



(Namibians are choosing a new president and parliament - in what is Africa's first electronic ballot. The ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) is expected to win the poll and Prime Minister Hage Geingob to become president. Opposition parties had challenged the Indian-made e-voting machines, citing concerns that a lack of a paper trail could encourage vote rigging.)

BURUNDI :

Les tambours du Burundi inscrits au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO

Par RFI /le 28-11-2014

Les tambours du Burundi ont été inscrits, ce jeudi 27 novembre, sur la liste du patrimoine immatériel de l'humanité de l'UNESCO. La danse rituelle au tambour royal est un spectacle qui associe le son du battement des tambours à des danses, de la poésie héroïque et des chants traditionnels. Toute la population du Burundi la reconnaît comme un élément fondamental de son patrimoine et de son identité. Désormais, c'est reconnu au niveau mondial et c'est le sentiment de fierté qui semble dominer au Burundi.

Emmanuel, un tambourinaire de 28 ans, originaire de la commune urbaine de Buyenzi, à Bujumbura, saute très haut et virevolte avant de retomber sur ses pieds, comme si l'inscription du tambour burundais au patrimoine culturel de l'humanité lui donnait plus de tonus.

« C'est une grande joie, incommensurable, et c'est un grand espoir qui me donne le courage d'aller de l'avant, mais aussi d'encourager mon fils de 12 ans de continuer à jouer le tambour, qu'il a commencé à 4 ans », se réjouit Emmanuel.

Pour une fois, oubliées les mauvaises nouvelles qui semblaient s'accumuler dans ce pays depuis un certain temps. Aujourd'hui, tout le monde semble communier autour d'une tradition qui fédère les

Burundais.

« Moi, je suis fier parce qu'on a au moins quelque chose qui nous représente au niveau mondial. Je suis très heureux, je n'ai pas de mots pour l'exprimer, car cela va contribuer à faire connaître ce pays, et surtout parce que le tambour est un facteur d'unité pour les Burundais », dit ce Burundais.

Léonce Ngabo, cinéaste et l'un des plus grands ambassadeurs culturels du Burundi, ne cache pas sa joie car, dit-il, cette décision va redorer l'image d'un tambour qui a perdu, au fil du temps, son caractère sacré.

« Tous les Burundais devraient en être fiers, car il va être protégé dans sa forme de sacralité et je pense que cela va permettre aux Burundais de se rendre compte de cette richesse culturelle que nous avons », a déclaré, à RFI, Léonce Ngabo.

Tous disent attendre maintenant les retombées d'une décision qui devrait donner, aux tambours du Burundi, un souffle nouveau.

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Priest Accused of Genocide Wins Case Against France Télévisions

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)/27 November 2014

Arusha — France Télévisions was on Wednesday ordered by a Paris court to pay 5,000 Euros in damages to Rwandan priest Wenceslas Munyeshyaka for having presented him as guilty of genocide, Hirondelle learned Thursday.

The report entitled "Rwandan priests accused", was broadcast on France 3 on April 13 this year, as part of its "Pieces of Evidence" series . "Despite some perfunctory precautions of style (...), the report in question indeed contains some definitive conclusions biased towards the assumption of guilt for the alleged facts for which he (Munyeshyaka) is under investigation," says the judgment cited by AFP.

The court deemed that the report therefore violated Munyeshyaka's right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. The former priest of Sainte-Famille church in Kigali is the first Rwandan residing in France to have a complaint filed against him (in July 1995) for alleged involvement in the 1994 anti-Tutsi genocide.

A Rwandan court in 2006 sentenced Munyeshyaka in absentia to life in jail. He was indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) for genocide, rape, extermination, murder, and crimes against humanity, before being put under investigation in France in July 1995 for "genocide".

He is currently under judicial supervision and ministering at a church in Gisors, Normandy, whilst waiting for the conclusions of the investigation and a possible trial.

The Paris court judgment makes reference to a sequence in the report containing survivors' testimonies against the priest, interspersed with commentary "without attempting to take any distance (from the testimonies)". It also notes that elsewhere the report claims Munyeshyaka hid himself amongst Tutsi refugees in order to flee Rwanda.

The judgment refers to a third sequence implying that the church in France helped him flee to escape justice in Rwanda. The court said the way this was presented left no doubt that he was guilty in the eyes of the report.

As well as paying damages and interest, France Télévisions was ordered to broadcast a communiqué on the judgment in the next edition of its "Pieces of Evidence" series.

The ICTR transferred Munyeshyaka's case to France at the end of 2007.

According to a recent report by the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), the French investigation into his case is in its final phase.

France and Rwanda are the only two countries to which the ICTR has transferred certain cases as part of its closure strategy. The Tribunal is due to close its doors by the end of this year.

ER/ JC

Rwanda bond over-subscribed 187% amid investor boom

By: Lillian Gahima/Source: KT Press/Fri, Nov 28th, 2014

Rwf 15 billion (21.8M) Treasury bond has registered a 187 % subscription level with 59 bids from different categories of investors. Rwanda issued the bond, to seek funds for infrastructure projects including power plants and convention centre.

It's the 3rd issuance this year.

The National Bank of Rwanda [BNR] announced that the 7 year fixed coupon bond attracted domestic retail investors including Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCO's) have participated.

"SACCO's participation in the bond market has increased significantly from 3 applications in August 2014 to 10 applications today," says Jean Marie Rugambwa, principle finance analyst at BNR.

Retailers and individual investors accounted for 1.4%, Banks 45.6% and non-financial institutional investors were allocated 53% of total amount offered, results the Rwanda secondary market calls promising.

"80% of the former bids were dominated institutional investors like banks but now this particular one has shown more appetite from retail investors, which is a good sign by all matrix," says Celestine Rwabukumba, CEO Rwanda Stock Exchange.

Rwabukumba says the bond will boost activities and promote the development of capital market.

The bond was issued at a discount price of 99.877 as incentive for investors willing to trade their bond on secondary market.

It will be listed on the Rwanda Stock Exchange on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.

The initial price guidance was announced at lower 12s which was later revised to 12.425% -12.5% range.

Central bank governor, John Rwangombwa announced the final price at a yield of 12.5% with an annual coupon rate of 12.475% paid semi-annually.

Subscription level has dropped, since the August 15bn bond saw 234 per cent subscription with 91 bids. BNR owes the decline to the maturity period.

“This is the longest maturity bond on market, we did not expect many individual investors to participate,” says Jean Marie Rugambwa, principle finance analyst at BNR.

The success of bond market in Rwanda is attributed to vigorous awareness campaignson saving and investment.

Meanwhile, investors are confident they will yield good returns from the bond.

“This is a great risk free return and an opportunity to diversify our investment portfolio,” says Maurice Toroitich, Managing Director, Kenya Commercial Bank [Rwanda], one of the commercial banks that bought bonds.

BNR will issue 3 and 10 year maturity bonds on February 23, 2015 and May 25, 2015, this financial year.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Learn to save and spend less, Ugandans told

Date: Nov 27, 2014/newvision

By Ronald Kalyango and Raymond Baguma

Ugandan-Asian investor in real estate, Miraj Barot of Tirupati Development has challenged youth to learn how to save and spend less if they are to succeed in business.

“Let us learn how to save and spend less. Automatically success will follow. There is no shortcut to becoming successful in business. You need to be patient and stay focused. Don't fear to fall because that way you will learn how to rise again,” Barot said.

He added, “Whenever I close my eyes, I see opportunities everywhere in Uganda that have not been exploited yet,” said the 26 year-old entrepreneur.

He argued Ugandans to try out the available business opportunities that exist in the country.

Narrating his experience in entrepreneurship, Barot said, “I started working with my farther at the age of 14. I saw what he was doing and picked lessons. Since then I have become one of the most respected youngest entrepreneur in the country.”

Barot who was the key note speaker during the inaugural Africa Leadership Awards at Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday, said entrepreneurship can't be taught but is experienced. He said that for any individual to be a good entrepreneur, they should cultivate a savings culture.

The awards were organised to reward individuals and government institutions that have contributed to the growth of the country in 2014. During the event, President Yoweri Museveni was awarded the pan Africanist excellence award for his contribution towards continued presence of security on the African continent and prosperity among Ugandans.

The Vice President Edward Ssekandi handed over the plaque to the President.

Museveni also challenged youth to focus on the social economic growth of Uganda instead of spending their time discussing democracy.

“Uganda is over democratic. In fact you are flogging a dead horse. That was supposed to be the topic before we went to the bush. Now that we liberated the country, there is a lot of democracy so the focus should be on using the peace to exploit available opportunities,” Museveni said.

He said Uganda exports a lot of foodstuffs to the neighbouring countries, but wondered about the proportion of the youths' contribution.

He also lashed out at non-governmental organizations that have failed to invest resources in productive sectors such as like agriculture and health.

“Majority are engaged in advocacy. What are you advocating for? In the army that is what we call misguided missiles. I want you to help my people to get out of poverty by encouraging them to invest in income generating activities like farming,” he said.

Tirupati won the youngest entrepreneur award, while Gen. Elly Tumwine, Pius Bigirimana for being at the forefront of several projects such as the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) and the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP).

Also construction company Roko won in the construction category, while Big Five Tourism Club won the tourism category. In the media category, journalist and proprietor of Independent Magazine Andrew Mwenda won.

Other categories included banking which was won by Housing Finance Bank; while Rural Electrification Agency won in the energy sector.

Former Uganda Revenue Authority Commissioner General Allen Kagina, was the woman achiever of the year; while Information Communication Technology award was received by Godfrey Mutabazi (UCC); Vice president Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi handed over the plaques to the winning individuals and institutions.

The finance category was won by Patrick Muhairwe of Stanbic Bank; while agriculture was won by Anthony Ouzi, a leading sugarcane outgrower in Masindi. Kabagambe Kaliisa permanent secretary ministry of energy won the best civil servant of the year, Case Clinic's proprietor Dr. Kato Ssebaale, received the best health institution of the year and Nasser Mukwaya was the youth technical advisor of the year.

Sudan protests remarks attributed to Uganda's Museveni

worldbulletin.net/28 November 2014 Friday

Sudan and Uganda have been at loggerheads for more than two decades now with the two countries accusing each other of backing rebel movements in each other.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry on Thursday summoned the Ugandan chargé d'affaires in Khartoum to protest against remarks attributed to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni that Sudan rejoiced at the ongoing war in South Sudan because it seeks to control the young state's resources.

The ministry said in a statement that head of its Neighboring Countries Administration Bukhari al-Afandi had told the Ugandan chargé d'affaires that Sudan is rejecting the remarks purportedly made by the Ugandan leader during a meeting earlier on Thursday with representatives from the South Sudanese rebel group.

"Sudan does not need to prove its support for South Sudan's stability," the statement quoted the Sudanese official as telling the Ugandan diplomat.

He added that Sudan had welcomed South Sudanese refugees, while Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir had issued instructions for considering South Sudanese refugees as Sudanese citizens.

Sudan and Uganda have been at loggerheads for more than two decades now with the two countries accusing each other of backing rebel movements in each other.

Tensions between the two countries have persisted even after South Sudan and Sudan signed a peace treaty that opened the door for the independence of South Sudan in 2011. Sudan has repeatedly accused Uganda of having expansionist plans in South Sudan.

The Ugandan president met earlier in the day in the Ugandan capital Kampala with a group of South Sudanese rebels.

South Sudan has been rocked by violence since December of last year. The violence, which has pitted the national army against a group allied to sacked vice-president Riek Machar, had displaced hundreds of thousands of people across the fledgling country.

Former Uganda Prime Minister's wife denied him food to protest link with Museveni

By Juma Kwayera/standardmedia.co.ke/Friday, November 28th 2014

Sometime in September, former Uganda Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi received the shock of his life when, upon returning home in the company of friends, his wife Jacqueline told them they did not deserve dinner. Reason? Mbabazi, as President Yoweri Museveni's close ally, had been instrumental in ensuring Parliament approved ekisanja (removal of presidential term limits) that allowed his friend to run for the third term in 2011. Mbabazi and Jacqueline (a confidante of Mrs Janet Museveni), according to Ugandan press, have increasingly been sidelined as Museveni deftly closed avenues that could allow his former trusted ally to challenge him for the party's leadership in August next year. Even though he still retains his position as the Secretary General of the governing National Resistance Movement (NRM), Mbabazi has joined a long list of ex-NRM leaders who have fallen out with Museveni. His removal from the cabinet brings with it challenges in NRM. The backlash is reportedly occasioned by internal strife, which has been exacerbated by desertions from Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) — the backbone of Museveni's presidency.

Uganda goes to the polls in 2016. Museveni's push for another term received a boost when NRM in September endorsed him as the sole candidate to face off with Uganda People's Congress,

Democratic Party and Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) among other opposition outfits. As Attorney General Mbabazi was instrumental in the deletion of the presidential term limits. He reportedly incensed Museveni when he 'postponed' receiving Ush4 million (Sh130,000) meant to grease his palms, even after NRM passed a resolution clearing the president to run for another term. As the president showed Mbabazi the door, NRM followed it up by endorsing Museveni as president for life. However, UDPF has to deal with serious disaffection that automatically affects morale, hence rising cases of desertion headlined by escape into exile of military intelligence chief, Gen David 'Sejusa' Tinyefunza, now based in the United Kingdom. In its analysis of the Ugandan leader's troubleshooting, IHS observes that, "Museveni, who will be contesting his fifth presidential election in 2016 (his seventh presidential term in total), is almost certain to win. The NRM is officially due to pick its prospective presidential candidate at its delegates' conference, which will be held in late 2015.

Museveni has all but declared his candidacy after endorsing a call in August 2014 from NRM MPs who have been 'urging' him to stand again, after passing a motion backing him as the NRM's sole presidential candidate. This suggests that Mbabazi's chances of challenging Museveni within the NRM structures are very limited or non-existent." Journalist and political analyst, Edris Kiggundu, in an article published in The Observer describes Mbabazi's tribulations as, "An accident that was waiting to happen." He refers to the sacking of opposition leader Col Kizza Besigye as, "falling on his sword" after, as AG, he presided over the passage of laws that are likely to hinder his presidential ambitions. "To date, Mbabazi has remained vague about his presidential ambitions. In May, when Museveni met Mbabazi, his wife Jacqueline and sister-in-law Hope Mwesigye at State House, the president reportedly expressed discomfort at Mbabazi's vagueness. But Mbabazi, according to sources, did not commit himself on anything," writes Kiggundu. He points out that the former premier ruffled feathers when in August he was the only NRM legislator who declined the Ush4 million (Sh130,000) to popularise the 2016 sole candidature resolution.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa: SA, China to Review Bilateral Relations

SAnews.gov.za (Tshwane)/27 November 2014

Pretoria — The review of the status of bilateral relations between South Africa and its number one trading partner, China, will form part of discussions during President Jacob Zuma's upcoming State visit to China.

Briefing the media on Thursday, International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said bilateral relations will be reviewed to ensure that the existing strategic relationship with China is further strengthened. Focus will also be on the priority issues of development in South Africa and Africa.

President Zuma will undertake a State visit to China from 4 - 5 December.

He will be heading to China following an invitation by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who paid a state visit to South Africa in March 2013.

Another objective of the visit will be to discuss ways of supporting South Africa's industrialisation agenda by agreeing to invest in the development of science and technology, agro-processing, mining and mineral beneficiation, renewable energy, finance and tourism.

President Zuma and his Chinese counterpart are also expected to review progress on cooperation in infrastructure development.

The President's visit coincides with South Africa's celebrations of 20 Years of Freedom and Democracy following the declaration of 2014 being the "Year of South Africa in China". 2015 has been declared the "Year of China in South Africa".

"The overall objective of the Year of South Africa in China was to profile South Africa's political, economic, social and cultural achievements since the advent of the first democratic government in South Africa in 1994.

"The year also sought to explore more economic opportunities and also showcase South Africa's innovations and best practices in various sectors such as science and technology, mining, arts and culture, tourism and people-to-people interaction," said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

This year marks the 16th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the South Africa and the People's Republic of China.

China has become South Africa's single largest trading partner in the world and South Africa has become China's largest trading partner in Africa. China regards South Africa as a key partner in advancing its relations with the African continent.

Growing trade links

Also speaking at the briefing, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said total trade experienced an upward trajectory since 2008, growing from R121 billion to R271 billion by the end of last year.

"However, the trade balance has been in favour of China since 2008 due to the composition of trade between the two countries where South Africa exports primary products and commodities to China," said Minister Davies.

This was of concern to South Africa, with measures underway to increase South African exports of manufactured goods to China.

"There is a structural imbalance," said Minister Davies.

To this end, exhibitions of value-added goods have been held in China (SA Expos in China).

"We also agreed that there should be procurement missions coming to South Africa targeting the acquisition of value added products. We see value in enhancing the relationship with China and we will continue to work together," said the Minister.

To date, there are 39 Chinese companies investing in South Africa with a capital expenditure of R14.7 billion between January and September 2014.

Chinese investments are mainly in automotive, metals, building and construction sectors.

Meanwhile, 11 South African companies are investing in China with a capital expenditure of R51.8 billion between January 2003 and September 2014. These companies are in a range of sectors of consumer products, minerals, business services and industrial machinery among others.

A South Africa-China Business Forum will be held on 5 December with approximately 100 South African companies operating in several sectors like finance and infrastructure.

Expanding scope of cooperation

The visit follows on the heels of the dti's annual Expos in China.

The State visit will also see several government-to-government Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) being signed, as well as several other commercial MoUs. These will focus on media, banking and technology.

"The signing will strengthen the trade and investment bilateral relationship between South Africa and China," said Minister Davies.

On the issue of cheap imports, the Minister said there was an "unfortunate current account deficit on the balance of trade".

"It has been narrowing but it is there and it means that there are many consumer goods that are coming into this country from all parts of the world that are replacing products that could be made in South Africa.

"If we raise tariffs, we would create space for local manufacturing. We have raised tariffs in some areas and we have strengthened the role of bodies dealing with technical infrastructure to set minimum standards for the entry of goods into South Africa to defend our markets and consumers against unsafe products.

"The message that South Africa wants to put forth is that South Africa is open for business but that it prefers to have international companies set up plants in South Africa. We will work with you and we will support you," said Minister Davies.

The delegation to China will also comprise Minister Davies and Minister of Finance Nhlanhla Nene and Transport Minister Dipuo Peters, among others.

- Sanews.gov.za

South Africa's Zuma to visit China next month

Editor: Bai Yang | Xinhua/11-28-2014

PRETORIA, Nov. 27 (Xinhua) -- South African President Jacob Zuma will pay a state visit to China next month to further strengthen strategic relationship, it was announced on Thursday.

The visit, scheduled for December 4-5, will focus on priority issues of development in South Africa and Africa, the country's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane told a media briefing in Pretoria.

South Africa sees China as a key partner in the implementation of some of the grandiose infrastructure and other development plans on the continent, said the minister.

"South Africa and China share a sound political relationship which can be used better to lay the basis for implementing South Africa's economic objectives," Nkoana-Mashabane said.

China is South Africa's single largest trading partner in the world, and South Africa has become China's largest trading partner in Africa.

During the visit, leaders of the two countries will adopt the China-South Africa 5-10 Year Framework on Cooperation that will further entrench the implementation of agreements entered into since the conclusion of the Beijing Declaration in 2010 and expand on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Both sides will also discuss ways of supporting South Africa's industrialization agenda by agreeing to invest in the development of science and technology, agro-processing; mining and mineral beneficiation, renewable energy, finance and tourism, said the minister.

South Africa also wants to promote cooperation in equipment manufacturing and the localization of procurement through joint ventures with South African companies, according to Nkoana-Mashabane.

The visit, she said, will ensure that "our relations with China remain central to realizing our developmental agenda through our foreign policy."

The minister also said the accession by South Africa to the membership of BRICS was an important milestone in the relations between the two countries.

It was in December 2010 during China's tenure as Chair of what was then BRIC that South Africa become a member of this important grouping, BRICS.

South Africa is an important entry point and bridge to the rest of the continent. This was aptly demonstrated by South Africa's successful hosting of the 5th BRICS Summit in Durban in March 2013, where for the first time African leaders were invited to attend, thus creating a platform for dialogue between BRICS and the continent, Nkoana-Mashabane said.

The recent establishment of the BRICS Development Bank to be headquartered in Shanghai and the decision to locate its African Regional Center in South Africa not only raises the level of cooperation between China and South Africa in addressing global challenges, but it is yet another clear indicator of South Africa's growing significance in driving the African Agenda, the minister said.

Glaxo Fired Executive Who Raised South Africa Race Complaint

By Franz Wild/bloomberg.com/ Nov 28, 2014

GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK) dismissed an executive from its African consumer healthcare division for refusing to submit to a performance plan that was initiated a week after he reported alleged racial discrimination to a confidential integrity hotline, company documents obtained by Bloomberg show.

The executive, who was fired on Oct. 3, filed a 17-page report on Aug. 28 to the compliance department through a web portal, alleging that Glaxo's South Africa consumer healthcare division, its most profitable unit on the continent, was a "white island" and restricted black staff from being appointed to senior management positions. Only one of the 21 top managers in the unit is black, the executive said in the report. He asked not to be identified because he is seeking to be reinstated.

Glaxo "encourages people to speak up if they have any concerns without reprisal," it said in an e-

mailed response to questions yesterday, declining to comment on the documents or the dismissal. “As soon as we became aware of these allegations we immediately began an internal investigation process which includes the use of external legal consultants. The investigation is ongoing and if areas for improvement are identified we will act on the recommendations.”

In South Africa, which was white-ruled until 1994, 80 percent of the population is black and the government has enacted laws to encourage the promotion and training of workers from races that were discriminated against during apartheid as well as the sale of stakes in companies to non-white investors.

Glaxo has “zero tolerance for discrimination and aims to create an inclusive workplace to attract and retain the most talented people from all backgrounds and cultures,” it said in yesterday’s e-mail. “We focus on creating an inclusive organization where all employees feel engaged and know their work makes an important contribution.”

Company Standards

A week after filing the report on Aug. 28, the executive was asked to submit to the three-month so-called Performance Improvement Plan. He refused to sign, arguing that his performance met company standards and the program was designed to force him out of the company, a copy of the plan with his comments shows. That incurred a charge of gross insubordination.

In June he was given a review that placed him in the second-highest category of four performance standards. He got an above inflation pay rise and a bonus in March, documents seen by Bloomberg show.

The performance management program was an effort to “retain him successfully” and not force him out, Jonathan Girling, Vice-President in charge of Africa, said in the documents.

Protect Employees

The integrity line, known as “Speak Up,” was set up to allow workers to report misconduct, violations of country laws and regulations, according to the Brentford, England-based company’s website. “GSK has procedures to protect and safeguard employees from harassment or reprisal when they report concerns in good faith, are genuine concerns of misconduct, and are not falsely raised,” the company said on the website.

The executive received confirmation from Glaxo officials in the U.S. and Dubai that his compliance alert on alleged racial discrimination was being probed, according to copies of e-mails. He was contacted by a Glaxo official five days after his Oct. 3 dismissal, e-mails show. That official told the executive that a lead investigator had been appointed.

The employee also declined an invitation to a Sept. 17 meeting, because the documents stated that it would have signified his acceptance of the performance plan. That incurred a second charge of insubordination.

An external labor consultant hired by Glaxo found the executive guilty of both charges and recommended his dismissal, a copy of that report shows.

Management, Training

While the compliance complaint shows that the South African unit has few black senior managers the company as a whole has a more representative workforce when its other units in the country such as its regional pharmaceutical and consumer divisions, and its African leadership team are considered, according to the compliance report.

Under South African law companies are scored according to how well they include blacks in ownership, management, training and other components. The government can penalize companies with low scores.

Glaxo is compliant with the so-called black empowerment codes at level six and has a five-year employment equity plan, agreed with South Africa's Department of Labour, the company said in a response to queries. There are eight levels, with first being the highest and eight the lowest.

Glaxo's business in South Africa is limited to consumer healthcare products including Aquafresh and Sensodyne toothpaste and Panadol painkillers. It sells pharmaceuticals exclusively through Johannesburg-based Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd. (APN) The South African consumer healthcare division has revenue of about 90 million pounds (\$141 million), according to the compliance report filed by the executive.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania PM sidesteps calls to quit over graft claims

Fri Nov 28, 2014/Reuters

DAR ES SALAAM (Reuters) - Tanzania's prime minister on Thursday sidestepped calls from a parliamentary committee to resign over accusations that he had approved illegal payments to a private power company.

Tanzania has discovered massive gas reserves off its coast, but the energy sector has long been dogged by allegations of graft, causing delays in disbursement of aid by donors.

Earlier this month, parliament received a report on an investigation into corruption charges made by opposition MPs, who said senior government officials had fraudulently authorized the transfer of at least \$122 million of public funds.

On the basis of the report, the watchdog parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) called for Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda's resignation, accusing him of dereliction of duty.

"Let us wait until we conclude this debate and we will make a decision afterwards," Pinda said when asked by an opposition lawmaker if he would step down.

Pinda, who last week tried to block a debate in parliament over the graft report, is expected to make a formal statement to lawmakers on Friday over the affair.

"The prime minister should be made accountable for ... his failure to execute his constitutional duties," said PAC chairman, Zitto Kabwe.

The PAC also called for the resignation of Energy and Minerals Minister Sospeter Muhongo, saying he and other top officials had unlawfully authorised payment of the funds to the owner of an independent power producer, IPTL.

The funds held in an escrow account opened jointly by state-run power utility TANESCO and IPTL were paid to IPTL's owner, Pan Africa Power (PAP) in 2013. PAP said the transfer was legal.

Muhongo told parliament the money in the escrow account had been deposited by the government as part of a power purchase contract it had signed, and therefore rightly belonged to IPTL.

Lawmakers are expected to conclude the debate on Friday and vote on the PAC recommendation for ministerial resignations. If parliament adopts the recommendations, Pinda and Muhongo will be required to resign.

A group of 12 international donors said last month they will only pay out outstanding pledges of budget support worth nearly \$500 million if the findings of the investigation into the graft claims were published and appropriate action taken.

Tanzania: Acacia to go underground

November 28 2014/By Reuters

ACACIA Mining, which changed its name from African Barrick Gold yesterday, would apply for permits to begin underground mining at its North Mara mine in Tanzania. The company, unveiling its long-term strategy, said the project was expected to produce 450 000 ounces of gold over a five-year mine life at an all-in sustaining cost (AISC) of under \$750 (R8 220) per ounce. AISC includes production and exploration expenses. Acacia said it expected underground production from the Gokona pit at North Mara to begin in the first half of next year. It had also signed an exploration joint venture with Canada's Sarama Resources to work on the South Houndé Project in Burkina Faso. – Reuters

Tanzania: Shortage of Veterinaries Hinders Livestock Sector

By Marc Nkwame/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/27 November 2014

Arusha — TANZANIA tipped to be second to Ethiopia in having the highest number of livestock in Africa but nearly 60 districts and seven regions in the country still do not have veterinary officers, it was revealed in Arusha.

The Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Dr Titus Kamani said here that many qualified graduates are still looking for jobs countrywide, calling for proper synchronising of training institutions and the job market.

"While we are working to ensure that local livestock keepers improve their breeds to meet market requirements, the country is suffering acute shortage of veterinary officers while the existing ones would rather work in the comfort of city offices instead of remote areas," Dr Kamani pointed out.

The minister was addressing participants in the ongoing Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA)'s 32nd Annual Scientific Conference which is taking place here for three days from November 25 to 27 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC).

Speaking of the perennial conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers, the minister revealed that a special task force which was dispatched to conduct thorough research on the problem has just accomplished its mission.

"We will table the findings at the ongoing National Assembly sessions in Dodoma in the course of this week," said the minister.

The report will be released when similar conflicts have claimed seven lives in Kiteto district, Manyara region recently. The theme of this year's TVA scientific conference is:

"Innovative Animal Health, Production and Welfare Systems for the Transformation of the Livestock Sector" and the event will be going hand in hand with the 10th Anniversary of the Tanzania Veterinary Council.

KENYA :

Kenya's military says 49 killed in south Somalia

CCTV.com/11-27-2014

Kenya's military says its soldiers have killed 49 Al-Shabaab fighters in southern Somalia. A spokesman with the Kenya Defence Forces says intensified airstrikes were carried out on Tuesday in the Somali city of Jilib.

The airstrikes targeted two camps which are important Al-Shabaab logistics and operational bases. Five commanders of the insurgents were reportedly among those killed, while 27 other militants were injured.

ANGOLA :

Angola's dos Santos maintains bid price for Portugal Telecom

Friday 28 November 2014 /telecompaper.com

Angola's Isabel dos Santos will maintain her takeover offer of EUR 1.35 a share for Portugal Telecom, considering it fair despite the stock's 25 percent rise since her bid almost three weeks ago, Reuters reported citing a source. The source close to dos Santos said the offer by her Terra Peregrin company - which values the whole Portugal Telecom holding company at EUR 1.21 billion - already incorporates a premium to shareholders.

The holding company has no operating assets but owns a near 26 percent stake in Brazil's Oi, which has incorporated PT's operating assets after a merger that is still to be fully completed. It also holds EUR 900 million in debt issued by a bankrupt holding firm of Portugal's Espirito Santo Group.

Dos Santos launched the bid for Portugal Telecom on 09 November in an attempt to thwart a separate EUR 7.025 billion bid for PT's operational assets by Altice. On 12 November, private equity firms Bain Capital and Apax Partners joined the bidding battle to buy the operating assets from Oi, launching a bid worth EUR 7.075 billion. Portuguese conglomerate Semapa joined the funds on 27 November, expecting to take a five to 10 percent share in the investment. Oi said it had not received any improved bids so far.

AU/AFRICA :

Le gouvernement de transition burkinabè veut l'extradition de Compaoré

Avec AFP et Reuters/28/11/2014

Le Premier ministre intérimaire burkinabè Isaac Zida a annoncé jeudi que le Burkina allait demander au Maroc l'extradition du président déchu Blaise Compaoré dans le cadre de la réouverture du dossier Sankara.

Le dossier Sankara "sera entièrement rouvert et la justice sera rendue". Le Premier ministre intérimaire Isaac Zida a promis jeudi 27 novembre que le Burkina Faso allait demander au Maroc l'extradition du président déchu Blaise Compaoré, dans le cadre d'une enquête sur la mort de l'ancien chef d'État, Thomas Sankara, et du journaliste d'investigation Norbert Zongo, qui enquêtait sur le décès d'un chauffeur employé par le frère de Blaise Compaoré.

Le capitaine Thomas Sankara, icône du panafricanisme et qualifié de "Che africain", était l'ami et le frère d'armes de Blaise Compaoré. Il a été assassiné lors d'un coup d'État qui a porté Compaoré au pouvoir le 15 octobre 1987. Sa famille réclame depuis plus de quinze ans l'exhumation de son corps afin de pouvoir vérifier qu'il s'agit bien du sien.

Acculé par un soulèvement populaire, Blaise Compaoré a dû fuir son pays le 31 octobre pour se réfugier en Côte d'Ivoire avant de rejoindre le Maroc le 20 novembre. La société civile appelle depuis à des poursuites judiciaires contre Compaoré, qu'elle soupçonne d'être mêlé à l'assassinat de Sankara.

Le président de la transition au Burkina, Michel Kafando a, par ailleurs, destitué dans un décret lapidaire le chef d'état-major particulier du président déchu, Gilbert Diendéré, considéré comme le plus fidèle compagnon d'armes de Compaoré. Après le coup d'État de M. Compaoré contre le capitaine Sankara en 1987, le général Diendéré était devenu chef du Régiment de sécurité présidentielle (RSP), la garde prétorienne de M. Compaoré, considérée comme "l'armée dans l'armée" au Burkina Faso.

Un journaliste président de l'Assemblée

Le général Zagré, qui était jusqu'à présent chef d'état-major adjoint, remplace le général de division Nabéré Honoré Traoré, qui lui a été nommé "conseiller spécial" de M. Kafando. Le général Traoré s'était déclaré chef de l'État peu avant la démission du président Blaise Compaoré.

Considéré comme trop proche de l'ex-dirigeant, M. Traoré avait été rejeté par la foule avant d'être contraint de céder la place au numéro 2 du RSP, le lieutenant-colonel Yacouba Isaac Zida, qui cumule désormais les fonctions de Premier ministre et de ministre de la Défense.

Autre moment fort de la journée du 27 novembre, l'élection d'un journaliste burkinabè à la présidence de l'Assemblée intérimaire de son pays à l'issue de sa première session à Ouagadougou.

Patron du journal "Bendré", Cherif Sy, 54 ans, a obtenu 71 voix contre 14 à Ibrahima Koné, un responsable de parti politique, lors du vote des 90 conseillers que compte cette nouvelle institution appelée "Conseil national de transition" (CNT).

L'inauguration de l'Assemblée intérimaire du Burkina Faso s'est faite en présence de l'ensemble de ses conseillers, parmi lesquels 25 militaires en uniforme. La composition du CNT avait donné lieu à des jours de discussion.

Ses autres membres, dont 30 sont issus de l'opposition au président déchu Blaise Compaoré, 25 de la société civile et 10 de la précédente majorité, étaient présents, a constaté l'AFP. La transition au Burkina Faso doit durer un an, jusqu'à la tenue d'élections présidentielle et législatives prévues en novembre 2015.

Looking Past Africa's Turmoil

By ALAN COWELL/nytimes.com/NOV. 27, 2014

LONDON — Question: How does the West see Africa? Answer: Through a prism, darkly.

Africa is the Dark Continent, the Heart of Darkness. It is a somber story of disease and turmoil, corruption and despair, punctuated for decades by military takeovers, rigged ballots and wars that have done it few favors beyond securing the ambiguous gift of foreign aid.

Dystopian musings surface easily — and uncomfortably — at a time when African states and regions seem to be associated exclusively with their problems: Ebola in West Africa, gun crime and corruption in South Africa.

The leaders of Kenya and Sudan have been indicted by the International Criminal Court. The continent's newest nation, South Sudan, is mired in conflict. From Nigeria to Somalia, Islamic militants hold great swaths in their thrall. The events once labeled the Arab Spring have left a bequest of chaos in Libya and strongman rule in Egypt.

In its latest report on the state of the continent's governance, the authoritative Mo Ibrahim Foundation, which carries the name of the Sudanese cellphone billionaire who founded it, concluded that, while overall "performance has registered a slight improvement" over the five years to 2013, the pace of that improvement has slowed and "every African country has shown a decline" in one area or another.

In 2006, the foundation set up a \$5 million prize to honor the leader showing the greatest commitment to democracy and good governance. Last year, for the fourth time in five years, the accolade went unawarded.

But is that the whole story? Even the question — How does the West see Africa? — betrays part of the answer, for Africa is not a single entity to be seen through a single prism. Its broad patchwork covers many nations, from sparsely populated desert expanses of Namibia to the ferment of oil-rich Nigeria.

There are some who see beyond the turmoil to a more subtle shift.

"Despite many setbacks," said Michael Holman, a British author with long experience of the continent, "Africa is enjoying a cultural renaissance, recovering the self-confidence that had been shattered by successive traumas — the slave trade, the colonial carve-up, the Cold War, the harsh medicine of the International Monetary Fund, all compounded by bad post-independence leadership."

But, evoking a "surge in African novels, the boom in African art, in style and fashion, in music," there was "evidence of the 'new Africa,'" he said in an interview. "With a rapidly growing middle class, a commodity-fueled economic recovery, boosted by the discovery of oil and gas the length and breadth of the continent, Africa is being transformed."

If there is a political counterpoint to those perceived trends, it might well be discerned in a series of transitions currently underway that will indicate whether individual nations can overcome challenges, including the role of Islam, the power of the military and the Big Man culture nurtured by long-serving autocrats.

In Tunisia, a runoff vote next month in the country's first democratic presidential elections has reopened deep divisions between secularists and Islamists.

In Burkina Faso, a Western bulwark in the struggle against Islamic militants, the ouster of President Blaise Compaoré led to an interim government in which the military asserted strong influence over a transition to elections by next November.

In Zambia, the death in October of President Michael Sata opened a 90-day transition to elections in January that has strained the country's relative tranquility with factional strife.

And in Zimbabwe next week, President Robert G. Mugabe, 90, is expected to use a gathering of his governing party to tighten his 34-year grip on power.

Spread around the continent, those diverse states share a common demography: Africa's median age is less than 20, and, as Mr. Ibrahim said last year, its leadership "must ask itself why our continent appears so frightened of giving the younger generation a chance."

Perhaps another approach is to ask when that generation, like the youthful rioters who forced the departure of Mr. Compaoré in Burkina Faso last month, will try to seize the chances for itself.

Namibia votes in Africa's first electronic poll

28 November 2014/bbc.com

Namibians are choosing a new president and parliament - in what is Africa's first electronic ballot.

The ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) is expected to win the poll and Prime Minister Hage Geingob to become president.

Opposition parties had challenged the Indian-made e-voting machines, citing concerns that a lack of a paper trail could encourage vote rigging.

But the case was dismissed by the country's High Court this week.

About 1.2 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots at nearly 4,000 polling stations across the vast country.

Polling officers will verify voter cards on a device containing the national voters' roll. In the booth, the voter selects their party of choice by pressing a button on an electronic ballot unit.

Electoral officials believe results will be available 24 hours after the poll ends.

There are 16 parties contesting the parliamentary vote and nine are fielding presidential candidates.

Swapo - which has won all elections since independence from South Africa in 1990 - is expected to triumph again in the race to the National Assembly.

The party's candidate Mr Geingob is widely seen as the favourite to become president.

Incumbent President Hifikepunye Pohamba has already served the maximum two terms allowed by the constitution.

Swapo's liberation movement credentials play a significant role in securing party loyalty across age groups, analysts say, although that loyalty has been eroded.

The ruling party has a long record of addressing issues of social inequality, but opposition parties highlight accusations of land grabs and abuse of power by officials.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

Exclusive: Obama plan to 'Power Africa' gets off to a dim start

By Joe Brock/Reuters/Fri Nov 28, 2014

JOHANNESBURG

(Reuters) - Barack Obama last year told a cheering crowd in Cape Town that a \$7 billion plan to "Power Africa" would double electricity output on the world's poorest continent and bring "light where currently there is darkness".

A year later, the U.S. president's flagship project for Africa has already achieved 25 percent of its goal to deliver 10,000 megawatts of electricity and bring light to 20 million households and businesses, according to its annual report.

But the five-year plan has not yet delivered the power.

Power Africa has not measured its progress by counting actual megawatts added to the grid but promises of additional power made in deals it says it helped negotiate, according to sources inside the project and documents seen by Reuters.

Some projects facilitated by Power Africa -- a program operated by the U.S. aid agency USAID -- were under way years before the scheme's inception, others are still in the planning stage.

It is unclear how much of the \$7 billion Obama pledged has actually been spent or if a further \$20 billion in private sector investment commitments will materialize.

"Saying you've met targets on projects that might never happen or taking the credit for projects that have been worked on for years makes me uncomfortable," a source working on Power Africa told Reuters. "It's misleading."

Obama's pledge to double power generation in Africa within five years looked highly ambitious

from the start. Per capita electricity output in Sub-Saharan Africa has been flat for three decades because most promised power plants never get built.

"We're dealing with megawatts on paper, rather than on the grid," a second source working on the project said.

"Is that really what Obama promised?"

The first African-American U.S. president, the son of a Kenyan father, Obama has often been criticized for a lukewarm engagement in Africa, consisting more of words than deeds.

"WE'RE LIKE A PHARMACIST"

The 48 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, with a combined population of 800 million, produce roughly the same amount of power as Spain, a country of just 46 million. This constrains Africa's growth and keeps hundreds of millions in poverty.

Power Africa coordinator Andrew Herscowitz told Reuters there had been some confusion about the role of the program. He said it was always intended to "expedite transactions", facilitating private investment rather than handing out aid.

Herscowitz said Power Africa was there to help the private sector deliver electricity and it had already negotiated commitments from companies worth \$20 billion, although he did not know how much of this money had been spent.

"We're like a pharmacist, where people come to us, we reach out to people and figure out what is needed," he said.

"In some projects we may have a lot of involvement and in some we have very little involvement."

Foreign companies sign billions of dollars of agreements with African governments to build infrastructure every year, although a large number never get built.

In April 2011, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corp., a government aid agency involved in Power Africa, signed a \$350 million deal to "revitalize" Malawi's power sector.

More than three years on, 1.7 percent of that money has been spent, according to the programmer's website, which gives no detail on progress on the ground.

Memoranda of understanding Power Africa signed this year with its six focus countries -- Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia and Ghana -- contain less than \$100 million of financial commitments targeted at specific countries, most of which is for consultants.

U.S. consultancy Tetra Tech won a \$64 million contract and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Africa Governance Initiative was given a \$3 million deal.

As with many African aid projects, rights groups have criticized Power Africa as mostly being a vehicle to subsidize U.S. companies.

Documents show \$5 billion out of the \$7 billion pledged is for loans for U.S. exports from the government's Export-Import Bank (EXIM) and Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC).

TURN ON THE LIGHTS

"It's absolutely not true. Power Africa is an opportunity to turn on the lights for millions of Africans by taking investment from all over the world," Herscowitz said.

Herscowitz rejected suggestions Power Africa merely tapped into existing projects, highlighting a 5 megawatt "NextGen" solar project in Tanzania and a 30 megawatt biomass scheme in Kenya which he said "didn't exist before Power Africa".

The NextGen project website, however, says a power purchase agreement for the solar project was signed in January 2013, six months before Power Africa was launched.

It is by no means guaranteed that the Power Africa program, which has an initial five-year mandate, will continue or be seen as a priority when Obama's final term ends in two years, U.S. government sources told Reuters.

In addition, the investment banks EXIM and OPIC are fighting for their survival in Congress, where Obama's Democratic Party was severely weakened in mid-term elections this month.

In a change of tack, the U.S. government said this month it wants to partner with China on improving power in Africa. [ID:nL6N0SW671]

Meanwhile, corruption in the countries that Power Africa operates in remains a problem.

Nigeria's state oil company was accused last year by the then central bank governor of withholding \$20 billion in oil funds due to the government, while Tanzania's parliament is currently reviewing a report on graft in its energy sector.

SABMiller's Coca-Colonisation of Africa

Jonathan Guthrie/ft.com/November 27, 2014

Brewer eyes sweet drinks to tap emerging markets tastebuds

SABMiller is no longer only here for the beer. The world's second-largest brewer has tilted towards soft drinks by helping create Africa's biggest Coca-Cola bottler. Like chief executive Alan Clark, the deal is unshowy and reflects concern for the future of beer, a workaday tippie under pressure.

In this share-based affair, SABMiller is combining soft-drink bottling operations in several African countries with businesses controlled by Coca-Cola and local investor GFI. The aim is lift modest pop consumption in places such as Kenya and Tanzania to some 100 litres per person per year, as seen in mature South Africa.

That could be do-able. In emerging markets, the upsale is from tap water, where it is available, to soft drinks. Shifting customers from cheap to pricey beers in any market is, in contrast, fraught with the risk they will defect to aspirational wine.

The big South African group is contributing bottlers producing 57 per cent of pro forma earnings before interest and other nasties to Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, whose pro-forma sales are \$2.9bn. SABMiller will have a 57 per cent economic interest in the group, which it will narrowly control via 50 per cent of voting shares plus one vote.

But SABMiller cannot be judged to have gained control of bottlers contributed by Coke and GFI at zero cost. There is a \$260m side deal for Coke to buy ownership or licences for 19 SABMiller soft-drink brands. Coke may also have scope to increase franchise fees paid by the joint venture for bottling its eponymous beverage if dividends are disappointing.

Meanwhile, in the US, the world's biggest beverage market, fewer Americans will have toasted Thanksgiving with either a Coke or a Miller, SABMiller's most famous brand. The vogue is for craft beers with names like "Old Noggin's Tanglewood Ale" and health drinks so foul they must be good for you (kale smoothie, anyone?) Bigger consolidations than CCBA – such as a bid from AB InBev for SABMiller – are doubtless in the works.

Eurotrash talk

Opinion is divided on how European investment banks are doing in the US. Bankers at bulge-bracket US companies tend to regard them as outflanked, outgunned and out to lunch. It can thus only be a matter of time before the Brits, Germans and Swiss retreat to the default-imperilled, dirigiste Gehenna whence they came.

Contrariwise, Wall Streeters employed by European banks say they are doing fine.

As a rule, banking franchises are very robust. More so than prophets of banking consolidation ever admit. Withdrawals occur rarely. For example, Lehman Brothers went bust during the financial crisis. But the US operation was bought by Barclays in one of the smartest deals of recent years and continues under that name.

There is debate as to whether veteran Lehmanites are aware of the change. They may find the concept too shocking to believe, as Queen Victoria is said to have done with lesbianism.

Barclays has been pulling back from capital-intense debt trading. But Dealogic league tables show that, in advising on new deals involving US companies, the business formerly known as BarCap is in the same place this year as in most others: around fourth for debt, sixth for M&A and seventh for equity. Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse cling limpet-like to habitual top-10 rankings too, behind such behemoths as Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase.

UBS is slipping. It has opted to concentrate on "wealth management", as investing the scrap gold of Basel dentists is these days known.

The rational man posited by old-school economists would want to know whether European investment banks make good profits in the US. Estimates from Dealogic and brokers imply that, on average, they are looking at the thick end of "nothing special".

The rational man would never invest in a middle-ranking investment bank. He would work there, given the pay structure.

Ozzy Osburned

The Ghost of Budgets Past is loitering at the door of No 11. You may recall that in 2011 George Osborne promised to reverse a tax hike on North Sea drillers if oil fell below \$75 per barrel.

This promise now looks as unwise as Dr Faustus pledging his soul for a night of passion with Helen of Troy. The windfall tax was forecast to help raise extra tax of about £2bn in 2014-15 and £1.9bn in 2015-2016. But Brent was at about \$73 per barrel on Thursday, compared with \$115 back then.

The chancellor thus faces cutting supplementary tax on North Sea oil from 32 to 20 per cent even as a lower price reduces the total yielded by the remaining levy. The price fall needs to be “sustained” to trigger the tax cut. But it would be gracious for Ozzy to acknowledge his predicament in next week’s Autumn Statement.

CANADA/AFRICA :

Canadian Forces medical team to treat health-care workers in Sierra Leone, but not civilians

By: Terry Pedwell/ The Canadian Press/Thu Nov 27 2014

Up to 40 health care and support staff will focus on those battling Ebola, at the request of the British military

OTTAWA—Canadian military medical specialists are getting ready to deploy to the epicentre of the fight against the deadly Ebola virus, and the federal government is encouraging private health-care workers to join them.

As the government took part in Thursday’s launch of the “Join the Fight Against Ebola” recruitment campaign at the Ottawa Hospital, medical workers just down the hall were practising the painstaking ritual of donning and removing the layers of protective gear they’ll need to help people in Sierra Leone.

Teams of military medical specialists will be deployed to Sierra Leone for two months at a time over a six-month period beginning at the end of December.

The government says up to 40 Canadian Armed Forces health care and support staff will deploy to the West African country at any given time.

The military doctors, nurses, medics and others will work alongside military medics from the United Kingdom at the Kerry Town Treatment Unit.

Their task will be to treat local and international health-care workers who have been exposed to the deadly Ebola virus — but not the local population. That decision was based on a request from the British military, said Defence Minister Rob Nicholson.

“According to the information we have and in our discussions there was a need for this,” Nicholson told a news conference Thursday at the Ottawa’s Hospital’s civic campus.

“So we indicated we would supply that service.”

Some are wondering what has taken so long.

“It’s belated, there’s no question about it. How many months now after the call for more human resources are we answering?” said Dr. Ross Upshur, a Toronto public health expert and a member of the ethics advisory board for the Public Health Agency of Canada.

“But better late for never, that’s for sure. And let’s hope that there’s more. It’s commendable. But why are we the followers and not the leaders here?”

Canada had been reluctant to send medical aid workers to West Africa until it had guarantees that it could get people home if they became infected. But Health Minister Rona Ambrose said evacuation services have since improved.

“We didn’t feel it was responsible for us to be encouraging people to go to West Africa until we felt very comfortable with the medical evacuation options for Canadians,” Ambrose said.

“We feel comfortable with that now.”

One company in particular, Georgia-based Phoenix Air, has tripled its capacity to deal with evacuation requests.

Health workers are desperately needed in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, where the virus has been spreading. The World Health Organization said on Wednesday the total number of Ebola cases was nearing 16,000. As of Nov. 23, it said 15,935 cases had been reported in eight countries.

Of those infected during the epidemic, 5,689 have died.

The WHO also says 592 health-care workers had been infected with Ebola as of Nov. 23. Of those, 340 have died — the vast majority of them local residents in countries with very low health worker-to-patient ratios.

Ambrose also announced \$20.9 million in new additional funding to 10 humanitarian organizations working to address the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from the Ebola outbreak.

The money will go to the Canadian Red Cross Society, French Red Cross Society, Médecins Sans Frontières, Action Contre la Faim, Canadem, Care Canada, Oxfam Quebec, Plan Canada, Samaritan’s Purse and Save the Children.

“We’ve been asking for the Canadian government to scale up efforts and to send medical personnel to the field for months now,” said Stephen Cornish, the executive director of Médecins Sans Frontières Canada.

“So we are clearly very pleased with today’s announcement.”

Aid workers in the field are now seeing some of the pledges made months ago being delivered, but funding increases from many countries have been slow and there are still critical gaps in almost every area of the response, said Cornish.

International attention toward the crisis has waned in recent weeks as word has spread that the outbreak may be slowing. In Liberia, for instance, the number of new Ebola cases has been steadily easing.

But the spread of the virus is expected to continue for months and more health-care workers are still desperately needed.

Canadian health-care workers employed by the federal government who volunteer for duty in West Africa are being promised the same jobs, salaries and benefits upon their return that they had before leaving.

But it’ll be up to individual provinces to decide whether workers from their own jurisdictions will

enjoy the same commitments, said Ambrose.

Red Cross Canada has sent 19 personnel to West Africa since the beginning of the outbreak in March.

Ebola : le Canada enverra une équipe médicale en Sierra Leone

le jeudi 27 novembre 2014/Reuters

Le Canada va envoyer pour six mois en Sierra Leone une équipe médicale militaire de quarante membres afin de participer à la lutte contre l'épidémie de fièvre hémorragique Ebola, a annoncé jeudi le gouvernement.

Le ministre de la Défense, Bob Nicholson, a précisé lors d'une conférence de presse que cette équipe, composée de médecins, d'infirmiers et de personnel d'assistance, serait sur place avant la fin décembre.

Les militaires canadiens travailleront avec leurs collègues britanniques dans une unité de soins près de Freetown.

Le Canada a annoncé ce mois-ci qu'il avait lancé les essais cliniques d'un vaccin expérimental dont les résultats sont attendus début 2015.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

Aust health workers leave for west Africa

au.news.yahoo.com/Lucy Hughes Jones / November 28, 2014

Before hopping on a plane bound for Ebola-hit Sierra Leone, a Sydney nurse admitted she was scared but knew it was the right thing to do.

She's one of 17 Australian health workers who left Sydney Airport on Friday afternoon to help fight the Ebola crisis gripping west Africa.

"I don't think where you live should determine whether you live," said Molly, who asked for her surname not to be made public.

"I've been brought up with a strong social conscience ... if you have the skill set and you're available, anyone in a similar situation would go."

The 27-year-old emergency department nurse from Sydney's inner west said her family was understandably nervous.

"I'm nervous, too, but sometimes you've got to put fear aside to do what's right," she said.

The medical team, comprising six doctors, eight nurses and three environmental health officers, is part of the Abbott government's response to calls for countries to do more to combat the disease.

Ebola has claimed more than 5000 lives since the beginning of the year.

Members of the group will be deployed for periods ranging from one to three months.

Molly hopes to stay for six weeks.

"The burnout rate is probably quite high given the kind of work we'll be doing," she said.

It's understood they will be based at the 100-bed treatment centre at Hastings airfield, near the Sierra Leone capital, being built by British engineers.

The centre will be handed over to the Australian mission in mid-December.

Molly said the group had undergone training and would be trained for a further week in-country.

EU/AFRICA :

EU Supports West Africa Trade, Investment With €40m Grants

November 28, 2014/spyghana.com

Today at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, ECOWAS, WAEMU and the European Union, together with implementing partners launched two major programmes. These programmes represent an integrated initiative, which aims at promoting intra- and inter-regional trade, improving the business climate and strengthening the productive capacity of West Africa. Through these initiatives, the objective is to foster economic growth and reduce poverty in the region.

The Support to Regional Economic Integration and Trade Programme is composed of four components. The first two aim at promoting trade integration in West Africa and are being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with an EU grant of €10m, and additional contributions from the German Government (BMZ) and the ECOWAS Commission of €1m and €0.5m respectively. Component 3 focuses on Improving and facilitating trade in West Africa and is implemented by the World Bank Group (WBG) through an EU grant of €3.5million. The fourth component aims at deepening the existing customs union of WAEMU Member States and will be directly implemented by the WAEMU Commission with an EU grant of €5million.

The West Africa Competitiveness Support Programme on the other hand has two main components. The first component has the objective to improve the investment and business climate in West Africa and is implemented by the WBG with a total EU grant of €7.7m. The second component aims at supporting the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions to implement the regional quality policy which will boost intra-regional and international trade. The project is being implemented by UNIDO with an EU grant of €12million.

At the launch, the President of ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency, Ambassador Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo thanked WAEMU, the EU, as well as other partners such GIZ, WBG and UNIDO, for their continuing support towards economic and trade integration and private sector competitiveness in West Africa. The components of these programmes will contribute towards the implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). He renewed the political commitment of the region and commended the leadership of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in consolidating the ECOWAS Common market through, inter-alia,

strengthening the free movement of people and goods, as well as the attainment of quality infrastructure.

On his part, the European Union Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS Mr. Michel Arrion stated that “West Africa has a major opportunity to deepen internal trade and investment ties and also to become a global economic player. Today, our message to the world is that this region is open for business. These two programmes should be seen as an integrated effort to support the process of growth, and are a testimony of ECOWAS commitment to follow this path, and the importance Europe attaches to its relationship with West Africa”.

In his remarks, Mr. Patrick Kormawa, the UNIDO Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS reiterated that “creating access to markets remains a significant challenge in the region and the West Africa Quality Support Project will be the instrument of change”. Mr. Andreas Proksch, GIZ Director General of Africa Department, stated in his contribution that “increase in intra- and inter-regional trade will ultimately improve the economic well-being of the citizens of West Africa”. Marie-Francoise Marie-Nelly, Country Director of the World Bank Group, noted that “West African countries have enormous potential to strengthen competitiveness and increase trade and investment flows, which can drive growth, reduce poverty, and deliver jobs in the region”.

The launch event was attended by high profile dignitaries from ECOWAS, EU, WAEMU, BMZ, GIZ, WBG, UNIDO, representatives of the government of West African countries, regional private sector organisations, other stakeholders and ladies and gentlemen of the press.

Ebola crisis: French President Hollande to visit Guinea

28 November 2014/bbc.com

French President Francois Hollande is to arrive in Guinea, becoming the first Western leader to visit a nation hit hard by the deadly Ebola virus.

He will deliver "a message of solidarity" to Guinea, where more than 1,200 have died of Ebola.

France has pledged 100m euros (£79m; \$125m) to help tackle the disease by opening several care centres in Guinea.

The outbreak was now "stable" in the West African country, the World Health Organization (WHO) said last week.

There were still some flare ups in the south-east, but things were improving in other prefectures, WHO co-ordinator Dr Guenaël Rodier told the BBC.

More than 5,400 people have died in the latest outbreak, with Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia the worst hit.

Mobile clinics

President Hollande is expected to arrive in Guinea's capital Conakry later on Friday - the first Western head of state to visit the country since the first cases of the disease in March.

During his one-day visit, he will tour healthcare centres and take part in round-table discussions on Ebola, according to the AFP news agency.

In addition, Paris plans to send mobile health clinics to Guinea and fund 200 beds for Ebola

patients.

After Guinea, President Hollande will fly to Senegal to take part in a summit of French-speaking leaders.

Guinea has not been as badly hit by Ebola as neighbouring Sierra Leone and Liberia.

But eight months since the outbreak was first declared, some still do not believe Ebola is a real disease, and health teams trying to trace new potential cases are still being refused entry to some villages, says the BBC's Tulip Mazumdar.

Ebola is spread only through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person showing symptoms, such as fever or vomiting.

People caring for the sick or handling the bodies of people infected Ebola are therefore especially vulnerable.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

Made in India EVMs power Africa's first e-vote
AFP/@ibnlivetech/Nov 28, 2014

Windhoek: Namibia will vote in Africa's first electronic ballot Friday, a general election that will usher in a new president and quotas to put more women in government.

Opposition parties had launched an 11th-hour challenge to the use of the Indian-made e-voting machines, claiming the lack of a paper trail could open the door to vote rigging.

But the Windhoek High Court dismissed the application on Wednesday, leaving the door open for the election to go ahead as planned.

Namibians will choose 96 members of the national assembly and one of nine presidential candidates, ranging from the left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters to the white minority Republican Party.

Around 1.2 million Namibians are eligible to cast their ballots at nearly 4,000 electronic voting stations across the vast desert nation.

But there is only one likely winner.

Current Prime Minister Hage Geingob of the ruling SWAPO party has run on a platform of "peace, stability and prosperity" and is sure to become the new president.

The South West Africa People's Organisation was forged from the embers of the anti-colonial and

anti-apartheid struggle and has won every election since Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1990.

"I was born SWAPO," said Hosea, a Windhoek student who vowed to vote for the centre-left party of liberation.

According to pollsters, the party remains hugely popular.

The question will be whether discontent over social and economic issues will eat into SWAPO's support, eroding its 75 percent haul garnered in 2009.

'Look at how we live'

Single mother of four Gredula Nashima, 39, said she will vote for SWAPO again this time, but wants to see change.

Sitting in the dirt outside her zinc panel shack by a pile of bones, she talks about unemployment, poor housing and a lack of electricity as she artfully, but violently butchers cows heads with an axe.

Hacking and smashing at the skulls, she renders the meat to small strips that are hung on a clothesline to be dried and sold, or made into "kapana" -- slices of grilled meat. The leftover bones are sold to a fertiliser company.

"We want to see our leader, whoever will be in the seat, to look at our living conditions, our roads are not tarred, but we also want help for those who have their own businesses," she said.

Like many Namibians she remains sceptical about opposition parties and their motives.

"I don't know their intentions and their objectives. If I did know I would be with them," she said.

The opposition had called for the election to be delayed until February.

But Windhoek High Court acting judge Kobus Miller rejected their application, saying he he was not satisfied with their case, although he conceded that voting has two components: voting and verification.

Big tent party

Like many of Africa's liberation movements, SWAPO has become a big-tent party that spans the political spectrum and often seems more involved with intra-party politics than voters.

Supporters say that allows for continuity, but critics say it brings stasis.

A recent Afrobarometer poll showed nearly two thirds of voters believe the government is doing a bad job creating jobs, fighting corruption and improving living standards for the poor.

Economic growth is forecast at around four percent for this year, yet one in four people is out of work, according to the government's narrow definition.

The economy remains dependent on diamond and uranium mining.

Party acolytes are widely seen hogging government tenders and providing "jobs for comrades".

Wealth inequalities are stark.

Adri van Tonder, an elegantly dressed non-nonsense Windhoek car dealer, says business is great.

"It's crazy, if dealers say it is not busy then they are just being lazy."

Van Tonder said she sells small cars to people working in mining and other industries, but top dollars come from "people from the ministries" -- the government elite who buy the sleekest German sedans.

In a bid to be more in touch with voters SWAPO has vowed to put half of party and parliamentary posts in the hands of women.

The party has launched a "zebra" parliamentary list - one man, one woman - to make sure half of parliamentarians are women.

But facing a backlash from sitting male MPs, parliament has also expanded the number of seats to 96 under a constitutional amendment.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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