African Union (AU) issued a two-week deadline for the authorities to restore civilian rule or face possible sanctions.

Under the charter agreed on Thursday, an interim president will be chosen by a special college composed of religious, military, political, civil and traditional leaders.

The president will then name a prime minister to appoint a 25-member government.

The charter also calls for a 90-member national transitional council to serve as a legislative body.

Lt Col Zida, who pledged to hand over power to a civilian authority, is expected to enact the charter within days, officials said.

Mr Compaore first seized power in a coup in 1987 and went on to win four disputed elections.

The protests were triggered by his plan to amend the constitution so that he could run for office again in elections next year.

Ebola: le Liberia lève l'état d'urgence, bientôt des essais de traitements en Afrique
le jeudi 13 novembre/AFP

Monrovia (AFP)

La lutte contre Ebola entrainait jeudi dans une phase de contre-offensive, avec la levée de l'état d'urgence au Liberia, le pays le plus touché, et l'annonce de premiers essais en décembre en Afrique pour des traitements cliniques.

Annonçant la levée de l'état d'urgence instauré le 6 août, la présidente du Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a prévenu que la bataille était loin d'être gagnée, malgré un net ralentissement des contaminations depuis un mois, en particulier dans la région de la capitale, Monrovia.

Le virus, qui a tué plus de 5.000 personnes, dont la moitié au Liberia, se propage toujours intensément en Sierra Leone et dans certaines régions de Guinée, les deux autres pays les plus affectés, et le Mali essaie de juguler la contamination après plusieurs décès à Bamako, la capitale.

"Aujourd'hui nous pouvons tous être fiers des progrès", a lancé Mme Sirleaf lors dans une déclaration à la radio et à la télévision, en annonçant une réouverture progressive des marchés et des écoles et un allègement du couvre-feu nocturne.

Les Etats-Unis, qui ont déjà déployé dans ce pays quelque 2.200 militaires, ont annoncé qu'ils porteraient leurs effectifs à un maximum de 3.000, et non 4.000 comme estimé précédemment.

En tournée dans les trois pays les plus touchés, le nouveau commissaire européen aux Affaires humanitaires, Christos Stylianides, nommé coordinateur de l'Union européenne sur Ebola, s'est dit "inquiet" de l'augmentation du nombre de cas dans certaines régions de Sierra Leone, y compris la capitale, Freetown.

Sur le front de la recherche, les premiers essais de deux traitements cliniques contre cette fièvre hémorragique vont commencer en décembre dans des centres de soins en Guinée, et éventuellement un troisième au Liberia.

Il s'agit de deux antiviraux et d'une thérapie à base de sang et de plasma de survivants, les résultats de ces essais étant attendus à partir de février 2015, a précisé Médecins sans Frontières (MSF).

"C'est un partenariat international sans précédent qui représente un espoir pour les malades d'obtenir enfin un vrai traitement d'une maladie qui tue aujourd'hui entre 50 et 80% de ceux qui sont infectés", a souligné le Dr Annick Antierens, qui coordonne les essais pour MSF.

- Pas maîtrisé avant le second semestre 2015 -

Le coordinateur des essais d'un de ces traitements, à l'hôpital Donka de Conakry, le Dr Johan Van Griensven, de l'Institut de médecine tropicale d'Anvers (IMT, Belgique) a expliqué à l'AFP que "les patients qui ont survécu à Ebola développent des anticorps dans le sang qui sont très puissants pour bloquer le virus".

Le traitement vise donc à utiliser ces anticorps afin d'"augmenter la probabilité de survie pour les patients", a précisé le Dr Van Griensven, soulignant qu'en cas de succès il faudrait encore s'assurer l'agrément des populations.

Au Mali voisin, dernier pays touché, l'inquiétude régnait après trois morts liées à un patient venu de Guinée hospitalisé dans une clinique de Bamako.

L'alerte a été lancée mardi soir après le décès d'un infirmier qui avait soigné ce patient, mort le 27 octobre, tout comme un ami venu lui rendre visite dans l'établissement, selon un rapport de l'OMS.

A Bamako, plusieurs dizaines de personnes ont été placées sous surveillance, dont un "cas très suspect", selon des sources médicales, ainsi que 22 soldats de la Mission de l'Onu (Minusma), traités dans cette clinique pour d'autres pathologies.

Pour les acteurs de la lutte, la mobilisation internationale ne doit pas mollir.

Plusieurs professionnels de santé d'Afrique de l'Ouest ainsi que l'ONG Oxfam ont appelé les pays du G20, qui se réunissent ce week-end en sommet à Brisbane (Australie), à renforcer leur aide, estimant que "presque la moitié" n'assument pas "leur part" de contribution financière au combat contre le virus.

Le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) s'est dit prêt jeudi à étudier un allègement de la dette des trois pays les plus touchés, comme l'ont suggéré les Etats-Unis, et s'est montré plus alarmiste sur l'impact économique d'Ebola, considérant que l'épidémie ne serait pas maîtrisée avant la "seconde moitié" de 2015.

Sur le front sportif, l'incertitude demeure sur le organisateur de la CAN-2015, après le retrait de la compétition au Maroc qui réclamait un report en raison du risque Ebola.

Le président de la Confédération africaine de football (CAF) Issa Hayatou était attendu vendredi en Guinée Equatoriale pour s'entretenir avec le chef de l'Etat Teodoro Obiang Nguema, alors que l'Angola a déclaré forfait et que le Qatar, pays d'Asie, s'est posé en recours.

Sesa Sterlite To Invest \$782 Mn For Africa Zinc

Reuters/14 Nov, 2014

Vedanta Resources reports a 5 per cent fall in first-half core earnings due to lower production and higher costs

Sesa Sterlite Ltd said it would invest \$782 million over a three-year period in southern Africa to tap the region's large undeveloped deposits of the metal and offset a fall in production volume from its mine in Ireland.

The company would spend about \$630 million to develop an open-pit zinc mine and associated infrastructure at Gamsberg, South Africa, the company, part of the London-listed miner Vedanta Resources Plc, said in a statement.

The balance will be used to convert the refinery at the Skorpion mine in Namibia to enable to it to refine zinc concentrates from Gamsberg into special high grade metal, it added.

"The Gamsberg-Skorpion Integrated Zinc Project is central to Vedanta's long term aspirations for Southern Africa," Chief Executive Tom Albanese said in a statement.

Albanese said output from Gamsberg, where first ore is likely to be produced in 2017-18, along with the upgradation of the refinery in Namibia will help the company make up for loss of volume resulting from the end of life of the Lisheen mine in Ireland.

The Gamsberg project, which will be operated by the company's majority-owned Black Mountain Mining unit, will create 1,500 jobs during construction and 500 permanent positions, Sesa said.

Sesa Sterlite shares were down 1.65 percent in afternoon trade on Thursday in a Mumbai market which was down 0.1 percent.

Vedanta Profit Hurt By Costs

Vedanta Resources Plc reported a 5 percent fall in first-half core earnings due to lower production and higher costs at its oil and gas and Zambian copper businesses, where the company said it was continuing to face challenges.

The London-based miner, which has most of its assets in India, said earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation fell to \$2.1 billion in the six months ended Sept. 30 from \$2.21 billion a year earlier.

Vedanta said lower volumes at Zinc India, lower Brent crude prices, a higher share of profit on petroleum payable to the Government of India and a planned maintenance shutdown at Cairn India Ltd, its oil and gas operations, had also hurt the company in the first half.

The miner reported an 8 percent fall in oil and gas production and a 12 percent decline in copper output at its Zambian business last month.

Vedanta bought a controlling stake in Zambia's Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) a decade ago. The business, intended to be part of a push beyond the company's origins in India, accounts for about 8 percent of its total revenue.

"At Copper-Zambia, we remain committed to delivering an operational turnaround, despite several challenges. We continue to engage with various stakeholders, including the Government of Zambia, to improve productivity, volumes and profitability," the company said in a statement.

However, group revenue rose 6 percent to \$6.46 billion as Vedanta was able to recognise higher premiums for zinc and aluminium and produce more at its India copper business.

Realised premiums for aluminium rose 32 percent in the first half of the year, while zinc premium almost doubled.

The company also announced an interim dividend of 23 cents per share, up from 22 cents a year earlier.

Vedanta shares were down 0.4 percent at 793 pence at 0824 GMT on the London Stock Exchange. They have lost more than 30 percent in value since the beginning of the year.

UN/AFRICA :

UN Called on to Keep Fighting Ebola

Nov 13/Prensa Latina

United Nations, Nov 13 (Prensa Latina) United Nations officials responsible for leading the fight against the outbreak of the Ebola virus affecting West Africa, called today to maintain the vigilance and increase the international cooperation to stop the outbreak.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Ebola virus, David Nabarro, and the Head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) Anthony Banbury, updated the General Assembly on the situation of the disease.

In this forum they asked the member states to not lower the guard when facing the progress made in the fight to curb the spread of the virus.

The experts agreed that progress must be taken with caution, because there could be 'many not-reported cases'.

They also called for the support and solidarity with Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the most affected nations by the disease, which caused almost 5.200 dead and around 14.000 cases, 60 percent confirmed in laboratories.

US/AFRICA :

US troops returning from Africa will go into isolation at Langley base in Virginia for 21 days

by: LOLITA C. BALDOR , Associated Press/ November 13, 2014

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon says about 80 troops returning from the Ebola mission in Africa will arrive Thursday in Virginia and be isolated for 21 days at Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

Rear Admiral John Kirby is the Pentagon press secretary. Kirby says they will arrive around noon and be housed in buildings in a secluded area on the west side. He says none of the service members are showing any symptoms of Ebola.

Langley and four other U.S. bases are designated as locations where troops returning from the Ebola mission could be housed while they undergo medical monitoring for three weeks.

The 51 airmen, 27 sailors, four Marines and two soldiers will be able to communicate by phone and computer with their families.

Another US Doctor Contracts Ebola in West Africa

Thursday, November 13, 2014 /6abc.com

A surgeon from Sierra Leone and a permanent resident of the United States who contracted Ebola while working in West Africa will be flown to the United States to receive treatment for the deadly virus, according to a government official.

Dr. Martin Salia is expected to arrive in the United States on Saturday and will receive treatment at Nebraska Medical Center, the official told ABC News today.

It is unclear how he contracted Ebola, but the official said he was in Sierra Leone at the time.

A hospital spokesman would only say that he would soon be evaluated for possible treatment. He would not give any other details.

In a statement, Jen Psaki, a spokeswoman for the State Department, said they were working "in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" and were "in touch with the family of a U.S. legal permanent resident working in Sierra Leone who has contracted Ebola.

"His wife, who resides in Maryland, has asked the State Department to investigate whether he is well enough to be transported back to the University of Nebraska Medical Center for treatment," the statement added.

This comes two days after Dr. Craig Spencer, who contracted Ebola treating patients in West Africa, was discharged from a New York City hospital Ebola-free.

Spencer, 33, who treated Ebola patients in Guinea for Doctors Without Borders, spent 20 days in isolation at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan after testing positive for Ebola there on Oct. 23.

Spencer was the fourth person to be diagnosed with Ebola in the United States and the ninth Ebola

patient to be treated in this country. Only Thomas Eric Duncan, the Liberian national who was diagnosed in Dallas, Texas, in late September, has died of the virus in the United States.

More than 5,000 people have died in the Ebola outbreak that is ravaging parts of West Africa, the World Health Organization reported on Wednesday.

This is the largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded -- the vast majority in the West African countries of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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