



(Protests in Niger left 10 people dead as rioters torched churches, wrecked bars and blocked several major roads during two days of demonstrations against a French magazine cover depicting the Prophet Muhammad.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Analysing Rwanda's Presidential Term Limits

The New Times (Kigali)/19 January 2015

analysis

By Fred Mufulukye

The decision on who should lead Rwanda even after 2017 should fall within the parameters of democracy. Democracy is the government of people, for the people and by the people. The choice should, therefore, be left in the hands and wishes of the Rwandan people.

It should also be recalled that the Rwandan constitution as revised to date was established and enacted based on the ideas of Rwandans. Based on the principles of democracy, Rwandans have constitutional rights to modify or review their constitution to match it with their current aspirations and wishes. It is in this understanding that article 101 of the Rwanda Constitution can't be seen as stumbling block to the wishes of Rwandans. It states that; "The President of the Republic is elected for a term of seven years renewable only once". It further reads: "Under no circumstances shall a person hold the office of President of Republic for more than two terms".

Paragraph 1 of article 193, provides that power to initiate amendment of the Constitution shall be vested concurrently in the President of the Republic upon the proposal of the Cabinet and each Chamber of Parliament upon a resolution passed by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of its members. However, paragraph 3 of article 193 provides that, the constitutional amendment concerning the term of the President of the Republic, must be passed by referendum, after adoption by each Chamber of Parliament. The last paragraph provides that no amendment to this Article (193) shall be permitted, meaning it is only done through referendum.

Today, Rwandans have publicly demanded and requested H.E the President to accept their appeal and stand again. Their request depends on their constitutional rights to modify the presidential term limit.

Political term limits is a political choice.

Depending on global political dynamics on term limits, some countries prefer setting term limits for their Heads of State and Government while others do not.

The United States placed a limit of two terms on its presidency by means of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1951 which was amended after President Roosevelt. In 1940, Roosevelt became the only president to be elected to a third term; his supporters cited the war in Europe as a reason for breaking with precedent. Prior to Roosevelt, few Presidents attempted to serve for more than two terms but did not win elections though they were not limited to serving more than one term.

In the 1944 election, during World War II, Roosevelt won a fourth term, but suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died in office the following year. In 1947, the congress passed Twenty-second Amendment of the United States Constitution setting a term limit for election to the office of President of the United States.

Since then, there have been repeated attempts to repeal the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which limits each president to two terms. In 1985, when Ronald Reagan was serving his second term, some senators introduced legislation to repeal the Twenty-second Amendment. There are other amendments that have been proposed, such as giving Congress the power to grant a dispensation to a current or former president by way of a supermajority vote in both houses.

In the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister has no term limits. The Prime Minister is appointed by the Monarch and remains in office so long as he/she can command the confidence of the House of Commons, which in practice equals being the leader of the party with the most number of seats. Examples of the UK prime ministers and their years in office:

- Margaret Thatcher, was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990
- Tony Blair was Prime Minister of the UK from 1997 to 2007. He was a Member of Parliament from 1983 to 2007 and Leader of the Labour Party from 1994 to 2007. He resigned all these positions in June 2007.
- Gordon Brown was the UK Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party from 2007 until 2010

Singapore:

The Prime Minister of Singapore is the head of the government of the Republic of Singapore. The

President of Singapore appoints a Prime Minister, a Member of Parliament (MP) who, in his opinion, should command the confidence of a majority of MPs.

Lee Kuan Yew was the first Prime Minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990. He has been the longest-serving Prime Minister of Singapore. He is regarded as the Father of Singapore for his leadership capability to lead Singapore from third world country into a first world country. He led the PAP (People's Action Party) into eight consecutive election victories.

NB: Referring to the above international experiences on political term limits, Heads of State and governments are mandated to serve depending on wishes of the people, either directly or indirectly (through MPs).

Underlying concerns of Rwandans to change President Kagame:

President Paul Kagame is the first President Rwandans have had who is not involved in any political divisive agenda. He is widely admired for ably leading a very complicated liberation struggle, stopping the Genocide against the Tutsi, rebuilding the nation, building national unity and dealing with the consequences of the Genocide.

President Kagame has transformed the country in just less than 20 years. His vision for Rwanda, his dream, focus, resilience to the core principles of the liberation struggle, all have put him above the rest. Leaders like him are very rare and come once in hundreds of years.

His personality and leadership traits have helped unite Rwandans, created hope, trust and confidence in the Rwandan community.

The majority of Rwandan community have anxiety, fear and uncertainty of what may happen after 2017. The positive impact created by President Kagame's vision and leadership in Rwanda makes the majority of Rwandans hesitant to change him and makes them uncertain about the future of Rwanda in another person's command.

- Peace and Security. Rwanda is a secure country and has become an icon of peace and security in Africa and beyond. In view of our recent history where everyone has been affected in one way or another, Rwandans recognise President Kagame as their source of security, comfort and the father of Rwanda.

There is a concern as to whether there is someone prepared and ready to take up President Kagame's responsibility and manage Rwanda's political spectrum, regional and international dynamics.

Everybody appreciates President Kagame efforts and determination to build effective and efficient institutions and systems for both the government and RPF.

After the transition period (2003), just a period of 11 years, though there are commendable efforts to appreciate, our institutions are still young and need to be guided, nurtured, energised and modified along their development course.

Looking at countries that have been stable and developed for over 200 years, like USA, they still face some challenges leading to modifications of their policies, laws and strengthening the existing institutions.

It has also been noticed that institutions alone are not enough to sustain development and unity of a nation. There are examples of countries where change of performing leaders has turned their

development curve. Example can be seen in Africa and beyond.

- Geopolitics and hostile international environment. Rwanda being positioned in the Great Lakes region continues to be affected by insecurity and hostilities of some countries some of which are fueled by hostile environment and geopolitical interests. President Kagame has been bold and indomitable on the international and region pressure, which has put Rwanda on international scene and restored Rwanda's pride and image. Some hostile countries and politicians see him as a stumbling block to their agenda on Rwanda and Africa.

- Rwandans are still puzzled by whether President Kagame will accept their wish to continue after 2017. He has in different meetings kept a strong position not to change the term limit for him to continue despite overwhelming justifications. However, Rwandans have hope that his love and commitment to serve them, his nature to take up challenging responsibilities as long as they are in the interest of Rwandans (ref. 1990 when he abandoned his studies in USA to join and lead the RPF struggle that had almost failed), will make him accept their plea and lead them even after 2017.

- Some people have raised concerns about President Kagame's legacy if he accepted to lead Rwanda after 2017. Legacy should not be confused and limited to political term limit, instead it is a totality of delivering a country from one point to another.

Taking an example of Singapore's PM, Lee Kuan Yew who is regarded as the Father of Singapore. His legacy is unquestionable after leading Singapore from the 3rd to the 1st world, without looking at the term limit.

Likewise, President Kagame is on the right course, taking Rwanda from 3rd to the 1st world. His legacy should be judged on his delivery to the Rwandans than other forms.

Do Rwandans have a constitutional right to amend the presidential term limit?

Article 101 of Rwanda Constitution provides the Presidential term limit while article 193 provides the possibility of its amendment.

Basing on the fact that amendment of article 101 is permitted by the constitution, it should be clearly understood that any amendments follow set procedure.

In Rwanda, the plea for amendment of presidential term limit has been engineered and consistently demanded by the grassroots population in different fora, unlike other countries where attraction of power remains a strong motivating factor for many leaders. What is unique for Rwanda, the President has always not welcomed the demands to amend the constitution. However, Rwandans have continued demanding and questioning:

- Why was article 193 provided if Rwandans' demand to amend the constitution is not given attention?

- Aren't we not compromising democracy if wishes of the Rwandan people to amend their constitution are not given importance?

- When shall this article be relevant in Rwandan history and in which conditions if today's Rwandan demands are not listened to?

Way forward for Rwanda:

Basing on the fact that there is no universally accepted political term limit direction, different countries take their political term limit choices depending on their political situations and change whenever they deem it necessary.

It is up to the Rwandans to analyse and decide what would be their best choice. It would be wise and be left for Rwandans to decide, considering Rwanda unique context and how they have confronted it under the leadership of President Kagame: Genocide and its consequences, fragile society, too much of regional and international hostile environment, growing economy, international recognition, investment and doing business climate, social cohesion etc.

President Kagame has displayed unique leadership potentials and character in dealing and managing Rwanda's challenges, and changing this active and effective leader to venture into the world of the unknown just for the sake of change would be considered suicidal, irrational and unreasonable.

RDC CONGO :

**RD CONGO :: LA MODIFICATION CONSTITUTIONNELLE ANTICONSTITUTIONNELLE
NE PASSERA PAS AU CONGO :: CONGO DEMOCRATIC**

www.camer.be/19012015

Nicole Ntumba:Camer.beAprès le Burkinabé Blaise Compaoré contraint de prendre la fuite avec l'aide de la France, Joseph Kabila se lancerait-il à son tour dans le combat de trop visant à se maintenir à son poste au-delà de son dernier mandat présidentiel en 2016 ? En effet, c'est au forceps avec bagarre dans l'hémicycle, interdiction faite aux députés de l'opposition d'accéder à leur espace de travail, arrestations d'opposants et des manifestants abattus par les forces de sécurité que le président de la République Démocratique du Congo a lancé une réforme électorale rejetée par une large majorité des Congolais. L'un des leaders en Europe de l'opposition, en l'occurrence le professeur de Droit Nicole Ntumba Bwatshia, représentante en Belgique de l'Union pour la Nation Congolaise, l'UNC, de Vital Kamerhe, in concreto deuxième formation politique du Congo après l'UDPS, a bien voulu nous accorder une interview à ce sujet.

Professeur, le Congo est-il une dictature ou une démocratie pour l'UNC ?

L'UNC considère qu'avec l'arrivée de l'AFDL en 1997, les germes démocratiques commençaient à bourgeonner. Puis les élections présidentielles de 2006 ont permis d'entrevoir l'instauration d'un Etat de droit. Mais très vite, avec la dérive chaotique des élections présidentielles de 2011, il est clair que la RDC sombre de nouveau dans la dictature qui favorise l'installation à vie du Président aux commandes de l'Etat, par le muselage des droits de l'Homme, les intimidations, les menaces, le déséquilibre notoire entre la richesse pour les uns et la misère et la pauvreté pour les autres, etc.

Comment votre parti interprète-t-il la volonté du gouvernement Matata Ponyo de réformer la loi électorale ?

L'UNC rejette purement et simplement toute idée ou tentative de réformer la loi électorale. En quoi cette loi est mauvaise à ce jour ? Elle appelle tout citoyen à exercer son droit constitutionnel tel que le dispose l'article 64. Les différentes marches de l'opposition, celle de la place Sainte-Thérèse dans la commune de Ndjili et surtout celle du 12 janvier 2015 devant le Parlement, malheureusement réprimée dans le sang, démontrent à suffisance que le pouvoir veut effectuer un passage en force face à la tentative échouée de modifier certains articles de la Constitution.

A l'instar du PPRD, parti kabiliste, l'UNC est-il favorable à une modification constitutionnelle ?

L'UNC soutient que la Constitution a elle-même prévu que certains articles sont cristallisés, intangibles et verrouillés. C'est le cas de l'article 220 qui ne prévoit que deux mandats présidentiels. Tenter de modifier ce dernier est un acte anticonstitutionnel. Tous les subterfuges que le pouvoir utilisera pour toucher aux articles verrouillés déclencheront l'application de l'article 64 qui invite tout Congolais à faire face et échec à tout individu ou groupe d'individus qui prend le pouvoir par la force. C'est en vertu de cet article que l'UNC, avec d'autres partis de l'opposition, invitent le peuple à braver la peur.

Quelle lecture faites-vous de la situation socio-économique de la RDC ?

J'estime que la croissance macro-économique dont se vante tant le gouvernement, ne concerne que le secteur minier en réalité. La situation socio-économique est désastreuse, la pauvreté continue de sévir sur une population déjà affaiblie par le manque d'argent, de travail, de santé, de loisir, d'énergie électrique et d'eau, de scolarité. Bref du minimum vital pour son épanouissement. Il suffit d'arpenter les artères qui composent les cités de la ville de Kinshasa. Ce ne sont pas les routes élargies qui contribueront à résorber la déliquescence du tissu économique. Les autres provinces également vivent dans une misère noire qui fait perdre tout espoir de voir enfin le bout du tunnel.

Participeriez-vous à un gouvernement d'Union nationale ?

L'UNC rejette avec la dernière énergie le fait d'entrer dans un quelconque « gouvernement d'union ou de cohésion nationale » qui n'aurait que de cohésion nationale le nom. Quelle est l'utilité de participer à un gouvernement qui ne résoudra aucun problème en si peu de temps car le 19 décembre 2016 à minuit le mandat kabilien prend fin ? C'est la Constitution qui le dit formellement sans aucun brouillard. L'UNC veut l'alternance au pouvoir car l'usure du pouvoir érode le bon sens des individus qui l'exercent. Il existe une vie après la présidence. Il faut savoir quitter le pouvoir avant que le pouvoir ne vous quitte.

L'Occident ne serait-elle pas complice de ce que les Congolais considèrent comme leur emprisonnement ?

L'Occident ne va que là où ses intérêts le portent. L'instabilité institutionnelle, économique et sécuritaire de la RDC semble profiter aux puissances étrangères pour la poursuite des trafics clandestins des matières premières congolaises. Par exemple, le coltan utilisé dans les téléphones cellulaires. Ce minerai, unique en RDC, est précieux car il empêche que les données d'un appareil cellulaire se perdent. Il est donc d'une extrême importance. Je déplore le caractère parfois ambigu de l'Occident qui laisse à penser qu'il prêche tantôt le chaud et tantôt le froid. Il a du mal à prendre une position ferme dans certains problèmes et traite différemment ceux-ci selon qu'on est dans de bonnes augures ou pas.

La diaspora congolaise est-elle aussi vigilante que ceux de l'intérieur sur le respect de la norme constitutionnelle ?

Longtemps on a considéré que la diaspora congolaise était molle et peu regardante sur ce qui se passait au pays. Elle ne se contentait que d'envoyer à leur famille un soutien financier. Mais aujourd'hui plus qu'hier et encore mieux que demain, il est de bon ton de signaler que la diaspora congolaise de Belgique en particulier et des autres pays en général, est très active et sensibilisatrice. Elle contribue sans relâche à la prise de conscience nationale du changement. Elle influe désormais sur la politique intérieure du pays. Chacun à sa manière, certes, même si nous déplorons parfois

l'extrémisme et l'intolérance. Néanmoins, le sentiment du vouloir vivre collectif, le nous national sont les maîtres mots du désir ardent de voir basculer la RDC dans le concert des nations respectées. C'est la raison pour laquelle le droit de vote doit lui être accordé et la double nationalité reconnue.

Que vous inspire l'unité de l'opposition à laquelle on assiste actuellement ?

Il faut d'abord saluer franchement cette « unité sans précédent » que l'opposition a toujours recherchée. Pour la première fois tous les leaders de l'opposition sans exclusive, ont mis de côté leurs différents egos pour parler un seul langage : celui du départ du Chef de l'Etat après la fin de son mandat constitutionnel. Ensuite, il faut reconnaître que l'opposition réunie offre une belle image de détermination pour en découdre avec les tentatives du holdup constitutionnel auxquelles le pouvoir s'essaie sans relâche. Le pouvoir ne réussira pas son passage en force car la population, à travers les vibrants et nombreux appels de l'opposition et de la Société civile se sent comme pousser des ailes pour empêcher le troisième mandat que le pouvoir veut s'arroger au mépris de toutes les dispositions légales.

En quoi consiste exactement la peur du glissement vers une prolongation du mandat présidentiel ?

Il y a eu une première tentative de modification de la Constitution dans son article 220. Le terrain se préparait subtilement avec la parution du livre « Entre la révision constitutionnelle et l'inanition de l'Etat » de l'actuel Vice-Premier Ministre, Professeur Evariste Boshab et Secrétaire général du parti présidentiel qui posait déjà les jalons de la révision de cet article. Ayant senti la supercherie, l'opposition a crié au scandale et a multiplié des campagnes de sensibilisation et de vigilance contre cet état des choses. L'idée de révision a été retirée. Mais voilà qu'un autre plan s'est mis en place, celui de réviser la loi électorale faisant du recensement une condition préalable à l'organisation des élections à venir. Or, il appert qu'un recensement dans un Etat à problème comme la RDC ne peut pas se faire en une année. Il est clair qu'il ira au-delà de 2016, prétextant que le recensement n'est pas terminé et qu'il y a eu des difficultés. Le glissement réside à ce niveau-là. Si la population se laisse faire comme ce fut le cas pour la révision de l'article 71 de la Constitution qui a fait passer l'élection du président au scrutin à un tour au lieu des deux initialement prévus ; elle va se réveiller un matin et constater que le Président et sa majorité sont encore au pouvoir grâce au fallacieux motif du recensement. C'est d'ailleurs pour exécuter ce projet du glissement que l'Office national pour l'Identification de la Population, ONIP, a été créé.

Pourquoi l'UNC refuse la tenue d'un dialogue national alors que cela pourrait apaiser les tensions ?

L'UNC a toujours revendiqué la tenue d'un dialogue conformément aux prescrits de la Résolution de l'ONU 2098 et de l'Accord-cadre d'Addis-Abeba de 2013. En violation de l'esprit et de la lettre de ces instruments juridiques internationaux, le pouvoir a préféré convoquer les Concertations Nationales avec plus de 600 recommandations dont la principale et la plus attractive était la composition d'un nouveau gouvernement dit « de cohésion nationale », qui a vu le jour après un an soit en 2014. L'UNC a refusé de cautionner sa participation à ces concertations, qui ressemblaient plus à un congrès du parti présidentiel. L'UNC avec d'autres alliés ont créé la Coalition pour le Vrai Dialogue, CVD, pour tenter de récupérer le dialogue tel que souhaité par les instruments onusiens. Mais là, l'opposition ne s'est pas mise ensemble car ceux des opposants qui ont participé aux fameuses concertations ont été gratifiés par leur entrée dans le gouvernement actuel. Certains partis politiques de l'opposition se sont rendus complices de cette supercherie. Ils sont libres. Mais l'UNC clairvoyante a maintenu sa position ferme de ne pas s'impliquer. Aujourd'hui, alors que le temps du départ du Président approche, l'on nous ressort le discours de la tenue d'un dialogue. L'UNC dit non car la tenue de ce dialogue équivaut à une autre forme de glissement du mandat présidentiel au-delà de 2016. Vous imaginez le temps qu'on va perdre dans la composition des personnalités appelées, l'ordre du jour, les fameux per diem, tout cela va prendre des mois et des mois qui

risquent de déborder lentement sur les 90 jours de la tenue des élections présidentielles. Il n'y a qu'à voir combien de temps il a fallu au pouvoir pour sortir l'actuel gouvernement depuis les concertations nationales ! Plus d'une année.

Votre mot de la fin, Professeur.

L'UNC invite le Président à, simplement, se conformer à la Constitution et permettre l'alternance du pouvoir. Et c'est après son départ constitutionnel que l'on pourra se mettre autour de la table et discuter sur le fond de tous les maux qui rongent notre chère République Démocratique du Congo.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Tata-led Neotel takeover in South Africa under regulator scrutiny

PTI/businessday.intoday.in/January 19, 2015

Johannesburg

The proposed buyout of Neotel, the Tata-led telecoms operator in South Africa, is not aimed at taking over the lucrative spectrum licenced to it, the country's leading cellular company Vodacom told telecoms regulator ICASA.

The deal came under scrutiny at Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) for two days as various stakeholders commented on the deal, which some said would result in Vodacom gaining an unfair competitive edge over its rivals.

Neotel was established by a Tata-led consortium in 2006 as South Africa's second fixed-line operator to rival government-owned Telkom's monopoly.

Three years later, Tata Communications took control of Neotel by buying a 30 per cent stake previously held by parastatals Eskom and Transnet.

At the time, Neotel chief executive Ajay Pandey said the Tata transaction would further allow Neotel to leverage on Tata Communications' proven and vast global network of tried and tested technologies in countries such as India, with similar telecoms landscape to South Africa.

"It allows us to continue bringing global best practice to the South African market to position our country more effectively in the international economic context," Pandey said.

Vodacom representatives told ICASA that the seven-billion rand acquisition of Neotel would be done without exercising control over its allocated radio frequency spectrum.

Legal counsel for Vodacom, Steven Budlender, argued that the deal was not a transfer of Neotel's spectrum licences, but only of ownership of Neotel's business by Vodacom.

Budlender said control of the licences would remain with Neotel, and if Vodacom wanted the

spectrum, it would enter into a separate arrangement with Neotel.

This was countered by competitor Cell C, which said the business could not be taken over without the licences also being transferred.

Legal counsel for Cell C Graham Mackinnon told the regulator that Vodacom's acquisition of Neotel would entrench Vodacom's dominance in the market.

But Vodacom chief executive Shameel Joosub said the deal would drive down broadband prices and allow Vodacom to extend fibre-to-home connections to a million homes within three years.

Since its inception, Neotel has rolled out vast networks to link many areas of South Africa, which is what many believe Vodacom wants to gain access to.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: 'Bad Blood' As Kenya Bans Tanzanian Vehicles From JKIA

Arusha Times (Arusha)/17 January 2015

The recent ban on Tanzania tourist vehicles from accessing the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi is a retaliation for Tanzania's refusal to allow tour vans from Kenya from taking tourists directly to the national parks.

Sources in Nairobi have confided that Kenyan government would stick to its guns during the coming talks with Tanzanian officials to discuss the crisis which may bring back memories of the bitter war on tourism receipts in the 1970s.

The minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Lazaro Nyalandu said in Arusha recently that he would be heading to Nairobi to discuss with his counterpart on the surprise ban slapped on the vehicles shuttling between Arusha and JKIA.

He said the government was aware of the 1985 bilateral agreement on tourism between the two countries during which it was agreed that vans from Kenya should not be allowed to the national parks as a measure to empower local tour operators.

He said he was shocked by the recent decision by the Kenya authorities to prohibit shuttle buses from Arusha from JKIA, saying the airports were not part of the agreement reached by the two countries in the 1985 protocol.

But sources said Kenya has slapped the ban in order to retaliate Tanzania's decision to close the Bologonja border post between the Serengeti National Park and Maasai-Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. Until 1977, it was used by tourists crossing from Kenya.

"Kenya is simply implementing the East African Community (EAC) accord which allows reciprocity following Tanzania's continued refusal to allow tour operators (from Kenya) to access its national parks", officials in Nairobi were quoted as saying.

There are growing fears that ultimately the Tanzanian vehicles ferrying tourists across the border could be forced to stop at Namanga border post, instead of carrying passengers all the way to

Nairobi.

The shuttle buses have been plying the Nairobi-Arusha road for many years. But in recent years they had to enter JKIA to drop or pick up passengers because of the increased number of passengers taking flights overseas or arriving at the airport.

Since the ban was imposed on December 22nd last year, the vans from Arusha have been forced to drop off or pick passengers some kilometres away after the Kenyan authorities there told the operators only Kenya-registered vehicles were allowed to take visitors to the airport.

"This has resulted in a lot of inconveniences to us and our clients", lamented Moses King'ori, the managing director of the Arusha-based Riverside Safaris, one of the tour firms affected by the ban.

He said they were incurring additional costs of hiring vehicles to take the visitors to the airport from a junction on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway to the airport.

"This has put my clients at risks of being robbed or knocked down by vehicles as there is no designated bus terminal there", he said.

Mr. King'ori said he and his colleagues are still waiting for a solution to the crisis from the concerned officials.

Officials of the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (Tato), a powerful lobby group in the industry with over 200 members, have consistently declined to comment on the crisis affecting their members and the sector in general.

However, one of them who spoke on condition of anonymity confided that the measure taken by the Kenyan authorities could not have happened overnight. "The (Tanzania) government is better placed to explain the circumstances behind the issue", he affirmed.

Last week, the Tanzania High Commissioner to Kenya Dr. Batilda Buriani was quoted as saying that her office has been notified of the problem and that it was being pursued through diplomatic channels.

"We will find the root cause of the problem and how to resolve it for the benefit of the two countries", the High Commissioner told this reporter on phone from Nairobi.

Officials of EAC have also declined comment but some of its officials hinted the crisis could have more to do with bilateral pacts between Kenya and Tanzania, rather than the regional organization rules.

"The move is a bad signal and not healthy for EAC partner states. It may be a revenge by Kenya whose vehicles are not allowed to take tourists directly to the national parks in Tanzania" lamented a tour operator Andrew Malalika.

He said although many would prefer the issue to be settled amicably by officials of the two states, there had been contentious issues yet to be resolved under the bilateral agreements on tourism between the two countries.

"One of them is a ban on Kenya-registered vehicles from taking tourists directly to the national parks and other tourist attractions in Tanzania and the other is the closure of Bologonja gate" he said.

He called on officials of Kenya and Tanzania governments to meet immediately and sort out the "mess" in the spirit of EAC "because at the end of the day it is the region which will benefit from the tourism business".

Moses Nswila, the director of Friends of East Africa, a lobby group based in Arusha, outrightly condemned the ban of the tourist vans from Arusha from reaching the Nairobi airport, saying it was against the economic integration of the region.

Several other tour operators in Arusha expressed their frustrations over the move they feared could signal 'bad blood' between the two countries and main competitors in the lucrative tourism business in the region.

Tanzanian-registered vehicles taking tourists and other people to and from JKIA have since December 22nd last year been prohibited to access the busy airport which has increasingly been handling passengers travelling abroad from northern Tanzania.

The Nairobi air transport hub is also used by local passengers travelling abroad as they find it much cheaper than using local airports with direct flights overseas because of high costs of tickets.

A regional analyst Simon Mapolu said the ban was contrary to the spirit of EAC integration. "It is a bad sign in the implementation of the Treaty", he remarked, urging the relevant officials to investigate the root cause of the ban.

The Nairobi air transport hub is also used by local passengers travelling abroad as they find it much cheaper than using local airports with direct flights overseas because of high costs of tickets.

Thousands of tourists are also flying into the northern tourist circuit through JKIA.

KENYA :

Jubilee and CORD work together, dialogue for Kenya? Forget it!

By Peter Wanyonyi/standardmedia.co.ke/Sunday, January 18th 2015

Did I hear some people suggest that CORD and Jubilee should cooperate, and work together? Folks, perish the thought already. 'Dialogue' noise is nothing but rhetoric. It won't happen. And if it does, you will be bored to death. An eerie state of political minds has beset the land, and strange things are happening. Kenyans are used to politicians being obnoxious, and behaving like spoilt brats who throw tantrums for no reason, hurl insults at the slightest provocation and whip out baseless accusations, just to earn political marks or even just get one over their opponent. This template is so well-established that one can just look at the name of a politician and, given any function — funeral, fundraising, wedding, political rally — one can then predict with uncanny accuracy what the politician in question will say. This rather tired predictability has its advantages. You could pick a random Kenyan from any of our slums and ask her what was discussed in Parliament on any given day. Whether she watched the parliamentary session in question or not, she will give you an accurate summary of what transpired — and it all involves some of the usual shenanigans that our politicians get up to. A female representative will have her panties embroiled in the melee at some ruling by the Speaker; another elected worthy will have thrown a book — or even bottled urine (oh yeah, don't assume every liquid in a bottle is water), take your pick — at the Clerk of the Assembly;

a third representative will have bitten the fingers right off the hand of an opponent and a couple of opposition bigwigs will have had their trousers ripped off, leaving a big chunk of his backside exposed and clearly letting all and sundry know whether he had anything underneath the trousers! Interesting bunch The antagonism between the governing party and the opposition is fantastic for neutral observers. It makes the Kenyan political scene quite possibly the most entertaining in Africa, certainly in the region. Far removed from the boring Museveni-worship that Uganda's rubber stamp of a parliament prefers to engage in.

And definitely more entertaining than the snore that is Tanzania's parliament in session, unless there is a corruption scandal for mandugu to discuss. As parliaments go, ours is matched only by Somalia's: the Somalis are an interesting bunch. Back when they used to hold their Bunge sessions in Nairobi hotels, they would descend into fisticuffs at the slightest hint of an insult from one clan to the other. In the process, bills would be left unpaid, chairs would be broken, and everyone around would scamper for safety into the nearest hotel rooms. Further afield, the parliaments of Taiwan and South Korea are well-known for their entertaining fights. The two countries are big on martial arts, and kicks will fly at alarming speeds when the respective speakers make any unpopular ruling. Interesting times In South Korea, the speaker has to be physically present in parliament before any motion can be passed — and Seoul wags claim that this has led to an interesting phenomenon: opposition lawmakers routinely barricade the speaker in his house, preventing him from attending parliament and thus, effectively killing any government business in the House.

Anyone trying to rescue the speaker from this house arrest gets a good Tae-Kwon-Do beating! Unfortunately, this is about to change, in Kenya. A strange wind is abroad the land, and it has brought with it that most rare of political occurrences: a concurrence in opinions between the government and the opposition. Politicians used to spitting and flinging panties at each other from across the parliamentary aisle are suddenly finding nice things to say about each other. Very interesting times. Formerly intractable opponents — whose closest personal encounters with members of the opposite side have hitherto been when biting off those opponents' fingers and similar body parts — are rather strangely finding common cause. And talking as if they have all been lobotomized and then injected with a cooperation serum. If politicians close ranks, the Kenyan political scene will certainly be a very boring.

Kenya: Watch Out I'm Coming for You, Wario Warns

Capital FM (Nairobi)/17 January 2015

Nairobi — Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Arts, Dr Hassan Wario has raised a red flag on embattled Athletics Kenya (AK), giving them ultimatum to put their house in order failure to which he would disband the federation.

Wario, who spoke during the 11th Sports Personality of the Year (SOYA) at KICC, said AK were to blame squarely for the increase in doping cases among Kenyan athletes with the latest case of top marathoner Rita Jeptoo, who test positive for taking the banned blood-boosting drug EPO, hogging global headlines.

"People like Jeptoo have now joined the other side of disgraced athletes like Marion Jones, and they belong to the hall of shame and not hall of fame. We must come out strongly as Kenyans and disassociate ourselves from people who want to spoil our sport by doping.

"Someone must take the blame, when all this was happening AK president Isaiah Kiplagat and the federation were very quiet. There is no athletics to talk of if we continue like this in-fact when I got a letter from AK I thought you guys had resigned like Mwangi Muthee did in Kenya Rugby Union," said Wario amid clapping from a section of the gathering.

Wario added: "AK refused to cooperate with the Moni Wekesa led Task Force on Anti-doping and have been silent in acting when the walls have been collapsing in athletics.

"There is no meaningful change that can be done in doping if we don't have a united and strong AK body. I'm giving them a very short time to put their houses in order for us to move forward."

The minister said they will be getting rid of agents and coaches who operate in the country illegally who he accused of luring athletes into doping.

"Our patience in 2015 is overdue and we are going to sort you out. Time to act is now and if AK can't act we will throw them out and get someone else to do the job.

"Kenya has never been short of talent but we have been very short of managers and those are the people who are letting down the youth. Some people think the federation belongs to them; the federations belongs to the people so if you have served 20 or 30 years it's time to go," he declared.

All federations including Football Kenya Federation and Kenya Rugby Union were given stern warning, urging them to run the associations professionally or decline to register them as required by the Sports Acts.

"The common thing in federations is mismanagement, they must be accountable and if not we will carry out the necessary measures against them and if that's not enough we will disband them. 2015 is the year of the red card so watch out."

-Doping condemned-

Every speaker who stepped to the podium at the colourful SOYA gala night, condemned doping with former marathon record holder and International Olympics Committee Member (IOC), Paul Tergat advocating for fairness.

"Doping is the last thing I expected from Kenyan athletes. I urge them to avoid temptations and win clean.

"I'm disturbed by the endless wrangles that have hampered our federation throughout the year; I urge officials and administrators to re-think the legacy they will leave behind.

World 800m champion Eunice Sum who was voted the SOYA Sports Woman of the year said the doping menace has tainted the country's image.

"I'm urging my colleagues to be very careful in what they are taking because it has demeaned our dignity since most people know Kenya as world beaters but they will doubt us now." Sum urged.

-Safaricom to review their partnership-

The corporate sector was not left out in adding their voice on doping with Safaricom threatening to end their partnership with federations that don't adhere to the ethics of sports.

"Sport is about the honourable victory, it's not just by playing by the rules but by playing within the spirit of the rules. Sportsmen act ethically by demonstrating fairness, integrity, respect and responsibility.

"We continue to lead the world in athletics and rugby but our sports industry today is at risk of

falling. As key stakeholders in the sector, we are concerned about the emerging cases of doping that has threatened our image," Safaricom CEO Bob Collymore underscored.

"We need to be careful on how we conduct ourselves off the pitch in-terms of managing events, associations and how they are executed. It's therefore very distressing we have so many reports of misconduct in the sector.

"As a result of these unforeseen events, Safaricom is reviewing partnership in the sport field with a view to ending any relationship that we feel is not 100 percent ethical and it is not negotiable.

ALEX ISABOKE

Alex Isaboke is a trained Sports Journalist who has covered major sporting events both locally and in the continent for the last five years. He joined Capital Newsteam in 2013, he hopes to inspire sportsmen to make a difference in their lives and achieve their dreams through their talent.

Kenya Celebrates Major Reduction in Road Fatalities

Capital FM (Nairobi)/18 January 2015

By Judie Kaberia

Nairobi — Kenya on Sunday celebrated a 311 reduction of fatalities in road accidents in 2014 compared to 2013.

In a celebration that included lighting of candles to commemorate the 2,907 lives lost in 2014, Transport Cabinet Secretary Michael Kamau said the reduction was due to what he described as "multi-faceted interventions taken by the government."

"2015 saw a reduction fatal road crash victims by 9.7 Percent with a total of 311 lives saved," he explained.

In 2013, 3,318 people died in road accidents.

In 2014 deaths of pedestrians topped the list with 1,340 reported deaths followed by passengers at 642 deaths. 391 motorcyclists and 268 drivers were also killed in the same year.

Nairobi topped the list of casualties with 561 reported fatalities followed by Nakuru at 156 deaths, Kiambu 113 and Kisumu 95 reported deaths.

Mombasa had 90 deaths, Makueni and Machakos each had 82 deaths resulting from road accidents.

Kakamega, Bungoma and Kilifi had 77, 69 and 57 reported deaths.

The Cabinet Secretary explained that the government had managed to implement elaborate institutional, legal and behavioral change interventions targeted at restoring sanity on Kenyan roads and reducing the number of casualties.

He explained that the government is planning to introduce a new fining system that will ensure offenders pay fines instantly.

He said having policemen to escort traffic offenders to police stations was ineffective as it was time

consuming and affecting the work of police in observing law and order on public roads.

He also announced that more guard rails and footbridges will be constructed in high risk areas including Waiyaki way, airport road and other areas where pedestrian accidents were high.

The CS has also directed the National Transport Safety Authority to produce a comprehensive report on accidents explaining the cause of such accidents, condition of vehicles and drivers involved as well as other details that can assist in legislation and interventions to reduce road accidents in the country.

He further emphasised on self regulation especially by the public sector which he commended for having reduced the number of accidents drastically.

Other measures the ministry intends to undertake to reduce number of accidents include coordination of activities among actors in the transport sector.

ANGOLA :

Angola appoints new central bank governor

Sun Jan 18, 2015/Reuters

JOHANNESBURG

Jan 19 (Reuters) - Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has replaced central bank Governor Jose de Lima Massano with Jose Pedro de Morais, the official news agency Angop said on its website.

The agency did not give a reason for the replacement of Massano, one of Angola's most respected bankers, who was appointed in October 2010 for an unspecified period.

Angola's kwanza has weakened alongside the currencies of other oil-exporting countries, hitting an all-time low of 103.20 against the dollar earlier this month, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Angola is Africa's second-largest oil producer, and relies on crude exports for over 95 percent of its foreign exchange earnings.

AU/AFRICA :

L'épidémie d'Ebola est terminée au Mali

19/01/15/Source: Belga

L'épidémie d'Ebola est terminée au Mali, où 42 jours se sont écoulés sans nouveaux cas signalés, ont annoncé à Bamako le ministre malien de la Santé et le chef de la Mission des Nations unies pour la lutte contre Ebola (UNMEER) dans ce pays.

"Depuis le 6 décembre 2014, date à laquelle le dernier malade" traité à Bamako pour le virus Ebola

"a été testé négatif, aucun autre cas confirmé de maladie causée par le virus Ebola n'a été enregistré dans notre pays", a expliqué le ministre Ousmane Koné.

"Aussi, après 42 jours de surveillance sans cas confirmés", conformément aux directives en vigueur "je déclare ce jour, 18 janvier 2015, la fin de l'épidémie" liée au virus Ebola au Mali, a affirmé M. Koné.

Le Dr Ibrahim Socé Fall a de son côté souligné que "conformément aux recommandations de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) en la matière, la propagation de la maladie causée par le virus Ebola dans un pays peut être déclarée terminée lorsque 42 jours se sont écoulés sans qu'aucun nouveau cas ne soit enregistré".

Selon les autorités maliennes et l'OMS, le premier cas d'Ebola enregistré au Mali a été annoncé le 23 octobre, en la personne d'une fillette de deux ans venue de Guinée voisine, qui est morte le 24 octobre, sans entraîner de contamination.

Le virus a ensuite été réintroduit dans le pays par un autre patient en provenance Guinée, un imam de 70 ans, qui a contaminé directement ou indirectement sept personnes, dont cinq sont mortes.

Boko Haram frappe le Cameroun

19 janvier 2015/Philippe Orfali Avec l'Agence France-Presse

Des Africains de Montréal se mobilisent alors que le groupe islamiste cumule raids et enlèvements

Si le monde entier scande « Je suis Charlie », ne pourrait-il pas faire de même, rien qu'un tout petit peu, pour l'Afrique ? Cette délicate question, évoquée du bout des lèvres depuis les attentats terroristes de Paris, a refait surface, dimanche, alors que le groupe terroriste islamiste Boko Haram commettait de nouvelles exactions, cette fois au Cameroun.

Pendant qu'à Montréal quelque 200 personnes se rassemblaient place Émilie-Gamelin, près de 5000 personnes envahissaient la place du Trocadéro, à Paris, dans le but d'inciter les gouvernements africains et occidentaux à intervenir afin de contrer le groupe terroriste.

Car le silence des gouvernements dérange, et pas seulement en Occident. Nombreux ont été les chefs d'État du continent noir à participer à la marche de Paris en solidarité avec les victimes de Charlie Hebdo. « Mais où étaient-ils quand 2000 personnes se faisaient tuer en Afrique ? », lance Muriel Koucoï, d'origine béninoise, qui participait à la vigile organisée à Montréal par un collectif de membres de la diaspora africaine.

« On a besoin d'aide, c'est vrai. Mais nous-mêmes, nous ne nous mobilisons pas en Afrique, ajoute la jeune femme. Ça m'a fait réagir de voir le continent se mobiliser pour Charlie. Loin de moi l'idée de minimiser ce drame, mais avant d'aller balayer la cour du voisin, on doit s'occuper de nous-mêmes. » Des propos qui trouvaient écho chez de nombreux manifestants, d'origine africaine et canadienne, dans la foule présente dimanche après-midi.

« Ce sont des innocents, des gens qui ne peuvent se défendre. Principalement des filles et des mères qui sont victimes de cette barbarie, le tout pour une raison dite religieuse. Cette mobilisation, c'est un début. On espère que ça amènera les pouvoirs publics à intervenir », confiait Elias Gbeha, originaire lui aussi du Bénin.

Ginette Houle, elle, n'était pas sortie manifester depuis près de 35 ans. Mais le fait que de

nombreuses victimes de Boko Haram soient des femmes et des enfants l'interpelle particulièrement. « Assez, c'est assez. On veut que la communauté internationale agisse, que notre gouvernement agisse. Il faut faire quelque chose. »

Nouveau raid meurtrier

Pendant ce temps, Boko Haram a lancé dimanche dans l'extrême nord du Cameroun un nouveau raid meurtrier, enlevant une soixantaine de personnes, alors même que l'armée tchadienne se déploie dans cette zone avec l'objectif de stopper les attaques du groupe islamiste nigérian.

« Des combattants de Boko Haram ont fait irruption [dimanche matin] dans deux villages de la zone de Tourou, dans l'arrondissement de Mokolo. Ils ont incendié les concessions et sont repartis avec une soixantaine de personnes. La plupart de ces personnes sont des femmes et des enfants », a affirmé à l'AFP un officier de policier basé dans la zone, précisant que « l'attaque a fait des morts » sans pouvoir donner de chiffres précis.

Il s'agit du plus important rapt perpétré dans la région camerounaise de l'extrême nord par les insurgés islamistes nigériens, dont les incursions dans ce secteur sont récurrentes depuis des mois.

Beaucoup d'habitants de la zone, de même que la plupart de policiers et gendarmes en poste dans les localités proches de la frontière, ont fui plus à l'intérieur des terres afin d'échapper à ces raids.

Boko Haram avait lancé lundi dernier une offensive contre une base militaire camerounaise à Kolofata, également dans l'extrême nord du pays. Cette attaque semble avoir été un des déclencheurs de l'intervention du Tchad, qui a demandé aux pays d'Afrique centrale de former une large coalition pour lutter contre le groupe islamiste.

Des « crimes contre l'humanité »

La nouvelle attaque de Boko Haram dimanche intervient alors que le Tchad a commencé à déployer ses troupes au Cameroun, affichant aussi sa volonté de reprendre Baga. Située dans le nord-est du Nigeria, cette ville stratégique sur les rives du lac Tchad, est tombée aux mains du groupe islamiste début janvier.

Des témoignages glaçants sur les exactions perpétrées par Boko Haram ont horrifié la communauté internationale. Le président français, François Hollande, et le secrétaire d'État américain, John Kerry, ont dénoncé des « crimes contre l'humanité ».

Selon Amnesty International, l'attaque de Baga est « la plus grande et la plus destructrice » jamais perpétrée par Boko Haram depuis le début de son insurrection en 2009. Celle-ci a fait plus de 13 000 morts et 1,5 million de déplacés. Baga abritait un temps le quartier général d'une force armée régionale regroupant des détachements nigériens, tchadiens et nigériens. Mais Tchadiens et Nigériens s'étaient retirés bien avant l'attaque, et la force régionale est en réalité peu active.

Samedi, un convoi de 400 véhicules militaires tchadiens, accompagné d'hélicoptères de combat, a pénétré au Cameroun, le président Idriss Deby soulignant que ces troupes devaient être « opérationnelles » dès ce dimanche.

« Nous avons pour mission de traquer Boko Haram. Nous avons tout ce qu'il faut comme moyens », a assuré le colonel Djerou à l'AFP.

Le Nigeria, qui n'arrive pas à stopper seul Boko Haram, a exprimé samedi un soutien conditionnel à

la perspective de l'arrivée de soldats tchadiens sur son territoire. « Tout soutien à nos opérations sera bienvenu, mais il doit se conformer à nos propres opérations en cours étant donné qu'il s'agit du territoire nigérian », a déclaré Chris Olukolade, porte-parole de l'armée nigériane.

Cuban health worker in Africa to fight Ebola dies of malaria

By Associated Press/19 January 2015

HAVANA (AP) — A Cuban health worker sent to Sierra Leone as part of a team to help fight Ebola has died of malaria.

Cuban state television said Reinaldo Villafranca died Sunday in a hospital in Sierra Leone's capital. The 33-year-old Villafranca had a degree in nursing.

He showed symptoms of an illness on Jan. 17. Tests came up negative for Ebola but positive for malaria. State television said his condition deteriorated on Sunday.

Villafranca is the second Cuban health worker to die of malaria in West Africa. The first, Jorge Juan Guerra Rodriguez, died last Oct. 26 in Guinea. Dr. Felix Baez fell ill with Ebola in Sierra Leone in November, but recovered.

In response to a U.N. call, Cuba said it would send 461 health workers to Africa to fight Ebola.

UN/AFRICA :

U.N. peacekeepers arrest Central African militia leader

worldbulletin.net/19 January 2015 Monday

U.N. peacekeepers in Central African Republic have arrested a senior leader of the Christian anti-balaka militia, wanted for crimes including murder, rebellion, rape and looting, the country's senior prosecutor said on Sunday.

Rodrigue Ngaibona, known as Andilo, was detained in Bouca, around 300 km (195 miles) north of the capital Bangui on Saturday.

A U.N. commission of inquiry, in a report published this month, found that the anti-balaka had committed ethnic cleansing in their attacks on the Muslim minority. Nearly the entire Muslim population living in the south fled the violence.

"Andilo is currently the most enigmatic, feared and powerful military commander of the anti-balaka," U.N. experts wrote in a report released in October.

Prosecutor Maurice Dibert Dollet said he could potentially be tried at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, which is investigating the violence in Central African Republic.

He was transferred to Bangui overnight and taken into custody by the judicial police, Dollet said in a statement read on state-owned radio. A warrant for his arrest had been issued in May.

Anti-balaka leaders said Ngaibona's arrest threatened reconciliation efforts, as they say they have

transformed their movement into a political party.

"We denounce the disorder in which international community wants to keep us in order to perpetuate the chaos in this country," said Igor Lamaka, a spokesman for the movement.

Central African Republic remains divided along religious lines, with a government-controlled, Christian-dominated south and a Muslim, rebel-controlled north.

The interim government of President Catherine Samba Panza is due to guide the landlocked country of 4.5 million people to elections next year, with the support of French and U.N. peacekeeping missions.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Anti-French Protests in Niger Kill 10 as Rallies Hit Africa, Middle East, Asia

By Max Colchester in Paris And Drew Hinshaw in Accra, Ghana/wsj.com/Jan. 18, 2015

Charlie Hebdo's Post-Attack Issue Stokes Anger, Scores of Demonstrations

Protests in Niger left 10 people dead as rioters torched churches, wrecked bars and blocked several major roads during two days of demonstrations against a French magazine cover depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

The violence was the latest in a wave of anti-French protests that has swept parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia after Charlie Hebdo lampooned Islam in its "survivors" issue published after the Jan. 7 attack on its Paris offices.

Although largely peaceful, some of the protests, led mostly by young men, have turned violent.

Coming just a week after dozens of world leaders joined a massive procession in Paris to condemn terror attacks and show their support for freedom of speech, the protests underscore the challenge France faces in defending long-held values without fueling resentment among Muslims, many of whom regard the Charlie Hebdo cover as blasphemy.

“It is intolerable,” French President François Hollande said Saturday, commenting on the Niger violence and news that French flags had been torched during several demonstrations across Africa.

After the attack that decimated their newsroom, the remaining Charlie Hebdo caricaturists rallied to produce an issue—published Wednesday with a planned circulation of seven million copies—that has been widely celebrated as a symbol of defiance against terrorism.

The cover featured a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad holding a “Je Suis Charlie” sign under the headline, “All Is Forgiven.”

Angering many moderate Muslims, the caricature risks playing into the hands of Islamic fundamentalists who paint a picture of a Europe that is bent on desecrating the faith, several Muslim leaders said.

Saudi Arabia’s top religious authority, the Council of Senior Ulema, condemned the magazine’s decision and said it has nothing to do with freedom of expression.

‘Angering many moderate Muslims, the caricature risks playing into the hands of Islamic fundamentalists who paint a picture of a Europe that is bent on desecrating the faith, several Muslim leaders said.’

“Hurting the feelings of Muslims by these drawings doesn’t serve a cause or achieve a rightful goal,” the council’s secretary-general Fahad Al Majed said in a statement Friday. “In the end, it is a service to extremists who seek justifications for murder and terrorism.”

Government and religious leaders in Iraq and Egypt also condemned the decision to publish the magazine.

Some protesters in Niger, Mali and Senegal also expressed anger at their leaders’ decision to attend the Paris march in support of Charlie Hebdo last Sunday. Opposition leaders in Niger, in particular, condemned the march.

In Niger’s capital, Niamey, protesters awoke early Saturday and began setting fire to churches, looting shops and ransacking establishments that serve alcohol, said Ousmane Toudou, an adviser to Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou.

The government sent in Islamic elders to try to speak to the rioting young men—followed by police, he added. After the crowd dispersed, security forces found two bodies burned in a church and another three bludgeoned to death in a bar: “These were people who were just going to work,” he said.

It was the second day of demonstrations in the country. On Friday, rioters in Zinder, “a city a few hours’ drive from Boko Haram’s heartland in northern Nigeria, “burned churches, ransacked a French cultural center, stormed a police station, and proceeded to a military barracks.

Five people were killed in the clashes that followed, including one police officer crushed by a vehicle, the government’s Nigerian Press Agency said.

“This is chaos that has been created,” Mr. Toudou said.

Protests began in Pakistan and spread west to Turkey and the Middle East. In Istanbul on Friday, a group sympathetic to al Qaeda staged a rally in support of the militants who stormed Charlie

Hebdo. The group held a funeral prayer in honor of Said and Chérif Kouachi, the two brothers who attacked the Charlie Hebdo magazine. Some there held a banner bearing a photo of Osama bin-Laden.

In Pakistan, a photographer for Agence France-Presse was shot and wounded while he was covering a protest in Karachi on Friday. It is unclear who targeted him and why. He wasn't wearing anything that identified him as working at the French news agency, said Eric Baradat, AFP's photo editor in chief.

Meanwhile, a largely peaceful demonstration made its way toward the French embassy in Jordan. There were also a marches in several cities in Pakistan.

In Senegal, hundreds protested in the capital of Dakar on Friday, the government's Senegalese Press Agency said. The country which is, one of Africa's most frequently-cited examples of religious tolerance, banned the distribution of the magazine. Thousands more marched in Mauritania's capital of Nouakchott on Friday and in Mali's capital of Bamako on Saturday.

The march in Mali marked a sharp change in sentiment toward France. Just two years ago this month, Bamako was draped in French flags, with children signing "Merci, France!" at passing French people, after the French army helped the government fight back al Qaeda militants who had seized a string of towns in Mali's north.

Mr. Hollande said Saturday that while he could understand some countries don't share France's conception of right to free speech, he expected solidarity from nations Paris has supported in their fights against radical Islamists. "Some countries may sometimes not get what is freedom of speech because they have been deprived of it," Mr. Hollande told French radio. "But we have backed those countries against terrorism."

Like Mali, Niger is part of a chain of former French colonies striving to build a secular democracy in the French model, with children attending French language schools and a constitution echoing the language of the French Revolution.

But the country and the broader region are also awash with al Qaeda-styled groups, such as Nigeria's Boko Haram, that argue that France is mortally opposed to Islam.

In addition to Mali, Paris has sent troops to Niger to try to help contain insurgents, who themselves are now using the Charlie Hebdo cover to stoke outrage against France.

"We were happy with what happened to France's people," Boko Haram's leader Abubakar Shekau said in a video released last week, referring to the attacks on Charlie Hebdo and a kosher grocery in Paris. "Their blood was spilled inside their country."

CHINA/AFRICA :

China is Not Colonizing Africa

By David Hsieh/Newswire.net / January 19, 2015

Some in the West and Africa accuse China of somehow practicing "neo-colonialism" in its dealings with Africa. A recent article appearing in the Economist magazine debunks that rhetoric but at the

same time confuses state policy with private business.

(Newswire.net -- January 18, 2015) Beijing, Beijing -- This Economist piece below starts out okay by debunking recent Western AND certain African portrayals of China's decade-long engagement with Africa as somehow "neo-colonialist", "neo-imperialist" or China's "second continent" as Howard French, the former New York Times China correspondent, titled his new book. But, it seems to confuse Chinese state policy toward Africa such as the China-Africa forum and the many state visits bringing investment and aid with the hundreds of thousands of small-time Chinese businessmen who have been going to the continent in search of business opportunities since the early 2000s. Many intend to stay over the long haul and have made Africa their new home.

The piece is right about the many international players that are now there (in part because of China's dual challenge of state policy and investment and small business inroads) and China's explicit rejection of a colonial agenda. China has no troops on the ground aside from UN peacekeepers and it hasn't any colonial-style administrations in the many countries it deals with. And it doesn't treat the local people like children needing their governance.

Unlike hypocritical Western countries, China deals with all African countries that want to strengthen ties so China builds railroads in Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya; searches for oil and builds refineries and pipelines in the two Sudans and Angola, and provides over \$122 million dollars in medical and financial aid as well as dispatching hundreds of medical personnel to Ebola-stricken countries in West Africa. In short, neither the Chinese state nor its businessmen harbor any dreams of colonial conquest and overlordship in Africa.

However, the Chinese government and state corporations do want resources in exchange for investment and infrastructure building. They also want to help create vibrant markets in Africa. Enlightened self interest works for both sides. If their presence is no longer welcomed, and that won't come to pass, they can easily find willing partners on other continents such as in Latin America, the Arab world, Eastern Europe, and even parts of North America, notably Mexico. The Chinese government is smart enough to develop a multi-pronged strategy that assures it does not have all its eggs in any one basket. Even if problems do come to a boil, will the West and other countries such as India pick up the slack? Don't hold your breath.

And what about the legions of small entrepreneurs that opened businesses and factories, set up shops, tilled fields, or otherwise engaged in trade with the continent? It's about making a living and should circumstance allow, even get rich. If the going gets too tough businesswise or there is too much political backlash, they'll simply pack up and head for greener pastures and there are many to go to. Should that comes to pass, and it won't, it will be a loss for Africa, indeed.

China has become by far Africa's biggest trading partner, exchanging about \$160 billion-worth of goods a year; more than 1m Chinese, most of them labourers and traders, have moved to the continent in the past decade. The mutual adoration between governments continues, with ever more African roads and mines built by Chinese firms. But the talk of Africa becoming Chinese—or "China's second continent", as the title of one American book puts it—is overdone.

The African boom, which China helped to stoke in recent years, is attracting many other investors. The non-Western ones compete especially fiercely. African trade with India is projected to reach \$100 billion this year. It is growing at a faster rate than Chinese trade, and is likely to overtake trade with America. Brazil and Turkey are superseding many European countries. In terms of investment in Africa, though, China lags behind Britain, America and Italy (see charts).

If Chinese businessmen seem unfazed by the contest it is in part because they themselves are looking beyond the continent. "This is a good place for business but there are many others around the world," says He Lingguo, a sunburnt Chinese construction manager in Kenya who hopes to move to Venezuela.

A decade ago Africa seemed an uncontested space and a training ground for foreign investment as China's economy took off. But these days China's ambitions are bigger than winning business, or seeking access to commodities, on the world's poorest continent. The days when Chinese leaders make long state visits to countries like Tanzania are numbered. Instead, China's president, Xi Jinping, has promised to invest \$250 billion in Latin America over the coming decade.

The growth in Chinese demand for commodities is slowing and prices of many raw materials are falling. That said, China's hunger for agricultural goods, and perhaps for farm land, may grow as China's population expands and the middle class becomes richer.

South Africa expects China to help it move up the value chain

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South Africa is looking for help from China to help it move up the value chain and quicken its industrialization, says Rob Davies, minister of trade and industry of South Africa.

"South Africa's exports to China are dominated by primary mineral commodities, and those are very much dependent on the vagaries of world prices. Those commodities are also low on the value chain," he says. "Our ambition in South Africa and the African continent is to move up the value chain and to focus on industrialization, and that ambition is understood and shared by China." Davies said during a news conference in Beijing at the South Africa-China Business Forum last month.

Davies, who was accompanying South African President Jacob Zuma, says China and South Africa are experiencing a higher level of consensus about the direction in which they need to move their economic cooperation.

"Both countries are seeing a very significant quantitative increase in total trade, which continues to grow at very large percentage each year, and China has been South Africa's No 1 trading partner for both exports and imports since 2009. It is also by far China's largest trading partner in the African continent," he says.

Davies says the growth in trade volume is important. Other trading partners have been caught up in the economic crisis, he says, and trade with other countries has not even reached the level of what it was in 2008.

But China-South Africa trade has what he sees as a structural imbalance, since it is not characterized by sufficient two-way trade in value-added products.

Davies says he hopes this situation will change.

A series of comprehensive strategic partnership agreements were signed between China and South Africa during Zuma's visit, such as a program for cooperation that will boost trade, investment and agriculture over the next 10 years. Other agreements include transport, agriculture, nuclear technology and nuclear energy, TV stations and locomotives.

Davies says one of the things South Africa has been doing over the past three years is to promote value-added products in the Chinese market, and to have a number of trade fairs, which already have produced some positive results.

For example, he says, South Africa is now the seventh-largest exporter of wine to China. "Our growth has been much greater than the overall growth of Chinese imports of wine."

There also has been growth in trade of motor vehicles and various kinds of machinery. But South Africa's value-added trade is still too low percentage-wise, he says.

In all of the agreements between the countries, South Africa has emphasized two things. One is to invite more people to South Africa in order to demonstrate the nation's capacity to produce more value-added products; and to cultivate more investment as a way to boost productivity.

"We have seen a pickup in Chinese investments. The last big one was the launch of the first auto plant in the Coega Industrial Development Zone.

"We are looking to the suppliers and component manufacturers to come and support that particular plant," he says.

Other areas in which South Africa is urgently seeking investment include television manufacturing, solar energy equipment, railway equipment manufacturing and steel making.

South Africa also is hoping to learn from China's free trade zones.

"We have benefited from technical support like in the design of our special economic zone programs, and that technical support will continue. We are learning from China about what you call the 'ocean' economy and what we call the 'blue' economy, that is, everything from boat-building, support for service of vessels and rehabilitation of vessels," he says.

Also, advancements in meeting global standards in agriculture products open up a significant amount of trade.

"We know that most of the world's trade, especially the growing part of it, is trade in medium products, and trade in more complex products, where we know the addition of that (value) takes place outside of our borders based on the minerals and other agriculture commodities that we may produce and export and transport," he says.

He also shares an example from a KPMG survey that shows that Africa produces and exports \$6 billion in coffee. But the coffee is turned into products beyond Africa's borders that fetch \$100 billion. Thus, \$94 billion of the revenue is made outside of Africa.

In another example, South Africa used to be No 1 but is now the No 5 gold producing country. Italy earns more from the production of jewelry than South Africa does from the production and export of gold.

"So being in that place is not the place you need to be. We need to move up the value chain. We need to industrialize. We need to add value," he says.

Davies says industrialization is something South Africa insists on: Railway equipment that is used in Africa can be made in South Africa.

"So those are the kinds of opportunities as well as the direction we have been moving in," he says.

Davies says South Africa has been working with the support of Ministry of Commerce of China on value-added trade missions, and two such missions backed by the ministry have been visiting different parts of China.

"We have been bringing exhibitors and people who can supply value-added products." Another tactic is to have buyers from China visit South Africa.

Even though Chinese investment in terms of quantity is still below investment in South Africa from Europe and the United States, Davies says he anticipates a great increase from China.

"Likewise, although we have seen some results from the trade missions, I think there could be a very significant increase in value-added trade," he says.

He says the world's recognition of South Africa's industrialization is very important.

"It is not universal. Not everyone around the world acknowledges this. Sometimes they think it is in their interest that we remain where we were. It is in their interest that we simply supply them with minerals that they process and transform and add value to their own economy," he says. "So I think the recognition and the willingness to work toward and support our industrialization is important, but we have got a long way to go."

He says that the biggest challenge for South Africa at the moment is energy, where large quantities of affordable energy are needed.

"One of the biggest social programs we had in South Africa in the last 20 years is that we brought electricity to many, many households. It was a major, life changing experience. Poor households that ... got electricity usually got two things - one is television, which brings information, and the second one is a refrigerator, which means now they have food more regularly," he says.

He says South Africa is working on power plants, but electrical supplies will remain tight for at least the next two years.

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