



(Africa should prioritise trade and industrial sectors to address most of the prevailing challenges the continent faces, including the high rate of unemployment, to ensure sustainable development)

BURUNDI :

Burundi: La députée Hafsa Mossi conduite à sa dernière demeure

Koaci.com/Jeu 14 Juillet 2016

-L'ancienne ministre burundaise Hafsa Mossi Recherche Hafsa Mossi a été conduite à sa dernière demeure ce jeudi selon les rites musulmans .

Proche du président Pierre Nkurunziza et députée au Parlement de la Communauté des Etats d'Afrique de l'Est (EAC) , Hafsa Mossi Recherche Hafsa Mossi a été abattue mercredi matin par deux criminels à bord d'un véhicule alors qu' elle se trouvait près de son domicile à Gihosha, dans l'est de Bujumbura.

Son assassinat a suscité de vives émotions et aussi beaucoup d'interrogations , car bien que proche du parti au pouvoir CNDD-FDD , Hafsa Mossi Recherche Hafsa Mossi s'était montrée très discrète depuis le début de la crise.

Selon le porte-parole de la police, un véhicule immatriculé en Tanzanie lui a coupé la route, un homme a ouvert le feu avec un pistolet avant de prendre la fuite. La victime ayant reçu une balle à

la poitrine est décédée à l'hôpital.

Sur Twitter, le chef de l'Etat burundais Pierre Nkurunziza a été condamné « un acte ignoble et lâche ». C'est une perte inestimable pour le Burundi, sa famille et toute l'EAC.

Le secrétaire de l'ONU Ban Ki moon a de son côté encouragé les parties burundaises à trouver une solution rapide à la crise .

Le Burundi est plongé depuis plus d'une année dans une profonde crise, née de la décision du président de briguer un 3e mandat, qui a déjà fait plus de 500 morts.

En Tanzanie , le dialogue a été annulé mardi , le gouvernement refusant de discuter avec des responsables de l'opposition , qu'il accuse d'être derrière une tentative de putsch en mai 2015.

RWANDA :

Rwandans should stay the course

By: Yulian & Zak/newtimes.co.rw/July 15, 2016

I read this article from my hotel room in Lusaka, Zambia. The experience I have got from here is that Rwanda's success story transcends borders — people in Zambia are very impressed and following what takes place in Rwanda.

Rwandans are stepping hard toward self-reliance and doing what is good for us should be the country's emblem.

Rwanda is home to brave people; it may take time for the people with negative perceptions to understand this but it shall never take forever. Let's keep working hard the Rwandan way.

Yulian

Editor,

I would like to thank the author for her insightful and thought-provoking article. I'm an African in Diaspora currently studying and living in Melbourne, Australia. We are currently in the middle of winter and it's freezing down here. I immensely enjoyed reading this article that counterbalances the sensationalist and stereotypical coverage about Africa perpetuated by the overzealous western media.

I just fell off my chair with laughter when I got to the point where the writer said "98.5% of the world's population thinks Rwanda is at war".

That was a choke I get it! Amazing! Do they even know that Rwanda is the safest country in the world and in 2025 this country is expected to become a middle income economy (and transitioning to upper class nation). Truth is that today Kigali is, by far, cleaner than New York, Amsterdam, Sydney and Paris!

For the last 20 years Rwanda has experienced unprecedented economic transformation which is

going to have massive implications for Africa.

Zak

RDC CONGO :

UGANDA :

Uganda: Machar Fighters Killed Six Ugandans - Oryem
15 July 2016/The Monitor (Kampala)

By Isaac Imaka

Kampala — Foreign Affairs minister Oryem Okello told Parliament yesterday that out of the 11 Ugandans who have so far been killed in South Sudan, six were killed after being run over at Jebel Kujur, by a military tank belonging to the SPLA-IO, a force belonging to Vice President Riek Machar.

While briefing the House on the situation in South Sudan, Mr Oryem, who described the situation in South Sudan as 'remaining tense', said the six bodies are yet to be retrieved because they are still in a territory being manned by Mr Machar's forces.

"As soon as the situation relaxes, government will identify and return the Ugandans home," he said. He, however, said government is taking all measures to ensure the safety of Ugandans and their evacuation.

"As of this morning (yesterday), 3,000 Ugandans assembled at Gumeo Market in Juba waiting to be evacuated," Mr Oryem said. "For Ugandans in other parts of South Sudan, particularly in Wau and Torit, government has advised to limit their movements and where the situation warrants, move to the UN compounds." Fighting broke out in Juba on Sunday between forces loyal to the President Salva Kiir and his first Vice President, Riek Marchar.

Mr Oryem said government has received reports that Mr Marchar's forces are having an upper hand in terms of control and that Yei, a medium-sized city in southwest south Sudan, is expected to fall "into the hands of the rebels soon".

That statement, however made MPs question why Uganda was referring to Mr Marchar as a rebel yet he is part of a coalition government.

Compensation queries

The MPs also asked government to explain whether Ugandans would be compensated for the loss in Juba.

"For these losses, how does the government of South Sudan compensate our people? It's not the first time our people have been killed yet we contributed so much in the attainment of their

independence," Mr Mohammad Nsereko, the Kampala Central, MP said.

Bulamogi MP Kenneth Lubogo said it was wrong for East Africa to admit South Sudan into the community.

"How can a country that has not proved to have a track record of human rights, failed to work with its neighbours to bring peace come into the East African Community," he asked. "South Sudan doesn't want to show that they appreciate the effort Uganda has put to bring peace in that country."

Security Minister Henry Tumukunde, however, said government's concern for now was to rescue Ugandans. He also said the country's borders to the north are secure.

"National Security Council assessed the situation and made sure the situation in South Sudan doesn't spill into Uganda, especially regarding the flow of weapons.

Masaka Municipality MP Mathias Mpuuga wondered when normalcy would return.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Tanzania's secondary schools to get access points in boost for e-schools project
africanews.com/2016/07/14

Senior secondary schools in Tanzania are to get internet access points to complement the e-schools project for 2 years.

The access points will be provided by telecom giant, Tigo.

Tanzania's ministry of communication, Works and Infrastructure signed and MOU with Tigo to that effect.

The ministry will identify and provide a list of schools without computer labs to be connected and also guide the implementation of the project while Tigo sponsors the infrastructural development in schools across the country.

It is the first time the Tanzanian government and a mobile network operator will be cooperating on an ICT project on a large scale.

KENYA :

Kenya station attacker was rogue officer, not Islamist militant: police
reuters.com/Fri Jul 15, 2016

A rogue officer who "went berserk" was responsible for an attack on a police station in western Kenya on Thursday in which seven people died, a police spokesman said.

Police had previously blamed the attack on a suspected recruiter for Somali militant group al Shabaab, who they said grabbed a gun from a guard while under arrest.

"The gunman ... turned out to be a local police officer who for yet unknown reasons, went berserk and grabbed a firearm," spokesman George Kinoti said in a statement late on Thursday.

The officer shot and killed six policemen before taking prisoners hostage at Kapenguria police station, officials said.

He was later shot dead by an elite police squad flown in from Nairobi. Local newspapers said a seventh officer, a member of the rescue team, was also killed.

Kinoti said police had opened an inquiry into the incident.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

The common passport and Africa's identity

By: Oscar Kimanuka/newtimes.co.rw/ July 15, 2016

The ongoing AU Summit in Kigali is set to unveil a common African passport, which would mean that every African would be eligible for the same centralised passport affirming to the continent of Africa as their point of origin.

Just as the outgoing Chairperson of African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma asserted, a common passport is a powerful symbol of unity across Africa – and simultaneously a step toward connecting African countries economically and politically.

The introduction of a single passport system would help solidify a common identity for all Africans.

A common passport will make it easier for Africans to travel within the continent; cross border traders to conduct business; employers to hire across borders, and Africans to migrate to different parts of the continent for economic purposes. It will improve intra-African trade and will go a long way in easing the movement of domestic goods and services between member states.

Breaking the colonial boundaries has been part of African Union's 2063 Agenda for "a continent with seamless borders," a flagship project agreed upon in 2014, and has the specific aim of facilitating free movement of people around the continent. It was also set to establish a free trade deal across the continent by 2017.

The Abuja Treaty, for instance, committed African states to adopt, individually, at bilateral or

regional level, the necessary measures in order to achieve progressively the free movement of persons and to ensure the employment of rights of residents and the right of establishment by their nationals within the community, a practical example of this success being the East African Community.

The single passport is a positive move towards achievement of Pan-Africanism, the idea that all people of African origin, first and foremost, belong to Africa as a common homeland regardless of where they live or where they were born.

It lays a foundation for millions of Africans who have remained stateless or are in refugee camps to have some forms of permanent and legal status on the continent. It has the potential to include members of the Diaspora who have long been seeking to obtain dual citizenship in Africa for decades.

This will mean that Africans from countries without dual citizenship who have been naturalized abroad and have lost citizenship in their own home countries would be eligible for the common African passport with or without being citizens of their nations of birth.

This will undoubtedly allow them to trace their origins and resettle in their homeland, something which has not been easy. It will create a strong, prosperous and integrated Africa, driven by its own citizens and capable of taking its rightful place irrespective of where they are.

On another note, travelling in Africa has all along been difficult for the African people. They require visas for over half of the countries on the continent. With exception of a few like Rwanda Seychelles, and Mauritius which allow fellow Africans to enter without Visa or provide visas on arrival, the rest of the countries have made it hell on earth for our own African people to enter their borders.

This is quite unfortunate when nationals of other countries outside Africa can travel to the same African states without Visas. Therefore, it will be of great importance if the common passport would mean not just to carry a visa to gain access to other African states but totally abolishing visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries.

The African passport digitization and incorporation of biometric security, will make it fully compliant with international best practices, and hopefully will be accepted at border controls all over the world.

Those African countries whose passports have not integrated such features making them have difficulty travelling to certain destinations will then benefit greatly.

However, with all the goodies that come along with the common African passport, there are underlying issues that will definitely arise. First and foremost, the recent Brexit is a reminder of the challenges inherent in a shared political and economic space.

The debates over immigration and national identity that led to Brexit may be some of the things that would crop up in with the coming of the common African passport.

This is because, to some extent, there will be attack on sovereignty, nationhood and self-government as the continent and its peoples would be almost viewed as one.

Critics may also cite the emergence of insurgents and volatile situations in some of the African states. For instance, the Boko Haram, Al-shabaab and other extremists would have an opportunity to

move and cause further havoc and mayhem within the continent which already suffers from security challenges.

A situation like South Sudan, which is yet again on the brink of a civil war, will be very challenging to address when Africa becomes borderless, among others.

In conclusion, an African passport is an exciting prospect that can spur growth and development and improve living standards of the African people. However, it must be approached with cautious optimism.

The African Union must ensure it drafts thoughtful regulations to ensure that the single African passport serves its intended purposes.

Africa's tax gap needs fixing - Gordhan

15 Jul '16/iol.co.za

Johannesburg - Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said yesterday that illicit financial flows, tax evasion and transfer pricing were major contributors to South Africa's and Africa's tax gap.

Gordhan told delegates from more than 30 countries at the high level two-day conference on Illicit Financial Flows: Inter-Agency Co-operation and Good Tax Governance in Africa, held at the University of Pretoria, that illicit flows were a threat to the continent's development agenda.

"Tax evasion, illicit financial flows and transfer pricing are contributors to the tax gap in any country and the extent to which they are uncontrolled undermines the fiscal capacity of the various countries," he said. Last year former president Thabo Mbeki told the Pan African parliament that the illicit flows cost Africa \$1 trillion (R14trln) over 50 years.

Prime suspects

Mbeki, who first investigated the illicit financial flows for the AU in 2012, said multinational corporations were the prime suspects in the trade and that illegal drug trafficking accounted for almost 30 percent of the money.

In his Budget speech delivered in February, Gordhan said with effect from next year international agreements on information sharing would enable tax authorities to act more effectively against illicit flows and abusive practices by multinational corporations and wealthy individuals.

Capital flight not only drains domestic wealth, but it also exacerbates inequality and facilitates crime and corruption. In 2014, French bank BNP Paribas was fined \$8.9 billion after being found guilty in 2014 for transferring billions of dollars on behalf of Sudan and other countries blacklisted by the US in one of the biggest financial illicit cases to date.

A research by the Global Financial Integrity, which used Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda as case studies, found that trade misinvoicing was a significant source of illicit outflows and inflows of capital in each country. The International Monetary Fund said governments should significantly boost customs enforcement by providing appropriate training and equipment to better detect the intentional misinvoicing of trade transactions.

Gordhan said Africa lost about \$50bn annually to illicit financial flows and this compromised the continent's ability to provide economic and human development.

AU says trade, industry critical for Africa's devt

By: Julius Bizimungu/newtimes.co.rw/July 15, 2016

Africa should prioritise trade and industrial sectors to address most of the prevailing challenges the continent faces, including the high rate of unemployment, to ensure sustainable development, Fatima Haram Acyl, the African Union (AU) commissioner for trade and industry, has said.

“While everyone should work to ensure peace, food security, and creating more jobs for the youth, I believe all these can happen if we invest in trade and industries. Industrialisation is critical to Africa’s development because it addresses issues like productive capacity, value-addition, and movement of people which translates into creation of jobs that would spur the continent’s development,” she said.

Acyl was on Wednesday addressing the media on the AU’s Trade and Industry Agenda as a catalyst for Africa’s development during the ongoing 27th African Union Summit at Kigali Convention Centre.

Acyl said there is also a need to examine the role of intra-Africa trade, noting that it is critical to make trade and industrial growth catalysts in Africa’s transformation agenda.

She also recalled that the AU Heads of State and Government adopted the African Mining Vision (AMV) in February 2009, with a view to making the mining sector more responsive to Africa’s economic and social development needs.

With regard to boosting intra-Africa trade and building a continent wide free trade area, the commissioner stated that African leaders launched negotiations in June 2015 which are expected to conclude in 2017.

“A continental free trade area, which will create a single market for goods and services of over a billion people and a GDP of over \$3 trillion provides a good reason to invest and partner in Africa,” she said.

Continental free trade area

Last year, at the 25th Summit of the African Union (AU) in South Africa, African Heads of State and Government agreed to create the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017 through negotiations on liberalisation of trade in goods and services. The initiative is part of the AU summit agenda that African leaders are discussing. The Heads of State and Government and the high-level African trade committee, including the trade ministers and ambassadors, are also expected to deliberate on what opportunities are presented by this initiative, and how it can improve intra-African trade.

If implemented, the free trade area will enable members realise their potential to expand and accelerate their dynamism, especially increasing trade among African countries by 50 per cent by 2022. The continent’s GDP is also estimated to rise from \$1.7 trillion in 2010 to \$2.6 trillion in 2020, which is expected to push up consumer spending from \$860 billion in 2010 to \$1.4 trillion in 2020, according to AU’s trade and industry department.

Acyl said the continent is looking to this ambitious initiative to address issues like trade in goods and services, as well as competition and investment policies, among others. “The CFTA, therefore,

offers African producers and investors a unique opportunity to exploit this huge market it presents,” said the commissioner.

Acyl, however, said there is a need for African industry players to increase production to satisfy demand, noting that CFTA will dismantle trade barriers and help reduce cost of doing business while engaged in intra-African trade, as well as boost productivity and competitiveness.

Intra-African trade currently stands at 12 per cent compared to 70 per cent for Europe, 50 per cent for Asia, or 21 per cent of Latin America.

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UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

South Sudan: U.S. Sends 47 Troops ‘Equipped for Combat’ Amid Chaos

14 Jul 2016/breitbart.com

The United States military in Africa has deployed 47 troops described by President Barack Obama as “equipped for combat” to protect American personnel and facilities in Juba, the capital of civil-war-ravaged South Sudan, the White House and U.S. Africa Command have announced.

“Simply put, U.S. forces are on the ground in South Sudan to temporarily augment security at the embassy and to assist in the directed, ordered departure of nonessential embassy personnel,” declared Cpt. Jennifer Dyrzcz, a spokeswoman for U.S. Africa Command, also known as AFRICOM.

Both pro-government and opposition troops in South Sudan have been advised of the U.S. deployment, which is “defensive in nature and for the sole purpose to protect U.S. personnel and facilities,” pointed out Dyrzcz.

Obama noted in a July 13 letter addressed to Congress that an additional 130 U.S. troops are in reserve in neighboring Djibouti.

“The German air force has also deployed to assist in an international evacuation prompted by a recent wave of violence,” reports Stars and Stripes.

According to the Associated Press (AP), the U.S. deployment came at the request of the State Department, amid a fragile ceasefire that has held so far.

The truce in Juba was implemented Monday after four days of heavy fighting between rival forces left more than 270 people dead.

The civil war that erupted in December 2013 appears to have never stopped despite a peace deal reached in August 2015 between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and his sacked Vice President Riek Machar.

As was the case at the beginning of the conflict, the warring parties are still South Sudan's most prominent ethnic groups: the Dinka, led by President Kiir, and the Nuer, under Vice-President Machar.

The United States and other countries are making plans to evacuate their citizens.

"The U.S. Embassy in Juba said flights will be organized for all U.S. citizens wishing to leave South Sudan," reports AP. "The embassy is also evacuating non-essential staff."

In the letter, Obama said U.S. forces will remain in the country "until the security situation becomes such that their presence is no longer needed."

AFRICOM has reportedly been concerned by the unrest in South Sudan, the world's youngest country, which the Obama administration helped midwife. It gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

Stars and Stripes reports:

After South Sudan gained independence, tensions continued with its neighbor to the north, but armed militia groups and tribal conflict within its own borders also posed a security risk.

AFRICOM chief Gen. David Rodriguez, in a May interview, said South Sudan was on the brink and could be Africa's next Mali — a country that faced sudden near collapse a few years ago after government coup and threats from Islamic militants.

CANADA/AFRICA :

Canadian Army mission in Africa 'coming soon,' says defence chief

By Murray Brewster, CBC News /Jul 14, 2016

Canada's new top soldier says he has enough soldiers for peacekeeping, Iraq, Ukraine and NATO missions

Canada's new top soldier says the army has enough troops to carry out missions in Iraq, Ukraine, Latvia and whatever peacekeeping assignments the new Liberal government deems necessary.

The statement by Lt.-Gen. Paul Wynnyk — who officially took over as commander of the Canadian Army on Thursday — will be put to the test very soon, as the country's most senior military commander said a new deployment to Africa was imminent.

In a conference call Wednesday, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan publicly confirmed the Liberal government is considering participation in a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions. But just where and when a new deployment will occur is still being decided, he said.

Gen. Jonathan Vance told dignitaries at the rain-soaked change of command ceremony on Parliament Hill that coming "very soon" there will be a capacity-building mission in Africa.

The burgeoning number of deployments, either ongoing or planned, is not a problem, says Wynnyk,

who until recently was head of military

"If and when the government decides they would like us to deploy somewhere, the Canadian Army stands ready to deploy troops to that particular theatre."

At the moment, the military has an assigned strength of 68,000 full-time members and 27,000 part-timers or reservists.

Trouble recruiting and retaining

But a defence department report tabled in the House of Commons last January shows there's a shortage of nearly 1,900 regular force members across the entire Armed Forces and that the military is having problems with recruiting and retention.

The reserves are in even worse shape, with a gap of 5,300 soldiers, many of them in the army.

The figures were current as of March 2015 and the report says the reserves face higher than expected attrition and have "challenges in meeting recruiting quotas."

The auditor general went into more detail a couple of months ago in a report that criticized the readiness of the part-time force.

Aside from being under-strength, Michael Ferguson's audit revealed that for various reasons only 13,944 reservists are considered active and ready for service.

The sweeping review also looked at training and found many reservists don't receive certain basic weapons qualifications, such as the use of pistols or grenade launchers.

The auditor also said reservists have been woefully unprepared for some duties in combat zones, such as convoy escort, and ill-equipped for missions at home like responding to forest fires and floods.

The army will have to rely on the reserves, as it did in Afghanistan, to fill out the ranks of task forces headed overseas, including the newly announced deterrence mission that will place a Canadian-led battalion in Latvia, right on the border with Russia.

Wynnyk, a former reservist, says issues related to the part-time force remain close to his heart and that one of his tasks as the new commander will be to implement recommendations in Ferguson's report.

He did take issue with the perception that the army is being hollowed out by attrition and a dearth of recruiting.

"The strength of the army right now is sufficient to undertake the tasks and missions the government assigns us," he said following the change of command ceremony on the lawn of Parliament Hill. "Certainly, my job is, if we're not strong enough to do that, (then) to signal to the chief of defence staff. But I don't agree that we don't have troops to undertake the missions we're looking at right now."

Troops headed to Mali?

There are any number of trouble spots in Africa where Canadian peacekeepers could be sent, but Mali is the one mentioned most often.

A sizable portion of the country was overrun by Islamic extremists in early 2014, prompting the French government to launch a short, but successful campaign to drive militants out of the territory they had captured.

Canada, at the time, played a supporting role with heavy-lift transports to get French military equipment into the western African nation.

Documents obtained by CBC News under Access to Information legislation show the French government of Francois Hollande pressured the former Conservative government to take a major role in the UN peacekeeping mission that followed France's intervention in Mali.

The request was discussed in June 2015 between former defence minister Jason Kenney and his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, according to the briefing notes.

Part of the reason France was asking for the assistance is because of the high number of troops deployed domestically due to recent terror attacks.

At the time of the call, up to 7,000 French soldiers have been tied down on home soil, putting "a significant strain" on the country's military.

The Conservatives managed to stick handle around the request, partly because a peacekeeping mission in Mali would be considered a hazardous, if not dangerous, assignment, as UN forces have been the target of attacks, including ambushes and mortar fire.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

India, China oil firms should cooperate in Africa: Chinese media

Source: PTI/15/07/2016

India and China must abandon confrontation and strategic competition in Africa and cooperate with each other specially in oil sector to replicate the success of their oil firms' collaboration in a third country, state-run Chinese media said.

"India and China must abandon the mindset of confrontation and strategic competition," an article in the state-run Global Times said.

"In fairness, the two nations can cooperate with each other in many fields in Africa, particularly oil. India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) have set a

successful precedent for cooperation in a third country, and this experience can be used as a reference for deepening cooperation in Africa,” it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to Africa “has once again given India-Africa ties a pronounced leg up, but China has no reason to be jealous”.

“If India’s economic interaction with African countries can bring new momentum to local development, China can also benefit from such moves,” it said.

Pointing to reports of growing India-China competition in Africa, it said Modi’s visit attracted a lot of attention and “some observers have labeled the visit a check against China’s increasing economic influence in Africa”.

“Indians established a presence in African markets much earlier than the Chinese, but recent years have witnessed the rapid development of economic cooperation between China and Africa, allowing China’s economic presence and influence in the continent to surpass that of India to some extent,” it said.

“But China and Africa’s economic cooperation is not exclusive. We believe that China, which is a latecomer among big powers in terms of developing economic ties with Africa, has no intention of restricting the rights of African countries to select their business partners,” it said.

“Some observers now believe China and India are competing to increase their presence in the continent. But this would not necessarily be a bad thing if African countries can get some benefit from it,” it said.

According to media reports, India launched an information and communications technology (ICT) project in Africa several years ago to promote the sharing of expertise between India and African states in areas including tele-education and telemedicine.

Such projects may understandably give Indian telecom firms a more favourable position over Chinese firms in obtaining relevant contracts, but China will nevertheless be pleased to see the smooth operation of such projects if they can promote the development of local economies, it said.

Observing that Africa remained a virgin land for Chinese manufacturers, who have felt trapped by the rising cost of labour in China, it said “we hope India can participate more actively in African countries’ efforts to improve infrastructure to help the region attract more foreign investment.

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :