



(Somalia's chief diplomat has lauded Kenya as a progressive government that will uphold its commitments under international law.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Why the World Economic Forum on Africa was momentous for Rwanda

By: Oscar Kimanuka/newtimes.co.rw/May 13, 2016

The World Economic Forum on Africa is today concluding in Kigali. The auspicious annual meeting is one of the most important economic and socio-political events. Through it, countless influential politicians, top business leaders, international political leaders, selected intellectuals, scientists and journalists from many countries around the world come together to discuss the most pressing economic issues, challenges, and agree on strategic actions that can deliver shared prosperity.

This year as well, the event saw more than 1500 patrons from different parts of the world descend on Rwanda's capital Kigali to forge a common front for Africa. They convened under the theme, Connecting Africa's Resources through Digital Transformation. Discussants explored key themes expected to impact the continent's economic landscape and positive talks about the digital transformation of Africa's education, bringing more people on the digital world and supporting startups aligned to digitalization, among others.

The discussions were geared towards enabling African countries to strengthen their digital economy and drive radical structural transformation, for instance public-private collaboration on related issues. As usual, the World Economic Forum presents a good opportunity to build stronger and more prosperous ties among states, regions and continents.

Undoubtedly, a lot was shared and, of course, the gains of the deliberations were enormous. These gains can now be actualized by initiating strategic actions that can deliver shared prosperity across

the African continent.

As it was observed, this can be achieved through strong institutions, greater regional integration, like for the case of East African community, and investment in key areas such as infrastructure, among others.

In all these, Rwanda's success in hosting the event and availing all the necessary facilities was outstanding. During the few days the World Economic Forum was hosted in Kigali, the country obviously gained considerable attention of global business moguls. Both print and electronic media across the world have been airing the good services and hospitality that Rwanda accords its guests. Just like at the beginning of the year, when we delivered the same hospitality, comfort and enjoyment to a mass of football lovers from all over Africa and beyond.

The World Economic Forum is a big thing in all measures and it is another test that Rwanda, and the City of Kigali, in particular, is a cordial destination. This remains forever exciting, stimulating, memorable and historic for the people of Rwanda. The events provide us with invaluable experience and a chance to meet and learn from world renowned personalities. This occurs from the exchange of ideas on the sidelines of every event.

Besides Rwanda being a renowned champion in many areas like gender-quality, ICT or access to healthcare,

and other great achievements that the world knows us about, hosting a global event is a prestigious honour, and another moment for all of us to bask in the glory of global spotlight.

The forum also represented a golden opportunity for businesses to flourish, as our capital welcomed high-profile visitors who were hosted in various remarkable facilities around the city. Even the small-scale businessmen and women have had a coin to take home from various sales and services. Our tourism sector too gets a boost because a good number of the attendants end up visiting our beautiful sceneries around the country.

So far Rwanda has demonstrated beyond doubt its ability in hosting enormous conferences like the AfDB Annual Meetings in 2014, Transform Africa Summits in 2013 and 2015, and the 84th Interpol General Assembly in 2015.

There has always been meticulous preparations and fondness to bring unforgettable impression on our visitors.

The guests have great stories to tell about the land of a thousand hills at the end of every event.

Indeed, hosting such a global forum is not a mean feat. Its success is proof of us standing tall in terms of all the requisites a country needs to capture more of such opportunities. It is no longer just a mere say, but a confirmation that Rwanda is headed for greater and better tidings. Successfully hosting these events is testimony that Rwanda is enjoying continued robust growth in all aspects.

Let us carry this remarkable legacy forward as we await to host more global events like African Union Summit, and the Africa Hotel Investment Forum, which are all due before the end of the year. All these are accomplished by the same sheer hard work and dedication from both leaders and the people of Rwanda.

Africa: Rwanda, Mastercard Sign Deal to Promote Financial Inclusion

13 May 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

The Government and MasterCard, a major payments and technology company, have inked a deal to jointly promote a cashless economy.

The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday under which they committed to work together towards including 90 per cent of the country's population in the financial mainstream.

The partnership was reached in the context of Rwanda's Vision 2020, which seeks to transform the country into a knowledge-led, middle-income economy.

The agreement was signed by the chief executive, Rwanda Development Board and cabinet member, Francis Gatare, on one hand, and the President of Middle East and Africa for MasterCard, Raghu Malhotra, on the other.

Both sides will collaborate on numerous initiatives, according to a statement from RDB.

The deal was sealed on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum on Africa, in Kigali, which enters its third and last day today.

"These solutions include, the digitization of school fees and national healthcare claim payments, providing an online payment gateway for Rwanda Online, contributing to the creation of a common mobile banking platform, and contributing to the effective management of spending activities across borders," it reads in part.

"We are confident that Rwanda's partnership with MasterCard will be beneficial to the country and its citizens as we are implementing our vision of becoming a knowledge based service-oriented economy. I believe this can only be achieved as we embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution," Gatare is quoted as saying.

The Government of Rwanda shares the commitment of MasterCard to realising a world beyond cash, Malhotra said.

"Our global reach and local experience makes MasterCard a perfect partner to help Rwanda meet its Vision 2020 strategy. Rwanda is a key market in East Africa for MasterCard and today's announcement marks an important milestone in driving financial inclusion, not just in the country but in the region and Africa as a whole."

According to the World Bank's Global Findex 2014, two billion people globally do not have access to formal financial services. In Rwanda, 42 per cent of adults own a financial account - whether formal or informal.

Building on the company's approach to develop partnerships with governments, NGOs and local businesses, MasterCard and the Rwandan government will address common challenges faced by poor and often remote populations, such as the lack of formal identification and financial illiteracy, adds the statement.

MasterCard, with a presence in more than 210 countries and territories globally, operates the world's fastest payments processing network.

The firm says that its products and solutions make everyday commerce activities, such as shopping, travelling, running a business and managing finances, "easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone".

The signing was witnessed by Claver Gatete, the Finance and Economic Planning minister, and Daniel Monehin, MasterCard's division president, Sub Saharan Africa.

RDC CONGO :

Fin de mandat de Kabila en RDC: interprétations divergentes de la Constitution

Par RFI/le 13-05-2016

En République démocratique du Congo, la décision de la Cour constitutionnelle continue de faire réagir, notamment sur les divergences d'interprétations de la Constitution. A la demande de la majorité, la Cour a statué sur le sort de Kabila. Elle a donné raison à la majorité qui l'avait saisie : Joseph Kabila pourra rester au pouvoir après décembre 2016, date officielle de la fin de son mandat, si l'élection présidentielle n'est pas organisée dans les délais constitutionnels. Les points de vue divergent sur trois articles de la Constitution.

La décision de la Cour constitutionnelle répond-elle uniquement à une logique juridique ou s'agit-il d'un habillage pour donner une apparence de légalité au maintien de Joseph Kabila au pouvoir ?

Trois interprétations

Pour les juges de la Cour constitutionnelle, l'objectif est d'éviter un vide institutionnel à la tête du pays. Elle a donc tranché : pour assurer la continuité de l'Etat, il faut permettre à Joseph Kabila de rester en poste tant qu'un nouveau président n'aura pas été élu. La Cour s'appuie sur l'article 70 de la Constitution.

De son côté, une partie de l'opposition refuse cette interprétation et brandit l'article 75. Celui-ci prévoit l'intérim par le président du Sénat en cas de vacance du pouvoir ou en cas d'empêchement définitif. Mais les juges ont estimé que cet article ne s'applique pas dans ce contexte. Il stipule qu'il y a vacance du pouvoir en cas de décès, de démission ou de destitution du président. La non-tenue d'une élection n'entre donc pas dans ce cadre selon eux.

Dernière interprétation : celle du député d'opposition Martin Fayulu. Il estime qu'il faut bien s'appuyer sur l'article 70, mais précision de taille : il ne peut pas être dissocié du reste de la Constitution, et notamment de l'article 73. Ce dernier oblige la commission électorale à organiser le scrutin trois mois avant la fin du mandat du chef de l'Etat. Pour le président des Forces armées congolaises (Fac), la Cécini va devoir tenir les délais pour la présidentielle et les législatives. Or, à Kinshasa, un report de la présidentielle ne fait guère de doute. Le président de la Cécini a confirmé à RFI que la révision du fichier électoral ne sera pas achevée avant juin 2017.

La société civile mobilisée

Pour expliquer ce retard, la majorité invoque des contraintes financières. Mais le chercheur Filip Reyntjens tempère : si les élections ne se tiennent pas à temps, c'est selon lui que le pouvoir ne l'aura « pas voulu ». A cet égard, la tentative avortée de modification de la loi électorale en 2015, le refus d'inverser le calendrier pour privilégier la présidentielle, ou encore le récent redécoupage des provinces sont apparues, aux yeux de nombreux observateurs, à tort ou à raison, comme des tentatives pour ralentir le processus.

En tout cas, plusieurs opposants y voient la confirmation de ce qu'ils craignaient depuis déjà des mois : un glissement du calendrier électoral et le maintien au pouvoir du chef de l'Etat au-delà de la fin de son mandat. Si elle est avérée, cette « stratégie du glissement » est-elle tenable, et si oui pour combien de temps ? Tout dépendra de la capacité de l'opposition à s'unir... et à mobiliser.

A ce sujet, c'est vers la société civile que les regards se tournent. Ces événements ont suscité une levée de boucliers dans ses rangs. Floribert Anzuluni est le coordonnateur de Filimbi, un collectif qui a joué un rôle important dans la création du Front citoyen 2016. Il explique que des manifestations seront organisées pour protester contre la décision des juges et contre le président Kabila s'il reste au pouvoir à la fin de son mandat.

■ Les Etats-Unis et la France s'interrogent sur la décision de la Cour constitutionnelle

L'envoyé spécial des Etats-Unis pour la région des Grands Lacs, Tom Perriello, reste très prudent sur les conséquences de cette décision.

« Nous sommes au courant, mais nous n'avons pas encore lu le texte dans son intégralité, donc nous essayons encore d'obtenir une copie de la décision et de l'évaluer, mais... Kabila a la responsabilité de préparer le pays pour des élections et il devrait respecter les délais fixés et la Constitution de République démocratique du Congo. Et pour l'instant, on ne sait pas si quelque chose dans cette décision a changé cela », estime Tom Perriello.

Il poursuit en rappelant quelques principes démocratiques : « Le transfert démocratique du pouvoir est crucial pour la stabilité des Etats, c'est aussi vrai aujourd'hui que ça l'a toujours été en République démocratique du Congo. »

Mais pour le chercheur Filip Reyntens, l'efficacité de ces pressions est douteuse, parce que, regrette-t-il, elles se limitent « à des expressions verbales ».

UGANDA :

Western envoys in Uganda walk out of Museveni swearing-in
bbc.com/13/05/2016

Western delegations attending the inauguration of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni have walked out of the ceremony in protest.

US, European and Canadian diplomats left abruptly when Mr Museveni made disparaging comments about the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The US state department said they had also objected to the presence of Sudan's Omar al-Bashir at the ceremony.

Mr Bashir is wanted by the ICC on charges of genocide.

Thursday's inauguration - the fifth since Mr Museveni took power in 1986 - was attended by leaders from Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

In his address, Mr Museveni described the ICC as "a bunch of useless people" and said he no longer

supported it.

State department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said: "In response to President Bashir's presence and President Museveni's remarks, the US delegation, along with representatives of the EU countries and Canada, departed the inauguration ceremonies to demonstrate our objections."

"We believe that walking out in protest is an appropriate reaction to a head of state mocking efforts to ensure accountability for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Ms Trudeau said that was especially the case as Uganda was committed to accountability as a party to the Rome statute, which established the ICC.

The Hague-based court has issued international warrants in 2009 and 2010 for Mr Bashir's arrest on charges of genocide for atrocities in Sudan's western Darfur region.

Correspondents say that states in theory have a legal duty to arrest ICC suspects on their territory, but African leaders are increasingly doubtful of its authority.

Uganda's turn to arrest al-Bashir ... or not

Citizen reporter and AFP /13.5.2016

A recent ruling by the Supreme Court of South Africa called the behaviour of authorities "disgraceful" for failing to arrest Bashir while he was in Johannesburg.

Amnesty International has again called for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to be arrested and handed over to the International Criminal Court (ICC), this time appealing to Uganda – where al-Bashir is attending the inauguration of President Yoweri Museveni – to bring the wanted statesman to book.

This follows a request by the international nongovernmental organisation to Indonesia in March to arrest al-Bashir during his visit to the country to attend an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit.

"Uganda must face up to its international obligations and arrest Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted on charges of genocide," said Muthoni Wanyeki, Amnesty International's regional director for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes.

"As a signatory to the Rome Statute, Uganda has an absolute obligation to surrender him to the ICC. Failure to do so would be a breach of its duty and a cruel betrayal of the hundreds of thousands of people killed and displaced during the Darfur conflict."

The situation in Darfur, Sudan, was referred to the ICC in 2005 by the UN Security Council. Arrest warrants against al-Bashir have been outstanding since 2009 on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Darfur from 2003 to 2008.

A recent ruling by the high court of South Africa called the behaviour of the authorities "disgraceful" for failing to arrest al-Bashir according to their obligations under legislation implementing the Rome Statute when he was in Johannesburg at the African Union Summit last year.

According to Amnesty International, in March 2010 the Ugandan parliament passed the

International Criminal Court Bill, which fully incorporated the law of the ICC into Ugandan law. The bill also provides for the arrest and surrender of suspects to the ICC.

“The government of President Museveni must act now to arrest him,” said Wanyeki. Museveni embarked on a fourth decade in power yesterday when he was sworn into office for a fifth consecutive term. More than a dozen heads of state, including President Jacob Zuma and Kenya’s Uhuru Kenyatta attended the swearing-in ceremony.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa is telling some radio stations they need to play almost all local music

May 12, 2016/pri.org

South Africa’s national broadcaster, SABC, is introducing a new quota system that requires 90 percent of the music on its stations to be the work of "local" musicians.

The quota is meant to promote local artists and celebrate South Africa’s culture, including the country’s 11 different languages. But what exactly is "local"? That's hard to say.

More than 30 million people tune in to one of the 18 different radio stations that SABC operates. The quota doesn’t apply to the country’s commercial radio stations.

“This has been a long time coming,” says Pumza Fihlani, a BBC online correspondent based in Johannesburg. “A lot of local artists have been calling for this decision to come to pass, and they’re certainly happy that it’s happened. They feel like it’s a chance to introduce themselves to a different audience.”

Hip-hop artist Siyabonga Metane, better known as Slikour, told Radio 702 the decision was like the music industry’s version of Nelson Mandela’s release from prison.

Fihlani says the SABC is trying to show that South African artists can compete on the same footing as international artists. Even non-musicians are celebrating the announcement because it’s an opportunity to listen to a different type of music, as well the as the music they grew up with.

The quota will be in place for a trial period of three months. And the end of the trial, the SABC will look at its data to see if listeners liked how much local music the stations were playing.

“It’s going to take some adjusting for some people who are used to listening to your Beyoncé’s, your Justin Biebers, on a regular basis, to now being introduced to local artists and that being an active push,” Fihlani says.

The SABC said there will be a special focus on jazz, gospel and kwaito — a genre of music that fuses house music, reggae and hip hop — but there are some vague aspects to the quota. For instance, it’s unclear whether music from other parts of the continent would be considered local or international. Fihlani says there needs to be more clarity on that, but mostly people are just excited to get the chance to hear more local artists.

Down the road, a similar quota system may be applied to the television stations run by SABC. In July, Fihlani says, television stations will be pushing to put more locally produced content on air.

“It’s also part of opening up the local industry and making sure there’s a market for stuff that’s locally produced,” she says.

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Somalia’s chief diplomat hails Kenya

Friday 13 May 2016/sabc.co.za

Somalia’s chief diplomat has lauded Kenya as a progressive government that will uphold its commitments under international law.

Speaking at the United Nations in New York, Somali Foreign Minister Abdisalam Omer was reacting to the Nairobi’s announcement late last week that it would close two refugee camps including the world’s largest in Dadaab in the country’s east housing hundreds of thousands of Somalis.

Kenya has pointed to the economic burden of hosting refugees for almost 25 years while becoming increasingly concerned about security risks posed by militant fighters it believes have infiltrated the sprawling area.

A letter, seen by SABC News and sent to Kenya’s Government by the UN’s Humanitarian Coordinator in the country, warns of the grave humanitarian consequences if it carries out its decision to close the camps, affecting 600 000 refugees.

Omer says, "Somalis are very grateful to Kenyans for keeping those refugees for 20 years or more, they have given them homes, they have even given homes to those who are not destitute who have invested in Kenya and lived in Kenya and our families lived in Kenya. So we consider Kenya a very progressive state but we also consider Kenya a country of rule of law and a constitution. And to fulfil their commitment to international law."

There are conflicting reports about whether Kenya will also close a second camp in Kakuma, home to mainly South Sudanese refugees, but Dadaab residents have been given until the end of the month to leave the country.

Somalia’s Foreign Minister remained optimistic.

I believe in the final analysis that Kenya will live up to its obligations to refugees

"Nobody wants to be in refugee camp for 20 years, so it has to be orderly, it has to be respectful of their human rights of those poor people and it has to be safe for them to return to Somalia and I’m pretty sure that the Kenyan Government which is very progressive government and our brothers and sisters who even send military troops to support us, will do the right thing."

Pointing to a joint agreement between his government, Kenya and the UN's Refugee Agency signed in 2013 that repatriations from Kenya to Somalia be voluntary.

"I believe in the final analysis that Kenya will live up to its obligations to refugees and we have a mechanism called tripartite agreement between Somalia, Kenya and UNHCR that 80 000 Somalis return to Somalia in 2015."

It's unclear how many Somalis have voluntarily decided to return home but with war still raging in many parts of the country, international aid organisations believe it would be difficult to forcibly send refugees home without being able to guarantee their safety once there.

Kenya drawing huge gains from oil slump, CBK boss tells Kigali meet

By Moses Michira/standardmedia.co.ke/Fri, May 13th 2016

Kenya has benefitted immensely from the crash in commodity prices, and specifically oil, which has hit most other African nations badly. Central Bank of Kenya Governor Patrick Njoroge told a panel discussing the slump in the price of crude oil on the international markets that they had sharply cut the cost of living at home. This was through lower energy and electricity prices, while enabling the country reduce its balance of trade. "It is obviously devastating for most countries but it has had huge benefits at home," Dr Njoroge said. Pump prices for kerosene, petrol and diesel are at the lowest levels since 2009 in Kenya, granting households and motorists major savings. Tea, coffee and horticulture are Kenya's biggest exports, all enjoying relative price stability in the last year when crude oil prices fell by more than 60 per cent. Average crude oil prices in 2014 were about \$110 per barrel, before a relentless slump that only reversed in February from under \$30 a barrel. Oil is the single biggest import commodity in Kenya, implying that any price reductions on the commodity translate to substantial amounts. These savings provide relief to the exchange rate against the major currencies such as the US dollar – the main currency in international trade. Dr Njoroge, however, projects that the prices will recover at some point to provide some relief for countries that are heavily dependent on commodities. "We do not expect that the oil prices will remain depressed forever, they will rise and fall again," he added.

Nigeria is among the countries that have taken the biggest hit from the low oil pricing, with the impact cascading to households. Panelists in the session alongside Njoroge included former Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iwaela – who now chairs the Gavi Alliance, a US-based global body seeking to enhance access to immunisation in poor countries.

Closer trade ties among the different countries was proposed as the most practical ways to cushion the various states from the shocks presented by volatility in commodity prices. While it is oil prices that have plummeted the most among African commodities, Zambia is also reeling from a similar fate. Prices of its main export, copper, have fallen by more than half in the last five years – on account of falling demand from China, the key market. "Africa has a population of more than 1 billion, which would be a huge market, but will only be achieved through increased mobility," Akiwumi Adesai, president of the Africa Development Bank said.

His bank, AfDB, nearly saved Chase Bank from the temporary closure in an uncompleted transaction worth Sh5 billion on the last day of March. Mr Adesai was speaking in a different session of the WEF that was addressing the need for opening up of borders within the continent to promote trade and free movement of people. Potential markets His sentiments about continental integration are now the rallying call in the forum that closes today. President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame spoke widely about the need for deeper integration and easier cross-border movement of goods and people. Mr Kenyatta on Wednesday said there was an urgent need to eliminate unnecessary trade barriers between countries, citing that they stood to draw huge benefits by looking at each other as potential markets for their goods. And in another proposal, economies that are heavily reliant on commodities could consider setting up a fund whose

role will be cushioning the economy from depressed prices. Excess revenues earned when the markets are favourable will be deposited into that fund, and only to be withdrawn when the markets crash.?

ANGOLA :

EU deploys medical experts to Angola amid outbreak of yellow fever

May 13,2016/Xinhua

BRUSSELS, May 12 (Xinhua) -- The European Union (EU) deployed a team of medical experts to the Republic of Angola amid the ongoing outbreak of yellow fever there, said the European Commission on Thursday.

Experts from EU member states, the European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), would travel to the African country, which would also be the first deployment of a public health team under the European Medical Corps launched in February this year.

The mission, led by the ECDC, would last about two weeks and be implemented in close coordination with both the Angola Government and the World Health Organization (WHO), said the Commission.

These medical experts would develop a better understanding of the epidemiological characteristics of the outbreak, assess the risks for regional and international spread, implications for Europe and for Europeans travelling in the region, and examine ways to provide further expertise to the country in its mitigation efforts, said the press release.

The yellow fever outbreak started in Angola's capital Luanda in December 2015, but has quickly spread to other municipalities and provinces.

Imported cases of yellow fever have been reported from China, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mauritania, according to a Commission statement.

AU/AFRICA :

Africa needs power for digital revolution

2016-05-12 /news24.com

Kigali - For the digital revolution to succeed, Africa must improve public access to electricity, delegates at the World Economic Forum on Africa said as they met for a second day in Kigali.

Plugging households in to the grid remains a major challenge on this continent where more than 600 million people have no access to power, said delegates meeting in the Rwandan capital at a three-day summit known as Africa's Davos.

"Without access to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy, Africa cannot really take advantage of

the fourth industrial revolution" former UN under-secretary general Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella told AFP, referring to the digital revolution.

"The investors were very clear that you need good, determined governments and public policy that will last and are predictable for 10, 20 years," he explained after talks between public decision-makers and representatives of the private sector.

But the first step was addressing the continent's lack of access to power.

"You much recognise that the fourth industrial revolution.. is just simply about providing access to electricity," African Development Bank (AfDB) president Akinwumi Adesina told a press conference.

"Everything revolves around having access to power," said Adesina who told AFP in February that the AfDB was to invest \$12 billion in the energy sector over the next five years to promote universal access to electricity.

'Like blood in the body'

Last September, the bank unveiled a landmark initiative to solve Africa's huge energy deficit by 2025, in a programme which Adesina said would boost the continent's industrial capacity and its competitiveness.

"With that, we will be able to improve the access of small- and medium-size enterprises to electricity, we will be able to improve the industrial capacity that Africa has, we will also be able to improve the competitiveness that Africa has in global markets," he said.

"Electricity is like blood in your body."

Although Africa was rich in resources, it lacked the necessary policies to encourage long-term investor interest in energy projects, Yumkella said.

Governments "should do for the energy sector what they did for mobile telephony: you deregulate, you privatise, you incentivise, [and] private capital will come in," he said.

But some warned of the need to move swiftly, saying regional governments could see opportunities quickly snapped up by eager western investors.

"The negative scenario is, of course, that Africa once again will be exploited by western countries and companies who have invested much higher in the fourth industrial revolution," warned Adam Ikdal, director of the South African branch of the Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

"So it is an opportunity, but it is also a potential threat if government doesn't wake up to the challenge."

Vaste coup de filet antiterroriste en Tunisie avec 37 arrestations
RTS.ch/13/05/2016

Deux "terroristes" ont été tués et 37 personnes ont été arrêtées en Tunisie, a annoncé jeudi soir le ministère de l'Intérieur, en précisant que "des actes terroristes" étaient en préparation.

Deux "terroristes dangereux et recherchés" ont été tués mercredi à Mnihla, au nord-ouest de la capitale, et 16 djihadistes présumés arrêtés. Lors des descentes qui ont suivi, 21 autres personnes ont été interpellées.

Ces 37 suspects font partie de "cellules terroristes". Ils "étaient surveillés par les unités de la Garde nationale depuis plus de quatre mois", a-t-il souligné.
Ils étaient entraînés aux armes

Ces djihadistes présumés avaient "tous reçu des entraînements aux armes". Ils "étaient en train de se rassembler à Tunis pour viser des installations vitales et sensibles dans la capitale et le reste du pays" (...) à l'aide de bombes" et par "des attentats-suicides", a annoncé le ministère.

Certains sont "impliqués dans les actes terroristes contre le musée du Bardo, l'hôtel Imperial à Sousse, le bus de la sécurité présidentielle et à Ben Guerdane". Ils sont aussi en lien avec les terroristes des montagnes tunisiennes et l'organisation EI en Libye, en Syrie et en Irak.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

EXIM Bank, UBA sign MoU to boost US-Africa trade

By: TOLA AKINTUMINI/nationalmirroronline.net/ May 13, 2016

The Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM Bank), Fred P. Hochberg, and the Group Managing Director of United Bank for Africa (UBA), Phillips Oduoza, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the goal of expanding trade between the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa at the World Economic Forum Africa (WEF) in Kigali. The MoU could provide up to \$100 million to finance the purchase of American goods and services. Speaking on the deal, the EXIM Bank boss said his organization was proud to build on its decade's long commitment to financing American exports to sub-Saharan Africa.

"This memorandum signals to American exporters and African businesses alike that there are many more promising opportunities to work together, and EXIM stands ready to provide the financing needed to turn more of those opportunities into realities", Hochberg said. A statement by the management of UBA Group indicated that the MoU was a statement of general intent between EXIM Bank and UBA to promote the availability of EXIM financing of up to \$100 million in the region.

According to the terms of the memorandum, the American export-import bank and UBA will work together to share information and develop export financing opportunities in key sectors including commodities, agriculture and food products, spare parts, and large and small equipment purchases. Under the MOU, EXIM Bank and UBA will explore options for offering a range of financing solutions for American exporters and African buyers, including short and medium-term financing programs that allow for flexible repayment terms and competitive insurance policies guaranteed by EXIM. Since 2009, EXIM has provided more than \$6 billion in financing for transactions across sub-Saharan Africa. For the fiscal year ending in 2014, the Bank supported \$2.05 billion in

transactions in more than 20 sub-Saharan African countries.

In 2014, the Bank signed a \$100 million MOU with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank) to finance U.S. exports to the region that target both Diaspora businesses in the U.S. and PTA Bank's member states. UBA is a leading financial services institution in Africa, with business offices in 19 African countries, in addition to offices in the U.S., United Kingdom and France. The multinational Bank provides banking services to over 11 million customers in Africa and around the world.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

EU is 'failing' to stop people smugglers in Mediterranean
13 May 2016/itv.com

An EU naval mission to fight people smuggling in the Mediterranean is having no meaningful impact, a parliamentary report has found.

Operation Sophia, named after a baby born on a mission ship off the Libyan coast, began in September 2015 with the aim of fighting migrant smugglers, as well as rescuing refugees in distress at sea.

However, it has had an "insignificant" impact on the smuggling industry and is responsible for only low-level arrests, the House of Lords EU Committee said.

It pointed to three major causes: a lack of a stable Libyan government, smugglers adapting their "business model" to avoid detection and failure on the part of the operation to properly understand the smuggling networks - particularly in Libya.

Despite this, it credits the mission with saving 9,000 lives at sea in its search and rescue efforts.

Our report stresses that the operation is succeeding in carrying out its separate search and rescue obligations, which is to be commended.

This is a humanitarian obligation that should be maintained.

However, a naval mission cannot disrupt the business model of people smuggling, and in this sense it is failing.

The smuggling networks operate from Libya, and they extend through Africa.

Without support from a stable Libyan government, the operation is unable to gather the intelligence it needs or tackle the smugglers onshore.

– Committee chairman Lord Tugendhat

The report concluded:

A mission acting only on the high seas is not able to effectively disrupt the smuggling networks
The EU must also focus on tackling root causes, including helping source countries overcome security and development challenges
EU member states must engage the public with the new realities about global migration

CHINA/AFRICA :

China, Morocco vow industrial cooperation

Source: Xinhua / 2016-05-12

BEIJING, May 12 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang vowed to beef up industrial capacity cooperation with Morocco when meeting with King Mohammed VI in Beijing on Thursday.

The Chinese government supports Chinese companies taking part in the infrastructure construction and industrialization in Morocco, he said, suggesting cooperation in the areas of industrial parks, high-speed railways and renewable energy.

China will step up efforts to transfer applicable technology and train technical and managerial personnel for Morocco, in a bid to enhance the self-development capacity of the country, said Li.

He expressed hope that the two sides would concentrate on several demonstrative cooperative projects, so as to boost common development and prosperity.

Li said he appreciated King Mohammed VI's decision granting Chinese citizens visa-free access from June 1 this year, stressing that China is willing to work with Morocco to facilitate people-to-people exchanges between the two sides.

King Mohammed VI said Morocco appreciates China's achievements in development and the strong measures it has taken to address climate change.

He spoke highly of China's policy towards Africa and China's proposition of non-interference in internal affairs of other countries as well as peaceful settlement of disputes.

Morocco hopes to cooperate more with China in infrastructure building, high-speed railways and green industries and expand people-to-people exchanges, said the King.

Top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang also met with the King on Thursday.

Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), called on the two sides to boost cooperation by implementing the ten China-Africa cooperation plans and jointly advancing the Belt and Road initiative.

The NPC is ready to expand friendly exchanges and enhance legislative cooperation with Morocco's parliament, so as to provide legal guarantees for bilateral political, economic and cultural exchanges, said Zhang.

King Mohammed VI started his state visit to China on Wednesday.

INDIA/AFRICA :

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