



(South Africa's parliament descended into chaos as leftist MPs scuffled with security during a key annual speech by President Jacob Zuma. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), led by Julius Malema, repeatedly interrupted Mr Zuma, demanding answers over a spending scandal.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: HRW accuse les forces de sécurité d'exécutions sommaires

Par RFI /13-02-2015

Au moins 47 personnes ont été exécutées par les forces de sécurité burundaises suite à l'attaque d'un groupe armé dans la province de Cibitoke, selon l'organisation de défense des droits de l'homme Human Rights Watch. Dans un document publié jeudi, HRW précise que ces exécutions sommaires de combattants qui s'étaient rendus ont été commises par les forces de sécurité burundaises. L'organisation demande une enquête indépendante sur ces faits survenus entre le 30 décembre et le 3 janvier.

Le document publié par Human Rights Watch évoque sept événements distincts. Comme le long de la rivière Kaburantwa où le 1er janvier, selon des témoignages recueillis par l'organisation, six rebelles se seraient rendus à des militaires et des policiers. Ils auraient été ligotés, couchés par terre et exécutés. Selon un habitant, l'un des très jeunes combattants aurait supplié avant de mourir : « Je vais encore à l'école, appelez le directeur ».

Scène similaire à Kibindi. Le 2 janvier, 17 rebelles se rendent avec leurs armes et sont ligotés devant des dizaines de témoins. Là encore, des militaires, des policiers, mais aussi des Imbonerakure, la jeunesse du parti au pouvoir, auraient été présents. L'un des habitants rapporte à Human Rights Watch que le commandant des militaires a demandé des instructions par radio et se serait vu répondre : « Je veux les fusils, je ne veux pas les hommes ». Dans la foulée, les 17 auraient eux aussi été tués.

Sur les sept incidents recensés qui auraient donc fait au moins 47 morts, trois, selon Human Rights Watch, impliquent directement des autorités locales qui auraient participé aux exécutions à Kalema, Ngoma et Mirombero. Ce document met en lumière le rôle d'individus identifiés par les témoins comme des Imbonerakure, les jeunes du parti au pouvoir tant décriés ces dernières années. Ces témoignages évoquent des Imbonerakure servant de supplétifs, participant aux exécutions, armés de machettes et d'armes à feu, ou des scènes au cours desquelles les forces de sécurité leur auraient distribué des armes.

Le gouvernement méfiant

Le gouvernement burundais a promis de se pencher sur le rapport de Human Rights Watch et de « répondre point par point » après l'avoir lu. Mais d'ores et déjà, le secrétaire général et porte-parole du gouvernement burundais ne cache pas sa méfiance envers l'organisation américaine qui a une « attitude traditionnellement hostile » au pouvoir s'il s'en tient à ses précédents rapports.

Le gouvernement doit prendre quelques distances par rapport au rapport rédigé par Human Rights Watch car les relations du Burundi et de l'organisation ne sont pas du tout bonnes à cause d'un contentieux dû au rapport précédent. Depuis les élections de 2010, où l'organisation Human Rights Watch s'était rangée carrément du côté des opinions politiques et civiles qui étaient hostiles aux élections de 2010.

Philippe Nzobonariba Secrétaire général et porte-parole du gouvernement burundais 13/02/2015 - par Esdras Ndikumana

Burundi: la société civile appelle Pierre Nkurunziza à renoncer à un 3e mandat

12/02/2015 /cameroonvoice.com

La société civile burundaise a appelé mercredi le président Pierre Nkurunziza, soupçonné de vouloir rempiler pour un troisième mandat en juin, d'annoncer dès à présent qu'il y renoncera, afin de « prévenir de nouvelles violences » au Burundi.

Le collectif « Campagne citoyenne Halte au 3e mandat », lancé il y a environ deux semaines et qui regroupe 304 associations de la société civile, avait adressé une discrète lettre au chef de l'Etat burundais le 4 février lui enjoignant de « s'abstenir de briguer un troisième mandat ».

Faute de réponse, il a aujourd'hui décidé de faire plus de bruit.

« Nous n'avons pas encore reçu de réponse de la part du président Nkurunziza, (..), mais aujourd'hui nous l'appelons publiquement à prendre exemple sur le président de la RDC (République démocratique du Congo), Joseph Kabila, et à annoncer à son tour qu'il renonce à briguer un troisième mandat », a dit à l'AFP Vital Nshimirimana, un responsable du collectif.

Face à la pression populaire, le camp du président Kabila a renoncé fin janvier à une disposition d'une nouvelle loi électorale qui aurait permis au chef de l'Etat de rester au pouvoir au-delà de ce que prévoit la Constitution de son pays.

« Nous disons (à Pierre Nkurunziza) qu'il n'est pas encore trop tard pour (...) qu'il sorte de son silence », a insisté M. Nshimirimana, pour qui c'est la seule façon d'éviter « une violence » qui sera en revanche « évidente s'il se représente ».

Le Burundi tiendra en mai des élections communales et législatives, qui seront suivies d'une

présidentielle en juin. Ces scrutins sont qualifiés de cruciaux pour l'avenir du pays, sorti en 2006 de 13 ans de guerre civile qui ont ruiné son économie.

S'appuyant sur un article ambigu de la Constitution, qui selon son camp lui permet de se représenter en juin, le président Nkurunziza, au pouvoir depuis 2005, n'a jamais fait mystère de son intention de briguer un troisième mandat.

La grande majorité de la classe politique, l'église catholique et la société civile y sont opposés, s'appuyant paradoxalement également sur la Constitution, mais aussi sur les accords de paix d'Arusha (Tanzanie) qui avaient ouvert la voie à la fin de la guerre civile.

Signés en 2000, les accords d'Arusha énoncent clairement qu'aucun président burundais ne peut diriger le pays plus de 10 ans.

Oeil d'Afrique

RWANDA :

Equity Group lists on Rwanda Stock Exchange

BY Standard Reporter/Friday, February 13th 2015

NAIROBI: Equity Group shares started trading at the Rwanda Stock Exchange ((RSE) following its cross-listing. The regional integrated financial services firm has listed for trade 3,702,777,020 issued ordinary shares on the bourse, at a par value of Rwf3.76 (Sh0.50) following the regulatory approval of the Capital Markets Authority of Rwanda. At a market capitalisation in excess of \$2 billion, Equity Group Holdings, becomes the largest listed company at the Rwandan bourse. Equity Group Holdings Managing Director James Mwangi welcomed the bank's customers and partners in Rwanda to acquire the firm's shares and share in its success.

"This is a momentous occasion for Equity Group Holdings, as we invite and extend an opportunity to the local investors a chance to share in our success as part owners of East and Central Africa leading financial services provider," Dr. he said. "The purpose of cross-listing is to facilitate the availability of shares to the wider East African market. The cross listing will provide an easy and efficient way for our stakeholders and partners in Rwanda to participate beneficially in the growth and fortunes of the Company through partial ownership," Mwangi added. This (the cross listing), he stated, is in addition to the several efforts being made by the group to localise the brand and customise services to better serve the people of Rwanda. Mwangi was speaking during a bell ringing ceremony, hosted as a curtain raiser to the ongoing two-day Capital Markets East Africa International 2015 conference.

The cross listing of the Equity Group Holdings counter on the Rwanda Stock Exchange, marks a major milestone for the firm which is seeking to enhance its integrated financial solutions delivery capacity. The group currently has banking operations in Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania.

RDC CONGO :

La RDC fixe la date de son élection présidentielle

Par: rédaction/Source: Belga /13/02/15

La commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) congolaise a publié jeudi un "calendrier électoral global" très attendu dans un contexte d'intense crispation politique, et qui fixe la date de la présidentielle au 27 novembre 2016, mais a averti que la tenue de ce scrutin dépendait de plusieurs "contraintes".

Après les violences meurtrières de janvier provoquées par la nouvelle loi électorale, la mise en oeuvre effective du calendrier de la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (Céni) prévoyant la tenue de sept élections en moins de deux ans sera au coeur des enjeux politiques des mois à venir.

La RDC traverse une crise politique depuis la réélection du président Joseph Kabila en 2011, à l'issue d'un scrutin marqué par des irrégularités massives. Aucune élection n'a eu lieu depuis cette date. L'opposition soupçonne le président, à qui la Constitution interdit de se représenter en 2016, de chercher à retarder la présidentielle pour pouvoir rester en fonction au-delà du terme de son mandat.

Député du Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC), deuxième force de l'opposition à l'Assemblée nationale, Fidèle Balala, a déclaré à l'AFP craindre qu'en commençant par les élections locales, "le gouvernement puisse dire après qu'on n'a plus d'argent pour organiser les législatives et la présidentielle".

Parlant sous le couvert de l'anonymat, un ministre va plus loin en disant que "l'objectif d'élections comme la Céni l'envisage [...] n'est pas tenable". "Le montant qui est demandé par la Céni est d'environ 1,1 milliard de dollars", mais la République démocratique du Congo a un budget annuel de quelque 9 milliards de dollars et même avec l'aide de la communauté internationale, "nous ne trouverons pas ces moyens", dit-il.

Comme en 2006 et en 2011, la prochaine présidentielle doit être couplée aux législatives. En plus de ces élections, le calendrier de la Céni prévoit l'organisation des scrutins en retard: élections des députés provinciaux et élections locales (25 octobre 2015), élections sénatoriales (17 janvier 2016) et des gouverneurs de provinces (31 janvier 2016), ces deux derniers scrutins devant se tenir au suffrage indirect comme l'élection des maires (7 mars 2016). Soit au total plus de 130 "tâches" jusqu'à la tenue de la présidentielle.

La communauté internationale demandait cet échéancier depuis longtemps pour décider du soutien financier qu'elle pourrait apporter au processus électoral congolais. Le rapporteur de la Céni, Jean-Pierre Kalamba, assure de son côté que le "calendrier est faisable, pourvu que les fonds soient libérés à la bonne date" et appelle la communauté des donateurs étranger à jouer "aussi sa part".

M. Kalamba a prévenu que la tenue de tous les scrutins dépendrait d'un certain nombre de "contraintes" dont la responsabilité incombe essentiellement au gouvernement. Pour la présidentielle et les législatives, il a cité "l'exécution du plan de décaissement des fonds" ou encore le vote de "la loi de répartition des sièges" des députés sur le territoire national. "Nous espérons [...] que les autres parties prenantes feront leur part, notamment le gouvernement et les bailleurs de fonds", a déclaré Christophe Kolomoni, secrétaire national du Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie (PPRD), la formation de M. Kabila.

Le projet de révision de la loi électorale avait donné lieu en janvier à des troubles au cours desquelles 27 à 42 personnes, selon les sources, ont été tuées, essentiellement à Kinshasa. Les détracteurs du projet dénonçaient particulièrement une disposition liant la tenue de la prochaine présidentielle aux résultats d'un recensement général devant commencer en 2015 et qui, selon plusieurs analystes, pourrait prendre jusqu'à trois ans dans un pays parmi les plus grands et les

moins développés au monde.

La nouvelle loi a été adoptée le 25 janvier, expurgée de la disposition contestée, et promulguée jeudi. Elle lie cependant potentiellement la tenue des législatives aux résultats du recensement. Ce scrutin devant avoir lieu avec la présidentielle, certains juristes ou opposants craignent que cette disposition puisse être utilisée pour retarder l'échéance de "l'élection reine".

Pour Josaphat Musamba, chercheur au Centre de recherches et d'études stratégiques en Afrique centrale basé à Bukavu, dans l'est de la RDC, les contraintes pécuniaires seront "une épine dans le pied de la Céni", et comme "toutes les opérations se tiennent", si l'une d'elles "n'est pas faite, les autres sont mises en danger".

UGANDA :

Uganda: Dr. Aggrey Kiyingi - I Have Never Ordered the Killing of Any Muslim Cleric in Uganda
By Ian/The Independent (Kampala)/12 February 2015

Over the last few weeks, a number of serious allegations and pronouncements have been made by the Uganda government against my good name and a number of innocent civilians have been arrested and charged with alleged crimes. As an initial response to these malicious and false allegations I would like to state as follows:

I have never ordered the killing of any Muslim cleric in Uganda or of anyone for that matter.

I have never financed any killings of any Muslim cleric in Uganda

I have no dealings with the ADF and I have never financed the ADF.

I have never formed or been associated with the alleged Federal Alliance rebel group.

I have never been involved in any terrorist activities.

It is now common knowledge, and I would like to confirm, that I intend to stand against Mr Museveni in the 2016 presidential elections.

To this end, my team of brave and vigilant supporters have been traversing the country in a pre-marketing campaign as a prelude to my coming back to Uganda to register and launch my political platform officially.

They have been doing this by word-of-mouth and by distribution of my political cards.

They have not broken any law. However, the government has harassed many of my supporters, made arbitrary arrests, many have been beaten severely and a number have actually died.

The government has now come up with the ridiculous accusations of murder and terrorism to be linked to my name in the hope that this will threaten the population and prevent them from supporting me to oust Mr Museveni, come 2016.

My pre-marketing campaign has been under the umbrella of the "Uganda Federal Democratic

Organisation" as the proposed political platform.

This platform is not a rebel group. This is a political platform and has no links whatsoever to the alleged Federal Alliance rebel group quoted by the government.

According to my original schedule, I would have come to Uganda this month, February 2015 or next month March 2015, to officially launch my political platform. Hence the scramble and panic for the government to launch a pre-emptive attack in a bid to try to stop me from launching my political platform.

However, I would like to assure all Ugandans that I am not threatened or scared by the government's machinations and I am prepared at all costs to lead the people of Uganda to freedom so that they can regain their dignity and their country.

Finally, I would like to convey my condolences to all the people that have lost their loved ones. In the end, and hopefully this will be soon, the perpetrators of these heinous crimes will have to answer for these atrocities.

God bless you all.

Dr Aggrey Kiyingi

(Prospective Presidential candidate for 2016) Chairman Uganda Federal Democratic organisation

SOUTH AFRICA :

South African president's parliamentary address descends into chaos

AFP / Feb 13, 2015

CAPE TOWN: Fist fights erupted as unprecedented chaos descended on South African President Jacob Zuma's annual State of the Nation address in parliament Thursday, with security forces called in to evict radical lawmakers who accuse him of corruption.

It was a landmark setback for Zuma, likely to reignite speculation that he could be dumped as leader of the African National Congress which brought the late liberation hero Nelson Mandela to power more than 20 years ago.

The parliamentary showdown had been signalled ahead of time by Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema, a disgruntled former Zuma acolyte, who has won support with his charge that black majority rule has benefited only government fat cats and their cronies.

Forewarned, parliament put into action what was a clearly well-planned operation to limit the damage on a night usually reserved for red-carpet fashions and government platitudes.

When Malema made good on his threats to prevent Zuma from delivering his address until he answered questions about the \$24 million of taxpayers' money spent on "security upgrades" at his private residence, the EFF members were evicted by a large force of security officials.

The official television feed from parliament focused only on Speaker Baleke Mbete as fist fights

broke out between EFF members and the security officials.

The fighting was shown later through mobile phone videos -- a minor victory for the opposition after Zuma's speech had been delayed by protests over mobile phone signals being cut off in parliament.

The EFF has just 25 lawmakers in the 400-seat national assembly, but has punched above its weight since contesting its first election last year, appearing to usurp the position of the much larger official opposition, the Democratic Alliance (DA).

Shortly after the EFF's eviction, the DA walked out after demanding to know whether the security officials in white shirts and black pants who evicted the EFF were police or parliamentary officers.

"You can't send police into parliament," said DA parliamentary leader Mmusi Maimane.

After the walkout, Zuma resumed his state of the nation address to a partly empty house and a nation stunned by the earlier scenes in parliament.

Zuma's ANC later condemned the EFF's actions as "anarchy", and said parliament had the right to ensure that lawmakers obeyed the orders of the Speaker.

Even before the disruption, the omens were ominous, with higher than usual levels of security around parliament and water canons fired at demonstrators several blocks away.

On a night traditionally reserved for lawmakers to show off their finest frocks or suits, DA MPs all wore black to signal their unhappiness with the state of the nation while the EFF wore their traditional red overalls, hard hats and gumboots to symbolise what they say is their solidarity with the working poor.

That claim is often derided by local media who refer back to Malema's penchant for designer suits and watches when he was leader of the ANC's youth league.

But the EFF has struck a chord with its proposals to nationalise mines and banks and seize white-owned land without compensation in Africa's most developed economy.

Around 25 percent of South Africans are unemployed, according to official statistics, while unofficial estimates put the figure much higher.

At the heart of the upheaval is Zuma's refusal to accept an ombudsman's decision that he should repay some of the public money spent on "security items" such as a swimming pool, amphitheatre, cattle pen and chicken run at his rural home in Nkandla in the eastern Kwazulu-Natal province.

The money spent on what were billed as upgrades would buy several luxury homes in Johannesburg or Cape Town.

DA leader Helen Zille told several hundred supporters at a rally outside parliament that they would pursue through the courts some 700 charges of "corruption, money-laundering, and racketeering" against Zuma, which were controversially dropped.

South Africa parliament chaos as Malema MPs heckle Zuma

12 February 2015/bbc.com

South Africa's parliament descended into chaos as leftist MPs scuffled with security during a key annual speech by President Jacob Zuma.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), led by Julius Malema, repeatedly interrupted Mr Zuma, demanding answers over a spending scandal.

The speaker of parliament then ordered their removal, prompting scuffles.

The largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, walked out in protest at their expulsion.

"You can't send police into parliament," said Democratic Alliance parliamentary leader Mmusi Maimane.

The EFF used President Zuma's annual State of the Nation speech to question him about a state-funded, multi-million dollar upgrade to his private residence.

They were evicted by large numbers of security guards. Among those thrown out was Mr Malema.

At the scene: Andrew Harding, BBC News

It began rather politely - an EFF MP standing up to interrupt President Zuma about one minute after he had launched into the substance of his State of the Nation address.

The speaker of parliament, Baleka Mbete, was expecting it, and urged the MP, and others who followed suit, to leave their questions for another occasion.

But when Julius Malema loudly demanded the president "pay back the money" from the upgrade to his home, the speaker ordered him to leave.

Malema refused, and suddenly several dozen white-shirted security officials were pouring into the room. They crowded around the EFF and began to pull the MPs out of the chamber.

I saw one MP try to swing a punch, and another threw his red hard hat at the officials. There were more scuffles and loud shouts. Shirts were torn.

Within a few minutes all the EFF MPs had been removed from parliament and the ANC majority began cheering in their seats.

line

He defended his MPs actions, calling it a legitimate attempt to defend democracy, adding that seven of his party had been injured and would be pressing charges.

It is not clear whether the guards were police or parliamentary officials: an important distinction, according to one MP, who said the use of police would be a way of intimidating the opposition.

Mr Malema and Mr Zuma were once close allies but the pair fell out.

The EFF has shaken up South African politics with a series of populist proposals to redistribute wealth.

EFF MPs accuse Mr Zuma of benefitting unduly from taxpayer-funded upgrades to his private

residence in the village of Nkandla and they wanted Mr Zuma to answer questions about this before making his state of the nation speech.

Last year an independent inquiry found the president had "unduly benefited" from the expensive upgrades, which included a pool and a cattle enclosure and cost about \$23m (£13.8m).

The president has denied any wrongdoing.

Despite criticism of the Nkandla upgrade and the country's stagnant economy, Mr Zuma's African National Congress was overwhelmingly re-elected last year.

Backlash After Students at South African University Demand Jews De-register

By Stav Ziv/newsweek.com/ 2/12/15

The Students Representative Council (SRC) and Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) at Durban University of Technology in South Africa has stirred outrage at home and abroad after a local newspaper, the Daily News, reported they had demanded that Jewish students, especially those who "do not support the Palestinian struggle," leave the school.

In a memorandum sent to the university's management Tuesday, the SRC and PYA asked that students who support the state of Israel or are sponsored by the Israeli government de-register.

"As the SRC, we had a meeting and analyzed international politics," Mqondisi Duma, secretary of the group, was quoted as saying in the Daily News report. "We took the decision that Jewish students, especially those who do not support the Palestinian struggle, should de-register."

The move garnered swift and scathing responses from university officials as well as local and international Jewish organizations.

Natan Pollack, the national chairman of the South African Union of Jewish Students, called the request "deplorable." Likewise, Mary Kluk, chairwoman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and vice president of the World Jewish Congress, said she was "appalled" by the demand.

Ahmed Bawa, the vice chancellor of the university, responded to the memorandum—which also raised concerns over financial aid and student accommodations—in a letter to students and staff Wednesday. Bawa called the demand related to Jewish students "outrageous, preposterous and a deep violation of our National Constitution and every human rights principle." He concluded his rapid rejection of the idea by emphasizing that "no student at DUT will be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, gender, political affiliation or sexual orientation."

South Africa has a progressive constitution created in 1996 after the end of the country's apartheid regime. It emphasizes equality and human rights, including freedom of religion and expression.

In a statement on Facebook, the South African Union of Jewish Students (Western Cape) wrote Thursday:

No student should be targeted for identifying as a Jew or a Zionist, especially because neither of these identities are contradictory to caring about the human rights of Palestinians. We must recognise the striking hypocrisy of groups who disregard the fundamental rights of others in the name of a struggle for national freedom. The demands made by the DUT SRC are indicative of a trend in South African civil society which prioritises Palestinian claims to self-determination and

security over those of Jews living in the Middle East, and which sees Zionism as incompatible with the establishment of a Palestinian state and freedom and safety for Palestinians. It also shows a failure to engage with groups like SAUJS WC, who support the establishment of a free Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel, whilst ensuring the right of the Jewish people to security, protection, and self-determination.

SAUJS WC calls for increased dialogue between Palestinian rights groups and Zionist organisations, and does not envisage an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict without a commitment by both sides to recognising the humanity of the other. Demanding the de-registration of Jewish students is a striking example of refusal to do this. We remain committed to campaigning for the rights of Jewish and Zionist students to attend university in South Africa in safety and free of ostracism.

The memorandum issued by the SRC and PYA is not the first time people with an Israel affiliation have been on the receiving end of protests at South African institutions of higher education.

Individuals and groups have compared Israel's relationship with Palestine to the segregation and discrimination practiced during the apartheid era and have called for an economic and cultural boycott of the country.

In March 2013, anti-Israel protesters, including members of the Palestine Solidarity Committee, the Wits Student Representative Council and the Muslim Students Association, disrupted a performance by Israeli pianist Yossi Reshef at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg as part of a cultural boycott.

The concert took place during the ninth international Israeli Apartheid Week, a series of events that advocates a "boycott, divestment and sanctions [BDS] against Israel campaign which is aimed to bring an end to Israel's apartheid policies and violations of international law," according to BDS South Africa's website.

Many of the students who participated were later suspended or sentenced with community service.

On Thursday, a regional Jewish body of South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province called the SRC and PYA's memorandum "blatantly anti-Semitic" and addressed South Africa's history of apartheid in its response. The Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry wrote:

The singling out of any student for discrimination based solely on their religion, race, gender or political affiliation goes against the values and principles of a democratic South Africa proudly enshrined in our Constitution. It is especially saddening that such a call could be made by youth organizations in our country which has overcome a dark history of racial segregation and oppression and sacrificed much to achieve freedom, equality and human rights for all.

The group commended Bawa "on his swift and strong condemnation of the student formations' demand," and said it would "welcome the opportunity to work with professor Bawa alongside other civil society organizations in their programme of engagement with the SRC and PYA to address the obvious issues of intolerance and lack of social cohesion that have emerged on DUT campus."

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Company bosses who gave 'chicken' jailed

By Paul Wafula/standardmedia.co.ke/Friday, February 13th 2015

Kenya: At least 12 Kenyans mentioned in the 'ChickenGate' scandal could face prosecution after two officials of a British printing firm that paid Sh47.3 million in bribes to secure the election and examination material contracts were jailed. Nicholas Charles Smith, the sales and marketing director of printing firm Smith & Ouzman, was imprisoned for three years for making corrupt payments to officials in Kenya and Mauritania.

His father, Christopher John Smith, 71, the chairman of the company, was sentenced to 18 months and was suspended for two years. The judge described this as a "simple act of mercy". The two were handed the jail terms at United Kingdom's Southwark Crown Court yesterday. Judge Higgins ruled that the loss to the people of Kenya and Mauritania was beyond financial because citizens of the two nations are less able to trust the integrity of their electoral and examination systems. "The consequences of which, as you yourself were at pains to point out during the trial, could be catastrophic, leading to violence and loss of life," he said.

"The climate in which the company resorted to bribes, was the climate into which your son was introduced when he started playing a more prominent role within the company," the judge added. The crimes were premeditated, pre-planned, sophisticated and very serious, noted the judge. Both father and son were disqualified from working as company directors for six years. Although the sentences might appear light, they have grim implications because they shatter the integrity of the two and their company in a society that values honesty and character. Yesterday, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) signalled it would go after the Kenyan officials linked to the case. "What is executable in the UK is executable here in Kenya because the threshold is the same," said EACC spokesman Yassin Amaro. He added that EACC is waiting for additional evidence used by the UK investigators to go after the Kenyans mentioned in the case.

Yesterday's ruling was as a result of a Serious Fraud Office (SFO) investigation into corrupt payments referred to as 'chicken' which were made to win the contracts between October 2008 and December 2010. There were 10 contracts between the defunct Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) and the Kenya National Examination Council (KneC) in which officials were bribed to facilitate the deal.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Chairman Issack Hassan and former KneC boss Paul Wasanga are among those that face investigation. Energy Cabinet Secretary David Chirchir, who was an official at IIEC, was also mentioned in the UK case where the British firm paid millions of shillings in kickbacks. But the three have on several occasions refuted the claims. Also mentioned is 'agent' Trevy James Oyombra, who according to the case, worked at the defunct Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) becoming S&O's agent. According to the prosecution, Trevy was a broker who ensured that the printing company secured over 10 printing contracts. "He therefore had a relationship with S&O and specialist knowledge of the requirements of the IIEC," the court documents partly read.

Kenya: U.S. Aviation Officials to Assess Kenyan Airports This Month

Capital FM (Nairobi)/12 February 2015

Nairobi — The United States aviation officials will be visiting the country this month to assess Kenya's preparedness for direct flights between the two countries.

US ambassador to Kenya Robert Codec said officials will evaluate Kenya's state for direct flights.

However, he said security was key for the flights to commence. He spoke when he met Deputy President William Ruto at his Karen office on Thursday.

"They (US officials) will meet Infrastructure Ministry officials responsible for putting in place procedures and rules to enable (direct flights) happen," the DP said.

Godec said security was becoming a big challenge for most countries in the world, more so terrorism.

He praised Kenya for its role in the fight against terrorism especially involvement in tackling Al Shabaab.

"Security remains a big challenge in 2015 both for the US and Kenya," he said. "We appreciate and acknowledge Kenya's role in the fight against Al Shabaab," Godec said.

Ruto said Kenya was doing its best to ensure its security was up to date.

The Deputy President thanked the US government for its assistance on security issues at the airport, the fight against terrorism.

"Kenya has good plans for its security and we are on course implementing it. This will inspire confidence in investors, the people and business community," Ruto said.

He said the country was remodeling the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to meet international standards so as to attract more flights directly into Nairobi thereby boost the tourism industry.

ANGOLA :

Lungu Heads to Angola

Peter Adamu/zambiareports.com/February 13, 2015

President Edgar Lungu is today headed to neighbouring Angola on his third international assignment since taking over power on January, 20.

And President Lungu says contrary to early perceptions that he was enjoying travelling the trips he had made so far were merely out of necessity.

President Lungu has so far been to the African Union Heads of State summit in Ethiopia and called on Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe who is the new AU chair with the Angola stop his third.

He said that he could not turn down the Angola invite as it was a special from President Eduardo Dos Santos to witness the commissioning of a road that connects Zambia to Angola.

"I know that there is already talk that I am enjoying travelling which is not true because I am working and these trips are necessary. I could not refuse to going to Angola because I was invited to witness a road that connects Zambia to Angola and also address a special session of parliament," he said.

President Lungu is expected back in the country on Saturday.

AU/AFRICA :

African Markets - Factors to watch on Feb 13

Thu Feb 12, 2015/Reuters

NAIROBI, Feb 13 (Reuters) - The following company announcements, scheduled economic indicators, debt and currency market moves and political events may affect African markets on Friday.

EVENTS:

- * GHANA - Release of inflation data
- * ZIMBABWE - Release of inflation data

GLOBAL MARKETS

Asian shares gained on Friday on news of a ceasefire accord in Ukraine, while Sweden's surprise move to cut its main rate into negative territory and hopes of a resolution between debt-strapped Greece and its creditors burnished risk appetite.

WORLD OIL PRICES

Benchmark Brent crude held above \$59 on Friday, up more than 2 percent this week as news of deeper industry spending cuts and a sinking U.S. dollar revived buying.

EMERGING MARKETS

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KENYA BEER

Rising beer and spirit sales in Tanzania and Uganda helped East African Breweries (EABL) post a 12 percent rise in first-half pretax profit, the brewer said on Thursday.

KENYA MARKETS

Kenya's shilling eased slightly on Thursday due to increased local currency liquidity, while the stock exchange's main share index rose for the fourth consecutive day.

TANZANIA ECONOMY

Tanzania's current account deficit widened 1.3 percent to

\$4.75 billion last year after financial aid was delayed and gold export earnings slumped, the central bank said.

UGANDA LENDING

Uganda's central bank held its benchmark lending rate on Thursday, saying it expected core inflation to rise over the next 12 months due to a weakening shilling, but falling food and oil prices would soften inflation pressures.

SOUTH AFRICA POLITICS

South Africa's parliament descended into chaos on Thursday as opposition lawmakers were removed by force after disrupting Jacob Zuma's annual address, an unprecedented sign of discontent at his administration.

WEST AFRICAN CRUDE

West African crude markets were generally quiet on Thursday, although there was a new tender from India's IOC for April delivery, which could help absorb Nigerian cargoes for late-March loading.

Nigeria: nouvelle attaque de Boko Haram dans le Nord-Est, plusieurs policiers tués

AFP / 12 février 2015

Kano (Nigeria) - Des dizaines de combattants du groupe Boko Haram ont attaqué cette semaine la ville de Kanamma, dans l'Etat de Yobe (nord-est du Nigeria), où plusieurs policiers ont été tués, ont rapporté jeudi des sources sécuritaires et des témoins.

Dans le même Etat, un attentat suicide a été déjoué mercredi à Potiskum, capitale économique de Yobe. Il visait le quartier général de campagne électorale du gouverneur, Ibrahim Geidam, ont indiqué des témoins.

L'attaque à Kanamma s'est produite lundi mais n'a été connue que jeudi en raison des difficultés de communication avec cette zone, d'après plusieurs sources sécuritaires et des habitants joints jeudi par l'AFP depuis Kano, la plus grande ville du Nord.

Les assaillants étaient armés de fusils et d'explosifs et ont ciblé un poste de police.

Les terroristes ont maîtrisé nos hommes et ont mis le feu au poste de police, ils ont enlevé l'officier chef de district dont le corps a été retrouvé dans la brousse, a déclaré un officier supérieur ayant requis l'anonymat.

Plusieurs policiers ont été tués, a ajouté cet officier, sans être en mesure d'en préciser le nombre.

Ces informations ont été confirmées à l'AFP par un habitant de Kanamma, Maina Kachalla, selon lequel le poste de police a été détruit à la bombe puis incendié.

A Potiskum, un homme a tenté de s'infiltrer dans le quartier général de campagne du gouverneur de Yobe Ibrahim Geidam mais en a été empêché par la foule qui l'a jugé suspect en le voyant rôder

autour du site, ont indiqué plusieurs témoins.

Pris en chasse, il a fui dans un bâtiment abandonné où il s'est fait exploser, a expliqué un des témoins, Abubakar Ubale, un récit confirmé par deux autres personnes présentes.

Potiskum avait enregistré sept morts dans un attentat-suicide le 1er février. Le lendemain, le président nigérian Goodluck Jonathan, candidat à sa succession, avait échappé à un attentat-suicide à la sortie d'un meeting dans un stade à Gombe (nord-est), l'explosion s'étant produite quelques minutes après son départ des lieux.

- Très bon espoir pour la guerre contre Boko Haram -

Les nouvelles violences se déroulent alors que les troupes de plusieurs pays voisins combattent Boko Haram, qui opère depuis 2009 au Nigeria, où l'insurrection et sa répression ont fait depuis lors plus de 13.000 morts et plus de 1,5 million de déplacés.

Le groupe armé contrôle des pans entiers de territoires dans le Nord-Est et multiplie les raids meurtriers dans des Etats limitrophes.

Les pays de la région - Tchad, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroun et Bénin - se sont accordés le 7 février pour mobiliser 8.700 hommes dans une force militaire régionale contre le groupe islamiste.

L'offensive militaire régionale en cours a été évoquée comme motif officiel d'un report de six semaines des élections présidentielle, législatives et parlementaires au Nigeria: initialement prévues le 14 février, elles ont été repoussées au 28 mars par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (INEC) sur requête de l'Agence nationale de la sécurité (NSA).

Motif avancé par la NSA: si les scrutins étaient maintenus au 14 février, les forces de défense ne seraient pas disponibles pour en assurer la sécurité puisqu'elles sont mobilisées contre Boko Haram.

Le président Jonathan, très critiqué dans son pays et en dehors pour son incapacité à mettre fin aux attaques de Boko Haram depuis six ans, s'est déclaré confiant.

Nous avons très bon espoir que dans les semaines à venir, les opérations militaires s'accéléreront avant la tenue des élections fin mars, a-t-il dit dans un entretien télévisé en direct sur plusieurs chaînes nationales.

Mais je ne dis pas que nous anéantirons Boko Haram dans ce délai, a-t-il précisé. Au Nigeria, analystes et habitants se montrent sceptiques sur les chances réelles d'un succès militaire en six semaines face à un groupe en expansion militaire depuis six ans, bien implanté localement et disposant d'une importante puissance de feu.

Égypte : Mohamed Fahmy est libéré sous caution et sort de prison

vendredi 13 février 2015/Associated Press

Le journaliste canadien d'origine égyptienne Mohamed Fahmy a quitté vendredi la prison du Caire où il était emprisonné depuis plus de 400 jours, après la décision d'un juge égyptien de permettre sa libération sous caution. Son frère, Adel Fahmy, ainsi que le réseau anglophone d'Al-Jazira ont confirmé sa libération.

Le collègue égyptien de Mohamed Fahmy, Baher Mohamed, est aussi sorti de prison, a annoncé sa

famille.

Jeudi, un juge égyptien avait indiqué que Mohamed Fahmy et Baher Mohamed seraient libérés sous caution samedi, en attendant leur nouveau procès en lien avec des accusations de terrorisme, qui a été ajourné au 23 février.

Il y a un an, les journalistes anglophones du réseau Al-Jazira avaient été reconnus coupables par un tribunal inférieur, lors d'un procès qui avait été tourné en dérision par la communauté internationale. Ils ont passé plus d'un an dans une prison du Caire.

Jeudi, lors de l'annonce, la fiancée de M. Fahmy, Marwa Omara, a fondu en larmes et crié « Vive la justice » dans la salle du tribunal. « Merci à l'Égypte, merci d'avoir pris la bonne décision. Je suis très heureuse. C'est un nouveau jour pour Mohamed et moi », a-t-elle dit aux journalistes, avant d'annoncer qu'ils avaient maintenant l'intention de se marier.

La nouvelle survient moins de deux semaines après la libération de leur collègue australien Peter Grete, en vertu d'une nouvelle loi qui permet au président égyptien de déporter des étrangers accusés ou reconnus coupables de crimes.

M. Fahmy, âgé de 40 ans, a récemment renoncé à sa citoyenneté égyptienne dans l'espoir d'être lui aussi déporté. On lui a toutefois imposé une caution de 41 000 \$ CA, une mesure dont il est le seul à faire l'objet.

Jeudi, le juge Hassan Farid a ordonné aux accusés de ne pas quitter leur « patrie » et de se rapporter à leur commissariat de police local tous les matins. L'avocat égyptien de M. Fahmy, Khaled Abou Bakr, a dit ne pas savoir si cela vise à empêcher son client de quitter l'Égypte.

La mère du journaliste canadien, Wafaa Bassiouni, a indiqué qu'elle s'empresserait de déposer la caution demandée avant la fin de la journée de jeudi, mais on ne sait toujours pas si son fils pourra sortir du pays.

« Nous espérons en apprendre plus au cours des prochaines heures, a-t-elle dit à l'Associated Press. C'est une lueur d'espoir (...). Mais nous espérons un acquittement, et non seulement une libération. Il n'a rien fait pour mériter ces 14 mois en prison. »

M. Fahmy a affirmé devant la cour que des dirigeants canadiens lui avaient indiqué que sa déportation était imminente. « Nous avons fait nos valises. Ma fiancée a démissionné. Nous avons réservé nos billets », a-t-il expliqué.

Ottawa veut sa libération complète

La ministre d'État aux Affaires étrangères et consulaires du Canada, Lynne Yelich, a applaudi la nouvelle et réclamé la « libération immédiate et complète » de M. Fahmy. Elle a aussi demandé au président Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi d'intervenir pour résoudre cette affaire.

« Le premier ministre Harper a personnellement soulevé le cas de Mohamed Fahmy auprès du président Al-Sissi. Des représentants canadiens ont soulevé le cas de Mohamed Fahmy auprès de représentants égyptiens à 19 reprises au cours des deux dernières semaines », a-t-elle ajouté.

En visite à Victoriaville, jeudi, Stephen Harper a affirmé que le gouvernement fédéral continuerait de faire pression pour la libération de Mohamed Fahmy et s'est dit persuadé de voir une résolution de la situation.

M. Harper est resté évasif quant à savoir s'il avait parlé directement au président égyptien.

« Notre gouvernement est en contact depuis un bon moment déjà avec les autorités égyptiennes à tous les échelons, incluant le mien », a dit le premier ministre.

Le réseau Al-Jazira a déclaré qu'il s'agissait d'un « petit pas dans la bonne direction » qui permettra aux journalistes de passer du temps avec leurs proches. Le journaliste Peter Greste a reconnu sur Twitter qu'il s'agissait d'un « progrès important », ajoutant toutefois que le dossier était loin d'être réglé.

Les journalistes avaient été arrêtés en décembre 2013 lors d'une perquisition dans la chambre d'hôtel à partir de laquelle ils couvraient les manifestations qui ont éclaté après la chute du président islamiste Mohamed Morsi. Ils ont été accusés de collaborer avec les Frères musulmans, désormais considérés comme une organisation terroriste en Égypte.

Africa: KPMG Launches Applications to Streamline Businesses in Africa

The Guardian (Lagos)/12 February 2015

THE KPMG Global Africa Practice has launched their new Africa Business App , targeted at providing businesses and investors with seamless access to the very latest Africa information about doing business across the continent.

Speaking at the launch in Johannesburg, South Africa, Chief Operating Officer of KPMG Africa, Bryan Leith said with the KPMG Africa Business App, "we are not just delivering the most up-to-date information on country profiles, fiscal information and keen insights into operating in some of these countries - we are providing businesses with a unique, highly interactive and bespoke user experience."

He explained that through the application, users will have access to content that includes the latest African country profiles with the most recent country information - everything from fiscal guides to business climate and more - and at no additional charge for utilising the App beyond their service providers data charges.

"Users will also have full access to KPMG's insights into doing business in Africa - from latest surveys and reports across industries. What's more, the firm has included a unique and first to market service via this App. Appropriately named and trademarked, the KPMG ClientTalk functionality gives users easy access to the firm's subject experts across markets and sectors by providing quick-links as to who to contact at the firm should users have any questions or are looking for advice about investing, expanding or entering the continent", he stressed.

Additionally, osargenews.com has been brought on board as the official news aggregator - providing up-to-date news and stories from across each region, as well as Pan-African and global news of relevance to Africa and as the news breaks.

Founder of osargenews.com, Morell Maison, said: "Accessibility of news is paramount to decision making. Our news aggregation saves time and ensures the most relevant news is available to decision makers and visitors to Africa, when it's needed. Our aim has always been to facilitate the flow of information, not just within pan-Africa, but pan-diaspora. And this partnership with KPMG aligns perfectly with our strategy and philosophy."

To the Chairman, KPMG Africa, Seyi Bickersteth, Africa is a complex and diverse continent - but it is also home to many companies that boast remarkable talent, a great track record and a more-than-promising future. Naturally, investors from elsewhere would like to partner with them and share in their growth potential.

Within our Global Africa Practice, we find ourselves devoting an ever-increasing amount of time and resources to "matchmaking" - introducing investors to suitable African partners - and in roughly 90 per cent of cases a successful "marriage" results. The waters can be difficult to navigate but we are committed to helping clients and potential clients capture business opportunities available in the African market, understand the landscape and mitigate the risks - and the App is just another channel that allows us to do exactly that", he stated.

The KPMG Africa Business App is available for download on the Apple iStore and the Google Play Store (for android and IOS devices).

Ebola: World Bank will provide seeds to farmers in West Africa to ward off hunger

12 February 2015/un.org

12 February 2015 – The World Bank Group announced today that it has mobilized some \$15 million in emergency financing to provide a record 10,500 tons of maize and rice seed to more than 200,000 farmers in the countries most-affected by the unprecedented Ebola outbreak, in time for the April planting season.

“Agriculture is the lifeline of the economies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone,” said Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice-President for Africa. “By speeding supplies of urgently needed seeds of major food crops to communities in West Africa, we are jumpstarting recovery in rural areas and preventing the looming specter of hunger in the countries hardest hit by Ebola.”

According to the World Bank, “more than one million people could go hungry unless they have reliable access to food and emergency measures are taken immediately to safeguard crop and livestock production.”

A recent World Bank Group report shows that the Ebola crisis has taken a heavy toll on the economies in all three countries, and the agriculture and food sectors have been particularly hard hit.

“Reports show that desperate farming families have resorted to eating stored seed originally intended for use in the next cropping cycle. Rural flight has caused harvest-ready crops to wither in the fields,” the World Bank said in its announcement.

The funds in the amount of up to \$15 million, in the form of grants financed by the International Development Association (IDA) and the Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction Trust Fund, will also be used to purchase fertilizer required to multiply foundation seed to meet tight planting season deadlines and help lay the foundations for sustained recovery, according to the announcement.

Meanwhile, the top United Nations development official, tasked by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to lead the Organization’ system-wide Ebola-related recovery planning, is in Guinea on the first leg of her weeklong visit to the region.

As she arrived in the capital, Conakry, Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Program (UNDP), noted that Ebola cases had doubled for a second week in a row. “This terrible disease isn’t

beaten yet,” she added.

Meanwhile, the UN mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) reported that Sierra Leone has announced that schools will reopen on 30 March, after a seven-month shutdown to limit the spread of the Ebola virus. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has been leading response partners support authorities with the safe re-opening of schools.

The World Bank Group’s push marks an unprecedented effort through one of its regional programs that spans 13 West African countries, including the three Ebola-hit countries.

Country teams fanned out and identified seed suppliers in neighboring countries. Advance preparations ahead of the planting season include elaborate plans to source seeds from eight countries, completion of needs assessments, sourcing of seed suppliers, and organizing in-country distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers in a timely manner.

To enable free movement of seed-laden trucks, travel routes have been pre-arranged and the intergovernmental Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has authorized customs and border control authorities to let the trucks pass without difficulty.

According to the latest estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), in Guinea, 230,000 people are food insecure and that number could rise to more than 470,000 by March 2015. Similarly, 170,000 people in Liberia are food insecure and absent interventions, the number of hungry people could top 300,000. In Sierra Leone, over 120,000 people are food insecure and their numbers could climb to more than 280,000.

According to the World Bank Group, it has mobilized about \$1 billion in financing for the countries hardest hit by the Ebola crisis

UN/AFRICA :

UN expert warns African governments against privatizing basic education

un.org/12 February 2015

12 February 2015 – Free, quality basic education is a fundamental human right for all, and governments must not delegate this responsibility to the private sector, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to education urged authorities in Africa today.

“Education is not a privilege of the rich and well-to-do; it is an inalienable right of every child. Provision of basic education free of costs is a core obligation of States,” Kishore Singh said after education authorities considered, among other issues, possibly cutting costs by promoting the expansion of private education.

African education authorities discussed the possibility of reducing States’ education spending during the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015 African in Kigali, Rwanda.

Mr. Singh voiced his deep concern that some governments were actively encouraging private basic education, emphasizing, “Now more than ever, governments should be expanding public educational opportunities for the marginalized groups, especially children from poor families.”

He recalled his 2014 report to the UN General Assembly, which emphasizes the importance of preserving education as a public good and not a profit-making business and underscores the principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunity, social justice and equity.

“Privatization in education negatively affects the right to education both as entitlement and as empowerment. Moreover, it depletes public investment in education as an essential public service and can lead to abusive practices,” the Special Rapporteur stressed.

He noted that, in the context of the UN post-2015 development agenda, “education deserves to be a high priority, receiving a high degree of public investment in recognition of the fact that it benefits both the individual and society.”

Mr. Singh called on governments “to stand against the idea of privatising basic education and to strengthen their public systems. Free basic education is the cornerstone of the right to education and must not be undermined through privatization.”

Independent experts or special rapporteurs are appointed by the Geneva-based Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a country situation or a specific human rights theme. The positions are honorary and the experts are not UN staff, nor are they paid for their work.

US/AFRICA :

US withdrawing most Ebola troops from West Africa

Christian Today staff writer /12 February 2015

President Barack Obama announced Wednesday that all but 100 American troops sent to West Africa to help manage the Ebola outbreak will be withdrawn by April 30.

The troops were dispatched to help contain the deadly virus, but the President said that the mission in the ravaged countries has shifted.

"While our troops are coming home, America's work is not done," he insisted. "Our mission is not complete. Today we move into the next phase."

Thousands have died across Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since the outbreak began last spring. There have been nearly 23,000 confirmed or suspected cases of Ebola infection stemming from the current outbreak as of February 9.

Obama said that the focus has changed from containment to eradication, and said that civilian aid workers will be increased in the area.

Advertisement

Civilian government employees, volunteers, and the remaining troops will help in that effort.

"Our focus now is getting to zero," Obama said, calling the military's effort a "hope multiplier."

"Every case is an ember that if not contained can light a new fire," he added. "Plenty of American heroes remain on the ground, with even more on the way."

The spread of Ebola has slowed, although health officials were concerned about a rise in Ebola deaths last week. For the week ending February 8, 144 deaths were reported, compared to 124 deaths the week before.

"Despite improvements in case-finding and management, burial practices and community engagement, the decline in case incidence has stalled," the World Health Organization wrote.

Ebola cases in Liberia have generally decreased, while transmissions in Guinea and Sierra Leone continue to trouble health officials.

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