



(Events to mark Nelson Mandela's first death anniversary include interfaith prayer service and a cricket match. South Africans have started marking the first anniversary of the death of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, who died last year at the age of 95.)

BURUNDI :

Elections au Burundi : pas de position commune entre la Tanzanie, le Kenya et l'Ouganda

(Source: Xinhua)/05.12.2014

L'ambassadeur de Tanzanie au Burundi, James Mwasi Nzagi, a démenti jeudi une information selon laquelle son pays, le Kenya et l'Ouganda, tous membres de la Communauté est-africaine (CEA), ont pris une "décision commune" sur les élections burundaises prévues en 2015.

Cette information, rendue publique par "The East African", journal publié en Ouganda, au Kenya et en Tanzanie, et relayée par certaines radios du Burundi, "n'est pas du tout vrai d'autant plus que ni le correspondant spécial du même journal, Monsieur Fred Oluoch, ni les journalistes burundais, personne ne s'est jamais renseigné auprès de l'ambassadeur de la République Unie de Tanzanie au Burundi", a-t-il déclaré.

"Il n'y a jamais eu de position commune sur cette question prise par les ambassadeurs des trois pays cités par le même journal, en l'occurrence la Tanzanie, le Kenya et l'Ouganda", a indiqué Mwasi

Nzagi.

Pour le diplomate tanzanien, cette information "est du pur mensonge, sans fondement".

Il a par ailleurs souligné que les élections au Burundi et d'autres questions politiques du pays ne concernent que les Burundais et que le gouvernement tanzanien n'entend pas s'ingérer dans les affaires intérieures d'autres pays.

Selon des informations qui ont circulé ces derniers jours en rapport avec cette information du journal "The East African", les ambassadeurs des trois pays auraient conforté la candidature de l'actuel chef de l'Etat burundais Pierre Nkurunziza au troisième mandat, une question qui fait encore point de discorde au sein de la classe politique burundaise.

La Constitution burundaise limite à deux le nombre des mandats présidentiels.

Les partisans du troisième mandat avancent que le président Nkurunziza a fait un seul mandat, car il a été élu président en 2005 par le Parlement et au suffrage direct en 2010.

Pour les opposants au troisième mandat, être élu au suffrage indirect et au suffrage direct revient au même et que ce sont deux mandats prévus par la Constitution.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Comment: Uganda's anti-gay law proves it is not a good destination for tourists
pinknews.co.uk/2014/12/03

Writing for PinkNews, Ugandan LGBT activist Tony Kitara responds to the assertion by Yoweri Museveni that the country is "a better destination" than Spain for tourists, saying its upcoming anti-gay bill proves otherwise.

Ever imagined being branded a criminal for being gay in your own motherland? Well, if you think this sounds like a joke, then think no further. Let us face the fact, homophobia in a wide range of countries is not only palpable but also getting extreme by day.

As a person who grew up in Uganda, being gay was far from idyllic. I couldn't help but was rather blinded by the preposterous ignorance deeply embedded within the country's multicultural Society. In such a society, you have to be extremely careful where you go; you have to be careful who you walk with. You have to be careful what you do, or what you say, because the slightest of things can easily be interpreted wrongly. In other words there is no outward sign of life for gay people-men

and women- even in the vibrant and noisy city of Kampala. Now that I live in the United Kingdom, It's two separate lives. I am Gay, I am out, and I am not hiding any more. I have come to realise that my motherland, Uganda still has a long road to walk. I now have somewhat a much better and clearer understanding of what it means being gay in a country, Uganda that clings tightly on deep rooted tradition.

We all know that the month of December means so much to us as we get to catch up with our dear ones; friends and families. We all look forward to sharing that festive season with our families but unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case amongst the Ugandan LGBTI community.

Passing a harsh anti-gay law as a gift in the name of celebrating Christmas is not what you would call an ideal Christmas gift. Well, Uganda's parliamentary set committee is on its toes ready to pass a new, even more harsh and draconian anti-gay law in time as a Christmas Gift to all Ugandans.

Of course there was some sort of relief amongst Uganda's LGBTI community when the country's constitutional court overturned the earlier Anti-Homosexuality law in August on the grounds that the Parliament had passed it without the required quorum. Unfortunately that relief has short lived, in fact as soon as the law was annulled, influential evangelicals strongly rallied behind Ugandan legislators and consistently urged them to reintroduce the law. Just like most Sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda is a fundamentally religious and conservative society and therefore, such religious leaders are squarely as influential as the Members of Parliament. They regularly protest against gay rights, claiming that homosexuality is an affront to God and to Ugandan values.

Abdul Latif Ssebagala a member of a parliamentary committee formed to effect the new legislation, said a new version of the bill was ready to present to parliament for debate. He further stressed that the new bill has been strengthened especially in areas of "inducing" and "promoting" homosexuality and added that the committee wanted it passed within weeks so that Ugandans, "can celebrate it as a Christmas gift". Really, Uganda that's in the grip of such searing homophobic fervour that gay people and gay rights activists like Kelly Mukwano are getting attacked is not what you would call an ideal destination place.

When Gay DJ Scott Mills travelled to Uganda a few years ago, he spoke with people on the streets of Kampala-the capital city, asking their opinion on homosexuals, and some of the responses were, "I hate them"; "they should be killed", and "it's disgusting".

Prevention is better than cure, it is true gay Ugandans –men and women- live in limbo every day and we must do something to stop this new proposed bill. As an LGBTI rights campaigner, together with members of the African LGBTI- Out & Proud Diamond Group, we request you all to stand in #SolidaritywithUgandaLGBTI and sign a petition urging the Parliament and the President of Uganda not to introduce a new bill.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa marks Mandela death anniversary

05 Dec 2014 /aljazeera.com

Events to mark Nelson Mandela's first death anniversary include interfaith prayer service and a cricket match.

South Africans have started marking the first anniversary of the death of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, who died last year at the age of 95.

Official ceremonies to mark the passing of the former South African leader will include an interfaith prayer service early on Friday, followed by a wreath-laying commemoration by veterans of the anti-apartheid struggle, as well as a cricket match.

Bells, hooters, and traditional horns called vuvuzelas, will be sounded for three minutes and seven seconds, followed by three minutes of silence, combined to equal a six-minute and seven-second ceremony designed to symbolise Mandela's 67 years of public service.

Many other events are due to take place over the weekend and beyond, including widespread artistic performances, as a way of remembering and celebrating the former president who led the country out of the apartheid era after enduring 27 years in prison.

Fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu called on South Africans to emulate Mandela's example in a statement to mark the anniversary.

"Our obligation to Madiba is to continue to build the society he envisaged, to follow his example," Tutu said, referring to Mandela by his clan name.

"A society founded on human rights, in which all can share in the rich bounty God bestowed on our country. In which all can live in dignity, together. A society of better tomorrows for all."

'Honour Mandela's legacy'

Friday's wreath-laying ceremony in Pretoria will start events to mark one year since Mandela passed away after a long illness. His death was met with a worldwide outpouring of grief.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa will lead the three-minute moment of silence at 0800 GMT, followed by a friendly cricket match, dubbed the Mandela Legacy Cup, between South Africa's national rugby and cricket teams at 1300GMT.

Over the weekend, artists and performers will hold centre stage at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which has launched an exhibition in honour of the life and work of its namesake.

Motorcyclists across the country have also been called on to dedicate their traditional Sunday morning rides to the anti-apartheid hero.

Madiba set South Africa on a course towards reconciliation after he emerged unbowed from nearly three decades in prison in 1990 and became the country's first president to be elected by universal suffrage in 1994.

His one-time jailer FW de Klerk, who served as the country's State President and who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela in 1993 for his part in ending apartheid, called on South Africans to honour his legacy.

"Although Nelson Mandela is no longer physically with us his legacy remains to guide us," he said in a statement marking the anniversary.

China, South Africa pledge closer strategic partnership

Editor: Zhou Minxi/Xinhua/12-05-2014

BEIJING, Dec. 4 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his South African counterpart, Jacob Zuma, on Thursday, pledging to boost their bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.

"Both China and South Africa are large developing countries and emerging markets, and we are good friends and good brothers who understand and support each other," Xi said, adding that the China-South Africa relationship is characterized by equality and mutual trust, comprehensive cooperation, win-win reciprocity and common development.

Recalling his visit to South Africa last year, Xi said he and Zuma reached an important consensus on upgrading the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

"(We) should plan the China-South Africa relationship in an all-round way, deepen cooperation, and set a good example for friendly cooperation between China and African countries," said the Chinese president.

Xi said the two countries should also be powers that enhance unity and cooperation among developing countries, improve global governance and promote democracy in international relations.

Voicing his gratitude for China's support to South Africa, Zuma said South Africa understands and respects China's core interests and major concerns, and he hopes to boost the bilateral strategic partnership and speed up his country's development.

Zuma said he believes his China visit will lead the bilateral relationship toward a new height.

Zuma arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for a state visit to China at Xi's invitation. During the visit, the two sides signed a string of deals, including one on planning cooperation between the two countries in the coming five to ten years.

Xi said the two sides should maintain the momentum of high-level interactions and increase exchanges on legislation, justice, defense and state governance as well as exchanges between localities.

Xi said China upholds a correct view on justice and will give full consideration to South Africa's needs for development in cooperation between the two countries.

Xi proposed the two countries boost cooperation in trade, finance, agriculture, energy and mining, infrastructure and maritime economy to complement each other and realize growth of two-way trade in a balanced way.

The two sides should also expand people-to-people exchanges and strengthen coordination in major international affairs, said the Chinese president.

Echoing Xi's proposals on cooperation, Zuma said South Africa hopes to learn from China's experience and welcomes Chinese investments, including those in South Africa's infrastructure, special economic zones, industrial parks and maritime economy.

South Africa stands ready to boost cooperation with China in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) mechanism and looks forward to an early launch of the Africa regional center of the BRICS Development Bank to make the international economic and financial order

more fair and rational, said the South African leader.

During the talks, Xi also said China will work together with South Africa to promote peace, stability and development in Africa.

China is willing to support South Africa's push to establish an African standby force and will work with the international community, including South Africa, to help west African countries in the fight against the Ebola epidemic, Xi said.

The Chinese side will also support South Africa's efforts to host the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Xi added.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Dozens of Chinese held in Kenya accused of preparing to raid the country's communications systems

2014-12-05/AFP

Police in Kenya say they are holding 77 Chinese nationals who are accused of running a cyber crime network and mysterious "command centre" from upmarket houses in the capital Nairobi.

Kenya's foreign ministry also summoned China's top diplomat in Nairobi as it sought to establish if Beijing was in anyway linked to the affair.

Local police said they believed the gang was "preparing to raid the country's communication systems".

The Daily Nation newspaper said a series of raids turned up equipment capable of infiltrating bank accounts, Kenya's M-Pesa mobile banking system and ATMs.

"The suspects are being interrogated to establish their mission in the country and what they wanted to do with the communication gadgets," director of Kenya's criminal investigation department Ndegwa Muhoro said.

"They have been charged in court."

Police said many of those detained appeared to be in the country illegally.

"We want to do a thorough investigation over the matter and we are currently working on their travel documents," police spokeswoman Zipporah Mboroki said.

A detective close to the case said the raids were sparked after police began investigating a house fire that left one person dead.

The source said the charges levelled against the 77 so far included "being in the country illegally and operating radio equipment" without the necessary permits.

According to the Standard newspaper, the Chinese nationals were living in "military-style dormitories".

Kenya's communications minister Fred Matiang'i said China promised to fully cooperate in the investigation.

"China promised to send investigators to work with ours on this matter," Mr Matiang'i said, adding the case "is being investigated by the police working closely with the foreign ministry".

The Standard said preliminary investigations showed the group were making microchips for ATM cards and that they also "ran a command centre whose activities are yet to be established".

The homes were reportedly located in the upmarket northern Nairobi suburb of Runda, which is next to the diplomatic area of Gigiri, home to the UN's headquarters and US embassy.

The affair is a rare visible sign of tension with China, a major investor in Kenya's infrastructure and communications networks and hailed earlier this year by president Uhuru Kenyatta as "an honourable partner" for east Africa's largest economy.

Kenya warplane crashes in Somalia - army

Date: Dec 05, 2014/newvision

NAIROBI - A Kenya military plane crashed Thursday in war-torn southern Somalia, the army said, blaming "technical problems", while the al-Shabaab fighters boasted they had shot it down.

Kenyan troops entered southern Somalia three years ago to fight the Al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Shabaab rebels, later joining an African Union force.

They have carried out recent heavy air strikes against al-Shabaab bases in southern Somalia after the extremists carried out a string of attacks inside Kenya including two recent massacres of over 60 people.

The Kenyan warplane "while returning from a combat mission in Jamaame, southern Somalia, developed technical problems and crashed in the general area of Kismayo," Kenyan army spokesman Colonel David Obonyo said in a statement.

But after the Kenyan military statement, al-Shabaab spokesman Abdiaziz Abu Musab told AFP his fighters had shot the plane down.

"We have destroyed the fighter jet and the body of the pilot," Musab said.

It was not possible to independently verify the reports.

The al-Shabaab are fighting to overthrow the country's internationally-backed government.

After they executed 36 non-Muslim quarry workers in a Kenyan border town on Tuesday, President Uhuru Kenyatta vowed to "intensify the war on terrorism", calling the Islamists "deranged animals" and blaming them for the death of more than 800 Kenyans.

The al-Shabaab in turn warned they would be "uncompromising, relentless and ruthless" in further attacks.

AFP

Kenya's Leader Receives Report on Combating Terrorism

Peter Clotey/voanews.com/December 04, 2014

Kenya's presidential spokesman says a parliamentary committee has given President Uhuru Kenyatta a report that aims to clear legal and administrative obstacles hampering the administration's fight against violence by armed groups such as the Somali Islamist group al-Shabab.

Manoah Esipisu said Kenyatta asked the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security this week to review the country's security architecture to come up with recommendations to help clear hurdles that impede the fight against terrorism.

Esipisu said the report recommends tough measures to strengthen the government's commitment to combat terrorism and protect civilians' life and property.

"The president asked for recommendations that would ensure there is a better if you like environment in which security agencies deal with terrorists," said Esipisu.

"The country is at war and when you are at war you need to ensure that you are in a position to combat your enemy in a way that is complete. We cannot put the lives of Kenyans in any more risk and the measures the president has received and on which he will apply his mind will be able to go a long way in dealing with some of the issues," he said.

Kenyatta asked for the parliamentary report after the latest massacre of 36 Kenyan citizens by al-Shabab militants at a quarry in the country's northern border region last Tuesday.

Parliamentarians were scheduled to go on recess for the Christmas holidays, but Kenyatta asked the legislative body to extend its current sitting following the latest attack, according to Esipisu.

"The parliament has obliged, and has extended its sitting by 14 days so logically, one would expect that we would present [the report] to parliament within that time," he said.

Some Kenyans have expressed concern that attacks by al-Shabab militants could increase, especially during the Christmas festivities. They said gatherings in specific places such as churches and bars to celebrate the holidays could make "attractive soft targets".

Esipisu said the government is determined to protect citizens despite the threat of attacks.

"Our security alertness is very high, we remain very alive to the real threat that we could be attacked...But, I can say that this government is determined to safeguarding citizens, and it would continue to do so," said Esipisu.

Kenya: UN says uptick in violence linked to rising inter-communal tensions

4 December 2014/un.org

4 December 2014 – Spiking inter-communal tensions in Kenya have sparked outbursts of violence across the nation, leaving hundreds of people dead in their wake, the United Nations humanitarian relief office reported today.

“Violent conflicts involving pastoralists have become widespread and increasingly severe in the northern Rift Valley and north-eastern regions of Kenya,” the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned in its most recent assessment of the humanitarian situation in Eastern Africa.

“The reasons given for the inter-communal conflicts,” the UN’s relief arm continued, “are revenge attacks, competition over land and water resources, cattle rustling, and struggles over political representation.”

According to OCHA, 310 people had lost their lives, 214 had been injured and 220,177 had fled their homes by the end of October amid a growing number of attacks on civilians and an upsurge in terrorist activity, particularly in areas adjacent to the Kenya-Somalia border, such as Garissa, Lamu, Mandera and Wajir.

“Mandera County has particularly suffered from struggles over political representation and its proximity to both the Somali and Ethiopian borders,” OCHA said.

Most recently, the town of Mandera in Mandera County, has suffered two brutal terrorist attacks committed by extremist Al-Shabaab fighters, resulting in the deaths of almost 60 civilians.

OCHA noted that humanitarian efforts coordinated by local partners were working to deliver food and non-food assistance to those displaced or affected by the clashes but had been hampered in some regions due to poor roads, hilly terrain and high levels of insecurity.

ANGOLA :

Debonairs to link with Shoprite in Angola

by Sikonathi Mantshantsha/bdlive.co.za/décembre 05 2014

FAMOUS Brands will open seven Debonairs Pizza restaurants in Angola next year, making the fast-growing oil economy its 14th operation on the continent outside of its home market.

The pizza outlets, starting at the coastal city of Benguela, will be opened in shopping centres aligned to food retailer Shoprite, the company said on Thursday.

"There's a natural alignment with Debonairs Pizza and the Hungry Lion brand," said Darren Hele, the CE of Famous Brands' food service.

The fast-food chain's expansion in the Southern Africa nation will mirror that of Shoprite, which has been on the ground for 11 years. "The seven stores will be a balance of new Shoprite centres and existing ones," said Mr Hele. Famous Brands has "been seriously" exploring its options to enter Angola for at least the last three years, said Mr Hele.

Last year it successfully conducted a joint pilot project where it paired Shoprite's Hungry Lion with

Debonairs Pizza in the working class suburb of Eldorado Park in Gauteng. Shoprite will have the management responsibilities as a master franchisee in Angola.

"We're exploring similar growth opportunities with Shoprite in other countries on the continent," said Mr Hele.

Famous Brands operates in 13 countries on its own, while Shoprite has been operating a network of stores outside SA, now numbering 290, for the past 17 years. The grocer operates 33 stores in Angola, as well as 34 stores in Zambia and 10 in Nigeria.

About four years ago Shoprite said it would establish its own property development arm as it was facing shortages and delays in securing shopping mall space in Africa, where the property market is not as formal as it is in SA.

Asked if the Shoprite deal came as a result of Famous Brands' struggles to secure retail space, Mr Hele said that was one of the factors, but not a major one. "Hungry Lion is just a natural fit for Debonairs Pizza, and Shoprite has done a fantastic job in Angola," he said.

Shoprite declined to comment to enquiries about further growth plans.

AU/AFRICA :

[Scientists complete study on genetic diversity in Africa](http://05.Dec.2014/tribune.com.ng)

05.Dec.2014/tribune.com.ng

Scientists have completed a comprehensive study of genetic diversity in Sub-Saharan Africa, the BBC has reported. The African Genome Variation Project analysed the DNA of 1,800 people living across the continent.

The data is helping scientists to understand how susceptibility to disease varies across the region and has provided more insight into how populations have moved within Africa.

The research is published in the journal Nature.

Until now, most studies examining genetic risk factors for disease have focused on Europe. Little has been known about Africa, the most genetically diverse region in the world.

Dr Manj Sandhu, from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the University of Cambridge, said: "We originally set out to look at chronic diseases in Africa, and one strategy to understand the causes of those diseases is to look at the underlying genetic susceptibility.

"But to do that, you need a pretty good grasp of the variation in genomes across the region, but we realised that information wasn't available."

To find out more, a team of African, UK and US researchers collected genetic material from 1,800 people in Sub-Saharan Africa, including 320 whole genome sequences. The researchers found that there were some key regional differences.

For example, people from South Africa are less likely to carry a genetic mutation that offers

protection against malaria than those from other parts Africa.

And globally, Africans are more likely to have a greater risk of high blood pressure than Europeans.

However, the researchers also found that there were more genetic similarities across Africa than they had thought.

Dr Sandhu said: "The diversity among populations is not as diverse as we expected it to be. That's good, because it means we can now design large scale trials to understand diseases susceptibility.

"If we can clearly understand the biological processes and individual susceptibility to a disease for a given individual in a given continent, we can start to understand how we could intervene - either in a therapeutic or development of a medicine approach - to control and manage that disease."

He added that the genetic data could help researchers who are trying to understand why some people in Africa are more susceptible to viruses, such as Ebola, than others.

The African Genome Variation Project has also provided more insight into how ancient populations moved within Africa.

The researchers found that many Africans have some Eurasian DNA within their genetic ancestry, which suggests that Eurasians migrated back into Africa many thousands of years after they first left.

And several of the populations were descended from the Bantu, a group that spread across Africa about 5,000 years ago.

Africa: Forbes Names Minister Kamayirese Among Africa's 'Power Women'

By James Karuhanga/allafrica.com/5 December 2014

Germaine Kamayirese, the minister of state in charge of energy, water and sanitation in the Ministry of Infrastructure, is on Forbes magazine's list of the 20 Youngest Power Women In Africa 2014.

The American business magazine rates the young Rwandan politician among the 2014 class of the 20 Youngest Power Women in Africa: "the continent's emerging power brokers, the Amazons to watch, and the custodians of tomorrow."

The 33-year-old trained engineer is number 14 on the list.

"She carries the responsibility of executing and implementing Rwanda's National Policy and Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation services as well as governing the activities of power production, transmission, distribution and trading within and outside Rwanda's territory," reads part of a comment by Mfonobong Nsehe, Forbes contributor who has since 2011 chronicled Africa's success stories and tracked its richest people.

Kamayirese could not be reached for a comment by press time as her known phone contacts were not available.

Every year, Nsehe identifies 20 young, extraordinary and inspiring African women, aged 45 and below, who are making the most dramatic impact in individual African countries in the world of politics, business, technology, policy, diplomacy and media for the annual tally of the 20 Youngest

Power Women In Africa.

Now in its fourth year, the list celebrates 20 influential women leaders and groundbreakers who are transforming the continent from their communities.

Nsehe says each of them share one thing: "they are doers."

"They are resolute in their resolve to change, to build, inspire and transform, and they are out there making it happen," Nsehe says. "They are change makers, trendsetters, visionaries and thinkers, builders, and young global leaders. They are at the vanguard of Africa's imminent socio-economic revolution and its contemporary renaissance."

Moroccan Fatima-Zahra Mansouri, 38, the mayor of Marrakech, the third largest city in North African country, is number one

Number two is Nigeria's Ada Osakwe, 34. Nigeria's agricultural sector has attracted more than \$4 billion in private sector investment commitments over the last year, and Osakwe is an integral reason behind it.

Osakwe currently serves as the Senior Investment Adviser to Nigerian Minister for Agriculture Akinwunmi Adesina.

Kenyan women shine:

Despite dominance by Nigeria, six Kenyan women made the list.

They include MP Naisula Lesuada, 30, a senator and a former journalist, peace ambassador and girl child champion.

The youngest female in Kenya's Senate previously worked as an anchor at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, and in 2010, became the youngest person awarded the Presidential Order of the Grand Warrior for her work in leveraging journalism to highlight social issues in Kenya and promoting peace among warring pastoral communities in northern Kenya.

She is number four on the list.

Eleventh on the list is Irene Koki Mutungi, 39, a pilot.

In April, Kenya Airways appointed Mutungi as a captain on Boeing B787 Dreamliner, making her the first African female Dreamliner captain in the world.

Mutungi joined Kenya Airways in 1993 and became the first woman to become a captain in Africa.

Number 13 is Yvonne Khamati, 32, the deputy head of mission at Kenya's embassy in Somalia.

In 2007, former Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki appointed Khamati as head of chancery and deputy permanent representative to the Kenyan Mission to the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

She was only 25 at the time, and became the youngest envoy in Kenya's history.

Khamati is still one of the youngest diplomats in Kenya.

A Kenyan trio of Jamila Abass, Linda Kwamboka, and Susan Oguya, the founders of MFarm, "a revolutionary mobile software company that could potentially transform the fortunes of millions of African farmers if replicated across several African countries" tie on 16th position on the list.

MFarm provides farmers and buyers with the most recent retail price information about products, and operates a virtual marketplace where consumers buy products directly from manufacturers and farmers find buyers for produce.

PROFILE:

Name. Germaine Kamayirese

Age. 33

Qualification. Engineers

Vocation. Minister of State in charge of Energy, Water and Sanitation in the Ministry of Infrastructure

Airtel Nigeria partners AU to kick Ebola out of Africa

Posted by Marc Mcilhone/africanbrains.net/2014/12/04

Nigeria's leading telecommunications operator, Airtel Nigeria has partnered the African Union (AU) Commission to support the fight against Ebola in West Africa.

The initiative, operating under the hash tag '#AfricaAgainstEbola', will use an SMS dedicated platform to raise funds for the deployment of African health workers to affected countries.

Ebola has claimed over 5,000 lives across some parts of West Africa since it was first reported in Guinea in December 2013. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), this is the largest outbreak on the continent, affecting mostly Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

At a recent Business Roundtable on Ebola hosted by the AU, mobile operators committed to support efforts to fight Ebola by unveiling an Africa-wide three-month campaign dubbed, 'Africa against Ebola'. This will focus on donations from members of the public who are customers of the operators and will be channelled into fighting the Ebola Virus.

The AU is leading this effort under its African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) mission, which has so far deployed 90 health workers to the three affected countries.

Commenting on the initiative, African Union Commission Chairperson, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said:

"We are conscious of the urgent need for all of us to do more, and to act fast. It is only by acting together will we ensure that our continent and world is free of Ebola. Let me repeat our call to all Africans to lead the global efforts of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea".

Also commenting, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Airtel Nigeria, Segun

Ogunsanya, said: "Airtel Nigeria is pleased to partner with the African Union on this laudable initiative. As a major stakeholder with operations in 17 African countries, we are intensely interested in the communities and people we serve just as we are passionate about creating platforms to uplift the less privileged. This partnership with AU provides a fine opportunity for all of us at Airtel Nigeria to join in kicking Ebola out of Africa.

The SMS fundraising campaign will use the short code 7979 with local adaptations where technology requires. Customers will be asked to text 'Stop Ebola' to this code in order to donate in their respective countries. Airtel Nigeria will announce the commencement of the use of the short code shortly.

Mobile Operators across Africa including Airtel, Econet Wireless, Etisalat, Millicom (Tigo), MTN Group, Orange, Safaricom, Vodacom and Vodafone Ghana are participating in this campaign.

The campaign will run between now and the end of February 2015

International Volunteer Day 2014: Volunteering in 'red zone' of West Africa's Ebola crisis

By Lydia Smith/ibtimes.co.uk/December 5, 2014

Today marks International Volunteer Day, a global celebration of the achievements of volunteers and organisations at all levels.

Designated by the United Nations since 1985, the day is a chance for individuals and groups to celebrate their efforts, share their values and promote their work. The theme this year is: "People's participation. Make change happen, volunteer!"

This year, however, there is a specific focus on the ongoing Ebola crisis in West Africa. The World Health Organization this week declared the death toll had reached over 6,000 – an unprecedented figure in the history of the disease. Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Bamako region of Mali are the countries that are worst hit by Ebola.

Ebola focus

In a statement for International Volunteer Day, UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said: "I also pay special tribute to the many volunteers responding to the Ebola crisis. UN volunteers and their counterparts are helping to address the outbreak through prevention, awareness-raising and treatment activities.

"Their assistance is particularly important as we battle misconceptions about the disease and strive to show compassion for all those who are affected."

GOAL, an international humanitarian agency dedicated to alleviating the suffering of the poor, has responded to every major humanitarian disaster since it was established in 1977.

The agency is currently working in 14 countries, including Sierra Leone, one of the West African states badly affected by Ebola. As well as the threat of disease, the World Bank has warned the rapid increase in cases in the west of the country could push the country into recession by next year.

Red zone

"Working in Sierra Leone is very difficult," Ciara Jordan, of GOAL, told IBTimes UK.

"Emotionally, working in the red zone – in direct contact with patients – can be extremely hard which is why medics only have a three-month contract. Also, personal protective equipment is very hot and medics cannot wear it for a long time."

"Recruits receive full training on protective equipment and are encouraged to educate themselves on Ebola," she added. "They are also required to understand how to protect themselves against the disease and to be aware of symptoms."

"All staff are properly medically briefed on Ebola and fit to travel and work in Sierra Leone. Medical clearance from a doctor is required for all staff. For employees who will be working in the red zone of the Ebola Treatment Centre, a pre-deployment resiliency programme and stress management is provided."

Counselling is also available to any international staff member who needs it, Jordan added.

Government collaboration

"Over 200 GOAL staff are delivering aid and development programmes in Sierra Leone, where an outbreak of the deadly Ebola disease has claimed almost 1,400 lives nationwide," Jordan explained.

"We are collaborating with the UK government on a €15m (£11.8m), 100-bed Ebola treatment centre in Port Loko," she said. "GOAL will staff and manage the facility, which should be ready to accept its first patients by early to mid-December."

The main focuses of GOAL, as part of the National Ebola Response in Sierra Leone, is social mobilisation and health messaging, and supporting child protection systems.

"GOAL supports the reintegration of Ebola survivors into society," Jordan said. "With stigma for Ebola survivors a real issue, GOAL is supporting people who have been discharged from treatment centres or isolation centres with household kits, clothes and reintegration counselling."

To celebrate the work of volunteers and awareness worldwide, the UN has encouraged the use of the hashtag #IVD2014.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

U.S. hospital receives possible Ebola patient from West Africa
English.news.cn/Xinhua/2014-12-05

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (Xinhua) -- An American health care worker who may have been exposed to Ebola virus in West Africa has been transferred to the Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, the hospital said Thursday.

"The patient arrived at the hospital this morning at approximately 5:45 a.m. (1045 GMT)," the

hospital said in a statement.

"Emory cannot share more details out of respect for patient privacy and in accordance with the patient's wishes," it said, adding the patient will be monitored and tested to see if an infection has been acquired.

Emory's Serious Communicable Diseases Unit has successfully treated four of the 10 patients who have been identified as receiving care in the United States for Ebola.

Earlier this week, U.S. health officials designated 35 hospitals, including Emory, as Ebola treatment centers.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

CMA CGM to improve India, Middle East and East Africa services

By Lee Hong Liang from Singapore/seatrade-global.com/05/12/2014

Container carrier CMA CGM will reshuffle its services between India, the Middle East and East Africa.

Starting from December this year, its Noura Express and Swahili Express will be upgraded to accompany the growth of the East African market.

The new Noura Express will be operating four 1,800-2,200 teu boxships on the port rotation of Jebel Ali, Khor Fakkan, Mombasa, Mogadishu and Jebel Ali. The first voyage will start on 5 December.

The new Swahili Express will be operating six 2,800 teu containerships on the port rotation of Nhava Sheva, Jebel Ali, Khor Fakkan, Dar Es Salaam, Zanzibar, Nacala and Nava Sheva. The first voyage

will commence on 11 December.

CMA CGM claimed that it will become the only shipping company to offer a direct service between India and Zanzibar.

The transit times from the Indian subcontinent and the Middle East will also be significantly reduced, and the global service reliability is expected to improve.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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