



(The African Union (AU) has called on all African countries to investigate persons and companies implicated in the Panama Papers leak.)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: 4 mois après sa disparition, l'Iteka reste sans nouvelle de sa trésorière
Par RFI/le 11-04-2016

Où se trouve Marie Claudette Kwizera ? Au Burundi, la ligue Iteka se pose la question depuis décembre 2015, date de la disparition de cette femme, trésorière de cette importante organisation des droits de l'homme dans le pays.

En décembre 2015, les services de renseignement burundais exigent le paiement d'une forte somme d'argent pour sa libération, une pratique illégale, bien que largement répandue. Mais aujourd'hui, il n'est plus question d'argent, les services de renseignement affirment ne pas avoir de trace de Marie-Claudette Kwizera.

Une situation qui inquiète particulièrement, Florent Geel, le responsable du bureau Afrique de la Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme (FIDH) : « C'est une personne qui a disparu depuis décembre 2015. Des recherches ont été effectuées, même au sein de la documentation, c'est-à-dire des Services nationaux de renseignements qui disent ne pas avoir retrouvé Marie-Claudette dans les prisons. Elle n'est pas non plus dans la prison de Mpimba à Bujumbura. Donc techniquement, cette personne a disparu. En mission fin mars au Burundi, la FIDH a interrogé les autorités nationales qu'elles ont pu rencontrer, à savoir un responsable du ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la

coopération internationale, qui n'a pas su répondre à nos demandes d'interrogations sur le sort de Marie-Claudette ou même nous dire si une enquête avait été ouverte ».

Pas de trace donc de la prisonnière. Et, pour Florent Geel, Marie-Claudette Kwizera a été enlevée justement à cause de son rôle de trésorière : « Marie-Claudette signait les rapports financiers de la ligue Iteka, avant et après la suspension de la ligue Iteka, y compris la suspension de ces comptes bancaires. Et elle signait les rapports financiers qui stipulaient par exemple que des frais pour dédommager ou pour financer des actions d'enquête pour dénoncer notamment des violations des droits humains, qui ont pu être observés essentiellement par le régime, mais aussi éventuellement par des membres de groupes armés de l'opposition. Ça serait pour cette raison-là qu'elle a été ciblée en tant que telle ».

RWANDA :

Rwanda's dark heritage -Remember and Live on (IBUKA KANDI UBEHO)

April 11, 2016/newtimes.co.rw

Today, there is a growing interest in Rwanda for one reason or the other but the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi is one of the most tragic and difficult heritage lived in the country.

In just three months (1994), Rwanda came to limelight due to unimaginable deliberate human destruction under the explicit direction of the state. Rwandans across the country attacked and murdered hundreds of thousands of innocent people, with the principle targets being members of the country's ethnic Tutsi minority.

The country sunk into hell amidst the evil that turned the gentle green valleys and mist-capped hill into a stinking nightmare of rotting corpses.

This year marks 22 years of remembrance since the debacle took place.

Every year, Rwandans spare 100 out of 365 days to remember the victims of 1994 Genocide and celebrate – the survivors – the true heroes of humanity.

The 100 days of remembrance leaves us with complex and pressing questions to ponder and difficult answers as to why events occurred: How could the genocide happen? What kind of history could give rise to this violence?

Why did the international community fail to intervene? How can Rwanda continue to re-build and avoid similar debacles? How can the ideology of hate be terminated in Rwanda? These questions and many others have lingered in the minds of many Rwandans in the last two decades as many try to dig deep to discover the horror that took place and seek to understand how and why violence of this character and magnitude could have happened in our time.

As we seek to answer the very complex question as to what led to the 1994 debacle, there is need for a paradigm shift from prejudice and bigotry to justice and tolerance – shifting from ideology of hate to that of love and bringing up good people that value humanity-- for the 1 million or so Rwandans who died is not a matter of abstract statistics.

For unto each person there is a name, an identity; each person is a universe. As our sages tell us,

“whoever saves a single life, it is as if he or she has saved an entire universe.” Conversely, whoever has killed a person; it is as if they have killed an entire universe. Thus, the abiding imperative: we are each, wherever we are the guarantors of each other’s destiny -- this is the only way that our memories can bear fruits of love, peace and harmony among Rwandans.

For some time, there are conceptual issues that seem not to have permeated fully in our society, yet they are prudent in understanding the moral questions inherent in genocide and ideology of hate. Rwandans ought to; avoid comparison of pain, use good precision of language, choose carefully the source of information and avoid stereotyping descriptions and most importantly avoid oversimplifying the genocide. Therefore translating our memories to actions requires an all-round interdisciplinary approach to citizens’ education – an approach that helps Rwandese move from thought to judgment to participation.

Citizen education on genocide helps Rwandans to understand the forces that undermined peace and egalitarianism in Rwanda, betrayed a generation of youthful Rwandans and later to the genocide forms – for these forces are still with us. We need to educate our people to discover how their decisions make a meaningful difference in the community and a nation that Rwanda is.

The lessons are many and varied: We ought to know that the genocide in Rwanda resulted not only from state-sanctioned incitement to hatred, but from crimes of indifference, from conspiracies of silence – of the international community as bystander. This shows that it is our obligation as Rwandans to write our own history – translate our thoughts into actions and participate in cultivating the ideology of love and pragmatism. Let us live by past memory and turn it into action. Yes! We need the past so that we learn from our own history, connect the present to the future, and find solutions to our own problem. So, we should remember all those who perished, young and old and shape the country’s history for a better Rwanda.

Let’s join our hands together as Rwandans in championing the struggle to remember – and celebrate – the survivors of the genocide – the true heroes of humanity. For they witnessed and endured the worst of inhumanity, but somehow found, in the depths of their own humanity, the courage to go on, to rebuild their lives as they helped build our communities.

With them Rwandans must remember – and pledge – that never again will we be indifferent to incitement and hate; never again will we be silent in the face of evil; never again shall we indulge in ethnicity; never again shall we ignore the plight of the vulnerable; and never again shall we be indifferent in the face of mass atrocity and impunity.

Remembrance is one vital tool to manage and live such a difficult heritage in the post–conflict society like Rwanda. It is through this kind of shared history and memory that personal and national identity are practically expressed, binding and linking all Rwandans together as one.

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Namibia imports ARVs from Uganda

April 11, 2016/newera.com.na/by Alvine Kapitako

A consignment of antiretroviral (ARVs) drugs weighing 63 tonnes arrived at Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport from Uganda on Thursday night. ARVs are used to suppress the HIV virus and stop the progression of HIV disease.

Axel Tibinyane, the acting permanent secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Services, said the ARV supply would last at least six months. It cost the Namibian government about N\$63 million (or N\$1 million per tonne) to procure. He said the consignment is quite large and would replenish the supply chain.

New Era recently reported that there was a short supply of ARVs at Robert Mugabe Clinic and Katutura Hospital, after a number of patients were allegedly turned away and told to return on another day to get their ARVs, because the medicine was allegedly out of stock.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services issued a press statement immediately after the New Era report, saying ARV medicines at both health facilities were in adequate supply.

Ministry of Health and Social Services spokesperson Ester Paulus said in the same statement the ministry was experiencing problems with local suppliers on tender unable to provide "certain medicines", which they have tendered for due to the volatile currency exchange rates.

"We are, however, in contact with international suppliers and manufacturers, as well as the tender board to ensure there is a constant and adequate supply of the required pharmaceuticals for all public health facilities," Paulus explained.

On Friday Tibinyane admitted there was a short supply of ARV drugs prior to the arrival of the medicine from Uganda on Thursday. He blamed the shortage on the supply chain, also arguing that currency fluctuation contributed to the delay in purchasing the ARVs.

"The problem is not just one challenge. We have challenges within the whole supply chain. Our main interest is to make sure we take care of our patients," he said.

He said another consignment of ARVs, supplied by the Global Fund to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, would arrive in two weeks. "It's being cleared in Johannesburg and will be transported by road," Tibinyane said.

He added that the medicines that arrived last week are registered, as they are approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO). They would, therefore, not need to be registered through the Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council, which does not have a council.

The medicine was on Friday transported to central medical stores, from where it would be sent to various medical stores and health facilities in the regions.

Tibinyane also called for factual reporting from the media. "We appreciate the media when you bring out things that are not correct. It is good for us, so that we can improve and address the situation. One thing we are asking is factual reporting," he stressed, pleading that the story about the arrival of the ARVs not go unreported.

Minister of Health and Social Services Dr Bernard Haufiku recently said government would be purchasing ARVs from Uganda, as they are cheaper compared to Asian countries where the Namibian government previously purchased them.

Haufiku has also expressed the view that Namibia needs to set up its own ARV plant.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa: Voters Losing Trust in Us, Says Top ANC Official

4/11/16/europe.newsweek.com

A top official in South Africa's governing party warned the party was losing supporters' trust in the fallout of a scandal involving President Jacob Zuma.

South Africa's highest court ruled on March 31 that Zuma, the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), had failed to uphold the constitution by ignoring a 2014 report by Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, concerning state-funded upgrades to his homestead at Nkandla, in the coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal. Madonsela's report found that Zuma had "benefited unduly" from the upgrades—which included a swimming pool—that cost an estimated 246 million rand (\$23 million at the time).

Zuma has since apologized for the "frustration and confusion" caused by the Nkandla scandal and the ANC has offered him its backing, voting down a parliamentary motion brought by the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) to impeach the president. Senior ANC figures, however, have called on Zuma to step down, including Ahmed Kathrada, a friend of Nelson Mandela who was jailed alongside the iconic figure for trying to overthrow the apartheid system in South Africa.

ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said on Sunday that a "trust deficit" had developed between the party and its grassroots supporters. Speaking at an event marking the anniversary of the 1993 killing of anti-apartheid activist Chris Hani, Mantashe said the ANC was right to oppose the impeachment motion but must scrutinize its behavior. "If we don't change our behavior, we become arrogant in dealing with our problems. We are going to pay the price," said Mantashe, according to Reuters.

The ANC, which has been in power since the end of apartheid in 1994, won a resounding victory in the 2014 elections, taking 62 percent of the vote. However, support for the opposition DA has been steadily growing and residents in poor townships are threatening to boycott local government elections in August over anger with the ANC for failing to improve their prospects.

Gupta private jet flies to India

2016-04-11 /news24.com

Cape Town - A private jet used by members of the Gupta family to fly from South Africa to Dubai late last week has now flown on to India.

PlaneFinder.net shows that Flight ZS-OAK, a Bombardier Global Express jet registered to ExecuJet South Africa, flew from Dubai at 00:10 on Monday, April 11, and landed near Nakur, north of New Delhi.

This is about 30km from the Gupta family hometown of Saharanpur, a city in northern India.

The Sunday Times reported in 2011 that until 1989 a "nondescript" apartment block in Rani Bazar, Saharanpur, with 30 rooms, was home to the Gupta brothers and their family.

Described as "fly-infested" and "dirty", the Sunday Times reported that locals had high praises for Shiv Kumar Gupta, the family patriarch who died in 1994, and his "hard-working" family.

On Sunday, City Press reported that Ajay and Atul Gupta, together with one of their wives and five of their assistants, had left South Africa for Dubai on Thursday evening. They were seen at Lanseria Airport "with a mountain of luggage".

The flight landed at Al Maktoum International Airport, 37km southwest of Dubai.

A day later, the Gupta brothers and President Jacob Zuma's son Duduzane announced their resignation from Oakbay Investments and Oakbay Resources and Energy.

The Gupta family have come under increasing pressure following allegations that they influenced President Zuma's appointment of Cabinet ministers.

It remains unclear who was on board the private jet. A request by News24 for comment from a Gupta family spokesperson was referred to Oakbay Investments, which had not responded early on Monday afternoon.

TANZANIA :

East Africa: Economic Growth in Dar, Kigali to Boost East Africa's Rank

9 April 2016/The East African (Nairobi)

By Christabel Ligami

East Africa is projected to lead other African regions in growth, rising 6.8 per cent in 2016 and 6.6 per cent in 2017, backed by robust growth in countries such as Rwanda and Tanzania, according to the Economic Report on Africa 2016.

This is despite low commodity prices, rising imports of capital goods for infrastructure and the recent drought.

By contrast, East Africa will lag behind on its urbanised population share by 2050. East Africa's rural majority will translate into slower growth in manufacturing and a continued reliance on agriculture in the medium term (to 2025).

The report titled "Greening Africa's Industrialisation" and launched during the African Development Week in Addis Ababa shows that East Africa maintained the highest growth rate in the region, at 6.2 per cent in 2015, despite a decline from 7.0 per cent in 2014.

But UN Economic Commission for Africa executive secretary Carlos Lopes warned that the current growth -- driven largely by government related spending -- has not generated sufficient jobs and has not been inclusive enough to significantly curb poverty.

"It is difficult to predict how the current downturn in commodity prices will affect Africa's

development trajectory: the situation is certainly difficult, but is providing powerful incentives to relocate economic resources away from commodity production and into more sustainable activities," said Dr Lopes.

The report says that regional risks include weather-related shocks. Drought could hurt agriculture, which is still the main employer in most African countries. Poor harvests would increase risk of inflation through higher food prices.

Drought may also affect the hydropower generation capacity, threatening the greening of Africa's industrialisation as economic agents switch to thermal power.

Rising debt

According to the report, East Africa's deficit increased from 3.8 per cent to 4.6 per cent due to expansionary fiscal policies, mainly through increased spending on infrastructure and mining activities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

"Fiscal deficits are expected to improve in 2016 to 4.6 per cent of GDP, and in all sub-regions except East Africa, where the deficit is forecast to widen to 4.8 per cent," says the report.

Inflation in East Africa rose from 5.3 per cent in 2014 to 5.9 per cent in 2015.

In Kenya, it went down from 6.9 to 6.3 per cent and remained unchanged in Tanzania at 6.1 per cent. But it climbed steeply in Burundi (from 4.4 to 7.4 per cent), and Uganda (from 4.3 to 5.7 per cent), respectively, reflecting, political instability, weather related shocks and consequent increases in domestic food prices, and a depreciation of the domestic currency and rise in domestic food prices.

Yaw Ansu, chief economist at Africa Centre for Economic Transformation said that as a result of its reliance on commodity, natural resources exports and a small number of buyers for its exports, African countries are highly exposed to volatility and trade shocks.

\$65m set for Tanzania justice project

Monday, April 11, 2016 /busiweek.com

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA - Tanzania is getting a \$65 million World Bank credit to improve citizens' access to legal services.

"There are too many Tanzanians for whom access to justice services is a luxury but it shouldn't be – it is core to social sustainability and peoples' well-being. With the economy growing as fast as it is, the country's justice system which is part and parcel of the enabling environment for business and investment needs to support increased demand," Bella Bird, the World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Burundi, Somalia and Malawi said in a statement last week.

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved an International Development Association (IDA) credit for the Tanzania Citizen-Centric Judicial Modernization and Justice Service Delivery Project.

This aims at improving the efficiency and transparency of, and access to, selected citizen-centric justice services.

The new project directly responds to Tanzania's Development Vision 2025 as well as the Judiciary Strategic Plan 2015–2020.

Plans are to improve peoples' lives by enhancing the business and investment environment, increasing transparency and reducing poverty. The IDA was established in 1960 and helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives.

“Judiciary-led reforms are underway and the project will address factors that are impeding the delivery of effective justice services to citizens,” Waleed Haider Malik, the World Bank's Senior Public Sector Specialist and task team leader for the Project said. According to the World Bank, Tanzania has maintained a remarkable growth rate averaging seven percent over the past decade. Between 2007 and 2011–12, basic needs poverty only declined from 34.4% to 28.2%, and extreme poverty declined from 11.7% to 9.7 percent.

However, economic disparities within the population have grown due to fewer employment opportunities, limited access to services, and unsatisfactory service delivery outcomes particularly in rural areas.

The Judiciary Strategic Plan contributes to national priorities by supporting improvements in service delivery and increasing access to justice. Ranked 64th globally in enforcing contracts in Doing Business 2016, Tanzania is ahead of its regional peers, but lags far behind global benchmarks. For example, in Tanzania it takes 515 days to resolve a commercial dispute, while in Singapore it takes only 150 days. Disputes go through 38 procedures and costing 14.3% of the total claim in Tanzania.

The Bank's support to the judiciary and justice entities, along with other development partners, will help enhance their institutional capacity to demonstrate transformational results. Citizens, including vulnerable groups (e.g. women), rural poor, informal traders, small businesses, large commercial enterprises and banks, will all benefit from the project.

Currently, approximately 47 percent of the population does not live close to a high court. The design and construction of one-stop-justice centers in select locations will help close the huge rural-urban gap in justice service provision, and will reduce travel and transaction costs for users.

To make the judiciary more accessible, a Justice-on-Wheels program (mobile courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution) will empower vulnerable groups (for example, women, youth, and small businesses). The program will provide quick and affordable justice services where they live and work, making a special effort to minimize the risk of violence against women. E-justice services will reduce costs and make services more efficient and transparent. Strengthening inspection and performance systems, along with an e-complaint system for user feedback on law and justice sector operations (for example, via mobile phones), will significantly help the government in its fight against corruption.

Tanzania: Submarine Cable to Link Tanzania With Europe Via Red Sea
10 April 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

By Marc Nkwame

A NEW submarine cable set to run along the East African coast and into the Red Sea is being planned for launch, which will help boost internet speed and mobile communication in Tanzania.

The new fibre-optic cable to be worked by Liquid Telecom, who's Group Executive Officer, Mr Sam Nkusi is in Arusha and has just held talks with the former Secretary General for the East African Community, Dr Richard Sezibera, at the EAC secretariat here.

According to Nkusi, the proposed submarine cable will take a less congested route to Europe and will interconnect with all existing networks and with other international submarine cables.

According to Liquid Telecom, this will also address the need for mobile operators to increase internet speed delivered over their mobile broadband networks. The Secretary General of the East African Community, Dr Sezibera, lauded Mr Sam Nkusi for the initiative.

The firm is the leading independent data, voice and IP provider in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. The Secretary General, who was accompanied by Eng Robert Achieng, the EAC Senior Engineer in charge of Planning and Communications, warmly welcomed the Liquid Telecom Group Executive to the EAC Headquarters, and was briefed on the operations of Liquid Telecom including the project to build a new submarine cable infrastructure that will provide a cost-effective and reliable link for landlocked, southern, central and east African countries to the internet and to the world.

"Leveraging Liquid Telecom's 20,000km-long fibre optic terrestrial network, this pan-African private sector project will support fast growing needs for internet connectivity and help Africa's Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector leapfrog towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goals" noted the Liquid Telecom CEO.

Mr Nkusi reiterated that the cable, running along the East coast of Africa and into the Red Sea, will take a less congested route to Europe, and will interconnect with all existing networks and with other international submarine cables.

According to Liquid Telecom, this will also address the need for mobile operators to increase internet speed delivered over their mobile broadband networks. He said the project was a major step towards fulfilling EAC's mission to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa.

The Secretary General hailed the private sector-led initiative and affirmed the Secretariat and the Community's support to the project, and urged partner states to support the project.

He noted that the biggest support EAC could provide towards the overall implementation of the project would be to provide a Cross-Border Inter-Connectivity Regulatory Framework in order to guide and facilitate inter-connections across borders within the EAC, and could possibly be shared with other regional economic blocks in Africa.

In a different development, the government of Spain has accredited its Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr Felix Costales Artieda, to also serve as ambassador to the East African Community.

Mr Felix Costales Artieda today presented his accreditation letter to the Secretary General of the East African Community, Dr Sezibera. Ambassador Felix Artieda informed the Secretary General that his government attaches great importance to regional economic groupings such as the EAC and congratulated the EAC Secretary General for the wonderful regional initiative.

"Count on Spain's support because the goals of the community are excellent for the prosperity of the

people in the region", asserted the Spain envoy, adding that "regional integration initiatives take time but you need to continue so as to build a strong and powerful bloc". Receiving the Spanish envoy, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera hailed the existing cordial relations between the EAC and Spain.

The Secretary General welcomed the support from the Spanish government geared towards enabling the community to achieve its ambitious agenda. Dr Sezibera briefed him on the progress being registered by the Community so far that includes implementation of Protocols on the Customs Union, Common Market and East African Monetary Union. The EAC Secretary General also met the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr Lv Youqing for bilateral discussion.

The two parties deliberated on a number of areas that offer the potential for collaboration between EAC and China including the cooperation in aviation and trade sectors.

The EAC Secretary General appreciated the Chinese for their role in infrastructure development in the EAC Partner States and specifically for their support to the Secretariat. On his part, the Chinese Ambassador, commended the Secretariat for the role they play in promoting regional cooperation and integration.

KENYA :

China 'seizes' eight Taiwanese from Kenya

bbc.com/11/04/2016

Taiwan has accused China of "extrajudicial abduction" after eight Taiwanese acquitted of fraud in Kenya were deported to mainland China.

They were among a group of suspects acquitted in Kenya last week.

Taiwan's foreign ministry says they were forcibly put on a China-bound plane and has demanded their release.

China has not responded in detail to the allegations, but has criticised Taiwan for not considering itself as part of "one China".

The incident comes as cross-strait relations are feared to be entering a rocky period, say the BBC's Cindy Sui in Taipei.

'Gross violation'

Taiwan said the eight were among 23 Taiwanese people who were accused in Kenya of being members of a telephone fraud ring, which also included Chinese nationals.

They were arrested in Kenya at the end of last year and charged with illegal entry and telecommunications fraud.

All of the Taiwanese, and some Chinese, were later acquitted.

The Taiwanese were detained when they went to a police station last week to retrieve their passports.

On Friday, eight of them were put on a plane by Chinese officials and sent to the mainland, despite a court order that would have kept them in Kenya, say Taiwanese officials.

Taiwan has demanded their release, as well as for the release of the remaining 15 Taiwanese still in Kenyan custody.

On Monday, Taiwan's foreign affairs ministry accused Chinese officials of "obstructions", including delaying the court order and preventing Taiwan's representative from reaching the acquitted.

It said China's actions amounted to an "uncivilised act of extrajudicial abduction" which represents a "gross violation of basic human rights."

In response to a reporter's question on the matter, China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said: "I might need further understanding of the exact details of the case, but in principle, countries which follow the 'one China' principle are worthy of approval."

Beijing has refused to have dialogue with Taiwan's incoming President Tsai Ing-wen unless she recognises the two sides as part of one country.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwan's current President Ma Ying-jeou held historic but largely symbolic talks in Singapore last November, the first between China and Taiwan's leaders in more than 60 years.

Kenya's KCB Open to Banking Deals After Third Lender Collapses

April 11, 2016 /bloomberg.com

KCB Group, Kenya's biggest lender by assets, said it has an interest in new market opportunities after a local newspaper reported it may be among potential buyers of Chase Bank Kenya Ltd., which collapsed last week.

"KCB is open to the potential consolidation in the market, but nothing specific has been pinned down," KCB spokeswoman Judith Odhiambo said in an e-mailed response to questions. "We continue to pursue various options and opportunities and cannot specifically discuss a particular entity."

Business Daily, a Nairobi-based newspaper, reported earlier on Monday that KCB is one of at least five companies interested in buying Chase Bank. The list includes Equity Group, Centum Investments Ltd., Commercial Bank of Africa Ltd. and I&M Holdings Ltd., it said.

Chase Bank collapsed last week after a run by depositors. It's the third Kenyan lender to be seized by the authorities since Patrick Njoroge was appointed governor of the central bank in June. Imperial Bank Ltd. was taken over by the regulators in October, while Dubai Bank Kenya Ltd. went into liquidation in August after running out of money.

'Liquidity Pressures'

The central bank placed Chase Bank in receivership on April 6, a day after the lender's chairman and group managing director resigned when it announced restated earnings with a qualified opinion by auditors. On Sunday, Njoroge announced the regulator would provide support to banks facing liquidity constraints because of the "anxiety" caused by Chase's closing.

"We will avail a facility to any commercial or microfinance bank that comes under liquidity

pressures arising from no fault of its own,” Njoroge said in a statement e-mailed by the bank. “We will avail this facility for as long as is necessary to return stability and confidence to the Kenyan financial sector.

Smaller banks in Kenya are starved of liquidity, with seven of the nation’s 42 institutions holding 80 percent of the financial system’s cash, according to the regulator. At the same time, they’re also having to struggle against an increase in non-performing loans with not enough money set aside to cover them.

Arrest Warrants

On April 8, the police ordered the arrest of Chase Bank Chairman Zafrullah Khan and Group Managing Director Duncan Kabui. It also asked for the detention of six other directors from state-owned National Bank Ltd. who were placed on forced leave last month pending an internal audit.

I&M CEO Arun Mathur didn’t immediately return a call by Bloomberg requesting comment. Calls to Equity CEO James Mwangi’s mobile phone didn’t connect. Centum didn’t immediately respond to e-mailed questions and Commercial Bank of Africa denied it’s interested in Chase.

“We are not in discussions,” CBA Group Managing Director Isaac Awuondo said by phone. “We have not evaluated the opportunity.”

Shareholders in Chase Bank include Amethis Finance, a Paris-based company focused on investing debt and equity in Africa, responsAbility Participations AG, a Swiss investment company known as rAP, and KfW, the German development-finance group, according to an April 2015 document published on the lender’s website.

Amethis, responsAbility and KfW didn’t immediately respond to e-mailed requests for comment.

UPDATE 1-Kenya's KCB says open to consolidation, no comment on Chase

Mon Apr 11, 2016/reuters.com

KCB Group, Kenya's biggest bank by assets, said on Monday it was open to taking part in consolidation in the banking sector but declined to comment on whether it was pursuing Chase Bank, put into receivership last week.

"KCB is open to the potential consolidation in the market but nothing specific has been pinned down," KCB said in a statement to Reuters on Monday.

There has been speculation in local media that KCB might be looking to buy Chase Bank, which was taken over by Kenya's central bank last Thursday. This followed a run on Chase's deposits prompted by fears over the mid-sized bank's finances.

Analysts said the central bank's action could hasten consolidation in Kenya's banking market.

Chase Bank was the third bank to be taken over by the central bank in nine months, causing uncertainty over the health of the sector, where gross non-performing loans rose sharply in volume last year. With 43 commercial banks in Kenya, there have long been expectations of some consolidation.

Central bank Governor Patrick Njoroge said on Sunday they were working to get Chase Bank open as soon as possible and that Chase had attracted interest from both local and foreign investors,

which he did not name.

KCB's chief executive, Joshua Oigara, told Reuters last month they were shopping for a mid-sized bank and they were building up a war chest for a potential deal.

"We continue to pursue various options and opportunities and cannot specifically discuss a particular entity," KCB said in its statement on Monday.

Chase Bank was ranked the 11th largest lender out of 43 last year, with assets of 120 billion shillings (\$1.19 billion), mainly drawn from small and medium firms, which offer better margins than retail and corporate segments.

ANGOLA :

BPI Says Caixabank, Isabel dos Santos Reach Agreement Over Angola Exposure
wsj.com/11/04/2016

Lender says deal satisfies European Central Bank requirement

LISBON—Portuguese lender Banco BPI SA said late Sunday that its two largest shareholders have found a solution to a European Central Bank requirement that forced the lender to cut its exposure to Angola.

In a statement to the market's regulator, BPI said the agreement between Spain's Caixabank SA, which owns 44.1% of BPI, and Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos, who owns 18.6%, has been informed to the ECB and should be made public in the coming days.

It didn't provide further details.

The deal resolves a problem that began with a 2014 European Union ruling that placed Portugal's former colony among countries whose debt is riskier than that of its own members. As a result, BPI's exposure to Angola's debt through its unit rose beyond a limit imposed by the ECB, which has given BPI until Sunday to raise a prohibitive amount of capital or shed its Angolan operations.

Talks between the two parties have revolved around Caixabank buying Ms. dos Santos's stake in BPI and Ms. dos Santos taking control of the Angolan unit, called Banco de Fomento Angola SA. The lender is 50.1% owned by BPI and 49.9% owned by Ms. dos Santos's mobile operator Unitel SA.

If Caixabank buys Ms. dos Santos's BPI stake, it will be forced to make an offer for the entire Portuguese bank. Shares of BPI closed Friday at €1.19, putting its market value at around €1.7 billion.

Caixabank tried to buy the Portuguese bank in February last year, but the offer of €1.329 was deemed too low by shareholders, including Ms. dos Santos.

At one point, BPI proposed spinning off the Angola unit as a free-standing company while keeping control to resolve the issue. But Ms. dos Santos, who is the daughter of Angola's president and Africa's wealthiest woman, blocked the move in a shareholders vote. Instead, Unitel offered €140

million to increase its stake in Banco de Fomento to a majority. BPI refused the offer, which valued the unit at €1.4 billion.

Moody's welcomes possible bailout for Angola
ft.com/11/04/2016

A bailout from the International Monetary Fund would be “credit positive” for Angola, Moody’s said.

The ratings agency wrote in a note that a bailout program from the IMF would boost foreign exchange reserves at the southern African nation, which is heavily reliant on oil production and has suffered from the fall in oil prices.

Moody’s said that IMF loans would provide Angola with a “much-needed financial backstop” as it negotiates a weak local currency – the kwanza – and persistently low oil prices.

In addition, the IMF program would further anchor Angola’s continuing fiscal adjustment, a key component of the policy response to the oil shock, offsetting the risk of policy fatigue as the country enters its third year of fiscal tightening and as general elections approach next year.

Angola’s government has suffered declining revenues due to the drop in oil prices. Public-sector debt rose to 44 per cent of GDP in 2015 from 36 per cent in 2013.

A decline in export revenues has hurt the country’s balance of payments, with the country putting in a deficit of 5.5 per cent of GDP in 2015, compared with 0 per cent the year before.

Oil producing nations including Azerbaijan to Nigeria have been in discussions with the IMF, World Bank and other multilateral institutions in the wake declining oil prices since mid-2014.

The World Bank last June approved a \$650m package of loans for Angola to help it cope with falling oil prices and rein in spending on fuel subsidies.

AU/AFRICA :

Travelstart clinches best online booking agency in Africa award
2016-04-11/Selene Brophy/traveller24.news24.com

Cape Town - Travelstart has been named ‘Africa’s Leading Online Travel Agency’ for 2016.

The 23rd World Travel Awards, voted for by travel and tourism professionals worldwide, saw the winners announced at the Africa & Indian Ocean Gala Ceremony hosted by La Gemma dell’Est in Zanzibar, Tanzania at the weekend.

Other nominees included in the category included, AAHolidays.co.za, Africa Point, Flightsite.co.za, Pick n Pay Travel and Travel.co.za.

Commenting on the win, Head of Communications Russell Jarvis says, “Africa is one of the last frontiers in online travel and we’re delighted to receive this globally-recognised accolade from the

World Travel Awards.

Travelstart, which has been in Africa since 2006, earlier this year, announced a US\$40m capital injection by UK-based global technology investor Amadeus Capital Partners. Jarvis attributes the win to a “sweet spot” of innovation and service delivery excellence.

“Growth in Africa’s middle-class and travel suppliers has helped widen our footprint throughout the continent. A flood of airlines, independent low cost carriers and business opportunities have created a vibrant travel industry despite the challenges first-movers face in this part of the world.”

Kenya Airways was named Africa's leading airline, snatching the title from South African Airways who have held it for the last 22 years. Kenya Airways was also named the African Airline with the best business class offering.

Ethiopian Airlines was named best in Economy, while fastjet.com pipped local low-cost carriers Mango and kulula as Africa's best low-cost carriers.

Added to this, locally-based operator Club Travel has been named Africa's winning travel agency, pitted against other local nominees Flight Centre, Flight Site, Sure Travel and Travel Choice from Egypt.

Recognised as the “Oscars” of the global travel and tourism industry, the World Travel Awards exists to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all sectors of the industry. Winners are identifiable by the World Travel Awards Winner Shield located on the website’s home page. See the full list of winners in the 2016 World Travel Awards.

Africa is keen to change terms of engagement with investors

by Dianna Games/bdlive.co.za/11 avril 2016

THERE is no evidence to prove bilateral investment treaties signed by African countries have made them more attractive to foreign direct investment, despite it being the main reason to sign them.

The private sector tends to be the main beneficiary of treaties, with governments weakened by a lack of negotiating capacity.

These are among the findings of an Economic Commission for Africa report looking at issues about, and the consequences of, investment policies and bilateral investment treaties. The report was launched at the African Development Week in Addis Ababa. The decision to do the research was based partly on pressure from SA, which has terminated its bilateral investment treaties, replacing them with legislation that makes the government the guarantor of investments in the country.

SA came under fire from many of its key trading partners for the move but, going by the discussion at the report’s launch a fortnight ago, held under the auspices of the commission and African Union, there is wide support in Africa for a change in the terms of engagement with international investors.

Africans have, over many years, used these treaties to attract investors to opportunities in their countries in a move to counter perceptions of the risk they faced in these markets.

Collectively, Africa has the highest number of such treaties globally — more than 1,000 — mostly with non-African nations.

But the report suggests that Africa has been short-changed, exploited by more developed countries that have been able to influence bilateral terms of engagement by allowing their high-powered and experienced legal teams to outmanoeuvre their less experienced African counterparts easily.

One outcome is that investor disputes are generally heard in international — rather than local — courts or tribunals, which have tended to find in favour of investors.

It has come at a high financial cost for defending governments. More than 100 investment disputes have been lodged in the past few decades, with Egypt the respondent in the highest number of cases.

The texts of these treaties are often ambiguous and tend to reflect developed country rather than African priorities, the report maintains. Critics of these treaties argued in Addis Ababa that the array of treaties tends to provide loopholes for the type of corporate behaviour that leads to illicit financial outflows, a subject also being probed by the commission and the African Union.

Many such treaties, which typically have a tenure of 25 years, were negotiated at a different time in Africa's development and priorities have changed, but countries remain locked into terms that reflect a different era, the report reads.

The commission has a number of recommendations about how to tackle the problem of uneven and unfavourable investment treaties. They include building regional models, finding a way to leverage international negotiating capacity and bolstering pan-African legal bodies to deal with dispute settlement.

Investors would argue that these treaties might be less important if policy makers attended to the many issues that make African countries less attractive to investment. These include unpredictable regulatory frameworks and application, unduly difficult and costly operating environments, complicated and onerous tax systems, and the fact that many justice systems are inefficient and vulnerable to political pressure.

"Demonising" the private sector, as some of these discussions do, certainly does not help investor confidence. Increasingly, business leaders inside and outside Africa understand the need for African countries to align investment incentives to development. They are not mutually exclusive concepts.

The need for investment continues to be important to African governments. But there is a shift in thinking at the top levels of continental policy that is highlighting issues related to the private sector.

It would probably be foolish for investors to ignore it.

Panama Papers: African Union Calls for Investigations

By Conor Gaffey/europe.newsweek.com/On 4/11/16

The African Union (AU) has called on all African countries to investigate persons and companies implicated in the Panama Papers leak.

Scores of high-profile Africans —including the nephew of South African President Jacob Zuma and the Nigerian Senate president, Bukola Saraki—have come under scrutiny after being linked to offshore accounts and shell companies in the leak of 11.5 million tax documents from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca. South Africa's Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, has ordered an

investigation into citizens of the country named in the Panama Papers, but other African countries have been slower to respond.

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki, who heads up the AU's panel on illicit financial flows, issued a statement on Friday referring to the leak as "most welcome" and calling for concerted action across Africa and the world to tackle illicit forms of tax evasion. Mbeki pointed out that the fourth most-used tax haven revealed within the Panama Papers was an African nation—the Seychelles—and said this meant that African countries "must not rest under the illusion that the issue of tax havens does not directly affect Africa."

Mbeki also cited a January 2015 report by his panel which highlighted that Africa is losing an estimated \$50 billion per year in illicit financial flows through commercial tax evasion and other activities, some of which are criminal. Over the past half-century, the continent is estimated to have lost more than \$1 trillion due to such activities, the report found.

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the AU's current chair, has said that the Panama Papers leak must prompt a dialogue about the return of lost African assets to the continent. Dlamini-Zuma added that the revelations point to the need to deal with corruption in the corporate sector, not just in African governments. A December 2015 report by anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International found that more than half of Africans felt that corruption had increased in their countries over the previous year.

A number of African politicians and businesspeople have been linked to offshore accounts—either directly or through close family and associates—by the Panama Papers. These include:

Former Sudanese President Ahmad Ali al-Mirghani, who died in 2008, was allegedly the owner of a company registered in the British Virgin Islands and through which he held assets worth \$2.72 million at the time of his death.

John Agyekum Kufuor, the former president of Ghana, whose eldest son John Addo Kufuor allegedly controlled a \$75,000 bank account in Panama through a company registered in the British Virgin Islands.

Nigerian businessman Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, who allegedly has links to at least four offshore shell companies, according to Nigeria's Premium Times. The Dangote Group, of which Dangote is the CEO, has denied any links to the offshore companies.

Rwanda's former intelligence chief, Emmanuel Ndahiro, who was allegedly the director of a British Virgin Islands-registered company named Debden Investments Ltd that was reportedly used to purchase a jet. The Rwandan Finance Ministry claims the company was established by the government in 1998 as "a special purpose vehicle to secure strategic services" and that it was not used for illegal transactions, private interests or tax avoidance.

Koji Annan, the son of former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who allegedly used an offshore company incorporated in the Pacific island of Niue to buy a \$500,000 central London apartment. A lawyer for Annan said that his companies "operate in accordance with the laws and regulations of the relevant jurisdictions" and paid whatever taxes they were liable to.

Africa: EU, AU Journeys Towards Integration Far From Over
8 April 2016/The Observer (Kampala)

By Jean-Claude Juncker and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

The biggest political engagement between the European Union and African Union opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia yesterday. The European Commission president JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER and the African Union Commission chairperson, NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA jointly put together their thoughts on why both unions need to work together.

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 both have a shared view of the benefits of cooperation 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, 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 jointly 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 Africa and Europe at the last EU-Africa summit when they put human development at the heart of our cooperation. 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 that 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.

Security cannot exist without justice, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the effective respect for human rights of all individuals and communities. 2016 is the African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the rights of women.

The European Union (EU) has also designated 2016 as a year of human rights activism and global campaigning. This is an opportunity for all of us to team up, 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 strongest human rights' frameworks in the world.

By the end of 2016, we should ensure that all our member states have ratified all human rights treaties. The African Peace and Security Architecture is designed to enable Africa 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 like 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 cooperation.

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 of conflict and poverty, and hope for peace, security and opportunities.

We must address 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 address the root causes of illegal migration, support mobility and labour migration, reduce the cost of remittances, 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 over EUR 200 billion annually, making the EU Africa's leading investment partner.

Trade and investment relations between Africa and the EU can be improved further through closer cooperation, policy coordination and the conclusion of WTO negotiations. Europe also remains Africa's main development partner with more than €20 billion official development assistance (ODA) annually.

But continued growth cannot be taken for granted. Decreasing price of oil and other commodities as well as reduced demand from China and other emerging economies will have negative impacts. Africa's reliance on raw material exports makes it vulnerable to downturns in demand in overseas markets, hence, the need for value addition through industrialisation.

Our two commissions are working together to promote industrialisation, diversification and increasing 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, which promotes free and fair trade, is so important.

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

We know well that we are stronger when we are working together. We are starting preparations for the 5th EU-Africa summit to be held in Africa in 2017 with these objectives well in mind.

Africa: Call for Africa to Focus On Sciences

10 April 2016/Zimbabwe Standard (Harare)

By Nokuthaba Dlamini

AFRICAN think tanks say they want to ensure that all countries on the continent focus on sciences and engineering studies by 2063 in order to steer industrial development.

The pledge was made at the just ended third Africa think-tank summit in Victoria Falls under the theme, Creating a Sustainable Future for African Think Tanks in support of SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Emmanuel Nnadozie, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) executive secretary told journalists on the sidelines of the summit on Friday that such a thrust was important for the continent to catch up with the developed world.

"The issue of moving beyond designing appropriate policies to making sure that we yield expected results from policies is something that this continent has struggled with for quite some time to accomplish," he said.

"It is not easy to implement policies practically, and we, in the capacity business believe that one of the major challenges that have resulted in this implementation gap is the issue of lack of capacity to implement.

"You can have the expertise you need to design set policies but moving from there to actually implementing what you have from those very nice policies and strategies becomes a bit difficult if you don't have the mindset capacities, human capacities and institutional capacities that are necessary."

Nnadozie said African institutions of higher learning were still focused on social sciences while neglecting hard sciences that were important for development.

"Our strategy for gender 2063 says that Africa has a gap of 4,3 million engineers alone not to mention the other categories of expertise in critical technical skills that are needed and for us if you have this kind of gap we will never be able to industrialise," he said.

"At the same time Africa universities their enrolment has about 90% of students registering in social sciences, law and humanities and that makes it hard to implement strategies if you don't not have those critical expertise skills that will support the private investments and industries as well rule and regulation determine the rules of the game so it is not capacity alone it is central and we need to put up extraordinary efforts."

African Union's (AU) commissioner for economic affairs Anthony Mothae Maruping said leaders also needed to have good leadership skills in order to ensure development in their countries.

"There must be a leader who is not only visionary but who can ensure that what is agreed upon is implemented. And it also tackles a leader who has really demonstrated quality leadership that people feel comfortable to work with and up follow their visions and support their own actions," he

said.

The summit, which is ended yesterday today was organised by the ACBF in partnership with the African union Conference, Nepad Planning and Coordinating Agency, and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Greece refugee arrivals down to just 18 in last 24 hours in wake of EU deportation deal

The Associated Press/Apr 11, 2016

But 53,000 people are still stranded Greece

Only 18 refugees have entered Greece by sea over the past 24 hours, a week after a European Union deal to deport new arrivals back to Turkey went into effect.

However, just over 53,000 remained stranded Monday in Greece, through which more than a million people from the Middle East and Africa have passed since the beginning of 2015, heading to more prosperous European countries.

Arrivals, mostly in frail smugglers' boats from Turkey, peaked above 200,000 in October. Following last month's EU-Turkey deal the numbers have dropped, with just 1,704 arrivals so far this month — about 189 daily.

About 11,000 refugees live in a tent city on the closed Macedonian border, hoping to continue north, despite repeated appeals from Greek authorities to relocate to organized shelters.

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

South Africa: President Jacob Zuma Sends Condolences to the Republic of India Following Deadly Explosion

11 April 2016/allafrica.com/South African Government (Pretoria)

President Jacob Zuma has on behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, conveyed a message of condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of India following an explosion and fire at the Puttingal Devi Temple in Paravul, Kerala State in southern India, on Sunday, 10 April 2016, that claimed over a 100 lives.

The explosion and blaze at the temple was reported to be sparked by a stray firework.

"Our thoughts are with the people of India in the aftermath of the catastrophic explosion and blaze at the Puttingal Devi Temple in Kerala State. On behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, I send my deepest condolences to the Government of India and to everyone affected, particularly to the families and friends of those killed and injured in the explosion at the temple," said President Zuma.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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