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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

Rwanda: KFM Closure 'A Wake-Up Call for Media Practitioners'
1 July 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

The closure of one of Rwanda's most popular urban radio station, KFM, by its parent company Nation Media Group is likely to send media owners and managers back to the strategy room to mull market penetration strategies.

Thursday's announcement was explained by the management as part of implementation of a strategic move to position them for the future.

The move saw the merging of television stations owned by Kenya-based Nation Media Group as well as the closure of three radio stations, including Kigali-based KFM.

Media enthusiasts and experts say that the development will serve as a wakeup call to media house owners, managers and journalists to review their business models and embrace digital technologies.

With most of the media outlets across the region yet to fully embrace digital ways of packaging their content, experts say that consumption partners will require them to revise their business models.

Gerald Mbanda, the head of media affairs and communication department at the Rwanda Governance Board, said that the effects of digitalisation are not only shaping media in the region but across the world.

"This is a trend not only in the east African region but across the world. It is a wakeup call for people in the media sector, in both print media and electronic media, which have been largely

affected by the digitalisation trend," said Mbanda.

He observed that consumption and use of media outlets have been changing fast in recent years with online platforms emerging as more profitable as opposed to traditional setups.

Last year, the RGB conducted a print media survey to identify critical factors to the growth and development of the local print media as well as generating data and information which could be used to better inform policy reforms.

One of the recommendations given following the study was the need for media outlets to pool resources to give them strength in skills and finance.

"Developing quality and marketable content requires financial muscle which is hard to put together individually," Mbanda said.

Gonzaga Muganwa, the secretary-general of Rwanda Journalists Association, said media owners have to come up with strategies that will maintain their relevance by having relevant.

"The other issue is how to get the private sector interested as most of them do not advertise. The media market continues to remain fragile," Muganwa said.

Media owners who spoke to The New Times said that the nature of the Rwandan market has not made it any easier for them to operate.

Albert Rudatsimburwa, a media house proprietor, explained that other than having a small market, few members of the private sector see the need to use media outlets for advertisement and branding.

RDC CONGO :

SORTIE DE KABILA A L'OCCASION DU 56E ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA RDC : « Le peuple congolais est mûr », mais Kabila l'est-il autant ?

Date: 30 juin 2016/lepays.bf

Le cinquante-sixième anniversaire de l'indépendance de la République Démocratique du Congo (RDC), a été célébré hier, 30 juin 2016 à Kindu, chef-lieu de la province du Maniema, en présence du président Joseph Kabila Kabange, et de son Premier ministre et natif de la ville hôte, Augustin Matata Ponyo Mapon. Cette cérémonie, qui devrait en principe être la dernière pour le président actuel du Congo, s'est déroulée dans un contexte de crise politique chargée de lourdes conséquences pour le pays, d'autant que le très introverti Joseph Kabila continue de botter en touche quand on lui demande de se prononcer sur ses intentions de s'offrir indûment quelques jours de bonus au Palais de marbre. Las d'attendre une réponse sans équivoque du chef de l'Etat à la question relative au respect de la loi fondamentale qui lui interdit un troisième mandat, et craignant un chaos de plus dans ce pays structurellement malade, la communauté internationale et les partenaires bilatéraux du Congo ont commencé à agiter le chiffon rouge, au motif que « mieux vaut prévenir que guérir ».

Les menaces tous azimuts semblent plutôt avoir conforté le « têtard de Kinshasa » dans l'absurdité

Ainsi, des avertissements et des sanctions ont été brandis en cascade dans la deuxième quinzaine du mois de juin contre Joseph Kabila et ses co-fossoyeurs de la démocratie en RDC, comme pour

stopper leur élan vraisemblablement irréversible vers le glissement du calendrier électoral dans un premier temps, puis, vers la candidature et naturellement la victoire de celui qui cristallise aujourd'hui toutes les critiques et toutes les passions politiques dans son pays. Pour autant, ni l'appel à sa démission dès la fin de son mandat, lancé par l'Assemblée parlementaire ACP-Union Européenne, ni la fermeté affichée par le Parlement européen contre le retard dans le processus électoral, ni les sanctions ciblées prises par les Etats-Unis contre le chef de la police de Kinshasa Célestin Kanyama, encore moins la Résolution 2293 adoptée par le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU contre les partisans du maintien de Kabila au pouvoir, ne semblent émouvoir outre mesure le président congolais, bien au contraire.

Ces menaces tous azimuts semblent plutôt avoir conforté le « têtard de Kinshasa » dans l'absurdité qui consiste à vouloir s'imposer indéfiniment aux Congolais, le retour à la vie ordinaire étant synonyme pour lui de descente aux enfers avec toutes ces casseroles, pour ne pas dire ces marmites qu'il traîne depuis qu'il est entré par effraction dans l'histoire de son pays, au lendemain de l'assassinat de son père en 2001. La communauté internationale a tellement accumulé des bourdes et manqué de poigne dans la course aux troisièmes mandats entamée par les satrapes de l'Afrique centrale et des Grands lacs, qu'elle ne peut plus intimider un dictateur à la peau dure comme Joseph Kabila. La « jurisprudence Nkurunziza » est en effet là pour plaider en faveur de sa résistance, et les différentes salves que Kabila tire depuis l'année dernière sur l'ONU, ne sont que des signaux qu'il envoie à qui veut les entendre, pour dire qu'il ne fléchira point. Pour avoir combattu dans le maquis auprès de son père lors de la première guerre du Congo, le Général Joseph Kabila a certainement appris à donner des coups en tapinois et sans état d'âme, et c'est cette expérience du maquisard qu'il semble opportunément utiliser aujourd'hui pour clouer au pilori son opposition politique et la très indécise communauté internationale. A l'interne, il est en train de manoeuvrer avec la complicité de l'appareil judiciaire pour écarter de l'hypothétique élection présidentielle, ceux qui pourraient contrarier son rêve de rester éternellement au pouvoir, envers et contre tous. La récente condamnation à trois ans de prison de son challenger le plus sérieux, Moïse Katumbi Chapwe par le tribunal de Kamalondo à Lubumbashi, procède justement de cette stratégie de décantation, et on peut parier que cet opposant n'a pas encore fini avec le rouleau compresseur de la Justice, en tout cas tant qu'il s'entêtera à lorgner le fauteuil de Kabila. Vis-à-vis de l'extérieur et de la communauté internationale, ce sont des messages pleins de « gondwanités » que le président congolais débite, en surfant sur le nationalisme étriqué de ses compatriotes et en rappelant à ses partenaires occidentaux que « le peuple congolais est mûr » et n'acceptera donc aucune injonction, d'où qu'elle vienne. On rirait aux éclats si cette déclaration sur fond de chauvinisme n'était pas faite à la veille d'une crise préélectorale inévitable, avec les risques de démarrage d'une énième saison de machettes.

Le violent réquisitoire de Kabila contre la communauté internationale cache mal ses intentions de rouler tout le monde dans la farine

Tous les indices montrent en effet qu'il y a de quoi pleurer le sort de ce grand peuple pris en otage par un petit président, car, dans la perspective d'anéantir toute possibilité d'alternance, il est en train de mettre les petits plats dans les grands pour détourner les radars de la communauté internationale du Congo. A quelles fins ? Eh bien, aux fins de massacrer en silence les derniers irréductibles, et de dire, à la suite de Pangloss, qu'en RDC aussi, « tout va pour le mieux dans le meilleur des mondes possibles ». Cette perspective est d'autant plus plausible que rien d'autre ne peut justifier ce bras d'honneur fait à l'ONU, car, si l'étroitesse d'esprit et l'égoïsme de Joseph Kabila sont de notoriété publique, on ignorait qu'il était amnésique au point d'oublier que l'Est de son pays abrite la plus grande mission de la paix déployée par l'Organisation internationale dans le monde, grâce à laquelle le Congo n'est pas parti en lambeaux. Alors, souveraineté pour souveraineté, Joseph Kabila devrait axer ses discours sur la pacification de l'ensemble de son pays pour créer les conditions du départ des forces onusiennes, et ipso facto, justifier sa boutade selon laquelle « le peuple congolais n'a pas besoin d'ingérences intempestives et illicites ». Son violent réquisitoire contre la communauté internationale, le 29 juin dernier à Kalemie, de même que ses appels réitérés au

dialogue et à l'enrôlement dans son discours d'hier jeudi à l'occasion de la fête de l'indépendance de son pays, cachent mal les intentions du Général de division (au propre comme au figuré) de rouler tout le monde dans la farine, y compris le clergé catholique qui n'a jamais fait mystère de son opposition à tous ceux qui veulent prendre des libertés avec la loi fondamentale de la RDC.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Kenya: U.S. Warns Travellers to Kenya of Air Attacks and Other Terror Threats

1 July 2016/The Nation (Nairobi)

A Kenya travel warning issued by the State Department on Thursday urges US citizens to avoid visiting Lamu, Nairobi's Eastleigh neighbourhood and the country's northeastern counties.

The warning further cites a US embassy recommendation that US citizens should visit Mombasa's Old Town only during daylight hours and avoid using the Likoni ferry "due to safety concerns."

The new notice also includes a reference to an updated advisory to US air operators concerning possible attacks with ground-launched missiles.

This Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) "Notice to Airmen for Kenyan airspace" warns of "the potential for terrorist attack against US and Western interests."

Specific information is not available, the FAA notice says, but "one possible tactic would be an attack using man-portable air defence systems (Manpads)."

Such an attack was attempted in 2002 against an Israeli air carrier taking off from Mombasa, the FAA notice adds.

TARGET AIRCRAFTS

Background information published by the FAA last February says "Al-Shabaab possesses the capability and intent to utilise weapons, including Manpads" as well as mortars, rockets and small arms that could target aircraft on the ground and during take-off and landing. Some Manpads may reach an altitude of 25,000 feet, the FAA warns.

The State Department's new travel warning comes at a time when Kenya's tourism industry is striving to persuade potential visitors that the country is safe to visit.

The tourism sector is reeling from the fallout of a series of terror attacks by Shabaab in the past two years.

Thursday's warning does acknowledge that "thousands of US citizens travel to Kenya without incident."

In addition to avoiding the popular tourist destination of Lamu, the State Department is urging US citizens not to travel to Tana River County and to the part of Kilifi County north of Malindi.

Terror attacks by Al-Shabaab should not be the only potential source of concern for US citizens considering travel to Kenya, the State Department suggests.

"Violent and sometimes fatal crimes, including armed carjacking, grenade attacks, home invasions and burglaries and kidnappings, can occur at any time and in any location, including Nairobi," the warning states. "US citizens and US Embassy employees have been victims of such crimes in the past."

US agents join probe on missing lawyer

By Cyrus Ombati/standardmedia.co.ke/Fri, July 1st 2016

American law enforcement agents based in Nairobi are helping investigate the disappearance of a lawyer, his client and a driver.

The New York Times reported that American diplomats and their British counterparts and several other Western nations were piling pressure on the Kenyan government to take the case seriously. It is more than a week since lawyer Willie Kimani, his client Josephat Mwenda and their driver Joseph Muiruri went missing after attending a court session in Mavoko, Machakos County. Mr Kimani worked for the American legal aid group International Justice Mission, which was representing Mr Mwenda in a case he was facing. Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinnet said the case was actively being investigated by a team of detectives and asked anyone with information to share it with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations. "The case is receiving active investigations and anyone found culpable, be it a police officer or a civilian will be held accountable. Let those who know anything about it inform us," Mr Boinnet said. The team investigating the incident had taken statements from 10 people including court officials, kin of the missing people and boda boda riders. They have visited the court where the three were before they went missing on June 23.

Meanwhile, two bodies of middle aged men were yesterday recovered from a river in Ol Donyo Sabuk, Machakos County. The bodies were stuffed in sacks with heads covered in polythene bags. A police source said it appeared they had been suffocated first before being dumped. "Their heads were in yellow plastic bags and one of them had his eyes gouged out," said the source. The bodies had no shoes but were smart and well shaved. Police are yet to identify them or establish whether they are of the missing lawyer, his client or taxi driver.

Kalonzo talks of betrayal as CORD told to declare candidate

By Rawlings Otieno/standardmedia.co.ke/Fri, July 1st 2016

Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD) leaders have been challenged by their allies to pick

the Opposition's presidential candidate by next month.

The push came on a day Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka said he had been betrayed politically several times. Wiper Democratic Movement Chairman Senator David Musila kicked off the debate by asking the three coalition principals – Raila Odinga, Kalonzo Musyoka and Moses Wetang'ula – to consult among themselves and pick the preferred candidate in readiness for 2017 polls. "I want the three of you to agree among yourselves and give us a presidential candidate by August. We do not need to go to next year undecided," said Mr Musila. The Kitui senator reminded the trio that every electioneering period they settle on a presidential candidate when its too late. Mr Wetang'ula said there was light at the end of the tunnel in regard to the presidential candidate.

"Work is in progress and you will soon see some smoke, preferably white," said Wetang'ula in response.

While launching his own interactive website, Mr Musyoka said that CORD members in the parliamentary select committee on the electoral agency should ensure that a new voter register is in place before the next polls. He claimed that about one million voters had been added to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) voter register and they were skewed to favour their political opponents.

POLITICAL DECEIT "We must resolve never to allow a stolen election in this country. This country must be liberated," said Musyoka. The former vice president also lamented how he has been a victim of political deceit in the country, terming it the most painful experience. "I have known betrayal in Kenyan politics. Betrayal will never come from Musyoka," he said. But Raila steered off the debate of who should become CORD's flag bearer to take on the President Uhuru Kenyatta. Instead, Raila decried what he termed as habitual tendency of 'political deceit' that has been meted on him and Kalonzo.

He maintained that he would continue to talk about the ills bedeviling the country, adding that no amount of intimidation and threats by the Jubilee administration would deter them.

Kalonzo decried the blatant tribalism and nepotism perpetrated by the Government. He said that a recent study on the composition of the Public Service revealed that just two ethnic groups have the lion's share of public appointments.

ANGOLA :

Angola Central Bank Raises Key Rate to Record High of 16 Percent

June 30, 2016/bloomberg.com

Angola's central bank raised its benchmark interest rate to a record 16 percent, the third increase this year, as the oil-exporting economy contends with the slide in prices that has dented its currency.

The key rate was raised from 14 percent, Luanda-based Banco Nacional de Angola said on Thursday after a meeting of the monetary policy committee. The bank has now increased the benchmark by five percentage points since January.

Government revenue has plunged and the kwanza declined against the dollar due to the slump in crude prices since mid-2014. Angola relies on oil for about 95 percent of export income.

The International Monetary Fund said on Thursday that Angola informed the fund that it wants to end talks about a possible loan program. The nation only wants discussions to continue about the country's annual economic assessment, IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said at a briefing in Washington.

Angolan monetary policy makers will next meet on July 29, the central bank said.

AU/AFRICA :

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