



(The European Union on Monday approved €1.15 billion in aid for West Africa through to 2020, nearly doubling its previous commitment to a region that is a major source of migrants seeking to enter Europe.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: les putschistes revendiquent les attaques à la grenade

Par RFI /07-07-2015

Alors que les chefs d'Etat de la sous-région ont demandé un nouveau report de la présidentielle au Burundi, les putschistes qui ont signé le coup d'Etat manqué à la mi-mai sortent du bois. Dans une interview accordée à la chaîne télé kényane KTN, le général Léonard Ngendakumana affirme que la pression sur le président Nkurunziza ne faiblit pas et que ce sont eux qui signent les attaques à la grenade depuis fin juin.

Le général Léonard Ngendakumana dit être venu spécialement au Kenya pour réaliser cet entretien avec la télévision KTN. « J'ai quitté Godefroid Nyombaré au Burundi, nous nous battons dans le pays », assure le bras droit du chef putschiste burundais.

L'interview dure près de 12 minutes. Douze minutes d'accusation et d'offensive contre le pouvoir du président Nkurunziza. Evoquant le coup d'Etat manqué, le général putschiste donne des détails : « Nous étions 12 généraux de l'armée nationale et de la police ». Il explique l'échec par un « malentendu » et une « trahison au ministère de la Défense ».

Mais les putschistes ne désarment pas. « Les grenades sur les bureaux de vote ? C'est eux et ça va continuer » insiste-t-il. « Après nous être rendus compte que nous ne pourrions pas réussir notre coup d'Etat du 13 mai, nous avons trouvé qu'il était nécessaire de continuer à se battre, afin de pousser Nkurunziza à penser à ce qu'il fait, et peut-être voir s'il pourrait se résigner », explique le général.

« Mais lorsque nous avons vu qu'il n'était pas près de se résigner, nous nous sommes organisés pour continuer à le combattre. C'est pourquoi, toutes ces actions dans le pays, nous en sommes à l'origine. Et notre intention est de les intensifier, jusqu'à ce que Nkurunziza comprenne que nous sommes là pour lui faire comprendre par la force de laisser tomber son troisième mandat. Nous

devons nous organiser pour résister, pour faire comprendre à Nkurunziza qu'il doit partir. Et nous sommes prêts à le faire par la force », souligne Léonard Ngendakumana.

Se défendant de vouloir replonger le Burundi dans la violence, le général putschiste accuse le pouvoir en place d'être engagé dans une guerre civile basée sur la division ethnique, en précisant qu'« ils veulent garder le pouvoir de peur d'être jugés pour leur crimes tant au niveau national qu'international. »

■ Les réactions au Burundi après la déclaration

Contrairement à son habitude, l'opposition n'est pas immédiatement montée au créneau après la déclaration de guerre lancée par le général Léonard Ngendakumana, l'un des leaders de la tentative de coup d'Etat contre le président Pierre Nkurunziza.

Tous se montrent prudents et demandent du temps. Ils veulent en savoir plus sur cette nouvelle rébellion avant de s'exprimer. Une prudence qui s'explique aussi par la crainte de ce que pourrait être la réaction du gouvernement Nkurunziza, dominée selon eux par la haute hiérarchie militaire issue de l'ex-rébellion du CNDD-FDD au pouvoir aujourd'hui.

Dans le camp présidentiel on appelle à la responsabilité de chacun. Le secrétaire général du patri Uprona reconnu par le pouvoir rappelle que armée et police du Burundi sont désormais paritaires entre Hutus et Tutsis issus de l'ancienne armée et des ex-mouvements rebelles. Gaston Sindimwo estime que le recours à la violence pourrait avoir des conséquences catastrophiques au Burundi.

« C'est impossible de prendre le pouvoir par la force. Ils ont essayé quand ils étaient ici. Ils avaient tout pris mais ça n'a pas marché parce que la conjoncture actuelle, la composition de l'armée actuelle, c'est vraiment multiforme. De telle sorte que personne ne peut commander, un mot d'ordre unique ça sera difficile. Ça sera catastrophique pour cette République, donc il faut éviter la guerre. »

Bujumbura et plusieurs localités de l'intérieur du pays ont été la cible de nombreuses attaques à la grenade. Depuis, des rumeurs insistantes d'une possible attaque d'envergure a conduit une grande partie de la population de Bujumbura à se réfugier à l'intérieur du pays ou au Rwanda voisin.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Uber Drivers Get Security Protection in South Africa After Threats

Agence France-Presse/ 7 July 2015

Internet taxi firm Uber said Monday it was providing security for its drivers in South Africa after verbal threats from other taxi operators in the latest outbreak of friction to hit the fast-growing company.

Uber drivers in Johannesburg have been targeted by meter taxi drivers and a protest was held outside Uber's offices on Friday, local media reported.

A statement from the US-based company alleged there had been "recent intimidation, caused by a small number of metered taxi drivers at the Sandton Gautrain and Sandton City," referring to a posh northern business district which also has a railway station.

"We have... been engaging with law enforcement and the Gautrain Station to assist with stopping this intimidation," it said.

"In addition we have deployed security to these hotspots."

The Gautrain is an express train network in Johannesburg, South Africa's economic capital.

A couple in the city told the Eyewitness News website that they had seen metered taxi drivers harass an Uber driver, grab his keys and threaten him with a gun.

Taxi drivers in cities around the world have complained that Uber drivers, who are booked via an online application, are poorly regulated and provide unfair competition.

Uber suspended its low-cost UberPOP service in France last week after a spate of violent protests and the arrest of two bosses.

The company, based in San Francisco, has expanded rapidly but often faced regulatory hurdles and protests in countries including Germany, Spain and Hungary

TANZANIA :

Mramba, Yona jailed three years for office abuse; Mgonja set free

Tuesday, 07 July 2015/dailynews.co.tz

TEARS and disbelief reigned at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam on Monday morning, as two former cabinet ministers bid goodbye to their family members whom they will hardly interact with - at least for the next three years.

Former Finance Minister Basil Mramba and his Energy and Mineral counterpart Daniel Yona will have to spend the next three years behind bars, serving their jail sentence for abuse of office and subjecting the government to 11.7bn/- loss.

They were convicted in the historical trial related to the procurement of gold assayers firm, Alex Stewart Government Business Corporation.

Observers say this is the first court decision in the judiciary's history to condemn influential former cabinet ministers to jail on criminal charges.

Two members of a panel hearing the historical case, Judge Sam Rumanyika and Mr Saul Kinemela, who is a senior official in the Labour Commission, convicted the two ex-ministers of the offences after they were satisfied by the evidence given by prosecution witnesses.

In the judgment, the two members of the court who sat at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court as Principal Resident Magistrates rejected the shield applied by the convicts that President Benjamin Mkapa had authorised the acquisition of the gold assayers company.

"We do not think that the president had directed urgent procurement of the Alex Steward Assayers without following the procedure.

The president, otherwise, should have so directed in express terms," Judge Rumanyika, declared when reading the judgment.

They further held that the Government Notices that were granted by Mramba for tax exemptions were arbitrarily issued in total disregard of the advice given by the Attorney General (AG) and officers from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), leading to pecuniary loss.

The judgment of the court was not commonly reached as one member of the panel, Judge John Utamwa, gave a dissenting judgment. He had differed with others in respect of evidence given to have proved the charges against the two convicts.

However, the court acquitted former Permanent Secretary (PS) with the Treasury, Gray Mgonja, after the prosecution, through its 13 witnesses, miserably failed to prove the charges against him.

Professor Geoffrey Shaidi, for the PS, was satisfied with the acquittal of his client. Advocate Peter Swai, for Mramba, told the 'Daily News' that he would immediately appeal to the High Court against both conviction and sentence.

Likewise, Counsel Elisa Msuya, for Yona, expressed similar position having been dissatisfied by the judgment. Immediately after delivery of the judgment, some close relatives of the convicts, who had filled the courtroom above capacity, broke into tears, some not believing what was happening.

One of them had to be assisted by others to leave the courtroom after losing control. In the majority judgment, the court convicted Mramba of all 11 counts. He had been charged with 10 counts relating to abuse of office and one count of occasioning loss to the government.

In each count, he was sentenced to three years in jail for each offence. For Yona, the court convicted him of four counts relating to abuse of office and one count of occasioning loss to the government for which it sentenced him to three years in jail for each count.

The court gave the duo an alternative sentence of paying 5m/- fine in respect of occasioning loss count. Before provision of the sentence, advocates Swai and Msuya, requested the court to impose a lenient sentence on the convicts considering their age.

It was said that Mramba is 75 years old while Yona had attained 76 years of age. The advocates submitted that the two ex-ministers have no criminal records and both served the government in various capacities diligently.

According to the counsels, the court should also consider the health conditions their clients were experiencing as they had been frequently seeking permission of the court to go to India for treatment.

On the other hand, Principal State Attorney Tumaini Kweka, for the prosecution, requested the court to hand down appropriate sentence for the convicts according to the law. He asked the court to consider the gravity of the offence committed and the positions held by the convicts.

It was alleged that the two former ministers committed the offences between August 2002 and June 14, 2004, in Dar es Salaam, by giving preferential treatments to M/S Alex Stewart (Assayers) Government Business Corporation.

The case followed three years of investigations by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the police into the suspicious hiring of Alex Stewart (Assayers) Government Business Corporation (ASA) to audit gold production in Tanzania.

The firm was in 2003 controversially assigned through a contract, which saw it receive a whopping of 50 million US dollars in gold audit fees.

It completed the assignment and left the country in August 2007. It is alleged that Gold Assayers Government Business Corporation was paid an average of one million US dollars every month from June 2003 to August 2007.

KENYA :

Kenya says Islamic extremists kill 14 in Kenya's north
July 07, 2015/Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya – A Kenyan official says at least 14 people have been killed in an attack by al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militants in the country's north.

Mandera County Commissioner Alex Nkoyo said the attack took place Tuesday in Soko Mbuzi village in Mandera County near the Kenyan border with Somalia and 11 people were wounded.

The Somali-based militants have killed at least 85 people, all of them non-Muslims, in the last eight months in Mandera County.

Al-Shabab has vowed to carry out attacks in Kenya as retribution for the country sending troops to Somalia to fight the militants. Kenya sent its troops to Somalia in Oct 2011 following a series of cross-border attacks including kidnappings which the government blamed on al-Shabab.

Kenya's New Central Bank Governor Hamstrung by Sliding Currency
July 7, 2015/bloomberg.com

Kenya's new central bank governor Patrick Njoroge is hamstrung by a sliding currency that's challenging his ability to support an economy hit by a collapse in tourism.

Njoroge, 53, chairing his first Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Tuesday, is set to leave the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 10 percent, according to 14 of the 16 economists surveyed by Bloomberg. Two predicted an increase of 50 basis points to 100 basis points.

Kenya's shilling is struggling after a slump in tourism and lower tea output reduced revenue from the nation's biggest sources of foreign exchange. Policy makers took action at an unscheduled meeting last month to try and bolster the currency after it fell to a three-year low, raising the interest rate by 150 basis points. That may provide Njoroge, who took office on June 19, with some breathing space for now.

"Governor Njoroge has been handed a fireball because whatever action he takes the shilling will continue to suffer," because of external pressures, Aly-Khan Satchu, chief executive officer of Rich Management, an adviser to wealthy investors, said by phone from Nairobi, the capital. "Raising rates will be a bullet in the head of the Kenya-rising story. Economic growth slowed in the first-quarter against wildly optimistic projections it would rise."

East Africa's biggest economy expanded 4.9 percent in the first quarter from a year ago, down from 5.5 percent in the three months through December, the statistics office said on July 1. The tourism industry, Kenya's largest foreign currency earner after tea exports, contracted for a fifth consecutive quarter as a spate of violent attacks by Somali militants kept visitors away from the nation's beaches and game reserves.

Tighter Policy

The central bank is scheduled to announce its decision on Tuesday afternoon. Last month's rate increase was the first since 2011 and follows tighter monetary policy in African nations including Ghana, Uganda and Angola as central banks attempt to protect their currencies.

The shilling fell 0.5 percent to 100.13 against the dollar as of 4:10 p.m. in Nairobi on Monday, taking its decline this year to 9.5 percent. Yields on the government bond due January 2024 climbed 110 basis points to 13.38 percent since it began trading on Jan. 21.

A weaker currency is adding to pressure on inflation, which accelerated to 7 percent in June from 5.5 percent at the beginning of the year. The government's target is 2.5 percent to 7.5 percent.

Njoroge, who replaced Njuguna Ndung'u in an appointment that surprised some analysts, was previously an adviser to a deputy managing director at the International Monetary Fund in Washington. Ndung'u's deputy, Haron Sirima, 52, was favored to become governor after acting in the position since March.

Currency Pressure

In his first public comments last month about Kenyan monetary policy, he told lawmakers that his priority will be to contain inflation to help bring down commercial-bank interest rates in the country, which he said were "very high."

"Governors would like to see lower interest rates, but he has to deal with the current environment," Yvonne Mhango, a sub-Saharan Africa economist at Renaissance Capital in Johannesburg, said by phone. "There will be significant discussion on whether to tighten. We've seen the currency continue to come under pressure."

Policy makers will also review the Kenya Banks' Reference Rate, which commercial banks use to price loans. The rate is set every six months and was last cut to 8.54 percent in January.

Kenya's reputation as a stable investment destination has been damaged since al-Qaeda-linked militants from Somalia began stepping up attacks in neighboring Kenya, killing at least 516 people in the past 2 1/2 years. A pre-dawn raid by al-Shabaab on a university campus in Garissa on April 2 killed 147 people.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

EU approves €1.15 bn aid package for West Africa

Reuters/2015/07/07

West Africa is home to some of the world's poorest and historically most unstable countries.

DAKAR - The European Union on Monday approved €1.15 billion in aid for West Africa through to 2020, nearly doubling its previous commitment to a region that is a major source of migrants seeking to enter Europe.

West Africa is home to some of the world's poorest and historically most unstable countries.

Even in peaceful states with good economic growth rates, many governments are struggling to create enough jobs for a booming youth population. Some are choosing to flee across the Sahara towards Europe or join criminal or militant networks.

"We will work with a wide range of partners to tackle the challenges that remain in West Africa, such as peace and security, economic integration and trade, as well as sustainable development," said Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

The previous five-year European Development Fund programme had a €595 million budget.

The statement announcing the aid package did not give a breakdown of funding. However, it said part of the money earmarked for security would go towards migration.

The funds will be distributed to 16 countries in the region, among them coastal states like Guinea and Ivory Coast as well as land-locked countries like Niger and Mali.

The region is struggling to end an Ebola epidemic that has killed more than 11,200 people and is still affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The statement did not mention a specific provision for health, although the European Commission has already given more than €400 million to fight the disease.

The EU statement listed Gambia as one of the recipients, even though it expelled an EU diplomat last month, derailing efforts to unblock aid to the government.

Diplomats say EU aid can reach the country via other channels, such as the United Nations or non-governmental organisations.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

DGFT tells exporters to explore Latin America, Africa

July 07, 2015/fibre2fashion.com

The financial crisis in Greece and its possible fallout in Europe is beginning to worry the Indian government and exporters. The government has now advised exporters to look beyond euro zone and explore opportunities in emerging markets such as Latin America, CIS nations and Africa.

"When there are risks, it is extremely important to distribute risks and diversify elsewhere," the media quoted Pravir Kumar, director general of foreign trade (DGFT) in the commerce and industry ministry telling an Open House Meet with more than 200 exporters in Kolkata.

Kumar said the government would continue to provide policy direction, incentivising diversification and value-added exports. He also advised exporters to focus on the countries with which India has a free trade agreement (FTA).

Indian exports to eurozone is 18-19 per cent of the country's total exports, and that is enough reason why Indian exporters should explore markets in Latin America, CIS nations and Africa, he said.

Sanjay Budhia, chairman, CII national committee on international trade policy and exports, sounded a warning on the rising trade deficit which climbed to \$137 billion in the 2014-15 fiscal, up from \$135.8 billion in the preceding year.

"This puts tremendous pressure on the economy. The achievements in export of services, specifically information technology and business services and huge remittance receipts alone are not capable to bridge the gap," Budhia said. (SH)

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

Size matters: Brics leaders have 17 trillion ways to rival US

Tue, Jul 07 2015/livemint.com

Here's what you need to know about these emerging market economies to follow the summit

Leaders of the so-called Brics countries are meeting starting Wednesday in Ufa, Russia. Here's what you need to know about these emerging market economies to follow the summit.

1. The Brics economies are getting very big

The combined economic output last year of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa almost matched the US's gross domestic product (GDP). Back in 2007, the US economy was double the Brics.

"Despite some disappointments in some of the Bric economies, led by China and India, their collective weight in global GDP continues to rise and therefore also does their importance," said Jim O'Neill, the former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. chief economist who coined the acronym back in 2001, without South Africa.

2. China wants a bigger stage

For Chinese president Xi Jinping, who has been particularly active in developing ways for his nation and Brics peers to be more influential, the meeting is a chance to garner support for China's increased role on the world stage.

"Western countries often take a 'with us or against us' attitude to China, but China is neither with nor against western powers," said Zhu Jiejun, a researcher with the Center for Brics Studies in Fudan University in Shanghai. "China accepts the existing framework while trying to make changes to it. It will be better for China to seek these changes together with India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa than going it alone."

We're already seeing the fruits of closer ties: India and Russia signed up as the next two biggest contributors to the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank among the 57 member-nations. The US and Japan are absent from the ranks in what's seen as a rival to the IMF and World Bank. Additional glue for the Brics leaders is a \$100 billion currency-exchange reserve program discussed at last year's summit. Then there's the planned Brics bank, which will be a big part of the agenda this year, along with China's "One Belt One Road" strategy and ways to deepen economic links.

3. But not all have fared as well as China

Since the first official leaders' summit in 2009, China has been the clear breakout economy, with its GDP jumping from about equal to its four peers combined to more than 50% larger.

Russia and Brazil, stars in the early Bric days, have lost their lustre more recently as sliding commodity prices and political stresses cloud their outlooks. By contrast, Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi comes to the summit with his economy in high gear, having eclipsed Russia's and closing in on Brazil's.

"While China and India are doing relatively better in economic development, it doesn't mean China and India will reduce the voice of the other three members in the group," said Zhu. "The birth mark of Brics is equality among members." Bloomberg

What Brics can do for South Africa and Africa

07 Jul 2015/Thebe Mabanga/mg.co.za

With South Africa's membership, Africa can benefit with most, if not all, their development projects, writes Thebe Mabanga.

COMMENT

The 7th Brics Summit taking place this week in Ufa, Russia, presents another opportunity for South Africa and Africa to help shape its new narrative as it awaits a new driver of growth following the commodity supercycle that fueled Africa's growth over the past two decades.

The recent World Economic Forum on Africa and the African Union Summit pointed to a number of key steps that Africa could take to drive growth internally. Membership of Brics can help Africa, with most, if not all, the initiatives.

The first thing that Africa has to do is to aggressively drive investment in infrastructure. Earlier this year, the commodity trading company Trafigura published a report, which found that developing countries had to double spending on infrastructure to \$2-trillion a year by 2020, with the bulk of this money to be directed to sub-Saharan Africa.

Brics, through the New Development Bank (NBD), or Brics bank, can help drive financing of that infrastructure. But the initial funding pool for the NBD is \$100-billion and that is roughly the amount of Africa's funding gap in a single year, so the Brics Bank can clearly not do it alone. It would need to be a lead funder and attract the World Bank, Sovereign Wealth Funds and global pension funds to help close the funding gap.

Apart from funding, Brics can help infrastructure programmes with skills and expertise, as Russia plans to supply SA with nuclear through Rosatom, as well as China South Rail's and China North Rail's supply to Transnet's locomotives and China's award of a \$5-billion rail project in Tanzania shows.

The next big benefit that Brics can deliver for South Africa is to help the country export an increasing proportion of higher value and intermediate goods to the Brics countries and their regions of Asia, South America and Eastern Europe, depending on which neighbours Russia is on good terms with.

An April 2014 study by the South African Institute of International Affairs illustrates this point. The study, by Chukwuka Onyekwena, Olumide Taiwo and Eberechukwu Uneze of the Centre for the Study of Economies of Africa in Abuja, Nigeria, showed that between 1995 and 2011, trade between South Africa and Brics countries grew substantially.

Exports from South Africa to Brics countries grew from less than \$5-billion in 1995, to almost \$25-billion by 2011. But the underlying composition of that needs to change. China is the dominant partner in South African trade as it overtook India in 2003 as the leading destination of South

African exports, followed by India, Brazil and a negligible portion to Russia, where trade consists of trucks and cars.

In 2011, crude materials, except fuels, accounted for 34.5%, while commodities and their related transaction accounted for 25.5%. Manufactured goods, an added value category that SA can look to grow, accounted for 14.3%, while capital and transport equipment accounted for 2.2% and other manufactured goods made up only 0.2%. Chemicals and related products, another value added category, accounted for 4.5%, beverages and tobacco, another processed goods category, took up only 0.1% while food and live animals, which are primary goods since they are not processed, accounted for 1%.

Minerals, lubricants and related materials accounted for 17.6%, a decent figure but what one that has room to be grown further.

The process of re-orientating South African exports to value added goods starts at this week's drafting of negotiation position before devolving to trade negotiation level. Countries rarely open up their market for high value processed goods, as many want to protect domestic industries, but in countries like China an undertaking to open up markets is not enough because bureaucracy at its ports, language barriers and regulations make exporting into China difficult. Other countries use measures like import restrictions, again to protect domestic industries. Breaking down such barriers requires tough negotiations that casts diplomacy aside.

Beneficiation is another area that South Africa needs to improve on given its mineral endowment. But beneficiation is skills and capital intensive and it's a fight for global market share which means that a smelter opening in one part of the globe, somewhere in Africa, means a closure of another smelter, usually somewhere in the developing world but possibly in a Brics country, with its attendant problem of job losses and social consequences that such closures can cause. There is no country that will let African countries take away their lunch while they sit idly.

Beneficiation has to be fought for and sometimes pursued at an initial high cost for Africa to win its right to add value to most of its minerals. A study by Deloitte found that South Africa produces 90% of the world's platinum, but only 24% of catalytic converters, one of key uses of platinum. It is such patterns of production that need to change.

Finally, the summit will officially inaugurate the Brics Bank, a remarkable feat when one considers that the idea was formally mooted at the 4th Summit in India in 2012 and formalised in Durban the next year. But the Bank's architect's will find that their decision to give each country an equal vote irrespective of contribution, while egalitarian and noble, has its limitations. The decision is meant to be anathema to the Breton Woods institutions like the World Bank that the Brics bank is designed to counter.

But what they will find is that the country that contributes the most, likely to be China given the size of its reserves, will demand a bigger say in how money is spent. So while the greatest area of need for infrastructure funding among Brics countries is in Africa, the continent may not get as much as it needs unless its needs are aligned to China and the continent furiously lobbies Shanghai, where the Bank will be headquartered.

South Africa must use this opportunity to raise Africa's voice. – ANA

