



(The White House issued a statement from President Barack Obama on Thursday, the 22nd anniversary of the beginning of the Rwandan genocide.)

BURUNDI :

L'OIF suspend sa coopération avec le Burundi

Par RFI/le 08-04-2016

Le Burundi est de plus en plus isolé sur la scène internationale. Après l'Union européenne qui a suspendu mi-mars son aide financière au Burundi, c'est l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie qui a suspendu sa coopération avec le pays jeudi. Le Burundi n'est pas exclu de l'organisation. Mais l'OIF estime que Bujumbura n'a pas fait preuve de bonne volonté pour sortir de la crise et a décidé de faire monter la pression d'un cran.

Une situation sécuritaire qui se dégrade de jour de jour, des droits de l'homme bafoués et toujours pas d'amorce d'un véritable dialogue politique avec l'opposition. Voilà ce qui a poussé l'OIF à hausser le ton et à suspendre sa coopération avec le Burundi jeudi.

« Cette décision fait suite à la décision en juillet dernier de ce même conseil permanent de la francophonie, qui avait placé sous observation le Burundi suite à l'élection du président Nkurunziza, explique Louis Hamann, porte-parole de la secrétaire générale de la francophonie. Maintenant la décision (de jeudi) vise à augmenter d'un cran la pression sur le gouvernement burundais dans le but bien sûr d'inciter à un rétablissement de la situation sécuritaire, l'instauration également d'un dialogue politique réellement inclusif pour favoriser une sortie de crise. »

Cette sanction ne concerne pas les programmes qui bénéficient directement aux populations sans passer par les comptes du gouvernement, ni ceux qui peuvent aider « au rétablissement de la démocratie ». En revanche, plus question pour l'OIF par exemple de plaider la cause du Burundi auprès de la Banque mondiale comme elle le fait souvent. Comme l'Union européenne avant elle, l'OIF espère ainsi susciter une réaction de Bujumbura alors que les caisses de l'Etat sont vides et que les prévisions du FMI pour l'année en cours sont désastreuses.

La Centrafrique en revanche, qui avait été provisoirement exclue des instances de l'OIF après le coup d'Etat de mars 2013, a elle été officiellement réintégrée jeudi suite aux élections présidentielle et législatives qui se sont tenues aux yeux de l'organisation dans « des conditions satisfaisantes ».

RWANDA :

Rwandan Genocide Anniversary: Facts About The Mass Slaughter Between Hutus And Tutsi
By Morgan Winsor @MorganWinsor/ibtimes.com/ On 04/07/16

UPDATE: 10 p.m. EDT -- The White House issued a statement from President Barack Obama on Thursday, the 22nd anniversary of the beginning of the Rwandan genocide.

On the anniversary date, Americans "stand with the people of Rwanda to commemorate the more than 800,000 men, women, and children whose lives were lost during 100 days of unspeakable violence. ... Today, even as the United States grieves with the Rwandan people, we are inspired by the progress Rwanda has made in moving beyond these horrible crimes and in building a more peaceful and prosperous future for its citizens."

Original story:

Rwandans commemorated Thursday the 22nd anniversary of the beginning of the 1994 genocide that exacerbated ethnic tensions and tore the African country apart. The 100-day massacre carried out from April 7 to mid-July was incited by the majority Hutu-led government and left hundreds of thousands of people dead, mostly among the minority Tutsi population. Here are six facts to know about one of the worst genocidal mass slaughters ever recorded.

1. Historically, Hutus and Tutsi were distinguished by their clan and social class, rather than by their ethnicity. Hutus were usually peasant farmers, while Tutsi were cattle owners. European colonialism fueled the divide, and Hutus were ultimately deemed the lesser ethnicity. With the help of Belgium colonizers, Tutsi forced Hutus to work, but denied them higher education and positions in government.
2. Hutu resentment of the Tutsi bubbled to the surface in the form of a social revolution by the 1950s. Hutus, forming the majority of the population, won preindependence elections in 1961, fueling ethnic tensions. When Rwanda gained full independence the following year, the fallen Tutsi elite fled the country to escape the ethnic conflict and violence that accompanied the new Hutu-led government.
3. Rwanda fell into civil war in 1990 after Tutsi rebels formed the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). The warring sides signed the Arusha Accords in 1993 to create a power-sharing government. But the mysterious assassination of Rwanda's President Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundi's President

Cyprien Ntaryamira, who were aboard an airplane that was shot down over the Rwandan capital Kigali on the night of April 6, 1994, triggered a full-scale genocide of the Tutsi population.

4. Within an hour of the downing of the plane, the presidential guard along with members of the Rwandan armed forces and Hutu militia groups set up roadblocks in Kigali to identify Tutsi and even moderate Hutus before brutally slaughtering them with impunity.

5. The mass killings spread like wildfire from the capital to the rest of the landlocked East African nation, with some 800,000 people killed during the next three months. By early July, the Tutsi-led RPF had taken control of much of the country, and more than 2 million people, almost all of them Hutus, fled Rwanda.

6. After declaring victory, the RPF set up a coalition government with Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, as president and Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, as vice president and defense minister. Rwanda adopted a new constitution in 2003, which eliminated references to ethnicity and paved the way for new elections. Kagame was elected to a 10-year term as president. Currently 58 years old, the Rwandan leader will seek another seven years in power in 2017, after the approval of constitutional changes that would effectively allow him to stay in office until 2034.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : Il n'y a pas de tutsis congolais, ce sont des immigrés rwandais !
07/04/2016/KongoTimes!

(...) Surfant sur le syndrome du génocide rwandais qui était encore frais dans l'opinion internationale, les médias ont pris soin de présenter au préalable les « Banyamulenge », dans leur campagne, comme étant des membres d'une ethnie minoritaire des «Rwandophones Tutsis originaires du Zaïre », laquelle serait menacée d'extermination par l'armée de Mobutu et surtout par les réfugiés hutus qui s'étaient déversés en masse dans les camps des réfugiés du Kivu, que le régime de Kigali et les médias présentaient déjà des «génocidaires». Une thèse totalement fautive et dont la supercherie a été largement démontrée par plusieurs enquêtes et études sérieuses[1]. Certains reporters occidentaux n'ont pas hésité de prophétiser le prolongement du « génocide des Tutsis » rwandais au Zaïre. Cette «invention» d'une ethnie «Banyamulenge», qui servira plus tard de prétexte pour couvrir d'autres agressions de la RDC par le Rwanda, est un grand mensonge, une grande distorsion de l'histoire dont Kagame et ses alliés se servent encore aujourd'hui dans leur stratégie du mensonge et du chaos, pour atteindre leurs objectifs cachés. (...)
Les réponses d'HONORE NGBANDA à Azarias Ruberwa et Moïse Katumbi et ses réactions aux sujets brûlants de l'actualité en RDC

- Honoré Ngbanda persiste et signe : Moïse Katumbi a la nationalité zambienne . Il demande à Ruberwa , Kanambe , Moïse Katumbi et Vital Kamerhe de présenter aux congolais leurs arbres généalogiques

- Preuves à l'appui Honoré Ngbanda démontre qu' Il n'y a pas de tutsis congolais mais des « tutsis rwandais immigrés en RDC ». Il met Ruberwa et les collabos congolais au défi de démontrer le contraire.

v Kengo et les autres prétendus opposants du G7, Front citoyen etc... , se livrent à la danse des canards leur seul souci c'est de savoir comment accéder à la mangeoire

- Docteur Mukwege a été récupéré par les mêmes vautours qui combattent la RDC par crainte qu'il ne dévoile leurs crimes en RDC
 - Honoré Ngbanda avait prévenu JP Bemba de ce qui avait été déclenché contre lui bien avant son arrestation
 - Voyage annoncé de Kanambe en France : le commentaire inquiétant de Ségolène Royale doit inciter les congolais à chercher à savoir ce qui se trame à leur insu. Honoré Ngbanda appelle à la mobilisation des résistants congolais de la diaspora
 - Hommage au Père Vincent Machozi , l'APARECO condamne son assassinat
 - Honoré Ngbanda appelle les patriotes à se concentrer sur le terrain afin d'organiser les résistants et surtout la jeunesse en vue du soulèvement populaire
- Extrait du chapitre VI du livre - « Stratégie du chaos et du mensonge : Poker menteur en Afrique des Grands Lacs »

Alors que les projecteurs de l'actualité étaient volontairement braqués sur les conséquences du génocide rwandais avec son lot de plus de deux millions de réfugiés hutus rwandais au Zaïre, les experts de la C.I.A., de la D.I.A. et du Pentagone aidaient laborieusement Kagame et Museveni à la mise en place d'un scénario macabre, qui allait permettre l'invasion du Zaïre. Celle-ci était accomplie par les six armées régulières du Rwanda, de l'Ouganda, du Burundi, de l'Erythrée, du Tchad et de l'Angola, avec l'appui logistique des conseillers militaires américains dans le domaine de la communication et de l'observation par photos satellites. Dans leurs reportages, certains journalistes de la presse internationale ont clairement reconnu que même les médias internationaux ont été tenus très loin du déroulement de cette guerre d'agression de 1996 au Zaïre. Les journalistes étaient regroupés pour ne filmer que ce que les autorités militaires voulaient bien leur permettre de filmer et ceci, parce que la véritable identité des vrais opérateurs de cette guerre ne devait pas être connue du monde, ni des Zaïrois eux-mêmes. Ces derniers devaient continuer de croire à une « guerre de libération » menée par des Zaïrois eux-mêmes. Ainsi, au matin du 19 octobre 1996, tous les médias ont annoncé de concert l'éclatement d'une guerre civile suite à une tension ethnique interne entre les « Banyamulenge » et les autres ethnies zaïroises voisines.

Surfant sur le syndrome du génocide rwandais qui était encore frais dans l'opinion internationale, les médias ont pris soin de présenter au préalable les « Banyamulenge », dans leur campagne, comme étant des membres d'une ethnie minoritaire des « Rwandophones Tutsis originaires du Zaïre », laquelle serait menacée d'extermination par l'armée de Mobutu et surtout par les réfugiés hutus qui s'étaient déversés en masse dans les camps des réfugiés du Kivu, que le régime de Kigali et les médias présentaient déjà des « génocidaires ».

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BREF HISTORIQUE DES IMMIGRATIONS RWANDAISES EN RDC : DES ORIGINES JUSQU'À LA GUERRE D'INVASION EN 1996

La région des Grands Lacs a été explorée par les Européens pour la première fois au cours du XIX^{ème} siècle. Géographiquement parlant, la région du Kivu est composée des provinces du Nord et du Sud Kivu ainsi que du Maniema totalisant ensemble une superficie de 156.703 km², soit un petit peu moins de six fois le Rwanda. La région du Kivu est frontalière avec le Rwanda, le Burundi et la Tanzanie, et cette contiguïté est à la base de nombreux conflits identitaires et de nationalité qui opposent les Congolais aux populations immigrées surtout d'origine rwandaise.

Du point de vue historique, il est nécessaire de déterminer brièvement quel a été le déroulement de différentes vagues d'immigrations des Rwandais en RDC.

LA MIGRATION RWANDAISE EN RDC PENDANT LA COLONISATION

Le vocable « Banyarwanda » désigne indistinctement les Hutus, les Tutsis et les Twa du Rwanda. Ces populations ont une même langue commune à savoir le Kinyarwanda, ainsi que les mêmes références culturelles. Il s'agissait d'un véritable système féodal qui voulait que la classe des Hutus laisse ses terres à disposition de la classe des Tutsis, qui pouvaient ainsi faire paître leurs vaches.

Il existait des relations de clientélisme entre les deux classes, les Tutsis prêtant leurs vaches aux Hutus qui, eux-mêmes, devaient prêter leurs terres en échange. Dans ce système féodal, la vache représentait l'attribut de la richesse.

Les plus riches des Tutsis avaient les troupeaux les plus importants. Au sommet de cette organisation sociale se trouvait le roi appelé « Mwami » doté de pouvoirs divins et incarnant l'unité nationale. Ce système connaissait à ses débuts une certaine souplesse. Le roi s'entourait des chefs de guerre tutsis mais aussi de conseillers hutus qui géraient la répartition de la terre. Au fil du temps, les Tutsis ont instauré le système du servage faisant du Hutu le sujet par excellence du Tutsi ; la domination coloniale belge viendra formaliser et figer ce système social qui finira par être appréhendé comme un clivage ethnique entre les Hutus et les Tutsis.

Entre 1935 et 1955, la Belgique, puissance coloniale au Congo-Belge, ayant en même temps la tutelle sur le Rwanda et le Burundi, avait grandement et officiellement favorisé l'immigration des Rwandais vers le Kivu. Le service administratif de l'époque chargé de cette opération s'appelait la « Mission d'immigration des Banyarwanda » (M.I.B.), il devint plus tard la « Mission d'Immigration de la Population » (M.I.P.)[2]. Durant cette période, l'autorité coloniale belge a implanté des dizaines de milliers de familles rwandaises dans l'actuelle zone de Masisi, dans l'actuelle collectivité de Bwito en zone de Rutshuru, dans le groupement Buzi-Ziralo en zone de Kelehe et à Moba dans le Katanga. D'autres contrées de l'Est du Congo-Zaïre telles que Baraka et Marungu avaient été préparées à en accueillir d'autres[3].

D'autre part, le facteur ayant considérablement aussi favorisé cette immigration des Rwandais avait été le recrutement de la main d'œuvre par l'autorité coloniale depuis 1926, pour le compte des grandes entreprises minières du Katanga comme l'Union Minière du Haut-Katanga (UMHK) et du Kivu, principalement à Kalima et à Kamituga. Engagés très souvent sous contrat, ces travailleurs rwandais n'avaient pas renoncé à leur nationalité ni à leurs biens restés au Rwanda. Au début de la colonisation belge, l'unité de base de la colonisation, dont la tendance générale était la politique de la décentralisation, fut la chefferie. Chaque groupe ethnique, si petit fût-il, se voyait attribuer une chefferie ou un secteur, sinon alors un groupement. Les territoires administratifs étaient ainsi constitués, si possible, dans les limites de la chefferie, fief des chefs coutumiers.

La préoccupation de regrouper les « unités ethniques » dans leurs entités géographiques propres a conduit à une tel morcellement que la Province Orientale, par exemple, qui comprenait l'actuelle Province Orientale (Haut-Congo) et l'ancien Kivu, comprenait jusqu'à 2500 chefferies et

Groupements[4].

Malgré ce morcellement extrême, aucune trace des Banyarwanda (Hutu, Tutsi ou «Banyamulenge») n'est repérée sur les cartes administratives ou ethnographiques du Congo, de 1910 à 1960. Et pourtant, toutes les petites tribus sont répertoriées et signalées dans tous les documents administratifs à l'époque de la colonisation belge.

La création d'une chefferie pour les Banyarwanda n'est intervenue qu'après l'importation de la main d'œuvre abondante que les missionnaires de Rutshuru amenaient avec eux du Rwanda voisin. Cette réalité historique a été reconnue et admise par Monseigneur Faustin Ngabu, alors président de l'Episcopat du Congo et évêque du diocèse de Goma, dans sa lettre pastorale pascale du 11 avril 1998. Dans cette lettre, il disait que : «Chez nous, les principales tribus ou communautés socio-politiques s'appellent, je cite par ordre alphabétique :Bahavu, Bahunde, Banande, Banyanga, Barega, Bashi, Batembo. Les Banyarwanda (Hutus et Tutsis), du moins ceux qui l'ont été, ceux qui ne veulent plus de ce titre et ceux qui se reconnaissent encore sous ce vocable, voudront bien comprendre que, dans leur cas, la notion de « tribu » qu'ils se donnent lorsqu'ils se déclarent Hutu et Tutsi ne peut pas être comprise dans le même sens que celle des autres communautés citées ci-haut. En effet, contrairement à celle des Hutus et Tutsis, les communautés Havu, Hunde, Nande, Nyanga et tembo ont chacune leur « Mwami » et leur « Balu » ou « Vakama », qui sont respectivement leurs chefs d'Etats et cadres dirigeants dans le contexte précolonial. Ces communautés ont leurs valeurs traditionnelles qui sont fondées sur leurs langues, leurs territoires, leurs coutumes et leurs propres organisations familiales, matrimoniales, culturelles, économiques, politiques et religieuses. Pour le cas des Hutus et des Tutsis, après 23 ans déjà passés dans ce diocèse, je ne suis pas capable d'en dire autant ; comment chacun de ces deux groupes Hutu et Tutsi constitue-t-il une tribu ? A eux de le comprendre et d'en convaincre les autres.»[5]

A partir de 1920, l'administration coloniale a commencé à créer des «chefferies atypiques» pour regrouper les populations rwandophones qui immigraient au Congo. Il s'agit de la chefferie de Bwisha (Sud de Rutshuru), la chefferie de l'enclave de Gishari (Masisi) et la chefferie Hunde de Bukulu (au Nord de Goma)[6].

LE CAS PARTICULIER DE LA CHEFFERIE DE BWISA (AU SUD DE RUTSHURU)

Cette chefferie était formée de sept groupements, à savoir Jomba, Busanza, Binza, Bweza, Bukoma, Gisari et Rugari. Monseigneur P. Kanyamachumbi, lui-même d'origine rwandaise, affirme qu'«avant et après le roi Kigeri IV Rwabugiri (ndlr : ce roi, fils et successeur de mwami Mutare II Rwoyera, régna de 1860 environ à 1895), les autres rois du Rwanda n'ont jamais administré cette terre et leur autorité ne s'y est jamais exercée»[7].

Après la relégation du chef Hunde Bakimiro, le colonisateur belge nomma en juin 1919, le tout le tout premier chef rwandophone hutu, à sa place et en violation flagrante des pratiques traditionnelles jusque-là en vigueur. Ce chef s'appelait mwami Daniel Ndeze Rugabo II. Celui-ci était officiellement investi, le 1er janvier 1920, par le commissaire de district du Kivu, monsieur Ernest Le Docte.

LE CAS DE LA CHEFFERIE DE «L'ENCLAVE DE GISHARI» AU MASISI

L'administration coloniale belge acheta de force la terre de cette enclave aux chefs Bahunde en 1939, pour y installer les immigrants rwandophones. Progressivement, les migrants rwandophones devenus plus nombreux avaient tenté, cinq ans plus tard, d'étendre le territoire sous leur contrôle, provoquant une vive réaction des chefs coutumiers autochtones.

Ainsi en 1957, le pouvoir colonial supprima cette chefferie et les Hunde récupérèrent leur terre de

Gishari et obtinrent sa réintégration dans la chefferie hunde de Kishali. Cette enclave de Gishari, entité créée de toutes pièces par le colonisateur belge, n'aura donc duré que dix-sept ans.
LE CAS DE LA CHEFFERIE HUNDE DE BUKUMU, AU NORD DE GOMA

Cette entité traditionnellement hunde connut une population très mélangée des tribus tutsi et hutu sur le territoire de la Colonie, mais ces dernières sont plutôt indiquées au Rwanda-Urundi, territoire sous-mandat belge[8]. Dans ce même ordre d'idée, l'archiviste belge E.J. Vandewoode avait enfoncé le clou en publiant en 1939 les documents relatifs à l'ancien Kivu, de 1870 à 1918, dans lesquels il a listé les tribus suivantes du district du Kivu : Baholoholo, Balembe, Bagoma, Babwari, Babove, Babembe, Bavira, Bafuliru, Bashi, Bahavu, Wanianga, Bashu, Baswagha et Baamba. Aucune mention n'est faite des tribus Hutu et Tutsi[9]. Et pourtant, des tribus nilotiques comme des Alur, les Kakwa et les Hima sont clairement indiquées comme étant des tribus établies au Congo-Belge.

SUPERCHERIE RWANDAISE DEPUIS L'INDEPENDANCE DE LA RDC : LES
«BANYAMULENGE» ou «TUTSIS CONGOLAIS» ?

Pour promouvoir l'acquisition frauduleuse de la nationalité congolaise, les Tutsis rwandais établi de manière massive et systématique dans le Kivu, ont forgé des ethnonymes et des gentilés jusque-là inconnus de la nomenclature des tribus autochtones répertoriées en RDC après l'accord germano-belge de 1910, qui fixait définitivement notre frontière orientale pendant toute la période coloniale.

Un vocable nouveau apparaît dans le langage administratif de l'état-civil en RDC : les « Banyamulenge », qui signifient les «gens de Mulenge». C'est une communauté des Tutsis qui prétendent constituer une tribu établie sur les hauteurs des monts Mitumba et principalement à Mulenge sur les hauts plateaux qui surplombent Uvira. Pour beaucoup de Congolais se disant « authentiques» de part leur origine ancestrale, les «Banyamulenge» ; dont la langue maternelle est le kinyarwanda, aujourd'hui repartis entre les zones de Fizi, Uvira et Mwenga au Sud-Kivu, sont des étrangers, en l'occurrence des Tutsis récemment émigrés du Rwanda, et par conséquent ne peuvent sous aucun prétexte se prévaloir de la citoyenneté congolaise d'origine de part leur origine étrangère[10]. James Kabarebe, actuel ministre de la Défense rwandais, qui fut pendant un temps chef d'état-major de l'armée congolaise, a lui-même reconnu, lors d'une allocution à l'Université Libre de Kigali que « Banyamulenge n'existe pas. Les prétendus Banyamulenge sont, en réalité, des Rwandais, car dit-il, « ils parlent le kinyarwanda et ont la culture rwandaise.»[11]

Et quand on pose la question à l'ex-premier ministre rwandais, M. Fausrin Twagiramungu, ce qu'il pense de la problématique des « Banyamulenge », sa réponse est implacable : «C'est quoi ça Banyamulenge ? Puis que moi j'ai été à Mulenge quand j'étais jeune. On ne peut pas prendre les gens d'un village et les transformer en ethnie. Le problème de la nationalité peut exister, ça, je ne le nie pas. Mais dire que tous les Tutsis qui sont dans le Nord et Sud-Kivu prennent l'identité des « Banyamulenge » comme je le vois dans la presse américaine, même belge et française, franchement, c'est extraordinaire. On va prendre une portion, une petite portion, vous dis-je, tout près de Bujumbura et on dit : «Bon voilà, les Banyamulenge» ; Mais c'est quoi cette histoire des Banyamulenge » ? Et d'ajouter : « Je pense qu'on ne devrait pas avoir une telle gourmandise, nous devons nous contenter de notre petit territoire, le Rwanda. Monsieur Kagame croit que le Rwanda n'est pas suffisant, souvent il dit en anglais «it's like a district of Uganda (c'est comme une circonscription de l'Ouganda), donc, ce n'est pas suffisant pour lui. Et on doit aller chercher les frontières qui existaient en 1885 lorsque la conférence de Berlin a été organisée[12] ! Qu'est ce cela veut dire ? Ceci veut dire que nous devons engager une bataille contre le Congo. (...) Ce qu'ils veulent, c'est écraser les Congolais, écraser le pouvoir congolais, exploiter le Congo tant que le Congo, d'après ce qu'ils disent, reste inorganisé» ...[13]

Pendant la guerre au Rwanda, des milliers de « Banyamulenge » passèrent au Rwanda pour appuyer

les Tutsis du FPR et les aider à chasser les Hutus du gouvernement. Ils forcèrent de nombreux Hutus à fuir et à se réfugier à leur tour au Congo. La présence des millions de Hutus chassés du Rwanda aux côtés des « Banyamulenge », ces Tutsis rwandais résidant dans le Kivu, allait inévitablement provoquer une très vive tension. La même année, le gouvernement rwandais du président Paul Kagame utilisa de la citoyenneté des « Banyamulenge » pour revendiquer l'appartenance historique d'une partie du Kivu au Rwanda. L'ancienne tension entre les « Banyamulenge » et les autres tribus bantoues, tension due justement à leurs ambitions hégémoniques de plus en plus ouvertes et par moment violentes, combinée à l'argument sécuritaire brandit par le régime de Kigali, offrit au Rwanda, à l'Ouganda et aux Etats-Unis le cadre rêvé et les circonstances idéales pour lancer, en octobre 1996, la grande guerre d'invasion du Zaïre pour chasser Mobutu du pouvoir et occuper l'Est du pays. Ce fut donc le début de l'embrasement d'un pays et de toute la région de Grands lacs. (...)

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[1][1] Ngebanda, Honoré, Crimes organisés en Afrique centrale. Révélations sur les réseaux rwandais et occidentaux, Paris, Edition Dubois, 2004, pp 283-299 ; Patrick Mbeko, Le Canada dans les guerres en Afrique centrale : génocides et pillages des ressources minières par le Rwanda interposé. Le Nègre Editeur, 2012, pp. 429-471.

[2][2] Spitaels, R., « Transplantation des Banyarwanda dans le Nord-Kivu », in Problème d'Afrique Centrale, n°20, 1953, pp 110

[3] Ndeshio Rurihose, O., La nationalité de la population zaïroise d'expression kinyarwanda au regard de la loi du 29 juin 1981, coll. C.E.R.I.A., Editions Electronique ASYST, Kinshasa, juin 1992, p 10

[4] De Saint Moulin L. ; « Mouvements récents de population dans la zone de peuplement dense de l'Est du Kivu », in Etudes d'Histoires africaines, Kinshasa, 1975

[5] Mgr Ngabu Faustin, Lettre pastorale du 11 avril 1998, inédit, Goma

[6] <http://fremonsa.blogspot.nl/2013/10/01/archive.html>

[7] Mgr Kanyamachumbi, P., Les populations du Kivu et la loi sur la nationalité, Editions Select, 1993, p. 17 et 137.

[8] Moeller de Laddersous, Les grandes Lignes ... de Bantou dans la Province Orientale du Congo-Belge, Institut Royal Belge, Bruxelles, 1936, p. 91

[9] Vandewoode, E.J., Document relatif à l'ancien Kivu, 1870-1918, Inédit ; Bruxelles, 1939, pp17-21

[10] Toutes les tribus congolaises portent le nom de la langue parlée par leurs habitants. Par contre, les populations « rwandophones », par exemple les « Banyamilenge », parlent le kinyarwanda qui n'est pas éponyme d'une tribu ni d'une langue congolaise.

[11] Kibel'Bel Oka, Les coulisses n°1540 cité in Mbavu Muhindo, 2005, p. 260.

[12] La « Conférence de Berlin » marqua l'organisation et la collaboration européenne pour le partage et la division de l'Afrique. Et puis, il n'existe aucun document ni fait historique confirmant que le territoire rwandais allait au-delà des frontières actuelles. Ainsi, la Charte de l'Union Africaine

ne reconnaît que seules les frontières héritées de la colonisation.

[13] Interview de M Ntwagiramungu qu'on peut trouver sur le lien

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQiWJia1ic>

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Élections - RD Congo - Vital Kamerhe : "Nous allons bousculer le pouvoir de Kabila"

Le Point Afrique/le 08/04/2016

INTERVIEW. Leader de l'opposition, Vital Kamerhe s'exprime sur le climat politique actuel, mais aussi sur la pression que l'opposition entend mettre sur les autorités.

Pas question, pour Vital Kamerhe, de déclarer sa candidature à la prochaine élection présidentielle. Du moins pour l'instant. Mais à quelques mois de cette échéance attendue tant à l'intérieur du pays que par la communauté internationale, la crise politique semble avoir atteint son paroxysme. D'un côté, un pouvoir central qui s'isole et s'enferme dans une volonté de dialogue mais où la répression contre les leaders de la société civile est tout de même de mise. De l'autre côté, l'opposition un temps en désordre a obtenu quelques garanties. En 2015 d'abord, lorsqu'elle a fait reculer le gouvernement sur le projet de modification de la loi électorale, grâce à des manifestations monstres. Il était prévu que la tenue des prochaines élections soit liée à l'organisation d'un recensement de la population. Opération qui pouvait prendre de longues années, et donc induire sur la date fixée par la Constitution. Désormais, les opposants congolais constitués dans le Mouvement citoyen 2016 et rejoints par le puissant et influent ancien gouverneur du Katanga, Moïse Katumbi, veulent maintenir ce niveau de pression. Vital Kamerhe, ex-collaborateur de Joseph Kabila, ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale, est devenu en 2010 un farouche opposant à un système qu'il juge despotique. À son crédit, une candidature à l'élection présidentielle en 2011 où il est arrivé en troisième position (7,74 %), un parti politique, L'Union pour la nation congolaise (UNC), bien installé dans le paysage politique. Aujourd'hui sans être candidat, il s'est confié au Point Afrique sur le climat politique, les relations de l'opposition, et son rêve de voir la RD Congo jouer un rôle de leadership dans le développement du continent africain.

Le Point Afrique : Le G7 (alliance de sept partis politiques d'opposition) a choisi Moïse Katumbi comme candidat pour 2016, comment réagissez-vous ?

Vital Kamerhe : Je respecte leur choix, c'est un groupement politique auquel je n'appartiens pas. Ils ont choisi leur candidat, mais je considère qu'ils l'ont fait trop tôt. Ce n'est pas ce dont nous avons convenu. On s'était mis d'accord pour unir toutes nos forces pour bousculer celui qui est au pouvoir (Joseph Kabila, NDLR) parce que nous connaissons ses intentions. Nous devons dans un premier temps obtenir des garanties sur le déblocage du processus électoral, connaître le calendrier, et surtout être certains qu'il y aura des élections à la date prévue par la Constitution. C'est seulement après cette étape que nous devons trouver des critères internes au Front citoyen pour proposer une candidature unique. Parce qu'il faut une candidature unique, c'est une élection à un seul tour.

C'est une trahison de votre accord ?

Non. Je considère que c'est leur droit. Et l'intéressé a répondu attendre le bon moment. Nous avons, Moïse et moi, de très bonnes relations, et je l'ai conseillé d'attendre avant de déclarer sa candidature, et je trouve qu'il a été responsable en respectant notre entente.

Aujourd'hui, le climat politique est très tendu à Kinshasa...

Nous sommes à huit mois de la fin du deuxième mandat du président Kabila. C'est aussi l'année d'un grand défi pour le peuple congolais qui voudrait voter pour l'alternance pacifique du pouvoir le 25 novembre 2016. Nous sommes dans une zone de turbulence où les jeunes, les femmes, l'opposition politique et toute la population sont debout pour arracher la démocratie à travers l'organisation des élections libres et transparentes sans répression.

Mais le président Kabila n'a jamais dit qu'il n'y aurait pas d'élection, et il ne s'est pas déclaré candidat non plus, qu'est-ce qui justifie vos craintes ?

Vous savez, il y a des actes qui dépassent la parole. Quand le président bloque la Commission électorale nationale, en ne lui octroyant pas les moyens financiers pour préparer les différentes étapes de l'élection présidentielle, c'est une manière de dire qu'il ne veut pas qu'il y ait d'élection. Quand le porte-parole du gouvernement affirme que le ciel ne tombera pas sur la RDC si des élections n'ont pas lieu, ça veut tout dire. Mais nous sommes là, nous, les membres de la dynamique de l'opposition, le Groupement du G7, la société civile, dans le Front citoyen que nous avons créé à Dakar sur l'île de Gorée, dans l'unité, nous allons bousculer le pouvoir et obtenir l'alternance à la tête du pays. D'une chose l'une, s'il n'y a pas d'argent pour organiser les élections, on le fait savoir à nos partenaires internationaux pour qu'ils nous accompagnent. Je rappelle que l'Union européenne, les États-Unis, la France, le Royaume-Uni ont dit que si le processus est transparent, c'est-à-dire que le président Kabila ne touche pas à la Constitution, si le président Kabila ne pratique pas la répression aux opposants et contre la société civile, la communauté donnera cet argent. Conclusion : s'ils ne disent rien, c'est qu'ils ne veulent pas.

Quel est l'état du pays aujourd'hui ?

Il y a la croissance et les fruits de cette croissance. C'est un pays paradoxal où 99 % de la population vit avec moins d'un dollar par jour, mais où l'on trouve quelques milliardaires, ce qui veut dire que l'argent reste et circule entre les mains de certaines personnes, d'une certaine classe, voire de quelques dirigeants au sommet de l'État. On nous annonce une croissance de presque 6 %, soit autant que la Chine, et en même temps, on dit qu'il n'y a pas d'argent pour organiser les élections. Moi, j'en déduis qu'il y a eu de l'argent détourné, et il faut revoir les conditions dans lesquelles sont négociés nos contrats avec l'extérieur, qui tire bénéfice de tout cela. Mais dans tous les cas, les chiffres de la croissance n'ont aucune incidence sur le développement du pays.

Quelles solutions pour booster votre pays ?

La RDC est pour l'instant le trou noir de l'Afrique. Notre communauté n'avance pas. Nous avons neuf voisins avec lesquels nous formons une communauté de 280 millions d'habitants. Dans notre vision : nous imaginons l'axe Johannesburg-Kinshasa, Kinshasa-Lagos et, une fois connectée au Maghreb, l'Afrique pourra relever le défi de devenir la locomotive du monde. Sur le plan stratégique, on sait que Johannesburg a besoin d'électricité, nous avons Inga, ils ont aussi des technologies et une forte population, le Nigeria pas très loin est devenu la première puissance d'Afrique, j'en déduis donc que c'est la République démocratique du Congo qui freine cet ensemble. Créons des routes qui traversent le pays du Nord au Sud et de l'Est à l'Ouest avec l'océan Indien et l'océan Atlantique qui viennent se croiser à Cap Town. L'Afrique, c'est dix fois l'Europe, 4 fois les États-Unis, c'est 60 % des terres arables du monde capables de nourrir les 9 milliards de population à venir, nous sommes à la frontière de l'économie mondiale. Il faut multiplier les connexions avec toutes les communautés d'Afrique.

Le terrorisme et l'insécurité menacent à vos frontières, comment entrevoyez-vous ces défis ?

Nous devons considérer que ce sont des défis mondiaux, le terrorisme ne vient pas d'Afrique. Les

bombardements en Irak, en Afghanistan ou en Libye ont créé des monstres transfrontaliers, agissant en Afrique, nous sommes en train de payer pour les autres, par conséquent nous devons aborder ces questions avec le monde entier. En ce qui concerne la RDC, il a été démontré que des rébellions soutenues par des pays voisins et par certaines grandes puissances étrangères agissent depuis plus de vingt ans pour détruire notre pays. Il y a les FDLR du Rwanda, les ADF venus d'Ouganda, ou encore le FNL du Burundi, sans compter les groupes armés propres au Congo. La solution est bien sûr le renforcement de la mission de la Monusco, la plus grande mission des Nations-Unies. La crainte est la somalisation de la RDC, c'est pourquoi nous voulons la prévention. Aujourd'hui, la RDC, à l'Est il y a les shebabs, qui frappent en Ouganda, à l'Ouest vous avez Boko Haram, imaginez-vous que ces groupes prennent possession de la forêt, personne ne pourra les poursuivre, même pas les drones américains, donc il faut que la communauté internationale agisse maintenant. Aujourd'hui, les jeunes Africains prennent la mer pour la clandestinité, c'est parce qu'ils sont dans le désarroi après des siècles de colonisation où on a vu toutes les richesses de l'Afrique partir, ils n'ont plus d'espoir et se disent qu'ils seront heureux ailleurs, ils se sentent condamnés. Et vu que l'Afrique, c'est 54 pays qui vivent en vase clos, ils vont plus loin en Europe, etc. Il faut faire sauter les 166 frontières du continent africain, ou du moins que les grandes régions interagissent. Il ne serait pas incongru que la RDC adhère à la communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est par exemple.

Quelles seraient vos priorités de candidat à la présidentielle ?

Dix minerais du Congo valent vingt-quatre mille milliards de dollars, potentiellement plus riche que les États-Unis, que l'Arabie saoudite mais nous sommes les derniers de l'humanité. Tout est donc prioritaire. La refonte de l'armée, mettre fin aux exactions, au viol des femmes, l'insécurité, créer une police professionnelle, une justice équitable, une administration neutre et efficace, une diplomatie gagnant-gagnant. Deux grands secteurs seront au cœur de mes préoccupations : l'agriculture et le développement durable. Avec trois cibles : les jeunes, les femmes et les paysans.

Toutes ces promesses alors que le pays n'attire plus les investisseurs...

Il faut réduire le temps de création d'entreprise, le ramener à 72 heures par exemple. Il faut supprimer toutes les taxes inutiles, il y en a plus d'une centaine. Il en faut une seule à travers un guichet unique, mais il faut aussi que la justice puisse protéger les investisseurs nationaux et étrangers. Les nationaux sont vraiment prioritaires, car il faut constituer une classe moyenne qui servirait de témoin pour le pays, si les nationaux prospèrent, nous voulons des Dangote chez nous, comme au Nigeria, les investisseurs étrangers viendront par la suite.

UGANDA :

Feature: Kenyan refugees in Uganda face uncertainty as ICC dismisses violence case
Apr 08,2016/Xinhua

by Ronald Ssekandi

KIRYANDONGO, Uganda, April 7 (Xinhua) -- Fifty year old Teresia Njeri, a Kenyan refugee in Uganda hurriedly prepares a meal for her husband, Joseph Githu, who is resting under a mango tree just besides their mud and wattle hut.

In the smoky kitchen, Njeri ponders about the happenings back home especially after the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Tuesday terminated a case against Kenya's Deputy President

William Ruto and journalist Joshua arap Sang.

The Court said there was not enough evidence pinning Ruto and Sang as actively participating in the 2008 Kenyan post-election violence that left over 1,000 people dead, thousands homeless and others fleeing to neighboring Uganda.

The ICC acquittal brought tears to Njeri as she wondered who is to answer for lives of Kenyans who were killed in the election violence that turned tribal.

It is the violence that forced Njeri and over 5,000 others to flee to Uganda. They were settled at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in mid-western Uganda.

Although the Ugandan government is now asking the Kenyan refugees to return home, arguing that the conditions there are now favorable, Njeri vows she will stay in Uganda.

She is among over 500 other Kenyan refugees who are also still at the Settlement fearing to go back home.

As Njeri prepares to serve food, her husband Githu joins into the conversation about the political situation back home.

He argued that the tribal question which has dogged Kenya for decades has to be answered if the persistent ethnic clashes are to be stopped.

"Our leaders are not finding a concrete solution to the problem. They should diagnose the problem looking at the root causes," he said.

He said he has previously fled tribal clashes in his home country. The 1992 tribal clashes, in which over 2,000 people are reported to have died in the western region, forced Githu to flee to neighboring Tanzania, where he lived for years.

Years after, Githu returned home. When the 2007/8 clashes played out, memories of the 1992 clashes came back, forcing him to flee to Uganda.

Githu, just like the wife, vows never to return to Kenya arguing that the tribal sentiments and land wrangles there are still strong.

Githu and Njeri live in deplorable conditions, a life of literally begging. They like other Kenyan refugees were struck off the list of people receiving food aid from the UN World Food Program.

The Ugandan government has also cut the land acreage it allotted them when they had just been resettled as refugees.

Out of the two acres the Ugandan government had given them, they now have less than an acre. It is this land which they farm in order to get food.

Githu has a son at Makerere University, Uganda's top university. He however can barely pay the tuition fees. He relies on handouts from well-wishers to pay the fees.

Njeri argues that she was one of the Kenyan refugees who had voluntarily returned home after Kenya's Truth and Reconciliation Committee visited the refugees in Uganda promising that they would be compensated if they returned home.

Njeri said she had hoped that the money would be used to pay the university tuition fees for her son. She said when the money was not forthcoming she decided to move back to Uganda to join her husband.

Githu said many Kenyan refugees who decided to go back home have returned to the settlement although now they lost their refugee status.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South African Citrus Growers Spend \$66 Million on Disease Curbs

April 8, 2016 /bloomberg.com

South Africa's citrus industry is spending more than 1 billion rand (\$66 million) annually to control black-spot disease in fruit from the country, according to the main industry lobby.

Farmers have spent that amount in each of the past three years to pay for additional spraying, inspections, sanitation, sampling and testing, Deon Joubert, the South African Citrus Growers' Association's European Union envoy, said by mobile phone on Thursday.

"It's costing us a lot of money -- our total estimate is over 1 billion rand of additional control costs," Joubert said. "We can comply, but it is an unfair compliance."

South Africa is trying to control incidents of black spot, caused by the fungus *guignardia citricarpa* Kiely, which results in leaf spotting and fruit blemishes, with lemons particularly susceptible. The European Food Safety Authority has said the fungus can survive transport and storage, and could establish itself in EU citrus-fruit production areas. The region, which buys about 43 percent of South Africa's citrus exports, refused entry to some of the nation's produce in 2014 after there were 28 interceptions of fruit with the disease in that year.

"We've had the success, we've had the obvious excellent results from the industry doing it, but it's costing a lot of money," Joubert said. "The industry has always said it's not a sustainable thing, you can't do this long-term."

South Africa has withdrawn exports of organic lemons to the EU for 2016 after four of the total 15 interceptions of the disease were found in the fruit last year, the growers' association said Thursday. The Eastern Cape province is the nation's biggest producer of lemons, accounting for 50 percent of total output, the group said.

South Africa vies with Egypt to be the world's largest exporter of oranges, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the local industry employs an estimated 100,000 people. Exports account for 80 percent of the industry's 9.4 billion rand in annual revenue. The nation last year suffered its lowest rainfall since records began in 1904, cutting output of crops such as grains, wine grapes and peanuts.

"On the edge of Europe, refugees are trapped with no light at the end of the tunnel. A setup that is so flawed, rushed and ill-prepared is ripe for mistakes, trampling the rights and well-being of some of the most vulnerable people," Gauri van Gulik, AI's deputy director for Europe, said in a statement.

She added that the 4,200 people held in closed centers on the two Greek islands were uncertain about their futures after fleeing from their homes.

"People detained on Lesbos and Chios have virtually no access to legal aid, limited access to services and support, and hardly any information about their current status or possible fate," van Gulik said. "The fear and desperation are palpable."

Some 150 migrants broke out of a camp on the island of Samos on Thursday but were later convinced to return, the government source said. Migrants on Greek islands have also begun a hunger strike to prevent their expulsion and called for borders to Balkan nations to be reopened.

Some 1 million people sought refuge in Europe last year, mainly fleeing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa.

Associated British Foods snaps up South African sugar firm

8 April 2016/telegraph.co.uk

Associated British Foods is shelling out £262m to buy Africa's largest sugar company, Illovo Sugar.

The British food manufacturer and clothing retailer has owned a majority stake in the business since 2006, but a decade on has decided to take full ownership.

The deal values the company at 11.5bn rand (£537m), a premium of 21.5pc to its current Johannesburg Stock exchange market valuation of 9.5bn rand.

ABF plans to pay the purchase price entirely in cash.

The British buyer is banking on sustained economic growth in Africa driving rising consumption of products including sugar - although the price of the sweet commodity has crashed in recent months.

Illovo occupies a "leading market position" in South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland, ABF's market announcement said, and has "a strong presence" in Mozambique and Tanzania.

"Africa is a growth market for sugar, driven by increasing populations and rising incomes," ABF said.

"Illovo is well positioned to capitalise on this growth although high global sugar stocks, low world sugar prices and forthcoming changes to the EU sugar regime have created a challenging trading environment. AB Sugar has a strong track record of commercial development and delivering performance improvement programmes and believes that full ownership will accelerate Illovo's progress in these areas."

The acquisition comes at a time when ABF is struggling with slowing sales at its clothing brand Primark, meaning the sugar deal could help to further diversify its earnings.

Africa: Activists Across Africa Call for Zuma's Resignation

8 April 2016/The Daily Vox (Johannesburg)

By The Daily Vox Team

On Friday, activists across Africa who call themselves "Africa's future" published an open letter to South African President Jacob Zuma. They believe he no longer has moral authority and are calling for him to resign.

Dear Mr. Jacob G. Zuma,

There is a Nigerian proverb that says, "In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the foolish build dams". Every day since the Public Protector exposed you, the Constitutional Court ruled against you, and Parliament tried to impeach you, the dam is swelling and the bridges between the citizens and you look shaky and inaccessible. Can this letter be a bridge?

We, the people of many African countries - Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa - are the sons and daughters of this African soil. We are young activists leading causes in our own spaces, playing our part to make Africa great again. We are in civil society, public service, private firms, and community organisations. We are writing this letter because we care. Because we know that you care.

You have put your life on the line for South Africa many times before. You are a product of our continent's oldest living liberation movement. You contributed towards the elimination of a crime against humanity - apartheid. You truly know what bad governance is all about. You lived and suffered through it. You fought against it. And yet here you are now, no doubt at a complex crossroads in your personal, professional, political and spiritual life. You are being asked by friends, foes, insiders and outsiders, to step aside, to excuse yourself from the role of president, for the sake of a greater good.

What is this greater good, you might rightfully ask?

The greater good is moral authority. You no longer have it. But you are not the only one. All 233 MPs that voted against your impeachment in Parliament on 5 April, 2016, have also lost their moral authority. This does not mean that the 133 who voted to remove you have any greater moral authority; far from it, many of them barely resemble the type of leadership we imagine for Africa. But even compromised messengers sometimes arrive with valuable messages: you are not the leader we deserve. We deserve better.

But despite the petty politics of Parliament, our call for your resignation or removal goes beyond what a few MPs think. We are urgently seeking visionary, ethical and imaginative leadership across Africa. Who will fill these vacancies? For too long as Africans we have been made to believe that we are inferior. As a consequence, we have come to accept mediocre leaders in Africa despite them insidiously eroding the structures of accountability that keep government in check. Our dreams of a liberated Africa then morph into our worst nightmares. Many of us are already living in these nightmares, born too late to prevent the carnage of a free, fair and functional society. It is not too late for South Africa.

South Africa has a heritage of leadership that listens to its people. South Africa does not have presidents for life, like some of us back home. Nelson Mandela voluntarily stepped aside; Thabo Mbeki did not resist being recalled; Kgalema Motlanthe accepted his temporary role. We ask you now to dig deep within your soul, rise above your denial and patronage network, and surprise us by continuing this robust tradition of leaders who know when to rise up and step down.

We, the young people of Africa, will be the authors of your history and legacy. Do not be the first South African president who let power trump the people. Your resignation will show the rest of Africa that South Africa can still provide guidance and wisdom, that leaders do make mistakes, but

they own up to them and bear the consequences. Your resignation will, ironically, be a lasting legacy for young people like us, who will in years to come cite the case of Jacob Zuma as a man who took action to prevent permanent damage to Africa's integrity. This is the greatest service you can pay to your country and continent right now.

Step aside and show us that, in the end, you were capable of the strength of character that we are all waiting for.

Sincerely,

Africa's future

07 April 2016

Signed in our personal capacity:

1. Suntosh R Pillay, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mandela Rhodes Community, South Africa
2. Jake Okechukwu Effoduh, Assistant Director of the Council on African Security and Development (CASADE), Nigeria
3. Dzikamai Francis Bere, Transitional Justice Researcher, Zimbabwe
4. Wawira Njiru, Founder and Executive Director of Food for Education, Kenya
5. Chris Nkwatsibwe, Youth Activist and Founder of the Young Leaders Think-Thank, Uganda
6. Nkosikhona Swartbooi, Chairperson of the Social Justice Coalition, South Africa
7. Emmanuel Ametepey, Founder and Executive Director of Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), Ghana
8. Alhassan Ziblim, Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Development and Policy Advocacy (CEDEPA), Ghana
9. Astrid R.N. Haas, Economist, Uganda
10. Kennedy Mugume, Environmental activist at Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation (BAPENECO), Uganda
11. Edwin Kibui Rwigi, Project Manager at Fahamu Networks for Social Justice, Kenya
12. Marianne Akumu, Transitional justice coordinator, Uganda
13. Telana Halley-Starkey, State Law Advisor, South Africa

Cry the beloved South Africa

Thu 07 Apr 2016/mmegi.bw

One might ask why we are poking our noses into the affairs of foreign countries. The answer is simple. We are members of a global village and nobody is an island. What happens in another

country affects other countries, especially neighbouring ones. Take the issue of Zimbabwean illegal immigrants in Botswana.

For years, Botswana has been spending millions of Pulas deporting the poor Zimbabweans back to their country. That is thanks to poor leadership in that jewel of a country called Zimbabwe.

Because of ill-advised and self-serving leadership of Robert Mugabe, Botswana is paying the big price. Why? Because we are neighbours. When a neighbour is in need others should come to its rescue. Botswana has been playing that role for many decades. We took care of liberation movements from neighbouring countries such as Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

By then we were a poor country that could not match the financial and military might of the racist regimes in Pretoria, Salisbury and Windhoek. But we followed a principled path and supported liberation movements that set up bases in our country. We paid the ultimate price for being principled. Some of our people lost their lives fighting side-by-side with the liberation combatants. Our economy was affected by the liberation struggles in those neighbouring countries.

That is why we join the debate in South Africa calling for the removal of President Jacob Zuma because we have vested interests. It is not only in the interest of our big brother in the south that Zuma must go, but also that of Africa, Botswana in particular. Botswana is South Africa's biggest trading partner in Africa. This land-locked country depends entirely on South Africa. It is often said when South Africa sneezes Botswana catches flu. We fervently hope the flu does not turn malignant and condemn this country to the dogs.

Following the critical Constitutional Court judgement about Zuma's Nkandla homestead last week, we had hoped the president will do the obvious and resign. To his credit Zuma has apologised for bad judgement, but is that enough?

That country's Constitutional Court judgement that ruled that he failed to uphold, defend and respect the Constitution was enough to force him to resign, but not Zuma. His party has not acted on the damning judgement about their leader. Instead, Zuma and the top six in the leadership of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) decided to debate the Constitutional Court judgement.

It is unfortunate that the court cannot respond to the assault from the ruling party. There is hope because ANC stalwarts such as Trevor Manuel, Ahmed Kathrada and former generals of Umkhonto we Sizwe have joined opposition calls for Zuma to resign.

It is very unfortunate that when the opposition tabled a motion to impeach Zuma, the ANC used its majority to defeat the motion. Now it is for the masses to take the battle to the corrupt man from Nkandla. Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Govan Mbeki's country deserves better. Africa also deserves a corrupt free South Africa.

Today's thought

"It's a humble message that says, 'Mr President please listen to the people and resign'. That voice is very strong... it's the voice of the people who recognise the strength of the constitution and value the decision of the Constitutional Court."

– Trevor Manuel

TANZANIA :

Solo Oil raises £0.8 million for Tanzania investment

DAILY NEWS Reporter and Agencies/08 April 2016

THE Kiliwani North field has just achieved 'first gas' production, and the share placing will allow Solo Oil to increase its interest in what is becoming an increasingly important asset for the company.

Solo Oil told investors it has raised £800,000 through the issue of new shares, and the cash will support investments in Tanzania. Specifically, the junior oil and gas company said the money would allow it to bring forward an increase in interest in the now producing Kiliwani North gas field.

By making the 'second tranche' payment to Aminex the company's stake in the field will rise to 8.425 per cent. Solo revealed yesterday that Kiliwani North had reached the long awaited 'first gas' production milestone.

"With the Kiliwani North-1 well now flowing gas into the Songo Songo gas processing plant this is an ideal time for Solo to accelerate its ownership of the project and participate in the growth of revenues from gas sales," said Neil Ritson, Solo Oil chairman.

"This is a very exciting time for the company as we reach first material production and revenue." A further acquisition will eventually see Solo Oil's stake rise to 10 per cent once the field's commissioning phase is complete and it is operating under the long term take-or-pay provisions of the joint venture's gas sales agreement (GSA) with the Tanzanian authorities.

The commissioning phase is expected to run for around 90 to 100 days. Under normal operations, Solo highlighted that it forecasts net revenue of US\$2-2.5 mln per year net for its interests in the field.

The field is operated by Aminex which will own 51.75 per cent once the stake sales to Solo are complete. Production is expected to build up to an anticipated production rate of 25-30 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) or approximately 4-5,000 of oil equivalent over the next 90-100 days.

Solo is issuing 320 mln new shares at a price of 0.25p each to raise the £800,000 of new capital.

KENYA :

Kenya: Social media rumors caused bank's 'closure' – Central Bank Chief

africanews.com/2016/04/07

Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), Dr. Patrick Njoroge, has blamed rumours spread on social media for triggering the bank's problems, as customers trooped to the bank's branches on Wednesday and it could not cope with the withdrawals.

There were widely circulated messages making the rounds on whatsapp platform that Chase Bank, which has been put under receivership by the CBK, was in trouble.

“Chase Bank Limited experienced liquidity difficulties, following inaccurate social media reports and the stepping down two of its directors. Consequently, it was not able to meet its financial obligations on April 6, 2016,” a statement from the CBK said.

Kenya’s Central Bank on Thursday placed Chase Bank, one of the country’s small lenders, into receivership after it misreported its loans and suffered a deposit run.

It is the latest move by the new regulator to clean up the sector in east Africa’s largest economy.

Chase Bank thus becomes the third bank the Central Bank of Kenya has taken over since Patrick Njoroge became governor last July.

The governor said all 62 of Chase’s branches would be closed until new management is put in place.

Kenya has 42 banks and analysts say about another dozen smaller lenders are at risk as depositors move their assets to larger institutions. Njoroge has said he would welcome consolidation in the sector but would not impose it.

On Wednesday the chairman and managing director “stepped aside” after it reported a Ks686m (\$6.8m) loss in 2015 compared to a Ks2.4bn profit the previous year. It also restated its results that showed loans to employees and directors totalled Ks13.6bn, up from Ks3.2bn it had reported a week earlier.

Dubai Bank of Kenya was liquidated in August and Imperial Bank was put into receivership in October. The National Bank of Kenya last month sent home Munir Ahmed, its chief executive, and five senior managers pending an internal audit.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa's \$30 Billion Rail Renaissance Holds Ticket for Trade

April 8, 2016 /bloomberg.com

On a sweltering Kenyan morning on the outskirts of a national wildlife park, Chinese and local workers maneuver a massive concrete rail-bridge structure onto towering support piers. In the distance, trucks loaded with shipping containers rumble down a highway.

The bridge at Voi, northwest of the port of Mombasa, is the latest construction frontline for the initial 327 billion-shilling (\$3.2 billion) stretch of an ambitious railway project to link the East African country with landlocked neighbors including Rwanda and Uganda. As a faster alternative to the trucks clogging the only road running inland to the capital, the Chinese-built and -financed standard-gauge railway, known as the SGR, has the potential to transform trade in the region.

Kenya’s rail line, the country’s biggest investment since independence in 1963, is among the most

advanced of the more than \$30 billion of African rail projects planned or under way. Together, they span more than 11,000 kilometers (6,835 miles), enough to connect Cape Town to Copenhagen. It's one of the bright spots on the world's least developed continent, where governments are wrestling with drought-induced food shortages, weakened currencies and shrinking budgets following the plunge in commodity prices.

Held Back

"Infrastructure constraints are one of the major things holding back Africa and this standard-gauge railway will make a big difference," said Mark Bohlund, an Africa and Middle East economist with Bloomberg Intelligence.

Not all the projects will be built on time, if at all, especially with the commodity-price slump weighing on those designed to move raw materials from mines to ports. And with Chinese growth slowing, the nation's central role in African infrastructure development may diminish. Countries including Kenya and Ethiopia are also borrowing heavily to fund projects.

Already, though, U.S. and European and companies such as General Electric Co., Alstom SA and LafargeHolcim Ltd. are poised to benefit, along with Chinese builders and African suppliers such as Transnet SOC Ltd. GE is investigating opportunities in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia and Nigeria and will have almost tripled its number of service personnel on the continent from 2015 to the end of this year.

West Africa

"The overall bed of opportunities around the region remains strong, at least 50 percent higher than it was 10 years ago," said Thomas Konditi, GE's head of transportation for Africa. "Those opportunities are still going to be strong for another five to 10 years."

Besides the East African line, others on the continent include Bollore SA's plan to develop a 2,700-kilometer West African rail corridor. The project, which has faced legal challenges from rival developers, would link Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin.

Also in West Africa, Senegal signed an agreement in December with China Railway Construction for the renovation of 645 kilometers of railroads. Projects are also planned in Tanzania, Mali and Egypt, while Ethiopia recently completed a line connecting Addis Ababa to Djibouti and has another 4,000 kilometers of projects planned.

Economic Growth

Rail infrastructure is vital to improve trade between African countries, which stood at just 13 percent of the total last year, according to the African Union.

Kenya, which moves about five percent of freight by rail, predicts the new project will add to economic growth. The government sealed agreements in March with Chinese partners to build the rest of the track up to the border with Uganda, which itself has signed construction agreements for the first phase.

Kenya's initial stretch, from Mombasa to Nairobi, will be ready to start operating by June 2017, Kenya Railways Corp. Managing Director Atanas Maina said in an interview at the Voi bridge. The line will have daily capacity for eight freight trains in each direction, each with the ability to carry the equivalent of more than 100 containers. It'll also run as many as two daily passenger trains each way.

Colonial Tracks

Besides the often-clotted Mombasa-Nairobi road, the only other land transportation option is the century-old railway completed by the British colonial authorities in 1901. The line operates at a leisurely pace of about 30 kilometers per hour, compared with 120 kilometers per hour for passengers and 80 kilometers per hour for freight that Kenya Railways is predicting for the SGR.

The railway design also accounts for local wildlife movements, said Kenya Railways social environmentalist James Chimera. Kenya Wildlife Service provided locations of animal-crossing corridors so elevated overpasses could allow elephants and giraffes to pass through safely, he said.

The Export-Import Bank of China has agreed to fund 90 percent and 85 percent respectively of the first two phases of Kenya's project, with the government covering the rest.

Chinese History

China has a history of successful railway projects in Africa. The 1,870-kilometer Tazara railway, which linked landlocked Zambia to Tanzania's Dar es Salaam port, was funded and built by China in the 1970s. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari plans to visit China to get funding for railway projects, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said this week.

Some African mine-related freight rail and port projects have been delayed because of low commodity prices and there has been evidence of a shift towards investing in passenger rail instead, said Maria Leenen, CEO at Hamburg-based transportation consultancy SCI Verkehr.

Transnet, the South African rail and port operator marketing its train equipment and expertise across the continent as well as investing in rail at home, has seen pressure on its order book from the decline in commodity prices. However, the company continues to see opportunities, according to the head of its engineering and manufacturing unit Thamsanqa Jiyane. Contracts the company is working on include supplying wagons to Swaziland and passenger coaches to Botswana.

For some African governments, the tougher economic conditions are requiring more imagination for funding rail investments, GE's Konditi said.

"I'm seeing more interest in creative financing -- leasing -- and I've seen more interest in letting the private sector drive some of the maintenance and service of the rail companies," he said. "This environment is actually helping people to see things more creatively, in a very modern way."

AU Head Declines Reelection

Apr 7/Prensa Latina

Addis Ababa, Apr 7 (Prensa Latina) Head of the African Union Commission (AU), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, ruled out her candidacy for reelection to the post, the term of which ends in July, said an official spokesman.

Zuma, the first woman leading the body founded in May, 2001, in Ethiopia, replacing the Organization of African Unity that emerged in 1963, did not submit an application to remain as chairperson for a second term before the deadline for candidates closed last week, said her spokesman Jacob Enoh Eben, without giving any other detail, though press reports have speculated about her having other plans.

Those sources announced that she has intentions to run for leading the ruling African National Congress, which has been in power in South Africa since the fall of the apartheid regime in 1994.

Observers and political analysts recalled in this regard that Zuma's ex husband and current South

African President, Jacob Zuma, is scheduled to end his term in 2019 and, under the Constitution, he cannot run for another term.

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was born in 1949. She was an outstanding fighter against the white segregationist government underground and from exile, and was the Interior minister (2009-2012).

Local and AU press also highlight the fact that South African justice decreed last week that the head of State Jacob Zuma violated the Constitution by refusing to give back public money invested in improvements to his house.

President Jacob Zuma's second term started in May, 2014 with the ANC, the party he leads with more than 60 percent of approval by its members.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

Africa Command Faces Challenges Across Continent, Commander Says
defense.gov/April 7, 2016

WASHINGTON, April 7, 2016 — While Africa presents opportunities for some of its regions, the continent continues to face varied challenges, the commander of U.S. Africa Command said in a Pentagon news conference today.

Africom protects U.S. personnel and interests from imminent threats on the continent and mitigates immediate threats and advances enduring security interests by working with international and interagency partners, Army Gen. David M. Rodriguez said.

“Our programs, exercises and operations strengthen military-to-military relationships in a region where the United States has little forward presence,” making U.S. and partner forces more effective as they learn from each other and operate together, he explained.

Approaching Regional Concerns

And though some African nations are doing well, with many strengthening their democratic institutions, tough challenges such as weak governance, corruption, uneven development, disease, food insecurity, crime and violent extremism add to instability and conflict in others, , the Africom commander said.

In East Africa, where the big threat is the al-Shabab terrorist group in Somalia, the general said, Africom works with partner countries and is helping to develop the Somali national army so Somalia can govern with regional stability.

In North Africa, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant poses a large-scale threat in Libya and its surrounding region, including Niger and Chad, which face border concerns, Rodriguez said.

In West Africa, Boko Haram is a threat in northeastern Nigeria, where it overlaps with Niger, Chad and Cameroon, he said. “We're working with all those partners to help improve their capacity to defeat Boko Haram [by] doing some significant intelligence sharing and working with a multinational joint task force leading that effort,” he said.

ISIL Numbers on Upswing

U.S. intelligence shows ISIL's numbers in Libya likely have doubled in 12 to 18 months -- now estimated to be 4,000 fighters, including remnants of the Libyan National Army and various militias, Rodriguez said. “And with significant numbers and groups of fighters in Libya, they are stopping ISIL from growing as well as they can,” he added.

While the varied groups sometimes fight against one other, a proposed government of national accord is expected to bring them together to better Libya's future, and drive out ISIL, the general said.

Unlike in Syria and Iraq, ISIL lacks “home-grown people” who know Libya and its conditions, the Africom commander noted. “Libyan people are also different in the way they treat and respond to foreigners,” he said.

Bill Clinton In Philadelphia: Africa Is ‘A Place Where Black Lives Matter’

breitbart.com/2016/04/07

Former President Bill Clinton's doubled-down in his tense interaction with Black Lives Matter protesters today by praising his wife's work to save lives in Africa, adding that it is “a place where Black Lives Matter.”

The jibe came in Philadelphia, where he's stumping for his wife's struggling 2016 campaign.

“I'll tell you another story about a place where Black Lives Matter: Africa,” Clinton said.

“The other day, I started my day with a picture that was sent to me on my iPad of a little guy running a store—he wasn't very tall—in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam. You know what his store said? All it was was little crafts. It said ‘The Hillary Clinton' store. Now why did he say that? Because the first thing that she did as Secretary of State was triple the number of people in Africa whose lives we were saving from AIDS by going to all low-cost price drugs, the same thing she wants to do for the American people if we give her a chance.”

Earlier in the same back-and-forth with the Black Lives Matter protesters, Bill Clinton argued that they were defending criminals — specifically gang leaders — who encouraged black youths to take drugs like crack cocaine, and then engage in black-on-black violence that's left so many young black men dead in inner cities across the country.

“I don't know how you would characterize the gang leaders who got 13-year-old kids hopped up on crack and sent them out into the street to murder other African American children—maybe you thought they were good citizens,” Bill Clinton said at the Hillary Clinton campaign rally in Philadelphia.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Hague charges turned my life upside down, confesses Sang

By STEPHEN LETOO/the-star.co.ke/Apr. 08, 2016

Former journalist Joshua Sang described the battle to prove his innocence at the ICC as mental torture and the most stressful moments of his life.

While narrating his ordeal Sang said the ICC cases turned his life upside down saying the accusations leveled against him were false.

“The past six years have been tormenting, depressing and difficult for me and my family,” Sang told a press conference he convened following the termination of the crimes against humanity charges he was facing.

The former Kass FM journalist said he is happy to be free, but is equally sad and frustrated that the case went on for six years.

“The almighty God helped me, plus the millions of Kenyans who prayed for me,” He added. Unlike Deputy President William Ruto who enjoyed the privilege of excusal, Sang says he sat in the court room all day and everyday for the past six years.

“I listened to all the 30 witnesses as they lied in court, I tried asking for permission to attend my daughter’s graduation but I was denied. My daughter is still upset to date,” Sang narrated.

“I was always at the Hague,” He added. He says his children have also gone through a terrible life in school following victimization from their friends who knew he was facing charges at The Hague.

“My Kids were haunted in school, that your father will be hanged abroad,” He said “I had to change schools to avoid all the torment against my children,” Sang added. The case according to Sang made him a victim of the 2007 -08 Post Election Violence which he was not before.

“Spending all those years at The Hague made me a serious victim,” Sang said.

“Much as I am a victim, I wish other victims of the PEV well, may God give them peace.”

Sang however praised the Dutch people as friendly adding that he enjoyed his time in Netherlands when he was outside the courtroom.

“They are very good people, they made my stay there very interesting, I love their milk just like our own,” Sang said.

Europe and Africa benefit when they work together

avril 08 2016/bdlive.co.za

AS WE face the challenges of the 21st century, there is more that unites Africa and Europe than divides us. We share a common history of thousands of years. Today more than ever, we need to work together to build our common future and to work jointly on the defining global issues of our age.

We have a shared view of the benefits of co-operation on our continents. Europe's journey from the devastation of 1945 to a union of more than half-a-billion citizens based on shared values and designed to create peace and prosperity, is well-known. So too is Africa's liberation from colonial rule to independence and greater integration through the creation of the African Union (AU).

Our journeys towards integration are far from over, but by working together, we can help each other by forging stronger ties, learning the lessons from each other's experiences and building sustainable growth that will benefit our citizens. Our two institutions, the African Union Commission and the European Commission, work together to help drive this process forward.

Sustainable and inclusive growth and development for both Africa and Europe must benefit us all. This was well-recognised by the leaders of the two continents at the last European Union (EU)-Africa Summit, when they put human development at the heart of our co-operation.

Africa's population is growing fast. By 2035, the number of young African men and women entering the job market will exceed that of the rest of the world.

The full and equal participation of women is essential. As the AU's Agenda 2063 recognises, no society can reach its full potential unless it empowers women and removes all obstacles to women's full participation in all areas of human endeavour. To fully benefit from the demographic dividend, Africa needs to implement the policies spelt out in Agenda 2063 and these need to be implemented fast.

We know sustainable development can only occur in stable and secure societies. We know, too, that security will be undermined if equal access to the benefits of sustainable development is not assured. This is becoming even more evident in times when terrorist groups are targeting disenchanted and often unemployed youth groups to spread violent sectarian ideologies to destroy the pluralism of our societies. We must guarantee that all citizens, particularly the youth, can find a place in society and are empowered to reach their potential.

Security cannot exist without justice, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for the human rights of all individuals and communities. This is the African Year of Human Rights, with particular focus on the rights of women. The EU has also designated 2016 as a year of human rights activism and global campaigning. This is an opportunity to team up and strengthen our work together in support of the African governance architecture, as well as in support of universally agreed human rights. Africa can be proud of having one of the strongest human rights frameworks in the world; by the end of this year, we should ensure that all our member states have ratified all human rights treaties.

The African peace and security architecture is designed to enable the continent to manage its own peace and security. This is in our common interest, and the EU is ready to continue supporting this goal. The work that has been done in countries such as Somalia, the Central African Republic and Mali bears testimony to this.

The African Peace Facility has pioneered a shared EU-Africa commitment by giving Africa the means to develop and use its own capacity to carry out essential mediation work, to prevent conflicts and to secure peace. In light of the connectivity of global threats and major regional crises, a strong and resilient AU is essential.

Today's migration crisis, partly rooted in violent conflicts, also makes a compelling case for closer co-operation. Europe is confronted by an unprecedented flow of refugees and asylum seekers. In Africa, too, people are on the move — from villages to cities, to neighbouring countries, and sometimes towards Europe.

Those moves are mainly motivated by fear and hope. Fear of conflict and poverty, hope for peace, security and opportunities. We must tackle both the fears and the hopes. If we want to ensure integration, we must manage human mobility.

Our two commissions will continue to work together on migration and mobility. We will work together to attend to the root causes of illegal migration, support mobility and labour migration, reduce the cost of sending remittances home, strengthen international protection, facilitate return and combat human trafficking.

There is optimism about Africa's future, and rightly so. For more than a decade, Africa has enjoyed sustained economic growth. Africa is an increasingly attractive place to do business. Trade with the EU has increased by 50% since 2007. Around 40% of Africa's exports are made up of processed products, with a consistent trade surplus in Africa's favour. The EU remains Africa's main trading partner.

Investments by European companies and their subsidiaries in Africa total more than €200bn annually, which makes the EU Africa's leading investment partner.

Trade and investment relations between Africa and the EU can be improved further through closer co-operation, co-ordination of policies and the conclusion of World Trade Organisation negotiations. Europe also remains Africa's main development partner, with more than €20bn worth of official development assistance per year.

But continued growth cannot be taken for granted. The decreasing price of oil and other commodities as well as reduced demand from China and other emerging economies will have negative effects.

The continent's reliance on raw material exports makes it vulnerable to downturns in demand in overseas markets, hence the need for value-addition to exports through industrialisation.

Our two commissions are working together to promote industrialisation and diversification and to increase the value added. We are working together to promote investments in African infrastructure, facilitate technology transfer and intensify joint research and development. Last but not least, we are working together to boost agriculture to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This is why creating a continental free-trade area that promotes free and fair trade is so important.

Our unions, our two continents, face common challenges. From climate change, migration and ensuring sustainable economic growth to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism; these are challenges we have to face together.

We know well that we are stronger when we are working together. We are starting preparations for

the fifth EU-Africa Summit to be held in Africa next year with these objectives well in mind.

- The European and AU commissions held their annual college-to-college meeting in Addis Ababa yesterday. This is the biggest EU-Africa political meeting of the year. Discussions focused on key themes such as migration, peace, security and sustainable growth, as well as other policy areas enshrined in the EU-Africa Strategy.
- Juncker is the president of the European Commission and Dlamini-Zuma is the chairwoman of the African Union Commission

Greece returns more migrants to Turkey under EU deal

dw.com/08/04/2016

A boat carrying a second group of people left the main port of Lesbos for Turkey. Human rights activists have said a rush to implement a refugee deal has led to dire conditions for migrants in Greece.

Griechenland Flüchtlinge auf Chios

Four buses brought 45 men to a boat heading from Lesbos to the Turkish port of Dikili on Friday. A total of about 140 people are expected to be ferried to Turkey over the course of the day.

The migrants are the second group of people to be sent back to Turkey under an agreement with the EU. On Monday, 202 people were taken from Greece to Turkey.

Three activists were arrested after clinging onto the ferry's anchor to prevent it from leaving. Another 30 people gathered at the port of Lesbos, chanting "Stop deportations," "EU shame on you" and "freedom for the refugees."

The European Union's agreement with Turkey calls for people who arrived in Greece after March 20 and do not request or meet the conditions to receive asylum to be sent to Turkey. For each Syrian sent back to Turkey, the EU is obligated to take another Syrian who made a request for asylum in Turkey.

After the first group of migrants was returned, a spike in asylum applications slowed the process as Greece, like all nations, is required to evaluate all applications for refuge. Some migrants are suspected of not having initially requested asylum in Greece in hopes of being allowed to travel to other EU nations.

The EU requires the first bloc member a person enters to evaluate asylum requests, though the current influx of refugees has led some governments to disregard the rule and allow migrants to transit through to central and northern Europe.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had warned on Thursday that Ankara would not keep up its end of the deal with the EU if the bloc did not meet the conditions set out in agreement by June. Specifically, he said the pact entitled Turkey to a total of 6 billion euros (\$6.82 billion), a restart of EU membership talks and visa-free travel for Turkish citizens in the Schengen zone.

'Fear and desperation are palpable'

Human rights organization Amnesty International said the people being held at detention centers on two Greek islands were falling victim to a poorly thought-out EU plan.

"On the edge of Europe, refugees are trapped with no light at the end of the tunnel. A setup that is so flawed, rushed and ill-prepared is ripe for mistakes, trampling the rights and well-being of some of the most vulnerable people," Gauri van Gulik, AI's deputy director for Europe, said in a statement.

She added that the 4,200 people held in closed centers on the two Greek islands were uncertain about their futures after fleeing from their homes.

"People detained on Lesbos and Chios have virtually no access to legal aid, limited access to services and support, and hardly any information about their current status or possible fate," van Gulik said. "The fear and desperation are palpable."

Some 150 migrants broke out of a camp on the island of Samos on Thursday but were later convinced to return, the government source said. Migrants on Greek islands have also begun a hunger strike to prevent their expulsion and called for borders to Balkan nations to be reopened.

Some 1 million people sought refuge in Europe last year, mainly fleeing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa.

CHINA/AFRICA :

Ethiopia keen to be model in China-Africa cooperation

April 8, 2016/geeskaafrika.com

ADDIS ABABA (HAN) April 8. 2016. Public Diplomacy & Regional Security News. Ethiopia is keen to be a model in cooperation between Africa and China, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Ahmed Shide, has said. Ahmed made the remarks on Wednesday during a meeting between heads of multiple Ethiopian ministries and representatives of the Chinese business community. They discussed ways to boost Chinese investment in Ethiopia and cope with challenges facing Chinese investors in Ethiopia.

Ahmed said Ethiopia and China have been enjoying comprehensive cooperation, based on mutual respect and win-win situation.

He said the cooperation has brought development in infrastructure, industrialization, and social development in Ethiopia.

"Chinese companies operating in Ethiopia are really implementing a lot of projects which is a result of our development cooperation and we see them as our partners," he said.

"Therefore, enabling the successful activities of Chinese investment in infrastructure in the country is very important to advance our cooperation," he added.

Ahmed said Ethiopia is keen to further strengthen its economic cooperation with China and to be a model in implementing cooperation plans unveiled in a summit between China and Africa held in Johannesburg, South Africa, last December.

At the Johannesburg Summit of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced ten major plans of China-Africa cooperation over the next three years, backed by a

package of 60 billion U.S. dollars, including interest free loans and preferential loans.

“Ethiopia has fully participated in the Johannesburg Summit, where there has been a historic outcome in terms of advancing Africa-China cooperation,” Ahmed said.

“Ethiopia is a country where Africa-China cooperation is very visible... it will continue to be a model country when it comes to implementing the recent Johannesburg outcome,” he said.

Attending the meeting, La Yifan, Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia, said several mega projects have been built or being carried out in Ethiopia by Chinese firms.

They include standard gauge railway linking the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa to Djibouti, the Addis Ababa light rail, the Addis Ababa-Adama expressway, and the largest wind farm in Eastern Africa.

He underlined the need to further promote trade and investment between the two sides, and in particular industrial capacity cooperation.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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