



(Skimming above the choppy waves through the dark the four planes swooped in low over Lake Victoria, packed with over 200 elite Israeli commandos on a daring raid to free hijacked hostages.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

RDC : Joseph Kabila résistera-t-il aux pressions internationales ?
dimanche, 26 juin 2016/afrikarabia2.blogs.courrierinternational.com

Face à la crise pré-électorale qui se profile et aux risques d'embrasement, les Etats-unis ont décidé de sanctionner le chef de la police congolaise et le Parlement européen a demandé explicitement au président congolais de démissionner à la fin de son dernier mandat. Sous pression, Joseph Kabila renoncera-t-il à s'accrocher au pouvoir alors que ses soutiens préparent un possible référendum ? Rien n'est moins sûr.

Sanctions et pressions internationales s'accroissent sur le camp présidentiel en République démocratique du Congo (RDC). Accusé par l'opposition de ne pas vouloir se retirer après la fin de son dernier mandat en décembre 2016, les Etats-unis et les députés européens ont décidé de pousser le curseur des avertissements contre les autorités congolaises. La première victime de ce coup de semonce de la communauté internationale s'appelle Célestin Kanyama, le chef de la police congolaise de Kinshasa. Surnommé « esprit de mort » par les opposants au pouvoir, le général Kanyama est accusé par les autorités américaines d'être « responsable ou complice d'actes de violences sur des femmes et des enfants ainsi que d'enlèvements ». Cheville ouvrière de la violente répression policière qui s'abat à chaque manifestation de l'opposition dans les rues de la capitale congolaise, le chef de la police a vu la semaine dernière ses avoirs aux Etats-unis gelés par le Trésor américain. « Toute entité américaine » est également interdite de faire des transactions avec l'officier congolais.

Kanyama, artisan de la répression à Kinshasa

Washington reproche à Célestin Kanyama son rôle prépondérant dans les violences politiques en RDC. « Esprit de mort » était en effet à la manœuvre dans les violentes répressions des manifestations contre la loi électorale de janvier 2015. Une mobilisation qui s'était soldée par un triste bilan : au moins 40 morts selon les ONG internationales. Kanyama était aussi à la tête de la police lors de la tristement célèbre opération « Likofi » censée lutter contre la délinquance à Kinshasa. Là encore, le bilan est lourd : une cinquantaine de personnes sont tués et une trentaine sont portées disparues. Les sanctions américaines constituent clairement un avertissement à l'encontre des responsables des services de sécurité congolais. Dans le viseur également des autorités américaines, on peut trouver le patron de l'Agence nationale de renseignements (ANR), Kalev Mutond. Ces sanctions peuvent-elles inquiéter le pouvoir ? Des ministres peuvent-ils être les prochaines cibles ?

Dans le sillage de John Numbi

Avec Célestin Kanyama, les Etats-unis tapent certes au porte-monnaie d'un haut responsable congolais, mais pour le moment aucun politique n'a encore été visé. D'autant que selon certaines sources à Kinshasa, Kanyama pourrait rapidement être lâché par le pouvoir, comme l'a été en son temps John Numbi, lui aussi chef de la police et impliqué dans l'assassinat du célèbre militant des droits de l'homme Floribert Chebeya. Numbi a été démis de ses fonctions et mis au vert dans son Katanga natal. Le même sort pourrait être réservé au « fusible » Célestin Kanyama. En attendant, le pouvoir n'a pas encore décidé de le lâcher complètement puisqu'une marche de soutien au patron de la police est organisée ce mardi dans la capitale. Le gouvernement a également condamné le gel des avoirs de Kanyama : « une atteinte à la souveraineté » du Congo risquant de « mettre en péril les relations bilatérales » souligne les autorités dans un communiqué.

Elections : Kabila tente de rassurer

Pourtant, les sanctions américaines ont visiblement été prises au sérieux par le chef de l'Etat lui-même. Car, derrière les violences policières dénoncées par les Etats-unis, il y a bien sûr le blocage du processus électoral, facteur de troubles au Congo. Peu disert jusque-là sur la question, Joseph Kabila est sorti de son silence lors d'une visite à Kalemie, promettant des élections et demandant aux Congolais de « se préparer pour le processus électoral, qui démarre en juillet ». Le discours se voulait rassurant, mais aucune date, ni aucun délai n'ont été dévoilés par le président congolais, laissant une nouvelle fois planer le flou sur la date des élections et le doute sur sa volonté réelle d'organiser rapidement le (...)

UGANDA :

Bullet scars as Uganda remembers Israel's Entebbe raid

By AFP/ 27th June 2016

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is due to visit Uganda for the anniversary.

Skimming above the choppy waves through the dark the four planes swooped in low over Lake Victoria, packed with over 200 elite Israeli commandos on a daring raid to free hijacked hostages.

Landing soon after midnight at Uganda's Entebbe airport on July 4, 1976, it took the paratroopers less than an hour to storm the base and free over 100 passengers aboard an Air France plane, an operation that has gone down in special forces legend. The plane had been hijacked a week earlier on June 27.

Four decades later, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is due to visit Uganda for the anniversary not only to mark the operation and boost now-friendly ties between Uganda and Israel, but also to pay a deeply personal tribute.

The commando leader, the only Israeli soldier killed in the raid, was his older brother, 30-year old Lieutenant-Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu.

As an operation, it was "a difficult one", remembered Amir Ofer, then a sergeant major and now a businessman, visiting Uganda earlier this month as part of preparations to mark the anniversary.

Bullet scars preserved

Uganda and Israel are planning the memorial to be one of reconciliation, preserving the bullet scars in the walls of the old terminal at Entebbe, still the airport for the capital Kampala, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) to the north.

Earlier this month, some of the retired commandos who took part in the raid visited the scene of the extraordinary rescue, standing alongside Ugandan officials, including the son of their then enemy, dictator Idi Amin.

"We had short time to prepare for it," said Ofer, noting the more than 3,500 kilometres (2,200 miles) between Uganda and Israel, with a 48-hour ultimatum before the gunmen would start killing hostages. "The clock was ticking away after the terrorists gave their ultimatum."

An Air France plane en route from Tel Aviv to Paris had been hijacked by two Palestinians and two Germans in Athens, and ordered to fly to Entebbe with 250 passengers aboard.

Uganda's Amin, who had cut ties with Israel in favour of cash handouts from Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi, allowed the hijacked plane to land.

On arrival, Jewish and Israeli hostages were separated and others freed, leaving about 100 hostages and crew members guarded by the hijackers.

Neither the hijackers nor Ugandan troops ever expected special forces could stage a raid from so far away, taking the airport by complete surprise.

"We fanned out without any one realising that we were an enemy force," Ofer said, describing how they rushed out of the plane after touching down in the dark. The initial force roared out of the plane in a black Mercedes that looked like Amin's personal car, but their cover was blown when they had to shoot a Ugandan guard.

"Within minutes of our arrival, we were able to arrive at the terminal, killed the terrorists and within an hour we were on our way back to Israel," Ofer added.

All but 3 freed

All but three of the hostages were freed in the raid while 20 Ugandan soldiers and seven hijackers were killed, along with several Ugandan citizens.

One other hostage, a 75-year-old Israeli woman who had been transferred to a hospital, was subsequently killed on Amin's orders. -

Enemies in 1976, the raid today is hoped to help build ties between the two nations.

The raid "will forever remain at the heart of all those that got involved," said former Israeli sergeant-major Alex Davidi who also took part in the raid.

Bonifence Byamukama, from the Uganda Tourism Board, said they were "working on a monument in order to preserve the history" of the operation, including the bullet scars in the walls.

Netanyahu's planned trip, the first by an Israeli premier to Africa since Yitzhak Rabin visited Casablanca in 1994, is a culmination of years of rapprochement and is hoped will boost links with African nations, particularly on security issues.

'Sign of reconciliation'

Galvanised by a growing demand for Israeli security assistance and his government's search for new allies, Netanyahu has put a fresh focus on improving ties on the continent.

Amin's son Jaffar, a 10-year old boy when the raid took place, welcomed the commandos to Uganda this month as a "sign of reconciliation", remembering the stories his father told after he was deposed and forced into exile.

Amin, whose eccentric eight-year regime helped his name become a shorthand for African dictatorship and violent misrule, said he had been "close" to the soldier who shot dead Yonatan Netanyahu.

The officer, named as Captain Rafael Osacha, reportedly died quietly in retirement in the 1990s.

Jaffar recalled what his father had said when he asked why he had not sent fighter jets to shoot down the departing Israelis.

"My father said of the Israelis, 'Son, those are the children of God, when they start to fight, they never stop,'" Jaffar said.

"To him, he felt they had come to rescue their people, they had accomplished their mission, so he let them go."

One of the World's Most Welcoming Asylum Countries Is (Wait for It) Uganda

27 June 2016/globalvoices.org

The 6,000 delegates from the 135 countries that participated in the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul last month, could not have been more full of good intentions. The summit was an opportunity to highlight the remarkable work done by certain countries, including in the area of receiving and integrating refugees, which is often ignored in the international mass media. Uganda was one of the stars of the summit for its achievements when it comes to hosting refugees.

Before the summit in Turkey, at a regional preliminary meeting in Kampala, Ugandan Prime Minister Apolo Nsibambi told participants that it is unacceptable that Africa—independent from the colonial European powers for more than 50 years—continues to be the largest generator of refugees and internally displaced people. He also argued that the failure to protect and provide aid effectively, as well as find timely solutions to the problems that created this displacement issue, pose a major threat to Africa's development and serious consequences for peace and stability.

Uganda, whose neighbours have suffered various bouts of instability and war, has admitted roughly 700,000 refugees (from South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo) in the year 2016.

Uganda's refugee policy has been an important regional sanctuary. The Nakivale refugee camp, created in 1958 to shelter Tutsi refugees fleeing the Hutu revolution in their country, is a six-hour drive from Kampala, Uganda's capital. It stretches over 184 square kilometers (71 square miles) and covers a lake, hills, many rivers, and rich farmland, according to the NGO Caritas Goma:

Translation Original Quote

The Ugandan model is practically unique in what it provides to refugees. According to observers, what makes Uganda unique is the immediate support and aid given to refugees. In Uganda, refugees have the opportunity to contribute to the local economy.

Will Jones, who works as a researcher at the Centre for Refugee Studies at Oxford University, visited the camp three years ago. Writing on the Forced Migration Review webpage, he says the camp isn't what most people would expect:

Translation Original Quote

This is not the choked ghetto usually evoked by media representations. Nakivale is a confederation of villages and contains enough farming and animal husbandry to feed itself and still produce surplus to export further afield. And though Nakivale is in the middle of nowhere, it is anything but isolated from cultural, social, and economic activity; there are markets, several cinemas, and plenty of smartphones in evidence taking advantage of the new mobile phone mast erected in the centre of the settlement.

In a blog post in early February 2016, Alice Albright, the chief executive officer at the Global Partnership for Education, points out that Uganda has even factored in refugees in its development plan:

Translation Original Quote

Despite these difficulties, the Ugandan government recognises that the cost of providing

protection and assistance to the 250 refugees who arrive into the country each day is dwarfed by the cost of inaction. Because Uganda understands that displacement is a long-term development issue, it has included refugee issues in its National Development Plan. Schools in refugee settlements are administered by the Ministry of Education.

In an article recently published on the website Cairn.info, titled “Spatial and Geopolitical Dimensions of Hosting Refugees—The Agricultural Colonies of Sudanese Exiles in Uganda,” Professor Luc Cambrézy, a geographer and the research director at the Institute of Research Development discovered how Uganda's refugee response differed from common practices elsewhere:

Translation Original Quote

Contrary to the commonly applied solution of controlling refugee movements by concentrating refugees in camps, the Ugandan government opted for the establishment of “rural settlements” for the population fleeing civil war in Sudan. Following a detailed analysis of this experience in two refugee hosting areas, Rhino Camp and Adjumani district, it appears clearly that the government’s primary objective was a vast land planning and development operation using the means provided by international humanitarian aid.

In another article published in June 2014 on Irinnews.org, Professor Alexander Betts, the director of the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, along with his team (including researcher Will Jones, quoted above) detailed research on refugees’ livelihood:

Translation Original Quote

So what do they do to survive? They farm, certainly, in and around the rural settlements. Around half the Congolese, Rwandan, and South Sudanese refugees whom researchers interviewed said they had plots of their own, and others worked as farm labourers. Only the Somalis showed little or no interest in farming.

Not Just Subsistence Farming

Ugandan crop buyers come regularly to the settlements, and take truckloads of produce from Kyangwali to the market town of Hoima. The researchers spoke to a trader in Hoima who said he bought around 500 tons of maize and beans from the refugee farmers last year—some 60 percent of his stock. He sold the maize on to other parts of Uganda, but also further afield, to Tanzania and South Sudan.

Now the farmers in Kyangwali are trying to cut out the middlemen and sell their crops directly on the market, through a cooperative with more than 500 members, including some Ugandan farmers from local villages. Kyangwali Progressive Farmers is registered as a limited company, and has started getting contracts to supply produce directly to manufacturers.

In the village of Rwamwanja, a savings-and-loans project called “Solo Effort” has emerged to help refugees and nationals raise livestock and create other types of businesses. Initiated two years ago, it now has 139 members. In this video, a woman named Rebecca explains how she managed to lift herself out of poverty, thanks to the project.

There are still difficulties, however, when it comes to implementing Uganda's policy of receiving and integrating refugees. The website Caritasgoma.org, for example, highlights some of the local population's “distrust” of newcomers to the country:

Translation Original Quote

The Nakivale camp is close to Ugandan villages where farmers grow staple crops. Seeing the government take away their land to make room for refugees, the former are not happy with the support given to the latter. Hence, there's a certain distrust of the refugees. The government argues that this land had been specifically set aside for asylum seekers. In a country that has one of the youngest and fastest growing populations in the world, access to land is a challenge that refugee policy in Uganda must face. But for now, the government and locals are determined to take care of those in need and in the best way possible.

Uganda Milk Prospects Brighter - Stakeholders

27 June 2016/The Monitor (Kampala)

Mbarara — Stakeholders in the Uganda dairy industry say the future looks bright following several interventions by the government to grow the enterprise, seen as a key component in turning the wheels of the economy especially in the rural areas.

Processors, input suppliers and agro-industry financiers are optimistic that with more stakeholder commitment, the contribution of dairy to the country's Gross Domestic Product could rise above the 10 per cent mark.

Speaking during this year's Uganda Livestock and Heritage show at Kakyeka Stadium in Mbarara District over the weekend, industry players spoke of renewed efforts to stimulate milk production by encouraging farmers to adopt best practices on the farm.

Milk industry leader in the country, Fresh Dairy, said income from export of milk products had risen by more than 20 per cent over the past one year as a result of increased production at the farm gates.

"In the past 12 months, our production has risen to more than 500,000 litres per day following sustained efforts by farmers to grow daily production. This saw the value of our exports rise to \$10 million (Shs33.6 billion), thereby putting milk as a critical foreign exchange earner for the country," Mr John Gethi, Fresh Dairy director of milk procurement, said.

He attributed the rise in value of exports to improved product quality after the company invested in a \$14 million plant upgrade at its Kampala processing factory.

"Because of the favourable investment climate in Uganda, we paid farmers Shs50 billion last year and boosted the capacity of our raw milk cooling stations in the country to enable them take more milk from farmers. We are grateful to dairy farmers who have embraced our stringent milk quality regime right from the farm-gates," Mr Gethi said, adding: "The expansion has come with new job opportunities and in the past year alone, over 90 Ugandans have secured employment to work with us in our new growth strategy."

The show, which attracted hundreds of farmers, was held to create empowerment for farmers in best practice in dairy animal husbandry. Input suppliers, agro-vet traders and financial institutions were also in attendance.

Farmers interviewed said there was an urgent need to move dairy farming from being rain-dependent.

"Dairy farming has become seasonal with milk volumes increasing during the rains and when the dry season comes, production goes down," Mr Ronald Ssengendo, a smallholder farmer from Rushere, said, adding: "This explains why I am very keen on the animal feed stands here. I want to learn how to make and preserve animal feed to enable my production remain optimum throughout all seasons."

Many farmers spoken to thanked processors for making assured monthly payments for milk delivered.

Licensed players

Uganda's dairy industry is awash with a number of players who trade in processed milk. They include the following licensed milk processing companies in the country, namely: Brookside Dairy (Fresh Dairy) Uganda Ltd, Jesa Farm Dairy Limited, Pearl Dairy Farms Limited, Amos Dairies Limited, Paramount Dairies Limited, GBK Dairy Products Limited, and Vital Tomosi Dairy Limited, among others.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Independent analysis says Tanzania object is from MH370

Jun 27, 2016/blogs.crikey.com.au

How this Indian Ocean find has been comprehensively linked to MH370

A compelling case for the large object found in Tanzania being part of the right wing of missing flight MH370 has been published by IG members Mike Exner and Don Thompson.

They conclude that it is the inboard one third of the large right wing flap adjacent to the flaperon recovered from La Réunion Island last July.

The paper is likely to increase the focus on possible reasons why most of the debris recovered from the Malaysia Airlines 777-200ER has been identified as coming from the right side of the jet.

MH370 vanished over the Gulf of Thailand while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board on March 8, 2014.

The ATSB analysis of the last signals sent from an onboard server on the jet via an Inmarsat satellite and a ground station says it is possible that they were interrupted by the out of fuel jet losing line of sight with the satellite as the fuselage rolled over or inverted immediately before impact with the south Indian Ocean.

MH370 smashed into the sea with enough force to create the mostly small fragments of floating wreckage recovered until now, including stripping or breaking some internal fittings from their settings.

Fresh questions about the possible location of the sunk wreckage of the Boeing 777 have been raised by some of the Independent Group of scientists. These add to pressure on the ATSB managed seafloor search to also look at an area well to the north-east of the current and nearly exhausted priority zone.

This likely largest part of MH370 yet recovered was found on the eastern side of the Tanzanian Island of Kojana, which is a more precise location than the term Pemba island previously applied to the discovery.

As the authors of this latest report explain, a bolt head seen in the photos posted of the wreckage carries the relevant part number for its use in this section of Boeing 777-200s and -300s.

Manas buys gold project in Tanzania

June 27, 2016/AAP

Manas Resources will purchase the Victoria gold project in Tanzania from Cienega for US\$4 million (A\$5.4 million).

Manas understands some of the VGP licenses are subject to JV agreements or pre-existing royalty arrangements although it would appear that the most prospective areas are available on a 100% basis. The final number, size and composition of the license package and impact to any underlying JV or royalty arrangements will be evaluated as part of the due diligence process.

The consideration will consist of a US\$200,000 non-refundable deposit, US\$1.8 million in cash and US\$2 million in shares at an issue price of \$0.002 per share.

KENYA :

Letter from Africa: Kenya's tear gas wars

bbc.com/27/06/2016

In our series of letters from Africa, journalist and media trainer Joseph Warungu takes advantage of the temporary lull in tear gas to examine the rocky political climate in Kenya.

Kenya is walking dangerously close to the "mass grave" it dug for itself in 2008, following the disputed election of 2007.

The political and ethnic violence that ensued claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Kenyans and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.

"We nearly lost Kenya," were the words that Kofi Annan, former UN secretary-general and mediator in the Kenyan crisis, used to describe the mayhem that greeted the announcement of the final election result in December of 2007.

Nearly nine years later, and with lessons of the 59-day violence seemingly forgotten, Kenyans are once more pinning their country to the ground and holding a can of petrol in one hand and a box of matches in the other.

As a journalist who has been covering Kenya and Africa since 1989 I am now a worried man.

If nothing is done to pacify the society and cool the temperatures that have been recklessly raised by politicians, this nation could burn.

And if it does, the blaze will be a lot more fierce and destructive than in 2008.

'Hidden animosity'

In the last year, social media has continued to light up with hate speech.

Commentary and posts are being screened and responded to through ethnic lenses.

In one conversation packed with ethnic vitriol, a contributor commented:

"Going by the comments here, it confirms the fact that there is hidden animosity in Kenya and one day 2007/2008 violence will look like child's play. We will be worse than what happened in Rwanda, Bosnia and Kosovo combined."

Eight elected politicians were recently arrested and detained in police custody for three days on charges of hate speech.

One is accused of calling for the eviction of one community from Nakuru region in the Rift Valley, while another alluded to the assassination of opposition leader Raila Odinga.

At the centre of the current spike in political fever is the government and opposition stand-off regarding electoral reform.

In the last few weeks, Monday has been turned into a day of political protests.

The opposition has been calling their supporters onto the streets to push for the reforms by marching to the offices of the electoral commission.

And the response from the police has predictably been a healthy dose of tear gas, in an attempt to break up the demonstrations.

Four people have so far died in clashes between police and protesters.

Mondays are now called "machozi Monday" - Swahili for "tear gas Monday".

And the area around the offices of the electoral commission is now baptised "shisha corner" because of the heavy tear gas that fills the air.

So who are some of the main actors in this political drama and what do they want? I have selected seven of the key players:

1. President Uhuru Kenyatta

He wants to continue occupying the residence he has known since childhood when his father, Jomo Kenyatta, was president - namely State House.

In other words he wants to be re-elected president for a second five-year term in the coming general election.

He has been forced to accept that he negotiate a way out of the impasse with the opposition.

But he wants this dialogue to be conducted through a parliamentary process, because he "swore to uphold and defend the constitution".

What he does not want is a street solution.

He saw what the Arab Spring did to those in power.

He has vowed to crack down hard on hate speech and his government has not spared leaders accused of spreading ethnic hatred.

The authorities have made the eight MPs arrested an example by denying them bail and forcing them to suffer in the infamous cold and miserable police cells for three nights.

2. Raila Odinga

Poster boy of the opposition, he leads the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD), an umbrella grouping of several political parties.

Mr Odinga wants what his late father Jaramogi Oginga Odinga tried and failed to achieve for many years - enter State House.

Among other things he wants a total overhaul of the electoral commission and direct appointment of the commissioners.

He believes the body as currently constituted is not credible and cannot oversee a credible electoral process in 2017.

He does not want reforms through a parliamentary process.

He knows very well the current government has enough numbers in the house to frustrate his efforts.

3. Moses Kuria

He is the MP for Gatundu South, a constituency in central Kenya that has produced two presidents - Jomo Kenyatta and Uhuru Kenyatta.

He is Kenya's Donald Trump (minus the billions and the presidential ambition): Straight-talking, unpredictable and uncontrollable.

He wants the opposition to tremble in their boots as they prepare for dialogue.

For the umpteenth time Mr Kuria is in trouble and facing serious charges of hate speech.

Many Kenyans view him as the government's kamikaze - a force of self-destruction that also conveniently distracts attention from the ruling establishment.

4. Johnson Muthama

He is the senator for Machakos County and a prominent opposition voice.

He is wealthy, loud and bold.

He will say the unsayable and often makes the government quite uncomfortable.

Mr Muthama is one of the eight legislators who were arrested for hate speech.

5. Isaack Hassan

He is the chairman and face of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

He does not want to go home - at least not yet.

He wants both government and the opposition to leave him and his team alone to continue preparing for next year's election, arguing that a change of guard now will have a negative impact on the 2017 elections.

6. Tear gas

It is a non-lethal chemical weapon that irritates the eyes, mouth, lungs and skin.

In Kenya, it is personified by the cabinet secretary in charge of internal security, Joseph Nkaissery.

The former military man talks and acts tough.

In mid-May he cautioned opposition protesters: "Let them be warned that I have enough tear gas - which I will not run short of soon - to use in smoking them out of IEBC offices if they attempt to force themselves there."

Throughout Kenya's history, in the absence of talks to resolve political disputes, tear gas talks.

I have personal experience of this having inhaled enough tear gas as a student and journalist - from being caught up in the streets of Nairobi during a violent military operation to suppress an attempted air force coup against President Daniel arap Moi in August 1982 to reporting the countrywide demonstrations demanding an end to single party authoritarian rule in July 1990.

7. Mwananchi

This is a Swahili term meaning the ordinary citizen of Kenya.

Every political blow unleashed, every tear gas canister fired and every word uttered is done in his/her name.

But the mwananchi is not present at the ongoing talks to reform that key institution that will referee the election and shape the future.

Many wananchi (Swahili plural for citizens) noted two striking photographs that remind them of their true place.

One was an image from 2008 that showed then-President Mwai Kibaki, Mr Odinga and Mr Annan sharing soft drinks in a relaxed atmosphere soon after the country went ablaze with Kenyans fighting the two rivals' battles.

The second photo was of a recent event and showed President Uhuru and Mr Odinga in a jovial moment at State House, while out in the streets life was disrupted as clashes between security forces and protesters ensued on behalf of the two men.

But it is this same mwananchi who will be called upon to decide which man goes into rent-free accommodation at State House in next year's election.

If mwananchi makes the wrong choice, the soil of Kenya will drink his blood and the mass grave will quickly fill up.

Kenya to Seek Fresh Deals With Britain

26 June 2016/The Nation (Nairobi)

President Uhuru Kenyatta says Kenya will negotiate new agreements with the United Kingdom once it formalises its withdrawal from the European Union.

State House Spokesman Manoah Esipisu said on Sunday the bilateral agreement will enable Kenya to continue benefiting from the UK and the EU.

"The immediate repercussions for Kenya are limited. However, with the exit, there will be a need for both Kenya and the East African Community to negotiate separate trade agreements with the United Kingdom," Mr Esipisu told reporters at a press conference at State House, Nairobi.

"Our current engagements are within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU. Our negotiation of a new framework for bilateral trade is something that, if needed, will happen over a period of time and we will continue to engage the United Kingdom on this issue."

Britain voted last week to leave the EU, becoming the first country to do so since the bloc was established after the second World War.

The proponents for that vote had argued for a more independent British economy which would regain its lost global influence.

But the result has been a loss of value of the sterling pound against major currencies such as the dollar.

Britain was part of a deal with East African Community member states in 2014 to allow flower exporters duty and quota-free privileges.

As a member of the EAC, Kenya has been a beneficiary of the deals called Economic Partnership Agreements.

According to latest figures from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the UK is only behind the Netherlands (a EU member) in trade imports from Kenya.

In the first quarter of 2016, the Netherlands bought Sh11.89 billion worth of goods, followed by the UK (Sh10.79 billion) and the United States (Sh9.06 billion).

Though assuring Kenyans of continuity, President Kenyatta admitted that both the UK and the EU are important partners on issues beyond trade.

East Africa: Kenya Seeks Review of Rwanda, Uganda Poll Violence Claims

27 June 2016/The East African (Nairobi)

Kenya is seeking fresh negotiations with Rwandan and Ugandan traders as the government seeks to cut the compensation bill arising from the post-election violence that rocked the country eight years ago.

The traders, through regional lobby East African Business Council (EABC), had earlier settled for Ksh4.75 billion (\$47.5 million) after the Kibaki administration convinced them to drop their bid to challenge Kenya in an international court.

The deal was brokered some time in 2012, just months before Mr Kibaki's term ended. At the time, Mr Kibaki served as the chairperson of the East African Community's head of state summit.

While the Treasury has not stated publicly why it has not honoured the deal, there has been grumbling that some traders may have overstated their losses.

Traders from the two landlocked states, which rely on Mombasa port for imports and exports, initially estimated their losses in the 2007/8 skirmishes at Ksh20 billion (about \$200 million).

They have accused Kenya of putting their case on the back burner since Mr Kibaki left office.

Only 13 traders; 12 from Uganda and one from Rwanda, managed to present evidence of losses incurred on the Kenyan soil leading to the drastic cut of the compensation bill to Ksh4.75 billion (\$47.5 million).

The EABC said the number of traders with genuine cases has since risen to 16.

The corridor also serves northern Tanzania, DR Congo and South Sudan, which reflects Kenya's major role in regional trade.

Last week, Deputy President William Ruto reportedly directed Treasury secretary Henry Rotich to convene another meeting with EABC "as soon as possible to solve the issue once and for all".

The Kenyan team includes Internal Security secretary Joseph ole Nkaiserry, Attorney-General Githu Muigai and officials of other relevant agencies.

Mr Ruto reportedly named the team after the EABC officials paid a courtesy call at his Karen residence.

In a statement, the EABC said it also requested Kenya to guarantee the regional business community that it will enhance security of property transiting through the country during the coming election in 2017.

ANGOLA :

A yellow fever epidemic in Angola could turn into a global crisis

June 27 2016/stuff.co.nz

Almost 80 years after the yellow fever vaccine was created in a New York laboratory, a massive outbreak of the disease has killed hundreds of people in Angola, where most were never immunised.

Now, the virus is jumping across borders into other nations whose populations are also largely unvaccinated.

More than 3000 suspected cases are in Angola and 1000 in neighbouring Congo, making this the biggest urban epidemic in decades.

More than 400 people have died.

There are growing concerns that Chinese workers - of whom there are thousands in Angola - will carry the virus to Asia, where nearly all of the rural poor are also unvaccinated.

The explosion of yellow fever has put severe strain on stockpiles of the vaccine. And the four major manufacturers that produce the vaccine cannot make enough to conduct the kind of campaign that would quickly halt the spread of the disease in other parts of the region.

Yellow fever was once a devastating scourge in the West - in 1702, New York City lost 10 per cent of its population to the virus.

Thanks to the vaccine and mosquito eradication programmes, it faded in the United States long ago.

The fact that the disease is emerging again as an international threat reflects a lack of preparedness by local and global health institutions, and Africa's transformation into a more urbanised and interconnected continent.

Fourteen years after the end of a brutal civil war, Angola boasts road networks and airlines that allow more people to travel at a faster pace than ever before.

Yellow fever - which in recent decades has emerged again in remote, sparsely populated locations - has taken advantage of the same infrastructure to spread.

For years, the World Health Organisation kept 6 million doses of the vaccine in case of a public health emergency.

But, as is apparent, that was not nearly enough for a fast-moving epidemic that crosses porous borders. In Angola, even after a campaign that vaccinated 6 million people in Luanda, millions of people remain unvaccinated.

If swaths of rural China had to be immunised, the demand for vaccines would skyrocket.

The factories that make the vaccine "are above the capacity of production. They don't produce more than 2.4 million doses per month. That hampers what we are doing. We need to vaccinate 25 million people" in Angola, said Hernando Agudelo, the WHO representative in this former Portuguese colony.

Yellow fever is far less deadly than Ebola, or even malaria, and it is much easier to safeguard people from the disease.

One jab of the vaccine serves as a decade-long inoculation. But each dose takes about 12 months to make - hindering a nimble response to an expansive epidemic.

"It is tragic, because we have an intervention that makes the disease entirely preventable," said Ray

Arthur, the director of the Global Disease Detection Operations Center at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Luanda, the Angolan capital, the disease haunts some of the city's most desperate communities.

Outside of the central hospital one recent morning, a woman whose younger brother had just died of yellow fever wailed uncontrollably.

A few miles away, at Hospital dos Cajueiros, several patients - feverish and delirious - said they were sure they had the illness.

At the sprawling Camama cemetery, where a stream of mourners affix pictures of the dead to their cars, a man looked at the picture of a baby girl in a pink dress named Marisa Jose Almeda taped to a pickup truck.

"Febre amarela," he said, Portuguese for yellow fever.

Small outbreaks of yellow fever are common in remote parts of Africa and Latin America. But urban epidemics are particularly frightening since the disease can spread rapidly in heavily populated areas where many residents are not vaccinated.

In the past, yellow fever outbreaks "happened in the forest in general. It happened in tropical areas where there are bushes and so on," Agudelo said.

But, he added: "The border between the rural areas and the urban areas is disappearing."

Now, Angolans can get on a bus or a plane in the jungle and, within hours, land in the sprawling capital, where the mosquitoes that serve as carriers of the disease swarm, especially during the rainy months.

They are even more ubiquitous this year, since an economic downturn and significant budget cuts led to a reduction in sanitation services and garbage collection.

Since January, there have been more than 3000 cases of yellow fever reported in Angola and probably many more unreported ones.

About 350 people in the country have died of the disease.

At first, the disease can look a lot like malaria: Symptoms include fever, muscle aches and nausea. But yellow fever often turns the skin sallow and causes victims to bleed from the nose, mouth and eyes.

About 5 to 10 per cent of people who contract the disease die, and most of those within 10 days.

In 2006, the WHO and UNICEF had begun immunising high-risk countries through the Yellow Fever Initiative, a programme supported by governments, nonprofit groups and vaccine manufacturers.

But because the supply of vaccines was limited and the capacity to conduct large public-health campaigns was weak in many sub-Saharan African countries, the scale of the initiative was restricted.

Countries such as Nigeria and Sudan were prioritised, since they had more recorded outbreaks of the disease.

Given the lack of resources, said William Perea, coordinator for the Control of Epidemic Diseases Unit at the WHO, "you cannot vaccinate everywhere at the same time. You have to make some prioritisation."

During outbreaks in Africa in the 1990s and 2000s, the disease was mostly concentrated in small rural villages or forested communities.

But after Angola's 27-year civil war ended in 2002, a development boom transformed Luanda and nearby areas.

The country quickly became Africa's second-biggest oil producer, creating an economic boost so big that it drew thousands of migrant workers from other nations.

Just as the spread of Ebola in 2014-2015 highlighted the growing urbanisation and the relative ease with which people can move between West African countries, cities and villages, yellow fever is underscoring the changes in this part of southwest Africa.

The first recorded cases here involved two Eritrean migrants who fell ill in the market town of Viana, on the outskirts of the capital.

They had vaccination papers that later turned out to be fake.

In some countries, it is cheaper or easier to buy fake vaccination papers than to pay for the shot.

The Angolan government responded by launching a major vaccination campaign in Luanda, the epicentre of the outbreak. But by the time it began, the disease had spread across the country.

"As we vaccinated one area, it moved to another area," said Amanda McClelland, an emergency health expert at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"One of the challenges with this response is that we've been chasing the virus with these immunisation campaigns," said Arthur, the CDC expert.

Now, Angolan and international health officials say they would like to vaccinate the country's entire population.

But the vaccine shortage complicates that plan.

Earlier this month, the WHO said it could potentially reduce the vaccine dose to one-fifth of its normal strength, and that would still immunise people for at least 12 months.

"More research is needed to find out whether fractional doses would be effective in young children, who may have a weaker immune response to yellow fever vaccine," the WHO said in a statement.

A yellow fever epidemic might seem anachronistic to people in the United States and Europe, where the disease no longer poses a threat.

But some of the most devastating urban outbreaks of yellow fever have occurred in America. In the 18th century, the disease was called the "American Plague."

In 1793, it killed thousands in Philadelphia as the city panicked. In 1878, it killed 13,000 in the Mississippi Valley.

"It is impossible to estimate with any approach to accuracy the loss to the country occasioned by this epidemic," President Rutherford B. Hayes said in a speech to Congress after the 1878 outbreak.

Those epidemics led to a range of public health reforms and, eventually, the creation of a vaccine.

More than a century later, experts say there are lessons to glean from the Angolan outbreak.

"Given what happened in Angola, we need to concentrate a lot more on major urban areas," said Perea, the WHO expert.

"Many of these cities were connected very poorly to the global network. Now, they are extremely well connected. Ten years ago, you didn't have that."

AU/AFRICA :

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Here Is How African Markets Reacted To Brexit

June 27, 2016/afkinsider.com

Results of a referendum in the United Kingdom on Thursday to leave the European Union shocked markets across the globe, with over \$2 trillion wipe out in a single day. African economies were not

spared the volatility that the Brexit vote caused on different asset classes. Currencies, stocks and bonds plunged across the continent after the UK's vote to leave.

Africa's largest economies – that have been struggling with commodity prices rout – were the most affected as investors anticipated a slowdown in inflows as a rush to safe havens like the US markets and precious metals like gold ensured.

Brexit has also caused uncertainty over the future of trade relations between the UK and Africa.

Here is how some African markets reacted after the Brexit referendum:

South Africa

South Africa was the most affected market in Africa by the Brexit outcome due to its strong ties with the European economy. In 2015, South Africa sent 23 percent of its manufactured exports to Europe including the UK and 36 percent of its agricultural exports.

The rand tumbled nearly 8 percent against the dollar in trade on Friday after Britain voted to leave the European Union. It touched a record low against the Japanese Yen.

At the Johannesburg Stocks Exchange the benchmark share index fell the most since May 2010 to a third weekly decline, led by stocks with listings in London and by diversified mining companies, Bloomberg reported.

South Africa's minister of finance, Pravin Gordhan, moved on Friday to reassure the country that its financial institutions could withstand the effects of Brexit, iol.co.za reported.

Nigeria

Last week was eventful for the Nigerian market with a new exchange rate policy being introduced and the UK exit from EU affecting commodity prices, particularly causing a slide in oil prices, which is the leading export from the West African nation.

These two events affect Nigerian markets differently. The decision to withdraw UK for the EU ended a three day rally on the Nigerian Stock Exchange, while on the foreign exchange market, the naira gained against the dollar and British pound, but depreciated against the euro, Venture Africa reported.

Egypt

Egypt was the hardest hit market in North Africa by the Brexit vote, as investors became concerned that fund inflows into the country could shrink as the global market turmoil would make it harder for the country to attract funds. The country's stock market dropped sharply by and closed 5.5 percent lower at 6,852 points near its intraday low, Reuters reported.

Kenya

There was little impact on the Kenyan stocks and foreign exchange markets from Brexit after the country's central bank governor, Patrick Njoroge, assured markets that the regulators was ready and capable to intervene in case of any jitters, Reuters reported.

There was concern that the shock decision by British voters to exit the European Union would

affect the amount of tea the UK imports from Kenya, due to anticipated decline of its re-export market to other nations. The UK is a major re-exporter of Kenyan tea and in 2014 it exported 17 percent of the beverage it imported, Daily Nation reported. Tea is one of the largest hard currency earner for the East Africa's largest economy.

Rwanda

According to The East African, transactions in pound sterling stalled across Rwanda as dealers anticipated the withdrawal of Britain from the European Union. Rwandan remittance startup Mergims suspended buying the pound sterling for eight hours, following similar moves by international money transfer agencies Transferwise and Azimo, which suspended pound sterling transactions for 24 hours during the referendum vote.

CHINA/AFRICA :

Africa: Niceties of Digital TV - Startimes Shares Switchover Possibilities With Africa
26 June 2016/Cameroon Tribune (Yaoundé)

Beijing — The giant network operator and content provider for TV broadcasting recently hosted the 6th African Digital Television Development Seminar in Beijing, China.

China's most influential and one of the world's best system integrator, technology provider, network operator and content provider in television broadcasting industry - StarTimes group, has presented a medley of possibilities for Africa that could help the continent effectively switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting so as to reap the benefits of the mutation. The Chinese multinational media group on June 23-25, 2016 hosted the 6th African Digital TV Development Seminar in Beijing on the theme, "Making Digital TV more accessible and enjoyable in Africa" with over 140 media stakeholders from some 35 countries in attendance. The forum was to share switchover possibilities (financing, technology and content build up) with the hope of arming the continent to meet the new deadline after that of 2015 given by the International Telecommunications Union hit the rocks.

Financing The Mutation

StarTimes group through the various presentations that characterized the Beijing seminar told African media stakeholders that different governments could either embrace the Public/Private Partnership Model or go in for concessional loans to effectively go digital. The former gives room for mutually-beneficial agreements wherein the operator finances, carries out the mutation and runs the channels for some time before handing them over to government. Here, StarTimes pledged her readiness for the self-financing part. With this, StarTimes would be the project's constructor, the issuance of licenses and frequencies shall be the responsibility of the State and the Project's Operation would be through a joint venture between the outfit and government. Meanwhile, the company's experts also advised African governments to go in for concessional loans with the government of China to realize the dream. These loans with a 2 per cent interest rate, they said, could have a 20-year repayment period with a five-eight year period of grace. Profitability is guaranteed through transmission fee from signal distribution for the local TV stations, subscription fee from terminal subscribers and advertising revenue from the advertisement clients, some of whom should be new investors attracted into business by the technological evolution.

Content Is King!

According to Pang Xinxing, President of StarTimes group, the content of any television programme determines its view ability. Like him, other experts advocated audiovisual media organs to "find your audience first, create for them, build a digital community, and then move to new levels of creative engagement with that audience." For success, questions like, 'Is it worth watching, is it relevant, is it locally adaptable, is the programme renewable, repeatable and scalable?' must be answered. "Content is king, signal coverage is God!" officials said.

StarTimes covers 90 % of the Africa's population with a massive distribution network of 200 brand halls, 3,000 convenience stores and 5,000 distributors, with a featured content platform and 440 authorised channels consisting of news, movies, series, sports, entertainment, children's programmes, fashion, religion et al. It combines satellite and terrestrial DTV systems to provide an open and secured digital wireless platform. A wealth of experience expected to boost the continent's irreversible move to digitalizing television broadcasting.

3rd Forum on China-Africa Media issues Joint Statement to Strengthen Cooperation ties

einnews.com/27/06/2016

In a joint statement issued on 21 June 2016 at the closing of the 3rd Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation in Beijing, the document with inputs from the AUC delegation led by H.E Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) was read by the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), Mr Grégoire Ndjaka. It stated that the media cooperation will safeguard international equity and justice and facilitate China-Africa Cooperation in the fields of media and international communication to win more say and increase influence in the arena of international public opinions so as to provide favorable support for the two sides to realize common development and shared dreams.

According to the declaration, Chinese and African media will encourage more personnel and information exchanges to contribute to the China-Africa comprehensive strategic partnership. This falls in line with the three areas of focus underscored by AUC Deputy [DSCN5307] Chairperson Mwencha as critical to enable the media play its rightful role in bridging the gaps between the people of Africa and China. They are: building the capacity of the media through training programs, infrastructure development and institution building; enhance industrialization through transfer technology; and cooperation in cyber security and digitalization. He said the African media must be skilled to generate the African narrative in a way that will promote the development agenda of the continent and to fully contribute in the implementation of the Africa Agenda 2063.

The Forum was jointly organised by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China and the AUB with the view to implement one of the outcomes reached during the Johannesburg FOCAC Summit held in December 2015 as a follow-up of the China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Meanwhile, participants at the Media Forum, in the spirit of equality and mutual trust, sincerity and friendship, win-win cooperation and common development, after an extensive and profound exchange of views on "Media policies, cooperation and capacity building as well as digitalization and development of new media to promote cultural exchanges between sides and promote their reach economic growth, resolved to work closely for the best interest of their both populations.

The participants further reiterated their commitment to enhance their achievements by playing an important role in promoting the understanding of Africa by China, and of China by Africa; and of both Africa and China by the rest of the world. "We unanimously believe that media in developing

countries shall serve national development and social progress, and become a driving force behind national modernization. They shall promote traditional culture, build national consensus, serve public interests and safeguard social stability. They shall join hands to push forward the establishment of a new model of international relations with win-win cooperation at the core, and jointly safeguard and promote international equity and justice.” Underlined the Joint Beijing Declaration as a way of towards establishing a solid foundation of the China-Africa cooperation.

Holding under the theme: “Win-win cooperation, common development”, the forum which brought together close to 350 high level media professionals and Government Members in Charge of Communication from some 45 African countries, was aimed to deepen cooperation in the media sector and boost the development of Africa- China ties.

[DSCN5303]

Deputy Chairperson Mwencha expressed appreciation to the Government of China for organizing the forum. He said the media forum provides a platform to explore opportunities for future mutual development, and to contribute to promoting world peace, stability and the development of Africa and China. “Indeed we need to strengthen our dialogue, consolidate Africa-China traditional friendship, deepen strategic collaboration and enhance the mechanism of practical cooperation between us,” Mr. Mwencha said before granting several press interviews to both the local and international media present at the forum.

Also speaking to the press, the Minister of China’s State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, Mr. Cai Fuchao, said the media cooperation serves as a bridge and bond that connect the heart of the Chinese and African people. Minister Cai said: “It is an important foundation of the China-Africa relations as well as a key component to and a powerful driving force behind China-Africa Cooperation.”

Looking into the future, Minister Cai said China will continue to adhere to the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith, uphold the values of friendship, justice and shared interests, join hands with African media colleagues build on the past and prepare for the future. He said his country will engage in practical innovation so as to increase the breadth and depth of cooperation.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 27 Juin 2016... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 27/06/2016