



(Deadly raid comes against backdrop of hostilities between Islamist extremists al-Shabaab and Kenyan government. At least 36 people are feared dead after gunmen staged an attack on a quarry in north-east Kenya, according to the Red Cross.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi : le gouvernement admet des irrégularités dans le processus électoral
01.12.2014/lavoixdelamerique.com

L'opposition et la société civile ont dénoncé, à plusieurs reprises, les fraudes qui, selon elles, entachent le processus.

Le ministre de l'Intérieur du Burundi, Edouard Nduwimana, a reconnu lundi que "pas mal d'irrégularités—dont certaines relèvent de l'administration—entachent l'enregistrement des électeurs, à quelques mois de la présidentielle.

Pareille situation avait déjà été dénoncée par des organisations de la Société civile burundaise qui mettent en doute la volonté du pouvoir d'organiser un scrutin crédible.

Depuis une semaine, les médias privés font état de nombreux cas de fraudes, notamment la distribution de cartes d'identité aux militants du parti au pouvoir.

L'aveu du ministre de l'Intérieur fait donc suite à ces dénonciations.

Cependant, les critiques de l'opposition et de la société civile burundaise suscitent souvent des réactions négatives de la part du gouvernement ou de ses partisans. Un cas cité récemment dans la presse internationale, c'est celui de Pacifique Nininahazwe du Focodé (Forum pour la Conscience et le Développement).

Nininahazwe a révélé à VOA que ses récentes prises de position sur le climat politique et la situation des droits humains dans le pays lui ont valu des menaces directes, la semaine dernière.

Rendre espoir aux enfants du Burundi

mardi 02 décembre 2014/lavenir.net

C'est une idée pleine de solidarité qui s'est faite jour, il y a un peu plus d'un an en terre rendeusienne. Celle d'aider les autres et plus particulièrement les enfants.

Des enfants certes distants de nombreux kilomètres mais qui, dans le cœur des membres de l'ASBL, sont très proches. Ils vivent au Burundi. Un pays où les différences sociales ne laissent aucune chance. Lorsque les enfants sont orphelins, s'ils font partie d'une famille qui n'a pas les moyens de payer l'uniforme obligatoire pour aller à l'école, leur sort est presque irrémédiablement scellé: ce sera la rue, avec ses misères, sa mendicité. Pourtant, la scolarisation est la seule possibilité d'émancipation.

Maison de l'espoir

L'ASBL Action d'aide aux enfants défavorisés au Burundi, sise à Rendeux, a d'emblée placé la barre très haut. Elle a ouvert à Cankuzo, la Maison de l'espoir. Dans cette dernière, actuellement, 13 enfants vivent en permanence et peuvent fréquenter l'école. «Sur place, François Nahimana, enseignant burundais, est administrateur. Il sert de relais entre la Belgique et le Burundi. Il a engagé deux éducateurs et une cuisinière qui vivent avec les enfants et s'occupent de leurs besoins existentiels», note Dany Leruth-Monin, secrétaire de l'ASBL. Le nerf de la guerre reste bien entendu les finances: «Les dépenses mensuelles liées au loyer, salaires, nourriture et besoins pour les enfants s'élèvent à 450€ par mois», souligne la secrétaire. Pour financer ce projet et le pérenniser, chose essentielle chez les membres de l'ASBL, ces derniers organisent plusieurs manifestations. La dernière en date, un souper, vient de se tenir. Des cartes de soutien sont également disponibles et les dons sont les bienvenus.

RWANDA :

Rwanda Counts Integration Gains

By Eric Kabeera/The Independent (Kampala)/1 December 2014

Rwanda has attracted investments worth US\$100million since it joined the East Africa community seven years ago. More investments enter the market from Kenya Rwanda and Uganda, according to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of East Africa community affairs, Innocent Safari.

He says more than 2500 Rwandans have been employed as a result of the regional investments in the local market.

Over 400 companies from the regional member states are recorded to have entered Rwanda and created tax revenue for the government and jobs for the citizens.

The regional biggest corporate companies have invested in various sectors especially financial sector, agriculture, tourism, transport and in manufacturing as this has boosted the country's economic growth.

The minister, at a Nov. 17 press conference on during the EAC week in Kigali, was promoting integration awareness. During the week the, ministry engages stakeholders in sensitization campaigns showcasing the opportunities and the best approach in tapping into the regional market.

"When you look at what we have achieved since we entered the community it's quite positive. We want to continue advocating for the removal of the existing non-tariff barriers to ease the free movement of goods and services," Safari said.

He added that easing of movement of people by use of National identity cards, students IDs, and other authorised travel documents among the three countries, would promote investments, especially cross border trade.

The accession of Rwanda to EAC Integration has also contributed to its competitiveness in terms of proactive implementation of EAC commitments.

In terms of Customs Union, Rwanda has removed Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) that were in form of roadblocks, weighbridges and other formalities. This has resulted into the reduction of days taken to transport the cargo containers from Mombasa port in Kenya to Kigali as well as from Dar es Salaam port in Tanzania.

Cargo trucks that previously spent twenty one days it now takes only four days. This has increased trade competitiveness and reduced prices of goods.

The country extended the working hours at different borders to attract more business through increased free movement of goods and services.

The Gatuna border between Rwanda and Uganda operates 24-hours a day while the Rusumo border with Tanzania operates 16 hours, and Nemba which borders with Burundi operates 18 hours, Cyanika that neighbors Uganda works 16 hours and Kagitumba operates 16 hours respectively.

Tanzania slow:

Despite the progress made, some challenges remain for transporters who ply the Dar es Salaam to Kigali route.

According to some of them, theft of cargo at the Dar port is a major problem.

In March 2014, Mineral Supply Africa was advised by its buyer that 1 of its Coltan containers valued at around \$760,000 was found with cement bags instead of the Coltan material.

This theft case happened despite security measures that included sealing the containers with electronic tracking devices that were put in place as a response to another series of thefts that had happened in late 2012. About five to six containers were also stolen. Rwandan Transporters now pay up to US\$300 per truck as a national park fee for crossing while Tanzania registered trucks pay only US\$40. This makes Rwandan carriers uncompetitive on this route.

Denis Karera, a Rwanda regional businessman and Vice Chairman East African Business Council Rwandan Chapter says Tanzania needs to create a better environment for all trade partners.

Tanzania, which is among the founders of the East African Community, is often criticised for being slow in implementation of the regional decisions.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : la CPI confirme la peine du Congolais Lubanga en appel

Lundi 01 Décembre 2014/video.planet.fr

La Cour pénale internationale a confirmé en appel la peine de 14 ans de prison à l'encontre de Thomas Lubanga ce lundi à La Haye. En 2012, l'ancien chef de milice congolais avait été reconnu coupable de crime de guerre par la justice internationale.

Le président de la Cour d'appel, le juge Erkki Kourula, a rejeté tous les arguments de Thomas Lubanga liés au motif d'appel. ' Il n'est pas parvenu à étayer concrètement ses arguments, a-t-il déclaré, a déformé les conclusions de première instance et du dossier d'instruction. La Cour d'Appel n'a relevé aucune erreur dans la procédure du tribunal de première instance. '

Thomas Lubanga estimait que son premier procès n'avait pas été équitable. Il était poursuivi notamment pour avoir enrôlé des enfants soldats en République démocratique du Congo en 2002 et 2003.

C'est en janvier 2009 que s'ouvre le procès de Thomas Lubanga devant la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), trois ans après qu'un mandat d'arrêt international a été délivré contre l'ancien chef rebelle congolais pour qu'il soit jugé pour crimes de guerre, conscription, et enrôlement d'enfants-soldats de moins de quinze dans un conflit armé.

'Il a commis certains des crimes les plus graves aux yeux de la Communauté internationale, des crimes contre des enfants', dira alors Luis Moreno-Ocampo, le procureur de la CPI.

Outre des rapports d'ONG faisant état de pratiques de viols, de tortures, de meurtres, de pillages et de déplacements forcés, Thomas Lubanga a été reconnu coupable d'avoir recruté des enfants-soldats pendant la guerre civile en Ituri entre 2002 et 2003.

Il était alors chef de l'Union des patriotes congolais (UPC) et commandant en chef de son aile militaire, à savoir les Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo (FPLC), accusées de nombreuses atteintes aux droits humains.

De 1999 à 2004, durant le conflit d'Ituri, une région du nord-est de la République démocratique du Congo, les affrontements interethniques et les violences entre milices pour le contrôle des mines d'or notamment ont provoqué la mort de 60 000 personnes. Trente mille enfants auraient été envoyés au front par les différentes forces armées présentes sur le terrain, certains avaient tout juste 8 ans.

En 2012, Thomas Lubanga avait été condamné à 14 années de prison. Il s'agissait alors de la première condamnation de l'histoire de la CPI.

Créée en 2003, cette juridiction est le premier tribunal pénal international permanent chargé de juger les auteurs présumés de génocides, crimes contre l'humanité, crimes d'agression et crimes de guerre.

UGANDA :

Uganda beats Spain in UK tourism poll

Date: Dec 01, 2014/newvision/By Innocent Anguyo

An international online survey conducted by The Guardian, one of UK's leading newspapers, has established that Uganda is a better holiday destination than Spain.

The poll was conducted last week by the online version of the paper, the second most popular UK newspaper website, with a daily average of 2,937,070 browsers.

Answering the poll question "where would you prefer to go on holiday?", 79% of the respondents said they would rather visit Uganda than head to Spain.

The 79% alluded to Uganda's beauty, wildlife, scenery, culture, the hospitable people and the landscape from the snowcapped

Mountain Rwenzori to the open savannah, as the lure to the diverse country sitting astride the Equator.

"For perfect weather galore all year round, I would go with Uganda. Before we even get to the physical scenery, being the most ethnically diverse country in the world, each of its people has a rich culture to marvel at. For those who think you can find the same physical features in Spain, there is only one River Nile the last time I checked. Spain is beautiful too, but I think Uganda is a bigger package!" said Concon Berries.

Those who backed Spain said it houses the world's grandest, most powerful and incomparable architectural treasures, such as the Great Mosque of Cordoba. Some of them argued that Ugandans were homophobic.

Most respondents rubbish talk of Uganda being homophobic as "populist", "narrow" and "ignorant". "While people talk about the country being homophobic, it is really just talk. Otherwise, enjoy the boom in arts and culture, poetry, music, drama. The people are friendly. That is no lie," said Joel Benjamin.

The Guardian conducted the poll after President Yoweri Museveni last week said Uganda is a better tourist destination than Spain.

In an opinion piece published in the New Vision on Wednesday, Museveni criticised tourism officials for merely promoting Uganda as having "only some chimpanzees and so on". Stephen Asiimwe, the executive director of the Uganda Tourism Board, said they are in the advanced stages of hiring a public relations and marketing firm to promote Uganda in North America, German-speaking countries, the UK and Ireland.

Asimwe termed results of the poll as encouraging, saying it improves Uganda's visibility. He urged the private sector to take advantage of the publicity to reap from tourism and authorities to plan for the expected surge in visitors and encouraged the Government to invest more in tourism.

Tourism accounts for nearly 8% of Uganda's gross domestic product. This is not the first time Uganda and Spain have gone head to head in comparison.

In June 2012, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy sent a text to his finance minister in the midst of negotiations on the terms of a \$125b bailout for Spain's banks. Urging his minister to hold out for a good deal, Rajoy said: "We are the number four power in Europe. Spain is not Uganda." The remark caused a storm of protest in Uganda and some ironic tweets pointing out Uganda's economic success.

To establish how the two countries compare, BBC found out that as Uganda grew by 5.2%, Spain recessed by 0.1%. Spain had an unemployment rate of 24% to Uganda's 4.2%. Spain fared better in life expectancy at birth and per capita income. As Spain exported industrial goods, Uganda exported raw agricultural produce.

BBC based its findings on reports by World Bank, United Nations, International Monetary Fund, CIA World Factbook and BBC country profiles.

Ugandan Kadaga Continues Her Xmas Tirade Tradition Attacking Gays

By Melanie Nathan/oblogdeeblogda.me/December 01, 2014.

Ugandan Speaker Rebecca Kadaga has kept true to her Xmas tradition, packing a Xmas punch against Uganda's homosexuals. Back in 2012 she promised to deliver the popular Anti-Homosexuality Act as her Christmas gift to the good citizens of Uganda that year. She failed to do so. Then the following Xmas, December, 2013, delivered the Anti-Homosexuality Act, just 5 days before that Xmas day. Unfortunately for her, that legislation was invalidated by the Courts, because Madam Speaker had failed to pass it with the requisite quorum in Parliament. And now just one day into December, she is at it again, speaking myth and lie about homosexuality, in the hope that she can find some redemption in her failures. Or perhaps just at that old scapegoating again. After all it's a masterful political tool.

According to the Ugandan press, at the golden jubilee celebrations of St Stephen's Church in Pajwenda, Tororo District on Sunday, Kadaga warned the clergy and leaders against homosexuality, alleging that it is infiltrating schools and churches, saying that "homosexuals are recruiting members of religious institutions into the practice."

Kadaga said computers and books donated to schools are installed with software and literature that promote homosexuality in the institutions. She encouraged parents to reject offers from foreigners who pretend to be adopting their vulnerable children and taking them abroad for support, saying they are instead being recruited into gay practices.

"Be very careful because gays are here to distort our heritage. We have discovered that they adopt our children and confine them in gay communities abroad to train them on gay practices. By the time they come back home, they are already influenced by homosexuality and are used to influence others in the community," she said.

And just in case anyone thought that the Ugandan governing regime was making any sense at all, we have this highly valued and very enlightening remark by the wise dictator himself. Indeed, it is reported that President Yowerie Museveni said:

"Those NGOs and whites come deceiving you that circumcision and condom use are the best ways to protect yourself against HIV/Aids. But for me I advise you to put padlocks on your private parts" – President Museveni during celebrations to mark World Aids Day. #WAD2014
#WorldAIDSDay

Now can we take this regime very seriously? !

But we must take this all seriously, after all speaking against Uganda's homosexuals community is a way to help Ugandans overcome their real problems – or at least forget their concerns. Its easier to trigger persecution, with hate than to govern with real legislation.

Its much more productive to drum up support for proposed new anti-gay legislation based on nonsensical allegations, than to legislate and govern for the people by, for example, enacting the much needed Marriage and Family Bill, so women can get off the streets and not have to prostitute themselves to feed their children, while servicing the men who pay them instead of child support. Lest we forget how effective such talk is in helping cast the eye away from the NRM and its dictator, the poverty, the corruption, the oppression – safely forget about all of that, thanks to that super powerful humongous gay lobby intent on infiltrating everywhere.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania attracting international and regional airlines

By Apolinari Tairo, eTN Tanzania Correspondent/eturbonews.com/Dec 02, 2014

TANZANIA (eTN) - Targeting the fast-growing tourism and rising business opportunities in Tanzania, international airlines are looking at best options to fly to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's commercial capital, and Arusha, East Africa's tourist capital.

The coming of Air Seychelles, the official air carrier of the Indian Ocean tourist island of the Seychelles, to Tanzania today, is a testimony of the global airlines program targeting Tanzania's airspace.

Tourism is a leading business which has been a magnet to pull global and reputed airlines to fly to Tanzania, aviation analysts say.

Air Seychelles, which is launching its twice a week flights to Tanzania today, has targeted tourists and leisure travelers in Tanzania and East Africa, looking at the Spice Island of Zanzibar as a key source of international-class tourists and leisure travelers between East Africa and the Seychelles.

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates has expanded its African route network, and will launch its daily service to Dar es Salaam from Abu Dhabi next year.

Vice President of the Airline, Moris Pholeli, said Dar es Salaam is one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, and his airline has decided to enter into the market by starting operating with an Airbus A320 aircraft, with 16 Business Class and 120 Economy class seats on its Abu Dhabi and Dar es Salaam route.

Emirates Airlines has launched five times weekly flights between Dar es Salaam and Dubai to

complement the airline's daily operations.

Launched in October this year, the five flights available brought the total to 12 flights a week on the Dar es Salaam and Dubai routes, an indication of the growing business between Tanzania and other countries, mostly the Middle East and Far East.

Qatar Airways operates daily flights between Dar es Salaam and Doha in Qatar, making it stand among leading global airlines with great lust to Tanzanian airspace. Qatar Airways links Tanzania and other parts of the world.

Ethiopian Airlines stands as a traditional and a long-time aviation partner with Tanzania for about 40 years, and has been linking Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro in northern Tanzania with other parts of the world, including American, European, and Asian cities.

The Airline operates daily flights between Dar es Salaam and its hub of Addis Ababa with an extra 5 flights per week at Kilimanjaro International Airport, targeting tourist flows in northern Tanzania. This has brought the air service schedule to 12 flights per week in which Ethiopian Airlines operates to Tanzania.

South African Airways has increased its flights between Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam twice, making it to operate two daily flights between the two cities. This brings to 14 flights per week under South African Airways (SAA) in its Tanzania's airspace.

Regional General Manager for South African Airways (SAA) in Tanzania Aaron Munetsi, said his airline has plans to introduce direct flights from Johannesburg to Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria and Mbeya in the southern highlands of Tanzania which is famous for agricultural production.

He said SAA operations in Tanzania have been successful in improved tourism and business relations between South Africa and Tanzania.

Turkish Airlines is as well, a newcomer to Tanzania's airspace, connecting Tanzania and key European cities.

Other global airlines operating in Tanzanian airspace are Kenya Airways, Rwandair, Swiss International, and Royal KLM Airlines. Fasjet is the recent newcomer to Tanzania's airspace with successful domestic flights.

On its part, Tanzania had lost its international routes after the collapse of Air Tanzania, the country's national airline.

Air Seychelles is landing in Tanzania today with great hopes of connecting the Indian Ocean Island of Seychelles to East Africa's premier wildlife parks and the tourist island of Zanzibar, aviation analysts say.

The path to an AIDS-free generation in Tanzania

2nd December 2014/SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN

On World AIDS Day 2014 (yesterday), nearly 35 years into the global AIDS epidemic, Tanzania has come a long way. Working closely over the past ten years with the Government of Tanzania and other partners, we have helped to reduce the number of people infected with HIV/AIDS throughout

the country.

This is good news and it shows that by working together, we can make a difference. But much more remains to be done. With all of the extraordinary successes we have had in Tanzania, there are still many regions where we need to do better and where we can save more lives.

The cruel reality is that large gaps in coverage and treatment persist. With this in mind, the United States is retargeting our resources and activities to the places where HIV is most widespread.

We must do the right things in the right places at the right time in order to succeed. Our goals are to keep this epidemic under control and empower Tanzania to move forward in developing a strong and sustainable health sector across the board.

Currently, the United States is funding sites where there are very few – sometimes only one, two, or three – HIV-positive patients. Spreading out our resources to support HIV services in these areas limits our ability to fully support the regions that have the greatest need.

In Tanzania, the high HIV prevalence areas are Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Ruvuma and Shinyanga. Working with the Government of Tanzania, our goal is to focus even more on these regions to ensure that they have the resources they need to identify people who are HIV-positive and provide HIV treatment and care services. At the same time, we will continue to provide treatment for current patients no matter where they live.

In addition to this, we must focus more on vulnerable populations, particularly children. The sobering fact is that Tanzania has the third largest number of children living with HIV that any African country.

Approximately 230,000 children in Tanzania are infected with HIV, and today, only 26 per cent of those receive the antiretroviral therapy (ART) they need. This is compared with 68 per cent of HIV-infected adults. While we will continue to keep all existing adult patients on ART, we must do better to close the children's treatment gap.

Recently, at the National Pediatric HIV Conference, I had the honour of meeting many of the doctors and health care providers who are working tirelessly every day to identify and treat Tanzanian children.

In support of their work, we are launching an intense effort over the next two years to double the total number of children receiving life-saving therapy.

This new initiative, called the Accelerated Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment (ACT) Initiative in Tanzania, will be supported by the American people through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and through the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

Building on the substantial investments we've already made over the past decade, this new initiative means that more infants, young children and adolescents living with HIV will receive the treatment they need to survive and lead normal, productive lives.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Government of Tanzania and its citizens – as well as with the Global Fund, other development partners and the private sector – to quickly close the treatment gaps.

But even after achieving this goal in the short term, it is important to keep those children and adults on treatment. Sustaining these programmes will require the Tanzanian Government to start planning for the future now, particularly in terms of financing for HIV-specific programmes.

The United States stands ready to work together towards this important goal. As part of this commitment, the US Government is beginning a new programme aimed at helping Tanzania mobilise its own resources, and those of the private sector, towards fighting the HIV epidemic for the long term.

Together, we have all reached a critical moment – not only for children, but for everyone in this country. We must work together to target our resources and redouble our efforts.

I firmly believe that the strong partnership between the United States and Tanzania, along with all our partners can, and will, deliver an AIDS-free generation.

- Mark Childress is the US Ambassador to Tanzania.

KENYA :

Kenya quarry massacre leaves 36 dead, says Red Cross

Agence France-Presse in Nairobi/theguardian.com/Tuesday 2 December 2014

Deadly raid comes against backdrop of hostilities between Islamist extremists al-Shabaab and Kenyan government

At least 36 people are feared dead after gunmen staged an attack on a quarry in north-east Kenya, according to the Red Cross.

The attack took place over Monday night 10 miles (16km) from the remote town of Mandera and close to the dangerous border with Somalia, in the same area where the al-Shabaab group has carried out a string of raids.

Assailants reportedly sprayed gunfire at tents where the workers were sleeping. “Our team is on the ground undertaking assessments of the attack,” Red Cross Kenya said on Tuesday.

Police spokesman Zipporah Mboroki confirmed the attacks but said the force would provide exact tolls of those killed later. However, a senior police official said 36 people had been killed and there were fears others may have been abducted.

“We have lost 36 people, but there are others missing,” said the police official, who asked not to be named. “We don’t know whether they were taken by the attackers.”

In a separate attack on Monday night in the town of Wajir, one person died and 12 were wounded when gunmen hurled grenades and sprayed a bar with bullets.

The quarry in Mandera is close to where Islamists last month singled out and murdered 28 non-Muslims who were grabbed from a bus.

Al-Shabaab said the bus attack was carried out in revenge for police raids on mosques in Kenya’s

key port of Mombasa.

Kenya has suffered a series of attacks since invading Somalia in 2011 to attack al-Shabaab. Kenyan forces have since joined an African Union force battling the Islamists.

Several key unions including for civil servants have warned members to leave the north-east until the government can ensure their safety.

Professionals working in the largely Muslim and ethnic Somali north-eastern regions often come from further south in Kenya, where Christians make up about 80% of the population.

On Sunday Kenyan media reported that the embattled interior minister and police chief may soon be sacked over “repeated lapses” in security following a wave of attacks.

Both officials mentioned in the report have been under fire since last year’s attack by al-Shabaab at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, in which at least 67 people were killed in a siege involving four gunmen that lasted four days.

Worries over internal security mounted when al-Shabaab rebels massacred 100 people in a string of raids against villages in the Lamu region on the Kenyan coast in June and July.

Al-Shabab massacres non-Muslims at Kenya quarry

2 December 2014/bbc.com

Al-Shabab gunmen have killed 36 mostly Christian quarry workers near the north Kenyan town of Mandera.

The attackers from the Somalia-based Islamist militant group separated Muslims from non-Muslims and shot the Christians dead, residents said.

Earlier, one person was killed in a bar popular with non-Muslims in a neighbouring district.

Al-Shabab killed 28 people in an attack on a bus targeting non-Muslims in the same area last week.

The attack on the quarry workers took place early on Tuesday. Witnesses said the victims were caught after midnight, while sleeping in their tents at the quarry.

The attack took place in Kormey, 15km (nine miles) from Mandera town.

A man who visited the scene of the attack told the BBC some of the victims appeared to have been lined-up, and shot in the head, at close range. Other reports suggested the workers' tents had been sprayed with gunfire.

Reuters news agency quoted one witness as saying four had been beheaded.

Al-Shabab said it carried out the attack.

Kenya's Red Cross said on its Twitter feed that security personnel and one of its own teams were on the ground at the site of the attack.

In the attack on a bar in the town of Wajir earlier on Monday night, gunmen reportedly opened fire

and hurled grenades, killing one and injuring 12.

Mandera County borders both Somalia and Ethiopia, and it is dominated by Somalis, who are largely Muslims.

Many of the quarry workers killed are reported to have come from the south of the country where Christians predominate.

Al-Shabab has stepped up its campaign in Kenya since 2011, when Kenya sent troops across the border to help battle the militants.

In one of the worst attacks on Kenyan soil, 67 people were killed last year when four gunmen took over the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi.

More recently, dozens of people were killed in a series of shooting attacks in Kenya's coastal districts.

The security situation has led to calls from the opposition and some in the governing party to call for the dismissal of Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku and police chief David Kimaiyo.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Barclays Africa: African states to contribute more

December 2 2014 /By Reuters

BARCLAYS Africa Group's investment banking division expects countries outside South Africa to contribute more than half its revenue in five years' time after taking on most of its parent's operations in Africa. Its corporate and investment banking (CIB) arm was expanding businesses such as trading government bonds into nearly all of the lender's 12 operations, CIB chief executive Stephen van Collier said yesterday. Countries other than South Africa account for about a third of CIB's revenue, but it says that is increasing. "We've grown revenue in the rest of Africa faster than South Africa, but that is to be expected," he said, referring to the low base from which those countries were growing. Under a deal last year, Britain's Barclays handed over ownership of eight African businesses to its South African subsidiary in exchange for a 62.3 percent stake in the new Barclays Africa entity. In some of those countries, the company had small investment banking operations offering basic foreign currency and money market services. The CIB division's net revenue rose 14 percent in the first half of this year to R6 billion, and expects to maintain that level of growth in the next few years. About 80 percent of CIB's revenue is from traditional corporate operations such as transactional banking, trade finance and foreign exchange, but van Collier expects to see more fixed-income trading and derivatives business in coming years in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana. Shares fell 1.88 percent to close at R175.05 on the JSE yesterday. – Reuters

Report: Ebola-hit countries facing recession

02 Dec 2014 /aljazeera.com

The World Bank says Guinea and Sierra Leone face recession as businesses continue to struggle during the crisis.

The fallout from the deadly Ebola pandemic in West Africa will push Guinea and Sierra Leone into recession next year, the World Bank has said.

With the disease still not under control, the cost to the two countries plus less-impacted Liberia of shuttered businesses and curtailed investment will run "well over" \$2bn in 2014-2015, the bank said in a new report on Tuesday.

Governments in the three countries, where most of the nearly 7,000 deaths from the Ebola outbreak have occurred, have already seen their finances hit to the tune of around \$500 million this year.

That has forced cutbacks to official spending for investment and services, on top of pullbacks by foreign investors and visitors frightened by the spread of the virus.

"The epidemic is not yet under control. Containment, combined with a full-fledged financial recovery effort to restart business activity and bring back investors, are now both therefore urgently needed for the region to improve on the downbeat forecasts," the bank said.

The report revised less dire growth forecasts made only in October, when officials optimistically thought the disease could be controlled by the end of the year.

For this year, gross domestic product growth estimates in Liberia were projected to fall to 2.2 percent, compared to forecasts of 2.5 percent in October and 5.9 percent pre-crisis.

Lowered forecasts

In Sierra Leone, 2014 growth was now forecast at 4 percent, down from previous estimates of 8 percent in October and 11.3 percent pre-crisis, the World Bank said.

It lowered its 2014 growth forecast for Guinea to 0.5 percent, compared with 2.4 percent in October and 4.5 percent pre-crisis. It said all three countries had been growing rapidly in recent years and through the first half of 2014.

The bank added that, for 2015, it was projecting negative growth of minus 2.0 percent in Sierra Leone, down from a 7.7 percent growth forecast in October and 8.9 percent before the crisis. It also forecast negative 2015 growth for Guinea of minus 0.2 percent versus October's estimate of 2 percent growth and a pre-outbreak forecast of 4.3 percent.

"In Liberia, where there are signs of progress in containing the epidemic and some increasing economic activity, the updated 2015 growth estimate is 3.0 percent, an increase from 1.0 percent in October, but still less than half the pre-crisis estimate of 6.8 percent," the bank said.

The report comes as the World Bank Group's president, Jim Yong Kim, begins a two-day visit to West Africa to discuss ways of addressing the outbreak.

"This report reinforces why zero Ebola cases must be our goal," Kim said in a statement. "While there are signs of progress, as long as the epidemic continues, the human and economic impact will

only grow more devastating."

Jamaican MP warns of impact of Ebola virus on ACP

Tuesday, December 02, 2014/jamaicaobserver.com

STRASBOURG, France (CMC) — A Jamaican member of Parliament warned yesterday that the Ebola epidemic remains a global issue that urgently needs a sustained response based on a sense of humanity and empathy.

Co-chair of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), Fitz Jackson told the opening ceremony of the 28th session of the JPA that the epidemic, which is responsible for more than 7,000 deaths in West Africa, "should also be informed by the values of human solidarity.

"In the most affected countries in West Africa, people are dying from the disease, and are being buried, in the worst possible conditions that deprive them of basic human dignity. Latest figures indicate that over 5, 400 people have died, and over 16,000 estimated to have been infected," he said.

Jackson, who represents the South St Catherine constituency in Jamaica's Parliament, said that whilst the disease may appear to be localised to a few countries, it is indeed a global health threat because of the ease with which it can cross borders to affect even developed countries.

"And this we have already seen! However, even if it does not cross borders, it is human beings that are threatened and dying from an indiscriminate and lethal virus. The Ebola epidemic remains a global issue that urgently needs a sustained response based on our sense of humanity and empathy," said the Jamaican MP.

Jackson, at the same time, said he wanted to "thank the brave women and men of all nationalities who have put aside fears for their own safety to be at the frontline of the fight against the disease.

"I also wish to salute the resilience of the governments and ordinary people most affected by this disease. It has profoundly affected and disrupted their lives in unimaginable ways."

Several Caribbean countries have, with the assistance of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), shown up, plans to deal with the possible entry of the virus into their respective countries. The regional countries have set up a regional fund to help countries deal with the virus.

Jackson said he was also thankful to the EU governments and international organisations that have provided financial, technical and human resources support to the affected countries.

"The US thus far has the largest number of non-medical personnel -- 3000 troops -- that are playing an important role in the erection of treatment and isolation units. This is indeed human solidarity when it is most needed. But I still believe that the international community can do more."

He said Cuba's intervention provides an opportunity for an "ACP country with very limited economic resources that has so far provided the largest number of healthcare workers in the fight against Ebola.

"Cuba has sent the largest number of medical personnel to the affected countries -- over 165 --

which comprises doctors, nurses, surgeons and paediatricians, and the message from the political leadership is that this number will be increased to 460 after additional personnel are trained for this assignment,' he said, also applauding African businesses and governments "that have given financial resources, and whose own nationals are working on the ground in West Africa.

"The battle is not lost; Nigeria has already shown that we can and should prevail over this virus. Indeed, Nigeria can provide very valuable and proven lessons in how to successfully deal with the threat," he added.

Jackson also told the conference that even after Ebola has been vanquished, its social and economic impact will continue to be felt for some time.

"There are hundreds of children who have been orphaned by the disease; without government support, they will have no food, shelter nor the means to put themselves through school. There will be long-lasting economic consequences as well."

He said the Washington-based World Bank estimates that the Liberian economy has declined by US\$113 million as a result of the crisis; Sierra Leone by US\$95 million; and Guinea by US\$120 million.

The World Bank warns that the disease, if not successfully contained, could cost the West African economy by about US\$3.5 billion in 2015 and Jackson said some of the economic impact has already begun to be felt in the trade, tourism and agricultural sectors.

"In this regard, I support the call by the United States for the International Monetary Fund to cancel debts owed by the severely affected countries, and invite other multilateral and bilateral lenders to favourably respond to this call."

Jackson said that the Ebola crisis has also further exposed the fragility of ACP economies, and demonstrates the dangers of differentiation, which is restructuring assistance programmes based on gross domestic product (GDP) criteria.

He said that despite significant progress and positive macro-economic indicators that have seen some countries graduate to middle income status, ACP institutions and infrastructures are still very vulnerable and should always be taken as work in progress.

"The Ebola crisis has revealed the need for continued support to ACP health sectors in order to make them more resilient and capable of effectively handling ordinary health issues as well as epidemics in a sustainable manner."

Jackson, noting that the conference here was taking place against the background of conflict resolution and terrorism, said the ramifications of conflicts can be far-reaching, and in some countries wildlife conservation efforts have been threatened by conflicts, pointing to the situation in the Virunga National Park in the Democratic of Congo (DRC) where the easy availability of arms and organised poaching gangs are threatening the survival of mountain gorillas.

"Even in those countries that have managed to resolve conflicts, there are still some ongoing tensions between former protagonists. This could be due to the absence or weakness of democratic structures, cultures and practices, and the consequent struggle for democratisation, good governance and reform of political systems.

" As we have observed in many instances, peace agreements can sometimes be undermined by

systemic failures in the administration of justice and the inability of states to guarantee the security of the population."

He recalled that Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who chaired the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said 'there is no handy roadmap for reconciliation, no short cut or simple prescription for healing the wounds and divisions of a society in the aftermath of sustained violence'".

He said even as the world is grappling with resolving ongoing or simmering conflicts, a number of ACP countries in Africa are confronted with the ugly spectre of terrorism and its various facets, especially its trans-boundary nature and ongoing internationalisation.

"Boko Haram is just one dimension of this phenomenon," Jackson said, noting that terrorist groups like Boko Haram thrive on terror.

"They terrorise their own people -- their fellow countrymen and Muslims -- just to feed their own warped sense of righteousness. They want to monopolise the interpretation of Islam, and enforce it in blood. Faithful and peaceful adherents of Islam must do all they can to repel and subdue this hate-filled intrusion on their sacred territory.

"However, what is most surprising, and that goes for other groups such as ISIS, is how these gangs of murderers are able to equip themselves with sophisticated and expensive modern assault weapons. It seems to me that military confrontation must be accompanied by concerted efforts to stem the flow of weapons and money to these groups."

He said the ACP-EU countries have long recognised the dangers of the illicit flow of arms to ACP countries, and adopted a resolution on this subject at the 12th Session of the JPA held in Barbados in 2006, where ACP members stated that since no ACP State manufactured weapons, it was only logical to conclude that they come from developed countries, particularly those in Europe.

"In the framework of human solidarity, I appeal to my European colleagues to ensure that there is absolute transparency in the sale of weapons from their countries which, through third-party contacts, could end up perpetuating conflicts and terrorism in Africa and other countries."

UN/AFRICA :

Ebola crisis: Huge risk of spread - UN's Tony Banbury

By Mark Doyle/bbc.com/1 December 2014

The head of the UN Ebola response mission in West Africa has told the BBC there is still a "huge risk" the deadly disease could spread to other parts of the world.

Tony Banbury declined to say if targets he had set in the fight against Ebola, to be achieved by Monday, had been met.

The targets were for the proportion of people being treated and for the safe burial of highly infectious bodies.

The UN boss was speaking in Freetown, one of the worst-affected areas.

On Sunday in Sierra Leone's capital, bulldozers were clearing large areas for a new burial ground.

At the clearance site, near a rubbish tip, car after car was arriving with bodies, and several hundred workers were digging graves.

In October, Mr Banbury told the UN Security Council that by 1 December, "70% of all those infected by the disease must be under treatment and 70% of the victims safely buried if the outbreak is to be successfully arrested".

This interim goal - the ultimate UN goal is zero Ebola deaths - was set to try to bend down the upward curve in the graph of cases.

Mr Banbury said the 70% targets were being met in "the vast majority" of areas in the three worst-affected countries - Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"But in some areas", he said, "including here in Sierra Leone - especially in the capital Freetown and in the town of Port Loko - we are falling short. And it is in those areas where we really need to focus our assets and our capabilities".

Ebola burials

- Bodies still contain high levels of the Ebola virus

- At least 20% of new infections occur during burials, WHO says

- Relatives perform religious rites including touching or washing the body

- Safe burial process involves observing rituals differently, such as "dry ablution"

- Volunteers with full protective clothing are trained to handle and disinfect bodies

In its latest report on 29 November, the World Health Organization said 6,928 people were now known to have died from Ebola. More than 16,000 have been infected.

Between 200 and 300 people are dying every week. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are by far the worst hit countries.

But Mr Banbury said the situation would have been even worse if the UN had not intervened:

"Early on we adopted a strategy to get this crisis under control which involves treatment centres, safe burials and community mobilisation. That strategy is working."

The American UN boss added that, even so, "there is a huge risk to the world that Ebola will spread. It may spread around this sub-region, or someone could get on a plane to Asia, Latin America, North America or Europe... that is why it is so important to get down to zero cases as quickly as possible".

WHO will miss Ebola targets, had set Dec 1 to isolate 70 per cent of patients

December 1, 2014/By Maria Cheng/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Two months ago, the World Health Organization launched an ambitious plan to stop the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa, aiming to isolate 70 per cent of the sick and safely bury 70 per cent of the victims in the three hardest-hit countries — Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone — by December 1.

Only Guinea is on track to meet the December 1 goal, according to an update from WHO.

In Liberia, only 23 per cent of cases are isolated and 26 per cent of the needed burial teams are in place. In Sierra Leone, about 40 per cent of cases are isolated while 27 per cent of burial teams are operational.

With the target date looming on Monday, it looks almost certain WHO's goals will be missed, marking another failure in attempts to slow the biggest-ever outbreak of the deadly disease. The Ebola outbreak was first reported in Guinea in March and spiraled out of control after being declared a public health emergency in August.

The WHO's Dr. Bruce Aylward acknowledged in October that to reach the December 1 goal would be "really pushing the system hard."

"If we don't do it in 60 days and we take 90 days: No. 1, a lot more people will die that shouldn't; and No. 2, we will need that much more capacity on the ground to be able to manage the caseload," said Aylward, who is directing WHO's Ebola response.

In recent weeks, there have been some successes in curbing Ebola; cases seem to be declining or stabilizing in Liberia and Guinea. But the area around Sierra Leone's capital and a district in the country's north are seeing a severe surge in cases.

The December 1 targets had been met in many places — but not all, which was the goal, said Anthony Banbury, who is heading the U.N.'s Ebola response.

"There are still going to be many people who catch the disease and many people who die from it," Banbury said.

Even if the December 1 targets had been reached, WHO and others had predicted Ebola would continue sickening people in West Africa and possibly elsewhere until sometime next year. Ebola has sickened more than 16,000 people of whom nearly 7,000 have died, according to figures released by the World Health Organization Friday.

Failing to reach the December 1 target now suggests Ebola will spread even further as capacities to respond become even more stretched, according to Oyewale Tomori, of Redeemer's University in Nigeria, who sits on WHO's Emergency Ebola committee.

"We need to redouble our efforts to see what we can do to reduce the spread and catch up with the virus," he said. "Right now, it doesn't look good."

Other experts said the WHO goals were never very significant.

"You want to isolate 100 per cent of patients with Ebola and have 100 per cent safe burials," said Sebastian Funk, director of the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. "Getting to 70 per cent doesn't really mean a lot."

The ultimate goal of WHO's plan is to isolate all Ebola patients and provide safe burials for all by January 1.

"We hope that what we're seeing in Liberia will continue, but unfortunately what can happen with

Ebola is that it can go to new countries, as it has already to Mali,” warned Dr. David Heymann, an Ebola expert who previously worked for the World Health Organization. “The most dangerous thing would be if people now think Ebola is over and become complacent,” he said. Earlier this month, the U.S. announced it was scaling back the size and number of Ebola clinics it had initially promised to build in Liberia, citing a drop in cases.

The U.N.’s Banbury said the critical gap in those locations were new beds and that ending Ebola would be a long, hard fight: “We’re by no means out of the woods yet, but we’re headed in the right direction.”

US/AFRICA :

Obama drawing attention to Ebola vaccine research

December 2, 2014 /Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is highlighting advances in research for an Ebola vaccine and pushing Congress to approve his request for \$6.2 billion to confront the disease abroad and to secure against its spread in the United States.

Obama was to visit the National Institutes of Health in Washington's Maryland suburbs Tuesday. He planned to congratulate NIH director Francis Collins and the director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci (FOW'-chee), for their work on a vaccine.

A study published by U.S. researchers last week concluded an experimental Ebola vaccine appears safe and triggered signs of immune protection in volunteers who tested it.

Obama's request for money to confront Ebola is pending before Congress. White House spokesman Josh Earnest says lawmakers should "take prompt action on this."

Delta, US's biggest airine to continent, cuts West Africa flights by 20%

December 2, 2014 /Bloomberg

Dec. 2 (Bloomberg) — Delta Air Lines Inc., the U.S. carrier with the most service to Africa, is cutting flights to Accra, Ghana, by about 20 percent as the Ebola outbreak in nearby countries damps travel demand.

The third-biggest U.S. airline wouldn't say yesterday whether the epidemic in West Africa was turning away consumers. Airlines including British Airways and Emirates have cited the virus in canceling trips to the hardest-hit regions, which don't include Ghana.

Round trips between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Accra's Kotoka International Airport were pared to 18 in November from 22 a year earlier, said Anthony Black, a spokesman. Delta cut one flight per week from the route starting in November and expects the reduced schedule to continue indefinitely, Black said.

Black didn't cite a reason for the slackening interest in trips to Ghana, whose government cut its 2015 economic growth forecast to about half of this year's estimates because of power shortages, a slumping currency and inflation. Ghana is outside the heart of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, Sierra

Leone and Guinea.

Delta's Africa flights go to Johannesburg; Lagos, Nigeria; and Dakar, Senegal, along with Accra. It stopped serving Monrovia, Liberia, in August. United Continental Holdings Inc. flies only to Lagos and American Airlines Group Inc. has no African destinations.

U.S. carriers have added new routes into the continent over the last decade only to retreat because of disappointing financial results or political turmoil. United, for example, flew from Washington to Accra between 2010 and 2012 and pulled the flight because it failed to meet projections, said Rahsaan Johnson, a spokesman. The airline stopped flying into Cairo in 2011 when the Middle Eastern uprising reduced demand, he said.

Africa Challenges

Delta also stopped flying into Cairo and Abuja, Nigeria, in 2011 and 2012, respectively, according to Black.

"I would call it a measured success in the market," Black said in an interview in October. "Ultimately, we're going to fly where we expect to continue to be successful."

Africa poses significant challenges for U.S.-based airlines, so they must be creative to make money there, said Craig Jenks, an industry consultant with Airline/Aircraft Projects Inc. in New York. Among them, the high altitudes of major economic centers such as Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, hurt airplanes' fuel efficiency.

Delta can fly to Dakar, located on the continent's western edge, because it can use a shorter-range, narrow-body Boeing 757 instead of a less fuel-efficient wide-body aircraft, Jenks said.

Widespread Theft

Other challenges include widespread theft of customer luggage and company equipment and a prevalence of leisure travelers, said Bob Mann, the president of aviation consultant R.W. Mann & Co. in Port Washington, New York.

"There's a large diaspora in the U.S., but it is exclusively visiting friends and relatives, very low yielding traffic," Mann said by telephone. "You don't get the typical business travel profile that really makes the route perform for a network carrier." – BLOOMBERG

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Greater sugar sales set for Africa as EU reforms

by Nick Hedley/bdlive.co.za/02 décembre 2014,

ILLOVO Sugar, which exports about 30% of its sugar to Europe, plans to start redirecting a large portion of these exports to African markets as Europe gradually deregulates its industry.

Illovo MD Gavin Dagleish said on Monday his company expected the European Union (EU) — a large market for local producers such as Illovo and Tongaat Hulett — to eventually become a net exporter of sugar after a phased restructuring of the industry to the end of October 2017.

"They created a structural deficit in their market in 2009, and they are working through to sugar reforms in 2017, effectively," Mr Dagleish said. "What's happened in the interim is you've had all the major sugar producers jockeying for position prior to that reform." The result was a highly competitive and hostile market where prices had been driven "very low".

The reforms in the EU mean the 28-member union of countries will end caps, or production quotas, on how much sugar its domestic producers can sell.

Though the market would still be accessible to Illovo, Mr Dagleish said "we think it will be less attractive — trading at world market prices plus a small premium". Illovo intended reducing sales into the EU to about 150,000 tonnes annually, from highs of more than 420,000 tonnes, he said.

"We will certainly look to optimise our sales mix away from the EU in the short to medium term ... and place that into regional African markets.

"We are having a real look at our various routes to market, and we're looking at developing pre-packed brands in largely direct consumer markets. So we've already got a lot of activities under way to reposition under the new EU reality," Mr Dagleish said.

Investec Securities analyst Anthony Geard said he would have expected that Illovo would have wanted to reduce exports to the EU to "closer to nil", though the company did sell some specialty sugars at premium prices in the EU.

"Redirecting that much sugar away from the EU into relatively small African markets will take some time, although my sense is that Illovo is further down the track than Tongaat because of its broader African footprint," Mr Geard said.

But the shift would matter less, he said, if the South African government finalises plans for a subsidised, legislative framework for sugar to be converted into ethanol as part of a mandatory fuel blend. This would mean that excess sugar could be converted to ethanol rather than fetching low export prices.

Tongaat said in its interim results last month that "the likely dynamics in the EU market beyond the October 2017 reforms remain uncertain", though it expects EU export prices to continue declining in the current financial year.

Illovo yesterday reported a 10% decline in earnings and 5% fall in revenues for its six months to end-September, as sugar production contracted and prices in the EU and globally fell during a fourth year of global oversupply.

Mr Dagleish said the world sugar market was expected to shift into deficit territory in 18-24

months, though demand-supply dynamics depended largely on the world's biggest sugar producer, Brazil. Illovo was closely tracking Brazilian politics — particularly its trade and industry and finance minister appointments — following Dilma Rousseff's re-election as president in October.

The price of fuel in Brazil is subsidised by the state — an intervention that has made ethanol production relatively less attractive than sugar for Brazil's cane producers.

But Mr Dagleish said there appeared to be a possible shift to more "market friendly" state department heads. Should cane-based ethanol significantly rise in Brazil's fuel mix, "it could create a swing of as much as 10-million tonnes of sugar into ethanol".

According to consulting and research firm DaMina Advisors, the break-even cost per barrel for Brazil's ethanol producers is \$66. Brent crude was trading at less than \$70 a barrel on Monday.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 02 Décembre 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 02/12/2014