



(People with albinism in Malawi are at risk of "systemic extinction" due to relentless attacks fuelled by superstitions, the United Nations' top expert on albinism said this week during her first official visit in her new role.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Mentorship, Reading and Documentation Crucial in Fighting Genocide Ideology, Says Joseph Nkurunziza

2 May 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

By Julius Bizimungu

Since April 7, Rwandans and friends of Rwanda all over the world and in the country have embarked on activities to mark the 22nd commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi. This year's commemoration activities were organised under the theme 'Fighting Genocide Ideology.' Throughout the commemoration activities, it has been stressed that the ideology should be uprooted and the youth protected to ensure a better future generation. It is in this context that The New Times' Julius Bizimungu spoke to Dr Joseph Nkurunziza, the co-founder of Never Again Rwanda, a human rights and peace-building organisation that focuses on the youth, about what can be done to ensure a future free of such toxic ideology. Excerpts:-

Rwandans continue to commemorate the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, but let's first of all talk about the existence of Never Again Rwanda; when, why and how was it established?

Never Again Rwanda is a peace-building and human rights organisation that we founded to address the bad legacy that had been left after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, with the main focus being empowering Rwandans to become responsible citizens, but with more emphasis on the youth.

We simply put much effort in the young people because we believe that they are the leaders of today and tomorrow. If these young people are not empowered with the right opportunities, they might not become the responsible citizens that we would want to see in the future.

When you look back, young people were incited to participate in the Genocide, but at the same time they are the ones who stopped the Genocide (the Rwanda Patriotic Front in this case).

This clearly shows that when young people are empowered, they can make great contribution and change the country for the better.

What have been your achievements for the years you have worked with the young people?

First, we have spent 14 years working with the youth, and I clearly remember the way we started out when we were still at the university.

I can say there has been a remarkable impact, but again we should understand that things related to behavioural change take time. For the last few years we were involved in awareness campaigns and for the other five years we incorporated into knowledge.

However, the expected impact is the mindset change. We need to see responsible citizens who cannot be manipulated to do what their peers did in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

But, more importantly, to have youth who are responsible, who are accountable, who are active citizens, and those who can hold their leaders accountable so that they can be able to champion transparency and accountability.

For the years we have been working, at least the young people we worked with, both those who were born after the 1994 Genocide and those who were young when the Genocide was taking place, all have developed critical minds and they have developed themselves.

Some of our beneficiaries are in decision-making institutions, administrative councils, and other big positions.

We are, therefore, hoping that these people who have passed through our programmes will be responsible. We realise this through the programmes we offer; we have seen young people developing new ideas, new way of thinking over things and more over the way they portray the zeal of understanding on different aspects.

What's your personal perspective, and how does your organisation understand genocide ideology?

The word 'ideology' means a collection of ideas. But first, an ideology starts with an attitude, if the attitude is positive there would be a collection of good ideas. Unfortunately, towards independence, the colonial administration started sowing seeds of hatred and a section of Rwandans was indoctrinated on hate and genocide ideology.

Secondly, they were indoctrinated with an ideology of mixed ethnic hatred, and so what the post-government did was to start indoctrinating citizens with genocide ideology. This is the time when

the Tutsi started being called all kinds of names, and this was the starting point.

Over the years, they continued intoxicating peoples' minds with hatred of a section of Rwandans. You can imagine over 30 years, the population being indoctrinated on genocide ideology.

Remember, this was done through writing, media, and mass communication, to name but a few. The end of it was the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in which more than a million people died within a just 100 days.

This means all people were involved; the parents, teachers, and leaders. The post-genocide government (the government of national unity) put up new systems, laws and policies.

But because genocide ideology was instilled into the population for very long, there are still some parents who still have that understanding, and teachers who still mention it to students.

We believe the human being doesn't change overnight, it's a process and we know we'll make it with time.

A 2007 study by parliamentarians in the 83 secondary schools established that at least 53 per cent of them had genocide ideology. But a recent reconciliation barometer shows that genocide ideology has reduced by 84 per cent.

What's the genocide ideology effect to the youth born during and after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi?

Well, there are people who were born after the Genocide and would love to know what happened in the country, but because we have categories of parents, who either participated in the Genocide and do not want to talk about those horrific activities they carried out, and others whose families were wiped out and do not want those hurting moments to hit their minds, this keeps the young people in confusion.

Young people learn as they grow, when they reach a certain stage they have a lot of questions, and so through this questioning they might either end up becoming good citizens or bad citizens depending on how their parents shaped them. This is a psychological effect.

Genocide ideology has also had a great impact on those whose parents were killed. In the same aforementioned way or even in terms of being left alone as orphans; they assumed responsibilities at a tender age, others were traumatised, and others were left with wounds.

What is the best way to fight the genocide ideology in the country?

I think three things need to be done; mentorship, documenting and reading can help us make communities get to know what happened in our country and completely uproot the genocide ideology.

Again, there's still a long way to go to uproot the remaining 16 per cent of the genocide ideology in the population. One of the ways to achieve this is to keep commemorating the Genocide so that we can keep the memory alive and people get to know the reality about what exactly happened in Rwanda.

People, however, need to write about the history of their country, the past and what happened so that those people who negate it will one day face justice. We have seen that denial has even

penetrated the academic world where we find professors and diplomats publishing books denying the genocide.

Lastly, people need to hold frequent discussions, debates around these issues, simply because the more we debate and discuss these issues, the more we get to understand them deeper.

I would also say that we are now closely working with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders on how to integrate peace education in the curriculum and it should be studied by each and every student so that we can be able to deal with the issues originated from genocide ideology.

Let's talk about the growth of technology (social media) in this context, should it be seen as a key tool in the fight against the genocide ideology?

Social media is a good tool depending on how you use it. As the country moves towards the modern world, we also need to keep up with the pace at which the technology grows.

However, young people need to be educated on how to use the social media tools responsibly. We need also to learn how to document and package the information in a youth-friendly way.

Young people need mentors so they can develop critical minds so that when someone looks at what a person has written, they don't simply take it as truth but analyse and choose what's best for them.

We also need to be guided on what to post and what not to post; when to respond and when not to respond; who to report and where to report. This can help us reap benefits from the growth of technology.

How about the role of civil society in fighting genocide ideology?

The role of civil society is awareness, education and providing capacity building. Above this, fighting genocide ideology needs collaborative efforts of each and everyone.

RDC CONGO :

RDC : le vice-ministre limogé pour une sextape dénonce un chantage

LE MONDE/ Le 01.05.2016

En vingt-quatre heures, Enock Sebinezwa Ruberangabo a tout perdu. Il avait fait son entrée au gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo en décembre 2014 comme vice-ministre des postes et télécommunications, mais a été révoqué vendredi 29 avril 2016 pour avoir « gravement manqué » à son « devoir déontologique et éthique ». Il paie ainsi une vidéo compromettante qui avait commencé à se propager la veille sur les réseaux sociaux Facebook, Twitter et Youtube.

Ces 4 minutes 30 d'images muettes montrent Enock Sebinezwa Ruberangabo dans son bureau, à Kinshasa. Face à un ordinateur dont la webcam est activée, il s'adresse à la personne qui apparaît sans doute sur son écran, puis se lève et se livre à un exercice sexuel solitaire. En arrière-plan, on aperçoit le drapeau congolais et le fameux portrait du président Joseph Kabila accroché dans toutes les institutions publiques.

Atterré par la diffusion des images, Enock Sebinezwa Ruberangabo a expliqué au Monde Afrique qu'il ne savait pas ce qu'était une webcam (alors que son ministère est aussi responsable des nouvelles technologies de l'information) et que la vidéo a été « montée » à partir de « photos prises au bureau ou avec le fond du bureau. (...) Des experts en édition de dessins animés peuvent faire un montage pareil », souligne-t-il.

« Il ne respecte même pas le drapeau de son pays... »

Puis il dénonce un chantage. Sa version : on l'a contacté en lui demandant de payer en échange de la sextape, faute de quoi elle serait diffusée sur Internet. Le haut responsable a d'abord refusé de céder mais « aurait envoyé 2 500 dollars » en voyant que le maître chanteur était passé à l'acte, confie un de ses proches. « Cela a permis de retirer le lien mais un autre internaute avait pu entre-temps l'enregistrer... »

De fait, Youtube a retiré la vidéo en justifiant qu'elle violait son interdiction de tout « contenu à caractère sexuel ». Mais le film est resté accessible ailleurs et certains ont fait des captures d'écran. Choqués, des internautes ont multiplié insultes et moqueries. Beaucoup ont exigé le départ du vice-ministre et créé des hashtags sur Twitter comme #Sebinezamustgo (Sebinezwa doit partir) ou #SanctionnezSebinezwa.

« Il prend le chef de l'Etat en témoin, quoi ! Il ne respecte même pas le drapeau de son pays... Dans son bureau ? Ça, c'est trop fort », dénonce entre colère et amusement Nina, une jeune Congolaise qui avait reçu la vidéo jeudi 28 avril via Whatsapp. Dans le même temps, elle éprouve aussi de la compassion. « Je suis gênée à sa place... Mon Dieu, le pauvre gars ! Ses enfants, sa femme, sa famille... »

Vendredi 29 avril, l'ordonnance présidentielle de révocation est tombée. « Le chef de l'Etat est très pointilleux sur la conduite de ses ministres, interdits de fréquenter certains lieux », explique le ministre en charge des relations avec le Parlement, Tryphon Kin-Kiey. Il en veut pour exemple le limogeage en 2010 du ministre des affaires sociales Barthélemy Botswali, après qu'il s'est battu dans un quartier populaire de Kinshasa.

De juteuses surfacturations

Enock Sebinezwa Ruberangabo « devrait passer quelque temps en Afrique du Sud ou en Ouganda » pour se faire oublier, puis « passer le restant de sa vie à l'Est », dans la province du Sud-Kivu dont il est originaire estime Roland, jeune cadre. Mais l'intéressé veut riposter. « Mes avocats préparent une plainte et dénoncent cette attaque qui salit et détruit ma dignité comme parent et homme politique. »

Une source officielle explique que plusieurs conseillers des ministères ont vu leurs ébats postés sur la Toile mais que l'affaire Sebinezwa est une première car « jamais l'affaire n'avait atteint ce niveau de hiérarchie et de scandale ». Banale affaire de mœurs ? Cette source reste prudente : « Il ne faut pas exclure une exploitation [politique] sur fonds de règlement de comptes dans ce ministère. »

Le ministère des postes, télécommunications et nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication, dirigé par Thomas Luhaka, gère des sommes colossales qui aiguisent les appétits – si l'on en croit notamment le rapport de la commission de l'Assemblée nationale ayant dénoncé en mai 2015 de juteuses surfacturations dans le déploiement de la fibre optique. Ceux qui veulent une part ou refusent de partager risquent alors des coups, tout comme ceux qui s'aviseront de dénoncer le versement de commissions.

Reste que, à la suite de l'affaire Sebinezwa, des internautes ont entamé une chasse aux sorcières. Dans la foulée, des sextapes, parfois anciennes, circulent – comme celle du député Emery Kataka,

de son confrère Patcho Panda, ou du pasteur Denis Lessie. Des sympathisants de l'opposition, eux, en profitent pour attaquer plus encore la majorité qu'ils accusent de vouloir maintenir Joseph Kabila en poste après 2016, en violation de la Constitution.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Starbucks Comes to South Africa with Plans for More Locations
inquisitr.com/02/05/2016

The ubiquitous coffeehouse chain Starbucks has opened locations in far flung places from New York to Tokyo. On April 21, the chain opened their first store in South Africa with plans to open more in the country.

According to Public Radio International, the new location is located in the ritzy Rosebank section of Johannesburg, home to upscale shopping malls and offices. Even after a week of being open, lines were stretching out the door for a taste of the upscale beverages and bakery items Starbucks has to offer.

Other items also available are Roobis Tea, at prices that are more reflective of South Africa's economy. UPI reported that a grande latte costs the equivalent of \$2.10 in American dollars, which is notably less than in the U.S.

According to a press release from Starbucks, the design of this store features artwork with a South African feel and a copper mural that's reminiscent of the chain's flagship location in Seattle's Pike Place.

"This store will not only offer amazing coffee and world-class customer service, it is a representation of our commitment to South Africa through its localized design," said Carlo Gonzaga, CEO of Taste Holdings, the company Starbucks has partnered with, to open in the country.

Gonzaga continued, "We have taken inspiration from rich local color palettes and designs, with materials and artworks produced by local artisans. It signifies the start of our coffee journey in South Africa."

Starbucks had initially announced their plans to open in South Africa in July 2015. Taste Holdings is the licensee of the Rosebank store, and will own and operate future stores that open.

"The coffee market here is vibrant and growing fast – we want to be part of that growth, bringing the passion and energy of this remarkable country into the design of our first store and our first barista team," said Kris Engskov, president of Starbucks Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, in a press release at the time.

As reported by The Globe and Mail, Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks, was said to be surprised

by the large turnout. This has caused the company to change its expansion plan in South Africa, where initially only 12 to 15 stores were going to open.

At the equivalent cost of around \$9 million, Starbucks plans to open 150 outlets in South Africa over a period of two years.

"I have been to many, many Starbucks openings around the world. I have never seen a line like this a week after opening," said Schultz. "We're off to a fantastic start."

Last week, the Seattle-based coffeehouse chain saw continued success in South Africa, with the opening of a second store in a new shopping center called Mall of Africa. Public Radio International, reported that the new mall, which is between Johannesburg and Pretoria, saw a reported 91,000 people in attendance, causing mass traffic.

"People want to be associated with celebrity, they want to be in the forefront of experiencing new sensations," said Andy Rice, an advertising and brand expert, during an interview on South African radio.

Starbucks is in good company with other American chains that opened in South Africa over the past few years and have seen success, according to The Globe and Mail.

Burger King and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts saw long lines at their Johannesburg and Cape Town stores for months following their openings. In addition, Domino's Pizza saw much success with its 2014 opening, and Dunkin' Donuts plans to open its first South African stores in late June.

"Despite some complaints on South African social media about 'neo-colonialism' by U.S. multinational companies, many of the country's middle-class consumers have become obsessed with U.S. brands," said Geoffrey York, of The Globe and Mail.

"It has taken us a long time to get here, but now that we're here ... I'm convinced that we will take advantage of the growing middle class," said Howard Schultz.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Transfer of Pride Shares to Private Firm On Cag Hit List

2 May 2016/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Professor Mussa Assad, has questioned the rationale behind transferring government shares in the Promotion of Rural Initiative and Development Enterprises (Pride Tanzania) Limited to a private company.

"I reiterate my recommendation that the Treasury Registrar should make close follow up on the shares previously held by the Government in Pride Tanzania to establish its legality and transfer modalities from Government to a privately owned company," he explains in a report.

In his annual general report for 2014/2015 financial year presented before the National Assembly in Dodoma recently, the CAG noted that since 1993, all shares of Pride Tanzania were being owned by the Government of Tanzania.

Prof Assad reached such conclusion according to the Treasury Registrar's statement of government investments and public interest as at June 30, 2008. However, the CAG noted, the Statement of Treasury Registrar for the year ended June 30, 2012, omitted Pride Tanzania from the list of public entities being overseen by him.

"The justification for removal from the list of government investments and interests could not be ascertained," Prof Assad stated in the report on the audit of public authorities and other bodies.

Furthermore, he stated, pursuant to Section 31 of the Public Audit Act No.11 of 2008, any public authority or body shall submit its financial statements to the CAG within three months after the end of the financial year to which it relates.

"Pride Tanzania has never submitted its financial statements for audit as required by the law," remarks the CAG.

Despite government response that the company ceased arrangement of getting funding from the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and Tanzania in 2005, the CAG revealed that it had not been made clear how the shares of the company were transferred to private owners. Pride Tanzania was incorporated on May 5, 1993, under Cap.212 as a company limited by guarantee.

The main purpose of establishment of this entity was to provide credit to small and micro-entrepreneurs in Tanzania. It has been claimed, however, that Pride Tanzania was being burdened by loans it has allegedly obtained from financial institutions.

The CAG cites an example of 5.3bn/- obtained from the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB), which has not been repaid yet. Prof Assad stated in his report that the bank has provided advances to Pride Rural Finance Window, which had an outstanding balance of 5.3bn/- as at December 31, 2014.

"These advances are largely secured against receivables book of Pride meaning that in the event of default by the company, the bank may only recover the outstanding balance by collecting from Pride borrowers," the CAG states.

Such type of security, according to him, was considered inadequate and increases the risk of loss to the bank. The CAG has advised the bank's management to increase efforts to ensure that this loan is repaid and should give loan to borrowers with adequate security to recover the loans in the event of default.

China in \$6 billion offer for Tanzania rail

busiweek.com/Monday, May 02, 2016

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA – China last week said it is ready to provide \$6.8 billion for the construction of Tanzania's Standard Gauge railway along the Central Corridor .

This follows talks held between China's Ambassador to Tanzania Dr. Lu Youqing and President John Magufuli in which the government has also set aside \$454,545 out of its \$13.2 billion in the forthcoming 2016/17 financial year.

A statement issued by the State House reveals that construction of the 2,561 railway is expected to boost the performance of the port of Dar es Salaam and the national economy in general.

Ambassador Lu also handed over to President Magufuli a letter with message from Chinese

President Xi Jinping.

During their talks, Dr. Magufuli stressed that his optimism that this project will revolutionize the economy of Tanzania and other Eastern and Central African countries including Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

“That is why we don’t want to waste time in prolonged talks, we want the works to start and people to start benefitting,” Dr Magufuli said.

In his comments, Dr. Lu applauded President Magufuli and his government for preparations ranging from finances to equipment and human resources in implementing the gigantic project and that the Chinese government, its financial institutions and other companies will accord their total support towards the implementation of the project.

“As Tanzania’s Minister for Communication, Science and Technology Prof. Makame Mbarawa held talks with the Chinese government, Chinese financial institutions and companies, I promise we will work as per laid down procedures and standards of construction. We will work with consciousness of time, quality and cost effectiveness,” Ambassador Lu said.

The whole project will be implemented in phases with the first phase to be implemented jointly between Tanzania and China, the project will involve construction of 1,216 km from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza via Isaka and Tabora.

President Magufuli has already deployed the Works, Transport and Communication Minister, Prof. Mbarawa to China to complete discussions on the implementation of various projects, including the central line at standard gauge.

Prof. Mbarawa has said that the next move would be announcement of transparent and competitive tenders for the project to get competent companies for the job.

Last year, the then Minister for Transport Samuel Sitta described the project as single biggest project ever to be implemented by the government of Tanzania since the country attained independence in 1961.

According to Sitta, the project was initially supposed to be financed by commercial loans from a consortium of banks under a 20-year repayment; however, he did not name the banks.

It is said that oil discoveries in Kenya and Uganda and gas stumbled on in Tanzania have turned East Africa into an exploration hot-spot for international oil firms but the transport infrastructure in the region had suffered from decades of underinvestment.

KENYA :

Death toll in Kenya building collapse rises to 20, with 73 still missing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/Monday, May 2, 2016

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenyan rescuers continued searching for survivors Sunday of a residential building in a low income area that collapsed Friday, as officials said the death toll has risen to 20 and 73 people remain missing.

Japheth Koome, the police chief for Nairobi, the capital, confirmed the death toll.

Authorities had initially said the building had six stories but it emerged that the ground and first floor had sunk following heavy rains.

The building, next to a river, had been declared unfit for human habitation by Kenya's National Construction Authority but was not torn down.

SIX-STORY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COLLAPSES IN HEAVY RAIN

Bribe-taking officers in the county government are responsible for allowing contractors bypass building codes, Nairobi governor Evan Kidero said. He vowed to fire those responsible. The building's owner obeyed police orders and turned himself in for questioning, Koome, Nairobi's police chief said.

"People who've died in Huruma have died an unnecessary death. That death is a product of corruption ... someone is paid \$10,000 or \$20,000 to approve the building that cost the lives of Kenyans," nominated legislator Johnson Sakaja said.

Kenyan military personnel led the rescue operation using heavy machinery to remove concrete slabs. About 300 residents of two adjacent buildings, also built close the river, were evacuated.

Taking advantage of a high demand for housing in Nairobi, some property developers bypass building regulations to cut costs and maximize profits.

President Uhuru Kenyatta last year ordered an audit of all the country's buildings to see if they are up to code after eight buildings collapsed, killing at least 15 people.

The report from the audit by the National Construction Authority found that 58% of buildings in the capital are unfit for habitation. The majority of Nairobi's estimated 4 million people live in low income areas or slums.

Kenya starts 3 days of mourning as body of former first lady arrives
africanews.com/2016/05/02

Kenya has began 3 days of national mourning for former first lady Lucy Kibaki who died at a London hospital last week.

The body of the former first lady arrived Sunday morning accompanied by her husband, the former president Mwai Kibaki and other family members as well as friends who had accompanied Mrs. Kibabi to London, reported Kenya's Daily Nation.

The casket bearing the remains of Mrs. Kibaki arrived aboard a Kenyan Airways Dreamliner jet.

Draped in the Kenyan national colours, the casket was taken by a team of pallbearers selected from the army, navy and air force to waiting hearse.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, his wife Margaret as well as other high ranking government officials and Members of Parliament were at the airport to receive the remains of the former first lady.

Lucy Kibaki had previously been admitted to a hospital in the Kenyan capital Nairobi for nearly a month, before being flown to the UK for treatment at the Bupa Cromwell Hospital, a few days before her death.

The body will be kept at Lee Funeral Home as preparations for the funeral continue.

She is expected to be buried next Saturday.

Mrs. Kibaki had not been seen in public for several years, though she attended the promulgation of the country's new constitution in 2010.

The 75-year-old was known for being vocal and often expressed her dissatisfaction both on private and public issues.

Kenya seeks completion of \$2.1 bn oil pipeline by 2021

Monday, 02 May 2016/theafricareport.com

Kenya is set to start a search for companies to design a crude oil export pipeline costing some \$2.1 billion and which should be completed by 2021, Energy and Petroleum Minister Charles Keter said on Friday.

Tullow Oil and partner Africa Oil first struck oil in Lokichar in northwest Kenya in 2012 and Keter said the pipeline between Lokichar and Lamu on Kenya's coast would be 891 km long.

"In our estimation, if all goes well, the pipeline should (be ready) in the second quarter of 2021," he said. "The capex, I mean the cost, which can either come down or up, is \$2.1 billion," Keter told reporters.

Uganda is also looking to build a pipeline to export its oil and originally favoured a route through Kenya. But last week, East African leaders said at a summit Uganda would build its pipeline through Tanzania rather than Kenya.

France's Total, one of the oil firms developing Uganda's fields, had raised security concerns about the Kenyan route. A Kenyan pipeline could at points run near Somalia, from where militants have launched attacks on Kenya.

Tullow Oil, with stakes in both countries, had backed the Kenyan route, saying it would be cheaper if oil from both pipelines followed the same route.

Picking a route for the pipelines is vital for the oil companies' final investment decisions on developing Uganda's and Kenya's reserves, which are among a string of oil and gas finds on Africa's east coast.

Tullow Oil said on Thursday the recoverable reserves from its activities in Kenya totalled an estimated 750 million barrels, up from 600 million barrels previously.

Africa Oil and Tullow were 50-50 partners in blocks 10 BB and 13T where the discoveries were made. Africa Oil has since sold a 25 percent stake in those blocks to A.P. Moller-Maersk.

Tullow said earlier this week that the earliest the projects in Kenya and Uganda could reach a final investment decision was at least 18 months after the settling of the pipeline route.

Keter said that while the pipeline project had not yet reached financing stage, they had received inquiries from some institutions about it.

"There are companies who have visited us, financial institutions. Even last year, I think IFC (International Finance Corporation) had shown some interest, (as has) African Development Bank," Keter said "These are ready. But they were waiting for the decision on which route are we going to go."

ANGOLA :

Angola: New Boeing 777 Inaugurated in Luanda

2 May 2016/Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

Luanda — The new "triple seven" of the state-owned Angola Airlines (TAAG) was Sunday baptised with water spray at the 4 de Fevereiro International Airport, moments after its arrival in Luanda.

The aircraft is now called "Iona", in honour of the National Park located in the south-western Namibe Province.

It is a long range aircraft with the most powerful engine ever produced by the Boeing company.

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

In Malawi, people with albinism facing risk of 'systemic extinction,' UN envoy says

Thomson Reuters/May 01, 2016

At least 65 cases of violence against albinos have been recorded by police since late 2014

People with albinism in Malawi are at risk of "systemic extinction" due to relentless attacks fuelled by superstitions, the United Nations' top expert on albinism said this week during her first official visit in her new role.

At least 65 cases of violence against people with albinism, including killings and dismemberment, have been recorded by police in Malawi since late 2014, said Ikponwosa Ero, the UN's independent expert on human rights and albinism.

People with albinism live in danger in regions of the world where their body parts are valued in witchcraft and can fetch a high price. Superstition leads many to believe albino children bring bad luck.

In Malawi, where people with albinism number around 10,000 out of a population of around 16.5 million, the situation amounted to "an emergency, a crisis disturbing in its proportions," she said.

Some of the Malawians with albinism she met compared their ordeal to that of endangered species in the wild, Ero said in a phone interview from Malawi.

She said people with albinism are "an endangered people group facing a risk of systemic extinction over time if nothing is done."

Attacks against people with albinism are particularly brutal

"We talk about protecting wildlife while not even prioritizing efforts in protecting people with albinism," she said.

Ero, who is from Nigeria and has albinism, took the job as the UN's first independent expert on the issue last August.

Albinism is a congenital disorder affecting about one in 20,000 people worldwide who lack pigment in their skin, hair and eyes. It is more common, however, in sub-Saharan Africa.

Attacks against people with albinism are particularly brutal, at times involving victims being dismembered alive by assailants wielding machetes, Ero said in her first report earlier this year.

She said was particularly troubled during her Malawi trip by an encounter with a teenage boy, Alfred. The 17-year-old with albinism had been found in a pool of blood a year ago after being stabbed during his sleep by machete-wielding attackers.

He was silent while meeting her, she said. The boy hadn't recovered and stopped attending school since the attack.

"You wonder what will become of this person," said Ero.

Attacks against people with albinism this year have also been reported in Burundi, Mozambique and Zambia, according to Under the Same Sun, a Canadian advocacy charity.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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