



(Police in Kenya were on a high alert Monday following intelligence reports of planned terror attacks on main airports in Nairobi and Mombasa.)

BURUNDI :

#### **African Union to send monitors to Burundi**

By Reuters/Monday, February 29th 2016

Bujumbura: The African Union will send 100 human rights monitors and 100 military monitors to Burundi, South Africa's president said on Saturday, after a trip to the tiny nation that is facing its worst crisis since a civil war ended a decade ago. Jacob Zuma, delivering a statement by a delegation of African leaders that he led, did not say when the monitors would arrive or start work in the country, where more than 400 people have been killed since April. Zuma left Bujumbura after the remarks. The violence has rattled a region with a history of ethnic conflict. Burundi's civil war, that ended in 2005, largely pitted two ethnic groups against each other. Neighbouring Rwanda was torn apart by genocide in 1994. Western powers have urged Africans to act. The United States and European nations have withheld some aid to poor Burundi and taken other steps to try to put pressure on the government to resolve the crisis, but they say it has had little impact. "We believe strongly that the solution to Burundi's political problems can be attained only through inclusive and peaceful dialogue," Zuma said in the statement, which also expressed "concerns" about the level of violence and killings.

The decision to send monitors suggests a compromise had been reached with Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza, who triggered the crisis in April when he announced a bid for a third term. He went on to win a disputed election in July, in the face of street protests and violent clashes.

The new initiative falls far short of the African Union's plan announced in December to send a 5,000-strong peacekeeping force, which Nkurunziza's government rejected. Details about the new mission were not immediately clear. Diplomats said other African monitors that had been sent to Bujumbura last year had been stuck in their hotel unable to work because Burundi refused to sign a

memorandum allowing them to operate. Burundi's government has previously said it was ready to for dialogue, but opponents say it has always set preconditions on who would attend and what could be discussed that made such discussions pointless. Talks sponsored by nearby Uganda in December had been planned to continue in Tanzania in January. But the initiative stumbled at the start of the year when the government said it would not attend as some participants had been behind violence. For their part, opponents accuse government forces of targeting and killing members of the opposition.

The statement by African leaders said Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni would convene dialogue with "all important stakeholders as soon as possible." It did not say when.

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

#### Uganda opposition plans legal challenges against electoral commission

Feb 29, 2016 /lawyerherald.com

Opposition parliamentary and presidential candidates are planning to launch legal challenges against Uganda's electoral commission this week. Reports say that the electoral commission is prepared to face such move from the opposition following the results of the February 18 general elections.

A spokesman for the electoral commission, Jotham Taremwa, said everybody agrees that the elections were a success and that everyone can go to the court in case they are not happy with the outcome. The Voice of America reported that independent candidate Patrick Amama Mbabazi and primary opposition leader of Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Kizza Besigye dispute the outcome of the election. They told the media that they are heading to court, claiming there have been 'irregularities and rigging' involved, which led to the victory of incumbent President Yoweri Museveni.

Badru Kiggundu, chairman of Uganda's electoral commission, announced Museveni as the winner of the presidential vote with 60.07 percent of the total vote cast. Kiggundu insisted that the general election is credible, despite reports by international and local election observers that the poll held in intimidating circumstances was neither 'free nor fair.'

Joy Kabatsi, one of the candidates from the opposition who ran for parliament, told Al Jazeera that she found the ruling party officials stuffing pre-ticked ballot papers into ballot boxes. She also showed the news agency some samples of the pre-ticked ballots which she had found.

Electoral law of Uganda says legal challenges can be submitted up to 10 days after the results are announced. According to Standard Media, Besigye and his party has yet to decide whether they will

legally dispute the results. A spokeswoman for Besigye added that his detention has 'eaten some of the time' the party has to lodge a petition. Police officers prevented Kizza Besigye from traveling to vote in a local council election for fear that he will stimulate his supporters to engage in illegal protests.

Meanwhile, EU urged Uganda's electoral commission to publish all the results from the 28,010 polling stations across the nations. The opposition believe that by publishing the results, the public will then know how the results were fabricated in favor of Museveni and his party, the National Resistance Movement.

### Uganda: Election Clashes Leave Six Dead in Bundibugyo

29 February 2016/The Monitor (Kampala)

Bundibugyo — A Clashes have broken out in Bundibugyo District between supporters of the district chairman, Mr Jolly Tibebamya, and the NRM flag bearer Ronald Mutegeki.

The Rwenzori regional police commander, Mr Dennis Namuwoza, said the clashes have left six people dead and more than 10 houses burnt.

According to Police, the clashes and tension in the district stem from contradictory announcements by the district returning officer, Mr Dan Nayebale, who on Wednesday announced Mr Tibemanya, the incumbent district chairman, as winner of the LC5 polls with 33,012 votes against 32,376 votes for the NRM flag bearer Mr Mutegeki.

Mr Tibemanya told the Daily Monitor that he and his supporters were shocked when last Thursday evening, Mr Nayebale reversed his victory and instead declared Mr Mutegeki as a winner. He accused Mr Nayebale of swapping his votes and awarding them to his rival.

According to police, at about 2am last Saturday, Mr Nickson Bwambale, a nursing assistant, was shot dead in Busengerwa IV village, Kirindi parish in Busaru Sub-county.

Unidentified attackers raided a neighbourhood in Busengerwa 4 village and killed Sylvia Tuhaise,14, a P7 pupil at Rugombwa Primary School, Lucy Kabasomi,12, Harriet,3, Lydia, 8. Their bodies were found with multiple injuries.

The mother of the victims, Ms Gorret Nsonisiabo, was also injured on the head and hands and has been referred to Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital for medication.

She has been admitted along with her four-months-old baby, one Tumwine, who was also cut on her hand.

Separate attacks were also registered in Mukudungu village, Kirindi parish in Busaru Sub-county where an expectant mother Jane Karungi was killed with her baby identified as one Gloria.

Her seven-year- old daughter Gorretti Kabaswara reportedly survived the attack but she sustained injuries on her hands.

According to police, five houses were burnt down by unidentified arsonists in Mukudungu village. The houses reportedly belonged to Mr Ivan Katikiro, Ms Happy Leah, Mr Andrew Tembo, Mr Wilfred Byarugaba Wilfred and Mr Shem Kyomugisha.

The district criminal investigations officer, Mr Hillary Nuwahereza, said area LCI chairperson Muhamad Alinda has been arrested to help police with investigations. Daily Monitor has seen several residents fleeing from their homes to escape the violence.

The fleeing residents have sought refuge at Bubukwannga Transit Camp and umadu Church of Uganda while others are at Hakitara Sub-county headquarters. By press time, there was heavy police and army deployment in various villages in the district. Mr Namuwoza said the situation was under control and a search was on for perpetrators of the violence.

SOUTH AFRICA :

**Support Pravin and save South Africa**

29 février, 2016/timeslive.co.za

President Zuma, the time to speak up is now.

Economists yesterday warned that if Jacob Zuma did not send out a strong signal showing his support for Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, the rand would weaken further, the country's sovereign debt rating would collapse to junk status and ordinary South Africans would struggle to buy food.

On Friday, the rand slumped to 16.233 to the dollar, the biggest fall in four years.

The decline was triggered by fears that the fallout between Gordhan and SA Revenue Service commissioner Tom Moyane could worsen, resulting in either the sacking or resignation of Gordhan or the undermining of critical aspects of the Budget he presented last week.

Moyane, a Zuma loyalist, had ignored the minister's instructions to halt the restructuring of SARS. He also reportedly initiated an investigation by the Hawks into Gordhan's conduct when he headed the revenue service in 2009.

Another source of tension between Zuma and Gordhan is the minister's determination to rein in Dudu Myeni, chairman of SAA and a close friend of the president.

Yesterday, there were concerns that the rand would be subjected to another battering when Asian markets open today. The run on the currency is reminiscent of events two months ago when Zuma appointed ANC backbencher David van Rooyen as finance minister before being forced to redeploy him and reappoint Gordhan.

"We need a really strong signal from the president on whether he is in full support of the minister of finance so we can try to quell any volatility that can take place in financial markets given what we already know and see as a risk.

"So, that statement needs to reassure us that there is no rift and that everything is in control. We need to show the world that South Africa is open for business," Wits University School of Economics and Business Sciences' Lumkile Mondi said yesterday.

Economist Dawie Roodt said the rand and bond markets weakened after the "so-so budget" but the rift between Zuma and Gordhan could lead to "all sorts of bad things".

"There is only one variable now that stands between us and a possible [rating] downgrade and that is economic growth. How is the spat between Zuma and Gordhan going to affect potential economic growth? This is a proxy war. Let's be honest about this. It's going to affect economic growth via political uncertainty and possible policy uncertainty," Roodt said.

"If they don't sort this out soon . like really soon, within a week or two, then the rand will weaken and a weaker currency will become entrenched and then it leads to weaker economic growth and this will lead to an automatic downgrade. There is a lot at stake at the moment," he said.

Despite Friday's statement from the Presidency to the effect that Zuma had confidence in Gordhan, news of a rift, coupled with a letter from the Hawks to Gordhan asking him to answer questions on a so-called rogue unit formed when he headed SARS, gave rise to concern over the sustainability of his economic plans.

Mondi said: "It's now a question of whether the plans can be implemented given the rift between him and the president. That is the issue that is going to keep a lot of people worried about what is going to happen next."

He said risk from the rift would push struggling South Africans deeper into financial woes.

"This risk will weaken the rand and bring more inflation to South Africa. The majority of South Africans are poor and spend most of their money on food. So, if the rand weakens, they won't be able to afford food for their own survival. And the interest rate may start rising more sharply than we thought. These are the issues that we face in the next few days."

Gordhan has until Wednesday to answer 27 questions from Hawks' boss, Major-General Berning Ntlemenza, on the SARS unit that allegedly spied on taxpayers, including leading political figures.

On Friday, ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe strongly defended Gordhan and questioned the timing of the Hawks letter.

The Sunday Times reported that after receiving the letter a few days before the Budget speech, Gordhan apparently complained to Zuma about the investigation. On Monday, he met Zuma and the rest of the ANC's top six and expressed his frustrations with Moyane.

"One version of the events at the meeting, given mostly by sources sympathetic to Zuma and Moyane, is that Gordhan threatened to resign from the ministry if the president did not fire Moyane and did not order the Hawks to stop harassing him. But those close to Gordhan deny that the minister put a gun to Zuma's head, saying all he pointed out at the meeting was that he had told party leaders when he was appointed to the post in December that he did not want to work with Moyane," the paper said.

Political analyst Shadrack Gutto said the ANC would not impeach Zuma as there were too many career politicians who feared losing their positions. "The ANC doesn't know what to do about Zuma because of the various crises facing him, which are weakening the party. As the party goes into elections without a president who has full support within the party it is going to be difficult because each politician looks at what is in it for them.

"They must be seen as supportive of the president because he still has the power to remove any minister from their position. So, they're also trying not to be seen to be gunning for him to be removed," he said.

"There are a lot of career politicians. They don't have the courage and ability to come forward and say enough is enough. And that really says at the moment that the ANC doesn't have a clear leader."

### South Africa just opened the continent's first solar-powered airport

qz.com/29/02/2016

South Africa has opened the continent's first solar-powered airport in Western Cape. George Airport which serves over 600,000 passengers annually, has launched a clean energy project which, during its first phase, will contribute around 40% of the airport's electricity needs. Once completed, the airport is expected to be totally independent of the national grid.

The airport will generate its electricity by harnessing energy from sun tapped through photo-voltaic panels which were installed at the cost of almost a million dollars. Airports Company South Africa, which runs the airport, hopes George Airport will be the first of nine airports under its control to run on solar energy as it chases the lofty goal of running airports fully on renewable energy.

During the launch, Dipuo Peters, South Africa's minister of transport, described the solar airport project as one that "admirably demonstrates the South African government's commitment to clean energy generation and sustainability, as well as to our country's increasingly prominent role when it comes to global climate change issues."

Should they need a working model to look up to for guidance, Airports Company South Africa can turn to India. Last year, at the cost of \$9.5 million, Cochin International Airport Limited became the world's first ever solar-powered airport.

The solar-powered airport is another first for the continent. Last year, Pavegen, a UK based start-up, launched a solar-powered soccer pitch, the first of its kind in Africa, in Lagos, Nigeria.

TANZANIA :

### Kenya-Tanzania border post to boost trade between states

Monday, February 29th 2016/standardmedia.co.ke

NAIROBI: Kenya and Tanzania have opened the ultra-modern Holili/Taveta border post to facilitate regional trade.

The Sh1 billion investment was launched on Saturday and is the first one to be operated among the 13 one-stop border posts in East Africa and South Sudan, with funding from Trademark East Africa. Labour Cabinet Secretary Phyllis Kandie and Tanzania's Foreign Affairs Minister Augustine Mahiga said the unveiling of the facility marked a milestone in facilitating regional cross-border trade.

Speaking at Holili in Tanzania, the two officials said the facility will reduce the cost of doing business by 40 per cent and accelerate regional integration and economic growth among the East African member states. "The facility will have an immediate impact on the citizens of the two countries and it will create signage of purpose," said Ms Kandie. "We are realising the deepening and widening of the EA integration process." Noting that non-tariff barriers remained a major challenge across the borders, Kandie said the facility will enhance integrated border management to increase the free flow of movement and goods.

"The facility will reduce time taken in business transactions," she said.

Ms Mahiga said the move will improve the co-operation between Tanzania and Kenya. "The facility will eradicate barriers in trade to facilitate economic growth," said Mahiga. "The investment will impact positively on the socio-economic relations in EA as it will reduce transit costs." Theo Lymo, a director at Trademark East Africa, said border officials had been trained to implement procedures for the facility, and customs clearing agents had also been familiarised with the new rules. "The outcome we expect is reduction in the time it takes traffic to cross the border," he said. Mr Lymo said the facility was not the only project they were undertaking adding that Trademark was also modernising the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. He said the organisation was also supporting the establishment of single-windows trade systems, harmonisation of standards, removal of non-tariff barriers, development of the single customs territory, among others. The opening of the facility comes ahead of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Tanzanian counterpart's visit early next month for inspection.

KENYA :

### **Terrorists targeting Kenya airports: police**

Feb 29/www.capitalfm.co.ke

By BERNARD MOMANYI, NAROBHI, Kenya, Feb 29 – Police in Kenya were on a high alert Monday following intelligence reports of planned terror attacks on main airports in Nairobi and Mombasa.

An internal memo, in our possession, sent to all airport managers across the country warns that suicide bombers have been undergoing airborne suicide missions in Somalia for the planned attacks.

The memo dated February 26th is signed by the Kenya Airports Authority Security Manager Eric Kiraithe who said the attackers are likely to target domestic flights.

“Consequently, a team of 11 suicide bombers have undergone training within Somalia on airborne suicide missions in readiness for the attacks. Five operatives will target Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or Wilson Airport while the rest will focus on airports at the Coast region among them Moi International Airport,” part of the memo by Kiraithe states, adding “The planned attacks by Al Shabaab against Kenyan airports are likely to paralyze operations at the vital install installations with far reaching ramifications to national security.”

Kiraithe confirmed the authenticity of the memo but declined to immediately offer more details.

The warning comes barely three weeks after a bomb attack on a passenger plane shortly after take-off from Somalia's main airport, killing one person.

The blast punched a one-metre (three-foot) hole in the side of the Airbus A321 about 15 minutes after it had taken off from Mogadishu heading for Djibouti.

A passenger identified as Abdulahi Abdisalam was killed, probably after being propelled out of the aircraft in the explosion, investigators said.

Another two out of around 60 passengers on board were slightly injured.

The pilot, a 64-year-old Serb named Vladimir Vodopivec, told a friend that he was convinced the

blast had been caused by a bomb, according to the Serbian daily Blic.

The explosion did not damage the plane's navigation system, and this is what enabled the pilot to make the emergency landing, the report said.

Video footage taken after the blast showed people having moved to the back of the plane with emergency oxygen masks dangling down as wind rushed around the main cabin, although most passengers appeared fairly calm.

Daallo Airlines operates out of Djibouti, flying to destinations in the Horn of Africa and the Gulf.

### Barclays Kenya is not shutting down - MD Jeremy Awori

Feb. 29, 2016/the-star.co.ke

There are no local, regional or group level plans to shut down Barclays Bank of Kenya, the MD has said on reports that the institution will exit Africa.

Jeremy Awori was responding to a decision by Barclays PLC chief executive Jes Staley to leave Africa as reported by the Financial Times on Saturday.

"The ongoing speculation is related to the shareholding of Barclays Africa Group and does not in any way impact the day to day running of this institution," Awori said in a statement on Monday.

"Consequently any decisions concerning the operations of Barclays Kenya can only be made by Barclays Africa Group in consultation with other investors who are shareholders in this business."

He noted that Barclays PLC owns 62.3 per cent of Barclays Africa Group, which in turn holds a controlling stake in BBK and 11 other operations in Africa. The group owns 67 per cent of BBK while Kenyan investors own 33 per cent.

Assuring the bank has a clear strategy for Kenya, Awori said stakeholders' accounts are safe and will not be affected.

"Your money is safe with us and you should not be concerned about the operation of your account. We remain, as always, at your service," he said.

He said the bank will roll out a proposition to give customers easier access to services.

Staley said the bank's board took the decision at a review he led and plans to announce the exit on Tuesday.

The review came after South African President Jacob Zuma decided to change his finance minister twice in less than a week at a time when the economy is under severe stress.

The board has appointed a subcommittee to study how and when to sell Barclays Africa, the Financial Times said.

### 'Al-Shabab killed scores of Kenyan troops'

February 29, 2016/nationalmirroronline.net



At least 180 Kenyan troops were killed when al-Shabab attacked their base last month, Somalia's President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, said yesterday. The Islamist militant group said it had killed about 100 Kenyan troops. If it is confirmed that 180 troops were killed, it would be al-Shabab's deadliest assault since it was formed nearly a decade ago. Its previous most deadly attack was the killing of 148 people in the day-long assault on Garissa University College in north-eastern Kenya last April. President Mohamud gave the death toll of 180 in an interview with a Somali television station, while defending his attendance at a memorial for the soldiers in Kenya. Some Somalis accused him on social media of showing greater concern for the killing of Kenyans than his own nationals. Mohamud said it was important to pay tribute to the troops killed in el-Ade, which is in Somalia's south-western region of Gedo. "When 180 or close to 200 soldiers who were sent to us are killed in one day in Somalia, it's not easy," he said, stressing, "The soldiers have been sent to Somalia to help us get peace in our country, and their families are convinced that they died while on duty."

But Kenyan Army spokesman, David Obonyo, said the Somali president's information was untrue, although refused to give exact casualty figures for the assault in the southern Somali base of el-Ade. "Ask the source of the information to clarify it. Maybe he knows his sources," Obonyo said yesterday. "I think we should stop trivializing the dead. They are not mere statistics. They ought to be treated with honour and respect," he added. The el-Ade attack was hugely embarrassing for Kenya, and it is not surprising that it has rejected the Somali president's figure without giving its own. Kenya's government possibly fears that confirming a high death toll would fuel doubts among Kenyans about its military presence in Somalia.

It is unclear where Mohamud got the figure from, and whether he had intentionally disclosed it, something that could strain diplomatic relations with Kenya. Kenya's military is clearly upset with him, but it has previously said that a company-sized battalion, usually made up of 100 to 250 men, was targeted by the militants. It is also unclear why al-Shabab put the number of killed at about 100, but one possibility is that it excluded ethnic Somalis who were Kenyan soldiers, according to reports. After the attack, Kenya said the bombs used by al-Shabab were three times more powerful than those used by al-Qaeda in the 1998 US embassy attack in the capital, Nairobi, which left 224 people dead, and to withdraw from el-Ade eleven days after the attack. Kenya has about 4,000 troops in the 22,000-strong African Union force battling al-Shabab, which is part of al-Qaeda, in Somalia.

ANGOLA :

**WA company Lucapa sells massive Angola diamond for \$22.5 million**

[abc.net.au/2016-02-29](http://abc.net.au/2016-02-29)

A giant diamond discovered by a Perth-based company in Angola has sold for \$22.5 million.

Lucapa Diamond Company found the massive 404-carat diamond at its Lulo Diamond Project in Angola's Lunda Norte province, in the country's north-east.

In a statement, Lucapa said the sale "represents a spectacular average price of A\$55,585 (US\$39,580), which is a record price for a white diamond recovered from Lulo and is further evidence of the positive sentiment in the market for large high-quality gems like those being recovered at Lulo".

The diamond is the largest ever found in Angola.

Lucapa has a 40 per cent stake in the project, together with state-run company Endiama, which owns 32 per cent, and private local company Rosas and Petalas.

"The sale of a single diamond for \$US16 million underlines the huge potential of the Lulo diamond field to regularly produce gems which are both large and of world-class quality," Lucapa chief executive Stephen Wetherall said.

Lucapa chairman Miles Kennedy said earlier this month the cash from the sale would allow the company to expand its operations in the area.

AU/AFRICA :

### EA launches first travel document

29 February 2016 /dailynews.co.tz

PRESIDENT John Magufuli will be joining his four counterparts from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi in launching the first community travel document here on Wednesday.

The new digitalised and machine- readable East African Passport replaces the old EAC travel document, which was restricted to just the five member states. Apparently, the proposed new one is going to be as international as the current Tanzanian booklet passport, which means it will be accepted all over the globe.

Arusha will be hosting five Presidents from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania who are set to converge here for their Heads of State Summit on Wednesday the 2nd of March 2016.

According to the Head of Communications at the East African Community Secretariat, Mr Richard Owora Othieno, the five East African presidents are converging here for their 17th Ordinary East African Community (EAC) Heads of State Summit.

The five presidents, including for the first time at the summit, Dr John Magufuli, will have several items on the agenda, including the launching of the new electronic East African Passport and discussion of the possibilities of adding new members, including South-Sudan into the Arusha-based, community.

The Summit will also address the consideration of reports by the preceding EAC Council of Ministers on: the negotiations on the admission of the Republic of South Sudan into the Community.

The Head of State will also be addressing Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for the EAC; and the EAC Institutional Review. Tanzania will be handing over the Summit Chair to the next country, possibly Burundi despite conflicts in the country.

The meeting will also consider the council's reports on the Model, Structure and Action Plan of the EAC Political Federation; Implementation of the Framework for Harmonized EAC Roaming Charges and Modalities for Promotion of Motor Vehicle Assembly in the region.

They will talk about the Reduction of the Importation of Used Motor Vehicles from Outside the

Community, and; the Promotion of the Textile and Leather Industries in the region, and stopping importation of Used Clothes, Shoes and Other Leather Products from outside the region.

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The Summit is also expected to deliberate on a report by the Council on the verification exercise for the admission of the Republic of Somalia into the EAC. The Heads of State are expected to launch the new International East African e-passport (electronic-passport) during their meeting.

The Summit will be preceded by a meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers that had been taking place at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha between 27th, February 22 and Sunday.

Meanwhile, President Magufuli arrived in Arusha yesterday where he will among other activities, lead the 17th Ordinary East African Community (EAC) Heads of State Summit on Wednesday on Wednesday.

At the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), President Magufuli was received by various government and political party leaders. Dr Magufuli, who is the current EAC Chair, will also hold talks with EAC head of States before the Head of States Summit.

On Thursday, President Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart, President Uhuru Kenyatta, will lay a foundation stone for construction of the Arusha-Holili-Taveta-Voi road linking Tanzania and Kenya. The road is under EAC development plans, being implemented by EAC member states.

### Barclays to sell Absa, exit Africa

29 février, 2016/timeslive.co.za

London-based Barclays has decided to sell its Africa operations, which includes the Absa Group, the Financial Times said.

The sale forms part of Barclays' plans to focus on US and UK markets and is expected to be announced tomorrow.

The Financial Times reported that the Barclays board decided last week to exit Africa after a review led by new CEO Jes Staley.

A subcommittee was asked to look into how and when Barclays Africa would be sold, the newspaper said.

Barclays Africa said at the weekend the reports were "still speculation at the moment".

Barclays owns 62.3% of Barclays Africa, a stake valued at about R76.5-billion, based on a market capitalisation of R122.8-billion on Friday.

The Public Investment Corporation (PIC), which manages about R1.5-trillion in assets on behalf of the Government Employees Pension Fund, told Business Day last month it was keen to increase its stake in Barclays Africa if the group's parent in London sells down.

A sell-down is seen as an opportunity for domestic investors to reclaim the banking asset from

British control.

The PIC is the biggest South African investor in Barclays Africa, with a 5.44% stake - valued at about R5-billion at current market prices.

The talk of a sell-down comes less than three years after Barclays increased its stake in Barclays Africa Group to 62.3% from 55% in an R18-billion deal. In that transaction, Absa bought eight of Barclays' African operations to form the Barclays Africa Group.

Barclays had initially acquired its 55% stake in Absa Group in 2005 for \$5.5-billion, more than 10 years ago.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

**Africa: EU-UK Dilemma, but Africa's Worse Off**

28 February 2016/Premium Times (Abuja)

Today, the challenge in Africa remains how to get the continent to the ECA standard of four decades ago. The ECA story reads like fiction. But it is a true one, and if East Africa could do it then, there is no reason why, with better communication and in a globalised world, Africa cannot do it today. Primarily, what this requires is the political will leaders like Kwame Nkrumah exhibited half a century ago. Fortunately, we do not need to rely on the slower rail system of the 1970s; this is the age of the bullet train, and Africa can catch it and accelerate towards full integration.

British Prime Minister, David William Donald Cameron, 49, bounced around Friday, February 19, 2016 like a Caesar who had just won a decisive battle. After two days of grueling talks with his European brothers and sisters during which he was reported to have had only three hours sleep, he snatched an agreement giving the United Kingdom special status in the European Union (EU).

Cameron who has been in power for six years, returned to London in triumph and convened a cabinet meeting the next day; the first time the British cabinet was meeting on a Saturday since the Malvinas/Falkland War thirty years ago. But he may well be declaring war within his party as he announced a June 23, 2016 Referendum on whether Britain would stay or exit the EU.

Cameron had taken on the EU and won demands such as restricting migrant Europeans from swooping on the British welfare system, and getting child benefits or credits for children living abroad. The EU also agreed that Britain will not join the Euro Zone and can opt out of its "ever closer union" policy. The Union, furthermore, agreed that national parliaments can block unwanted European Union legislation.

However, not a few see the 'special status' as an empty package. Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party said, "Despite the fanfare, the deal that David Cameron has made in Brussels on Britain's relationship with the EU is a sideshow." Yet, he promised that Labour will campaign for Britain to remain in the EU. The UK Independence Party (UKIP) is, of course, campaigning for an exit.

The Union, in awarding Britain a special status, does not want any part of the continent exiting. To the EU, Britain is like a wandering sheep that needs to be kept within the flock so it won't influence others like the Netherlands where 53 percent now want a referendum. It is aware that Scotland and Wales, who feel marginalised in the British union, may not lose much sleep exiting a larger union. What the EU did was to give Cameron and other pro-EU Britons some ammunition to defend their position.

Cameron's main challenge appears to be within his party. Five members of his cabinet: Andrea Leadsome (Energy), Ian Duncan Smith (Works & Pension), John Whittingdale (Culture), Theresa Villiers (Northern Ireland) and Michael Gove (Justice) opposed Cameron. They want a Britain that can freely elect its own government, make its own laws and set its own rules without a big brother EU watching over its affairs. As punishment, Jeremy Heywood, the Cabinet Secretary says the Civil Service will not provide the Brexit Ministers briefings or support on the issue.

Chris Grayling, the Leader of the House of Commons is also opposed to Cameron as is the Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson who told Britons that a vote to exit EU is an historical opportunity they may never have again in their life time. A furious Cameron opened fire on the Mayor accusing him of wanting Britain out so that he can take over the Tory Party. Referring to Johnson, he said, "I won't dwell on the irony that some people... want to leave in order to remain... I do not know any [couples] who have begun divorce proceedings in order to renew their wedding vows."

The Union, in awarding Britain a special status, does not want any part of the continent exiting. To the EU, Britain is like a wandering sheep that needs to be kept within the flock so it won't influence others like the Netherlands where 53 percent now want a referendum. It is aware that Scotland and Wales, who feel marginalised in the British union, may not lose much sleep exiting a larger union. What the EU did was to give Cameron and other pro-EU Britons some ammunition to defend their position. But it is conscious of the fact that very little had been conceded to Britain which, in any case, is neither in the Euro Zone nor in Schengen.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "I do not think that we gave too much to Great Britain". Actually, EU gave very little, and I think Cameron's sense of triumphalism is more of drama.

That same 1967, the East African Community (EAC) was born by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Within a very short period, it became a more advanced and integrated community than the one in

Europe, which was bogged down by bickering and politics, especially with France's determination to gate out Britain.

Whatever the case, Cameron is in a fight for his political future, while Britain and the EU are in a dilemma. But this is far better than the state of Africa, which remains like a man-child. Ironically, in terms of integration and building a common union like the EU, a significant part of Africa was far ahead of the Europeans. When, as Secretary General of African Workers, I addressed the 14-nation Trade Union Federation Of Eastern Africa (TUFEA) Conference on October 1, 2013 in Mombasa, Kenya, I reminded the labour leaders that their region had a union which was more advanced in its day than that of the Europeans.

Europeans began to work towards integration (EU) with the signing of the Rome Treaties in 1957. These gave birth to the European Economic Community (EEC). It took ten years before the EEC was transformed into the European Community (EC) which worked towards the abolition of tariffs. That same 1967, the East African Community (ECA) was born by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Within a very short period, it became a more advanced and integrated community than the one in Europe, which was bogged down by bickering and politics, especially with France's determination to gate out Britain. The ECA developed fast with its East African Community Market, which included a customs union, integrated rail, port, aviation, data and telecommunication facilities, as well as a Development Bank. It was the model that all others including the European Community sought to copy.

Unfortunately, political intrigues set in and the 1971 coup by Idi Amin sounded the death knell. Tanzania refused to recognise Amin and gave asylum to ousted President Milton Obote and opposition figures. Consequently, the ECA could not meet, and it collapsed in 1977. With that, Africa missed the train to fast track integration while the EU sped past. Today, the challenge in Africa remains how to get the continent to the ECA standard of four decades ago. The ECA story reads like fiction. But it is a true one, and if East Africa could do it then, there is no reason why, with better communication and in a globalised world, Africa cannot do it today. Primarily, what this requires is the political will leaders like Kwame Nkrumah exhibited half a century ago. Fortunately, we do not need to rely on the slower rail system of the 1970s; this is the age of the bullet train, and Africa can catch it and accelerate towards full integration.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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