



(Israel is seeking to restore its observer status at the Africa Union (AU) and has called for backing on the same.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

**Netanyahu concludes Kenya visit, proceeds to Rwanda**

Jul. 06, 2016/the-star.co.ke

Several roads will be closed in Nairobi on Wednesday morning as the Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leaves the country for Rwanda.

Waiyaki Way at Westlands roundabout, Uhuru Highway at the Haile Sellasie roundabout, University way and Ojijo road are among those to be affected.

There was tight security in most parts of Nairobi following the tour by the high powered delegation from Israel.

Motorists are advised to use alternative routes to access the city centre and its environs.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu brought the city to a standstill as Nairobians were forced to walk to work and fares hiked in most parts of the city.

The Israel PM has been in the country for his maiden state visit in which he urged his country's entrepreneurs to invest in Kenya.

He hailed the country as being endowed with talented people.

Netanyahu held bilateral talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta, who had invited him to the country, and later addressed a Kenya-Israel business forum .

More than 70 business leaders in the PM's entourage explored profitable partnerships with their Kenyan counterparts at the meeting.

The prime minister also assured Kenya that Israel will provide intelligence services to help Kenya combat terrorism.

The PM will conclude his Africa tour in Ethiopia after Rwanda.

### **Rwanda: Fashion Designers, Artisans Prepare to Cash-in On AU Kigali Summit** 6 July 2016/The New Times (Kigali)

By Donata Kiiza

The forthcoming African Union summit in Kigali is a huge opportunity for Rwanda to showcase her products and forge new export markets, Moses Turahirwa, the proprietor of Moshions, a fashion house in Kigali, has said.

Rwanda will next week host the 27th African Union summit that will attract 3,500 delegates, including 54 Heads of State.

Turahirwa said artisans and fashion designers are working with the Rwanda Development Board that has created an exhibition area for them to sell Made-in-Rwanda artefacts and fabrics to delegates.

"Fashion is one way of showcasing a country's cultural heritage and values...It also gives us an opportunity to contribute to the country's social and economic development," he said in an interview with The New Times.

"Therefore, we thank the government for giving us an opportunity to exhibit our creations during the African Union summit," Turahirwa said.

He urged designers to bring their best creations to make an impact, and put Rwanda on the continent's fashion industry map.

Delphine Uwamahoro, the owner of Delphine Fashion House, said they will use the platform presented by the AU summit in Kigali to create sustainable markets for locally-made fabrics.

"Delegates will go back to their home countries with the unique creations from Rwanda. This will, not only expand our market reach, but also help push the local fashion industry to another level given the exposure it will get," she added.

Cedric Mizero, a designer, said he has been marketing his products on social media platforms ahead of the AU summit, arguing that most delegates browse the Internet to check what the country offers in different sectors.

The 27th AU summit is slated for July 11-18 at the Kigali Conventional Centre.

RDC CONGO :

**Moïse Katumbi (RDC): «Je vais rentrer au pays, ma conscience est tranquille»**

Par Christophe Boisbouvier/rfi.fr/mercredi 6 juillet 2016

Moïse Katumbi est-il prêt à rentrer chez lui, au Congo-Kinshasa, au risque d'aller en prison ? Le 20 mai dernier, après avoir été sérieusement bousculé lors de la répression d'une manifestation, l'opposant congolais est parti à l'étranger pour se faire soigner. Puis le 22 juin, en son absence, il a été condamné à trois ans de prison pour litige immobilier. Que va-t-il choisir ? L'exil ou le retour ? Après plusieurs semaines de silence, l'ancien gouverneur du Katanga répond aux questions de Christophe Boisbouvier.

« Je ne suis pas en exil. J'étais venu pour des soins médicaux et je vais rentrer quand j'aurai terminé avec mes soins. Je demande au peuple congolais de faire un signe d'au revoir, quand ils voient le président ou les officiels passer. »

**RDC: des armes chinoises contre l'or, selon Global Witness**

financialafrik.com/06/07/2016

Une entreprise minière chinoise qui exporte sa marchandise vers Dubaï a offert des AK-47 à des groupes armés pour pouvoir accéder aux ressources aurifères, rapporte l'ONG Global Witness dans un rapport paru le 5 juillet 2016.

D'après ce rapport explosif, des groupes armés du territoire de Shabunda, dans l'est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), se sont vu offrir des armes et de l'argent par une entreprise minière chinoise et ont dégagé jusqu'à 25 000 dollars par mois en extorquant des mineurs locaux lors de la récente ruée vers l'or qu'a connue cette région pendant deux années.

Rien qu'en l'espace d'un an, de l'or d'une valeur pouvant atteindre les 17 millions de dollars, produit par l'entreprise chinoise Kun Hou Mining, s'est volatilisé, ayant probablement quitté le Congo en contrebande pour gagner les chaînes d'approvisionnement internationales, révèle Global Witness aujourd'hui (<http://www.globalwitness.org/river-of-gold-drc-fr>).

Parallèlement à ce phénomène, l'État congolais, du fait de la contrebande et du comportement répréhensible des autorités provinciales, n'a pas perçu les recettes fiscales qu'il aurait dû dégager des 38 millions de dollars d'or artisanal produit chaque année pendant cette période de ruée vers l'or le long de la rivière Ulindi. Celle-ci a atteint son pic d'intensité en 2014 et 2015 et elle se poursuit aujourd'hui. En outre, d'après des éléments réunis par Global Witness, une autorité provinciale s'est entendue avec des groupes armés pour taxer les mineurs de manière illégale, tandis qu'une autre a modifié des documents d'exportation officiels pour donner l'impression que l'or provenait de mines opérant dans la légalité.

L'enquête de Global Witness révèle l'ampleur des problèmes qui affectent le secteur aurifère artisanal dans l'est du Congo. Cette région a connu une hausse de la production d'or ces dernières années, et les recettes auraient pu servir à combattre l'extrême pauvreté qui y sévit ; au lieu de cela, elles ont souvent financé des groupes armés et des fonctionnaires corrompus. La plupart des mineurs artisanaux de l'est du Congo – à savoir environ 80 % d'entre eux – travaillent dans le secteur aurifère. Des réformes internationales ont cherché à endiguer le financement des groupes armés par les richesses minières congolaises. Global Witness prévient aujourd'hui que si l'on veut que ces réformes aboutissent, il est impératif que le gouvernement congolais réclame des comptes

aux entreprises et aux agents du gouvernement impliqués dans ce type d'abus.

Des groupes armés connus sous le nom de Raïa Mutomboki se sont vu remettre au moins deux fusils d'assaut AK-47 et 4 000 dollars en espèces par la Kun Hou Mining, laquelle opère des dragues mécanisées sur la rivière Ulindi, en territoire de Shabunda, dans la province du Sud-Kivu. Par ailleurs, les hommes armés ont taxé des mineurs artisanaux qui travaillaient sur des dragues de fabrication locale pour extraire l'or le long de la rivière. Les autorités locales ont aussi collaboré avec les Raïa Mutomboki, s'accordant sur le partage des recettes fiscales. Les taxes perçues par les autorités semblent s'être volatilisées, privant ainsi le Congo de revenus indispensables qui auraient pu être investis dans ses secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation.

« Plus de 500 cas de malnutrition ont été signalés dans la ville de Shabunda en 2014 ; pourtant, les recettes considérables générées par cette ruée vers l'or ont bénéficié non pas à la population congolaise, mais à des hommes armés et à des entreprises prédatrices », a déclaré Sophia Pickles, responsable de campagne à Global Witness. « Il faut que le gouvernement congolais applique ses propres lois pour veiller à ce que les entreprises dans son secteur aurifère ne produisent ou ne vendent pas d'or qui a servi à financer des groupes armés. Toute entreprise qui enfreint ces lois doit être tenue de rendre compte de ses actes. Les autorités minières provinciales qui ne gèrent pas correctement le secteur des minerais doivent elles aussi être tenues responsables. »

Les travaux de recherche de Global Witness indiquent que de l'or de Kun Hou d'une valeur de près d'un demi-million de dollars a été exporté vers une entreprise à Dubaï par les voies officielles. Il est probable que le reste de la production d'or de la société, estimé à 17 millions de dollars, ait été exporté clandestinement.

Les éléments mis à jour par Global Witness montrent qu'à Bukavu, capitale de la province, des responsables des autorités minières auraient délibérément falsifié des documents pour dissimuler tout lien avec Shabunda. Ils ont ainsi modifié l'origine de l'or sur les documents d'exportation officiels, indiquant qu'il provenait des quelques mines artisanales du Sud-Kivu opérant légalement. Ce même phénomène a été constaté pour d'autres mines de la province. Les acheteurs internationaux ont donc grand mal à s'assurer que cet or n'a pas financé des groupes armés.

« Du fait de leurs actions ces deux dernières années, les autorités provinciales chargées de superviser la ruée que connaît actuellement Shabunda ont directement porté atteinte aux efforts internationaux ainsi qu'à ceux du gouvernement national visant à réformer le commerce de l'or artisanal de l'est du Congo », a commenté Sophie Pickles. « Il incombe aux États de s'assurer que les entreprises ne causent aucun préjudice, y compris en vérifiant que les chaînes d'approvisionnement n'ont aucun lien avec le conflit et les violations des droits de l'homme ; la République démocratique du Congo et les Émirats Arabes Unis ont failli à leurs responsabilités à cet égard. »

Le rapport de Global Witness, La rivière d'or, montre également que :

- Le gouvernement provincial et les autorités minières du Sud-Kivu ont continué de soutenir la Kun Hou Mining malgré les multiples infractions à la loi perpétrées par cette société et les nombreuses demandes que lui a adressées le gouvernement national congolais à Kinshasa pour qu'elle cesse ses activités.
- Des responsables des autorités minières de la ville de Shabunda qui travaillent pour le SAESSCAM, un organe gouvernemental chargé d'assister les mineurs artisanaux, se sont livrés à du racket en prélevant des taxes illégales dans des zones où fonctionnaient des dragues de fabrication locale, y compris en collaboration avec les groupes armés Raïa Mutomboki.
- De l'or extrait pendant le boom de Shabunda a été vendu à un comptoir d'achat d'or à Bukavu, qui l'a ensuite revendu à son entreprise sœur, Alfa Gold Corp DMCC, à Dubaï. Aucune de ces deux sociétés n'a exercé un devoir de diligence sur sa chaîne d'approvisionnement conformément aux normes internationales, lequel aurait révélé que cet or avait été obtenu en violation directe des législations de la RDC et des EAU. Alfa Gold Corp DMCC détient une filiale britannique à 100 % enregistrée à Hatton Garden, le quartier londonien des joailliers. À Dubaï comme à Londres, Alfa Gold n'a pas répondu aux courriers l'invitant à donner son avis sur le sujet.
- Des documents indiquent qu'un ressortissant français, Franck Menard, qui travaillait pour la Kun

Hou Mining, est étroitement impliqué dans les actes répréhensibles perpétrés par la société. Des groupes armés Raïa Mutomboki ont adressé un courrier à Menard en février 2015 pour le remercier des deux fusils d'assaut AK-47 et des 4 000 dollars qui leur avaient été offerts. Menard a également signé un document officiel confirmant la vente d'or de la Kun Hou au bureau congolais d'Alfa Gold. Global Witness a tenté de contacter Franck Menard, en vain.

Ces dernières années, d'importants efforts ont été déployés à l'échelle internationale pour éradiquer les liens entre les conflits violents, les atteintes aux droits de l'homme et le commerce de minerais au Congo et ailleurs, notamment à travers la publication, il y a cinq ans, par l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE) d'une norme internationale relative aux chaînes d'approvisionnement, qui constitue une obligation légale en RDC depuis 2012. Les États-Unis ont également adopté une loi et, dernièrement, la Chine a convenu de directives relatives aux chaînes d'approvisionnement industrielles qui s'appuient sur la norme de l'OCDE. Les directives chinoises ont établi un précédent pour les entreprises chinoises, qui doivent reconnaître et réduire les risques liés à leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement. Si elles sont appliquées, ces directives devraient permettre aux entreprises qui achètent des minerais provenant de régions à haut risque de le faire de manière responsable.

#### UGANDA :

##### Energy officials from Uganda and Tanzania meet over oil pipeline

[ntv.co.ug/06/07/2016](http://ntv.co.ug/06/07/2016)

Uganda and Tanzania Energy Authorities today met over the proposed construction of the 1,403KM oil Pipeline from Hoima to Tanga Port.

Officials from Uganda and Tanzania energy authorities have met over the proposed construction of the 1,403KM oil pipeline from Hoima to Tanga Port.

Among other issues at the ongoing meeting in Hoima is the proposal to narrow the pipeline corridor out of the earlier 20 metre width as a way of managing the project's costs.

#### SOUTH AFRICA :

##### South Africa's ruling party condemns its own national broadcaster for censoring political violence

[abc.net.au/2016-07-06](http://abc.net.au/2016-07-06)

South Africa's ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), has condemned its own public broadcaster for practicing censorship by not broadcasting images of violent anti-state protests.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) was initially accused by opposition parties of pro-government bias when it brought in a policy of self censorship when violence flared as local elections approached.

Now the ruling party's chief whip Jackson Mthembu has condemned the broadcaster, saying: "When property is burnt, people of South Africa need to be shown those images, that is the ANC view".

"Because when you don't show those images, that amounts to censorship," Mr Mthembu said in a televised media briefing.

"You can't take that decision, in our view. That decision can be taken by the people of South Africa. Not anybody sitting in some cosy office to decide and be that arrogant and decide what it is that the people can see or not see."

The statement represent a reversal by the ruling party and may point to schisms in the ANC, which in May welcomed the broadcast ban by the SABC as the "best decision".

SABC chief operating officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng, who has pushed through a number of policy changes at the broadcaster, is considered close to President Jacob Zuma, whose popularity has been sagging following a string of scandals.

Mr Mthembu said the ANC would meet with Communications Minister Faith Muthambi to discuss the SABC, where the acting chief executive, a journalist, resigned last week, citing a "corrosive atmosphere".

Outbursts of violence over the lack of services such as water or roads are common in South Africa, and in recent months have included the torching of schools and other property, both public and private.

The protests have taken on political significance before August 3 elections which are expected to be the ANC's greatest test at the polls since it came to power in 1994.

The SABC said its decision not to broadcast such incidents was an "editorial decision" and not a "policy issue".

"It should be noted that the decision is not to censor any violent protests but not to glamorise the act of burning public property," the SABC said in a statement.

Various civil society and media groups have protested the broadcast ban on civil disturbances by the SABC, which has the widest broadcasting reach in South Africa.

### **South Africa votes against internet freedom**

6 Jul 2016/bizcommunity.com

According to a report via Fin24, South Africa has joined other nations such as China and Russia in voting against a United Nations resolution on the "promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the internet".

resolution was however supported by countries ranging from Australia, the US, UK, Nigeria, Senegal, and Turkey. The report reveals that the United Nations had held a vote on the resolution, which seeks to bring political commitment from member states to protect human rights online such as freedom of expression and privacy.

According to the report, the resolution additionally seeks to ensure the release of those imprisoned for the "legitimate" freedom of expression online. As revealed by the report, other key points of the resolution include investigating attacks against bloggers or other internet users, and refraining from preventing access to information online by, for example, shutting down the internet during key times such as elections or terror attacks.

Within the article, it is revealed that Russia and China requested amendments to the draft resolution to remove items such as text on freedom of expression and the shutting down of internet access. However, the amendments weren't adopted and most countries voted for the human rights resolution, which will be adopted by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

With the results in, as revealed by the report, nations who had voted against internet freedom have been placed in the spotlight.

Thomas Hughes, the executive director of global free press organisation Article 19 stated within the article that: "We are disappointed that democracies like South Africa, Indonesia, and India voted in favour of these hostile amendments to weaken protections for freedom of expression online."

"A human rights-based approach to providing and expanding internet access, based on states' existing international human rights obligations, is essential to achieving the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and no state should be seeking to slow this down," Hughes added.

Apart from South Africa, India and Indonesia, other countries that voted in favour of the amendment and against the resolution included the likes of Kenya, Qatar, Russia, China, Cuba, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia.

TANZANIA :

**Tanzania, China cooperation hailed**

06 July 2016/dailynews.co.tz

TANZANIA is among the three pilot countries set for China-Africa industrial capacity cooperation following the framework agreement on industrial capacity cooperation that was initiated in April, 2015.

According to the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Lu Youqing, relevant stakeholders from China and Tanzania have met several times and achieved general consensus. "The two sides have upgraded the coordination mechanism and identified a group of priority projects.

Regular meetings have been held between the two sides to implement the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit of China-Africa Cooperation Forum," said Dr Youqing.

The Chinese ambassador was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the international seminar on China-Africa industrial capacity cooperation. According to him, at present, major cooperation projects between China and Tanzania had made encouraging progress, including the projects of Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) Revitalization, Kinyerezi III Natural Gas Power Plant and Dar es Salaam to Arusha Power Transmission Line.

Others are projects invested by private companies from China, such as oil-pressing mill, ceramics factory, cement plant, steel rolling mill and cassava processing plant.

On the occasion of rapid development of the China-Africa and China-Tanzania Industrial Capacity Cooperation, the Chinese ambassador said the seminar would bear fruits on the China-Africa Industrial Capacity Cooperation.



“The seminar reveals valuable academic meaning and urgent practical significance with the experts and scholars from Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa and China joining each other to pool wisdom and discuss on development,” he said.

In her remarks, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Africa and Regional Cooperation, Dr Susan Kolimba, expressed her appreciation to the Government of the People’s Republic of China for its continued commitment in providing assistance and partnership in various areas of development.

“Tanzania reiterates its commitment to partnering with China, particularly under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) framework. China’s decision to choose Tanzania as one of the model countries for industrial transfer and cooperation in Africa is a testimony of our all weather friendship.

KENYA :

#### **Kenya’s foreign policy shift welcome**

By Beatrice Elachi/standardmedia.co.ke/Wed, July 6th 2016

NAIROBI: There is much to be expected now that President Uhuru Kenyatta has set the pace of foreign relations with the international community. As opposed to the approach taken by previous administrations, Kenyatta has opted for a greater and more involved engagement, led directly by himself. The last three years have seen Kenya develop agreements, forge new alliances and partnerships in Africa, the European Union, Caribbean and the Americas. With the new and more personalised interaction with the Government, Kenyans living abroad can expect that the leadership will adhere to their mandate and facilitate even greater service delivery. Overall, the objective of this administration is to enhance Kenya’s position in global affairs, strengthen links between citizens around the world and direct more foreign trade and investment to our shores. The global policy that Kenya has adopted is exemplified by the personal approach taken by the president. The result is clear in the deliverables brought home, chief among the achievements being increased bilateral relations exhibited in visits by foreign consuls, the opening of Kenyan missions in Algeria and Angola as well as the appointment of honorary consuls in Russia, Scotland, Italy and Switzerland. In addition, the multi-lateral relations have seen a boost in Kenya hosting successive regional and international summits, and an increase in foreign earnings through tourism as well as direct foreign investments. The values and characteristics that Kenya’s leadership needs in the 21st century were founded at independence. Even though it has been more than 50 years, still the words of our founding fathers steer Uhuru Kenyatta towards responsibility in light of the nation’s future. Indeed, as Uhuru once said himself, “Equity, the constitution reminds us, is expected from those who make national policy. Equity demands that we attend to our own needs and those of our neighbours, especially where the sovereignty of our neighbours is threatened by internal conflict and terror.” In this regard, Kenya has directly and indirectly engaged in enhancing stability in Somalia and bringing an end to the escalation of hostilities in South Sudan. Beyond regional security and stability, Kenya has shown a willingness to engage in foreign trade with our neighbours and has joined hands to develop the Northern Corridor project; a massive infrastructural undertaking that will radically change the lives of the millions of people of Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan. Transforming lives has been the slogan of Uhuru’s administration and this is demonstrated even in his foreign engagements. The intimacy generated during his foreign visits between himself and the host nation officials as well as with Kenyans



living abroad is remarkable. That close, one on one interaction is a distinct marker of global leadership, where the world gets to be invited not only to Kenya as a destination but to Kenya as a partnership. There is much already achieved thus far, but Kenya's overall goals include becoming a stronger and far more influential player both within the African continent and on the world stage. Even as we develop ourselves through the implementation of the new constitutional dispensation at the national and local government level, Kenya needs to push forward and enhance internationally. Crucially, the determination and hard work of Uhuru Kenyatta must remain on course. Upcoming envoy visits as well as the opportunities to engage the global community in business, in politics and in development should be encouraged. Thus far, the firm yet open-handed method Uhuru utilises has borne positive fruit. It is this style of leadership that makes Uhuru a global leader to watch, and in my considered opinion one of the more visionary Africans in this century.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

**In move toward all-Africa passports, a push toward Pan-African ideal?**

By Max Lewontin/csmonitor.com/July 5, 2016

The African Union is set to launch an e-passport that allows visa-free travel through its 54 member states, a move that comes amid turmoil in the European Union.

The African Union is set to launch a common electronic passport that would grant visa-free travel to all of its 54 member-states, a move that hits at the organization's long-running goal of more closely linking nations from across the continent.

The passport will first be issued to heads of state and senior officials at the AU's summit in Kigali, Rwanda, later this month, with the Union saying it aims to provide passports to all African citizens by 2020.

But the AU's efforts to create a common passport, which observers say is in line with the organization's mission dating back to its earlier iteration as the Organization of African Unity, comes as the European Union faces growing fissures in the wake of Britain's landmark vote to leave.

While Britain's vote came amid campaigns that appealed to economic concerns, a sense of national sovereignty and what some say were racially-tinged anti-immigrant sentiments, for the AU nations, many of them with a relatively recent colonial past, a common passport appeals to an shared ideal of Pan-Africanism.

"The passport is a way to deepen the integration of Africa as one continent," says Rita Kiki Edozie, who coauthored a book about the AU, which replaced the earlier OAU in 2002.

"I see it as an African Union at least attempting to address the concerns of African people," Dr. Edozie, a professor of international relations and African affairs at Michigan State University, tells The Christian Science Monitor.

But the AU has also faced concerns about whether its leadership is truly concerned about the citizens of its member states, much like the EU, she says.

In that sense, the passports may represent an offering to a growing cosmopolitan middle class that hopes to take advantage of the mobility and economic benefits offered by visa-free travel.

“This flagship project has the specific aim of facilitating free movement of persons, goods and services around the continent in order to foster intra-Africa trade, integration and socio-economic development,” the Union said in a statement on June 13, only weeks before Britain’s vote to leave the EU.

Such smaller-scale efforts are on the rise across the continent, with the AU noting visa-free plans underway in Ghana and Mauritius.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has long offered visa-free travel to citizens of its member states, including Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. The AU has also made passports a key part of its Agenda 2063 plan, which aims to create a common trading market for its member-states by 2063.

But implementing the common passports for all African citizens could be a complex task.

The AU’s proposal is intended to be a common a standard for electronic passports, while individual member states will still have to work out how individual citizens will actually receive the visa-free travel benefits, notes Bronwen Manby, a visiting senior fellow at the London School of Economics who has studied citizenship issues in Africa.

“I think a disproportionate amount of emphasis has been placed on what’s the document, how its going to look, rather than who is West African for example,” she tells the Monitor. “An ECOWAS biometric identity document is not going to solve the issue of who’s Ivorian and who isn’t and that question of statelessness.”

Statelessness is a particular concern. Many millions of Africans currently lack official documentation of nationality, though its hard to estimate how many are stateless. In some countries, Dr. Manby finds, access to citizenship is made difficult by factors such as rules limiting rights to citizenship for the children of foreigners, racial, ethnic and gender discrimination and lack of accommodation for a nomadic lifestyle.

“I think a lot of this focus has been around technical issues and not enough emphasis on migration, on how do your procedures work and how to incorporate people [into a particular country],” she adds.

The African Union and the European Union also face somewhat different issues, though some concerns are linked. One is the possibility of racially-tinged backlash that could result from any plan to roll out passports to citizens of all the AU’s member states, particularly in South Africa, notes Professor Edozie, of Michigan State.

A diplomatic move might also counterbalance that potential opposition. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the current head of the African Union Commission, is stepping down as she is rumored to be discussing a run for president of South Africa as part of the ruling African National Congress party.

The AU’s own position means it’s less likely to spark the kind of populist backlash that fueled the

"Leave" campaign in Britain, says Manby of the London School of Economics.

"The people who interact with the AU are those that are going to be aware of it and thinking about it," she says. "The proverbial taxi driver doesn't express frustration with the AU in the way that the proverbial taxi driver would in Britain about the EU."

The AU's timeline, however, is still ambitious.

"It's a little bit of an ideal to achieve, all [the AU is] saying is that they're providing visas, they're not saying they're providing citizenship, to provide visas might be realistic, but citizenship is a different question," says Edozie.

But Khabele Matlosa, the AU's director of political affairs, says the move to open borders between member states could have a large-scale impact on young people traveling large distances in search of work.

Africa's history also means that a move toward a common passport has drawn a different reaction than the debates that have roiled Europe, he told CNN.

"Africa is a continent of migrants so we are not as suspicious of refugees," Mr. Matlosa said. "This is a test of our Pan-Africanism, the doctrine which underpins the African Union's existence. We are committed to this philosophy."

#### **Israel rallies African nations to restore its observer status at AU**

By Roselyne Obala/standardmedia.co.ke/Wed, July 6th 2016

Israel is seeking to restore its observer status at the Africa Union (AU) and has called for backing on the same.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country is ready and willing to work with the continent after it pulled out in the 1980s, following its frosty relationship with the region's States for supporting apartheid rule in South Africa. "Israel is coming back to Africa and Africa to Israel. I welcome you (African) States to help us restore observer status at the AU since Israel desires to join with African countries to create new partnerships in security and development," said the PM, after holding bilateral talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta. He stressed that Africa has no better friend outside the continent than Israel, especially when it comes to security and development.

"Others may exceed Israel but it is our desire to be part of this historic development. African nations should live beyond the dark past and focus on a future based on progressive change. Things are changing in the world," he said. Netanyahu said relations between Arabs and the Middle East is not like it was before hence the need for Africa to also forge ahead on the same front.

Kenyatta acknowledged that the severed relationship between Israel and Africa has been an impediment in enhancing good ties.

"I know difficult relations with the continent has caused many challenges. But, to fight our biggest challenge, which is terrorism, we must spearhead the socio-economic agenda by working together to improve the growth rate," the President said.

He continued: "AU is central in fostering ties with the continent. The international community coming together is welcome and there should be criteria on how to reestablish relations with Israel in order to rekindle its observer status." Netanyahu was in total agreement with Kenyatta even as it emerged that some embassies were closed as a result of the bad relations with Africa. NOT ROSY

"We are not refusing to acknowledge there was a problem. We cannot bury our head in the sand. The world is changing and so are we. Israel is having good relations with her neighbours, which is historic, why not Africa?" Kenyatta questioned. Israel was an observer member of the Organisation

of African Unity until 2002, when it was dissolved and replaced by the African Union. It was blocked from being included as an AU observer by the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. Netanyahu also recognised past relations with Kenya and lauded the founding father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta's assistance during the operation in Entebbe, Uganda to rescue Israeli hostages. President Kenyatta also noted that the two briefly discussed the stalled Israel-Palestine peace talks. "As a country we are keen to see permanent peace brokered between these two parties that will lead to greater freedom and prosperity for both Israelis and Palestinians," Kenyatta said. He continued: "Kenya is certainly committed to supporting a peace process in whatever way she can and we continue to see Israel as a critical partner, friend and ally".

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

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**PM Narendra Modi to leave on four-nation tour today**  
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He will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Mozambique in 34 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a four-nation tour to Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya on Wednesday aimed at shoring up economic ties, firm up maritime security

and counter balance China's growing influence in the resource-rich African continent.

On the first leg of his visit on Thursday morning, the Prime Minister will reach Maputo, capital Mozambique.

He will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Mozambique in 34 years.

The Prime Minister will meet the Mozambique president Filipe Nyusi and will also visit the Mozambique parliament.

In the later part of the day he will interact with local students who studied in India. The Prime Minister will also attend a reception organized by Indian Diaspora before leaving Maputo.

Indian High Commissioner to Mozambique Rudra Gaurav Shresth told media that the successful India Africa Forum summit hosted by India in October was the event which signalled Africa is really important for Indian foreign policy and the upcoming visit is a continuation of the interest that New Delhi expressed during the summit.

Shresth also mentioned that the signing of Memorandum of Undertakings (MOU's) on Government to Government Purchase of Pulses and on Civil Aviation Co-operation will be taking place during the official meeting.

He further stated that the MoU on purchase of pulses will help Mozambique boost its agriculture production and India will be able to meet shortage of pulses in the country.

Apart from agriculture and food, deepening cooperation in areas of hydrocarbons, maritime security, trade and investment will also be major focus areas of the Prime Minister's visit.

Mozambique is the third-largest exporter of natural gas, after Qatar and Australia, and a number of Indian companies, including ONGC, have invested heavily in the hydrocarbons sector in this country.

One fourth of Indian Investment in East Africa is in Mozambique.

The Trade with Mozambique has gone up 5 fold in last 5 years and presently stands around 2 billion dollars per year. India has extended around 640 million dollars as line of credit (LOC) to this country alone out of its total LOC of 2 Billion dollars to Africa till now.

Culturally also India shares historic relationship with Mozambique, as the Portuguese, the colonial masters of Mozambique ruled it for more than 200 years from Goa.

### **India's Modi heads to Africa with an eye on China**

By Afp/6 July 2016

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to Africa on Thursday, seeking to boost his country's economic influence in a region long dominated by rival Asian power China.

India has been working to improve ties with African nations as it vies for a greater share of the continent's natural resources. Last year, it hosted a major summit of the Africa's heads of state in New Delhi.

Modi will head first to Mozambique, marking the first visit by an Indian prime minister in 34 years, before travelling on to South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya.

"The visit marks an unprecedented diplomatic outreach to the African continent and underlines the importance that India places on forging a multi-layered relationship with a rising continent," political analyst Manish Chand told AFP.

"The visit is not going to be just about the optics. It is underpinned by a substantive agenda encompassing all areas of interest -- economic as well as strategic," said Chand, the editor of Africa Quarterly.

India's economic presence in Africa is dwarfed by that of China, whose trade with the continent topped \$200 billion last year -- more than the GDP of the 30 smallest African economies combined.

But it is gaining ground, dominated by the energy sector and led by private entrepreneurs.

India is now South Africa's sixth largest trade partner, with two-way trade reaching \$5.3 billion in 2015-16.

South Africa has also been vocal on the need to reform the UN Security Council, making it a natural ally in India's long-running campaign to be made a permanent member.

India and Africa are together home to a third of the world's population, but neither India nor any African country has a permanent seat on the council, which is made up of China, Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

"South Africa is seen as a representative of the continent," said Chand.

"It's a part of the BRICS grouping and has been shaping the global discourse."

With 1.3 million people of Indian origin it also has the largest diaspora population in Africa, a major element of Modi's diplomatic push across the world since taking office two years ago.

On Friday he will address a thousands-strong audience at a stadium in Johannesburg, having hosted similar rallies for the diaspora in cities from New York to London.

India's foreign ministry sought to downplay any rivalry with China and denied New Delhi had neglected the continent in the past.

"(Relations between India and Africa) are like the two banks of the river which are apart but never separate. We are trying to bridge that," said Amar Sinha, secretary for economic relations in the foreign ministry.

"Africa is a huge continent, it has tremendous requirement for development assistance and infrastructure building. Everybody can chip in."

**BRAZIL/AFRICA :**

