



(The United Nations warned South Sudan's President Salva Kiir on Tuesday that any political appointments must be consistent with a peace deal that ended nearly two years of civil war after Kiir replaced his vice president and rival Riek Machar.)

BURUNDI :

DISPARITION D'UN JOURNALISTE AU BURUNDI : La descente aux enfers continue

Date: 26 juillet 2016/lepays.bf

Depuis la candidature suivie de la réélection du président Pierre Nkurunziza à un troisième mandat, le Burundi est entré dans une zone de turbulences dont il ne semble pas prêt de sortir, au regard de la dégradation continuelle du climat sociopolitique et de la terreur que le pouvoir continue d'abattre sur les opposants. Mais un an après la forfaiture du pasteur-président, la flamme de la contestation n'est pas éteinte. Rendant fou de rage voire paranoïaque un Nkurunziza qui avait eu la faiblesse de croire qu'en mettant les gens devant le fait accompli, il arriverait à bout de ses détracteurs à l'usure. Mais loin de s'estomper, la flamme de la résilience est restée allumée, poussant le pouvoir à répondre à la détermination des contestataires, par une répression féroce. Tant et si bien que le quotidien des Burundais est devenu un interminable chemin de croix où la simple manifestation de toute opposition au président Nkurunziza, peut être synonyme d'arrêt de mort. Ce ne sont pas les familles des plus de mille citoyens tués depuis le début de la contestation, ni les 270 000 exilés, qui diront le contraire. Sans oublier les tortures, les perquisitions et les arrestations arbitraires qui viennent en rajouter au fardeau déjà lourd des populations. Et ce n'est pas tout ! Car, la machine de répression du pouvoir veille toujours au grain. Ainsi donc, la descente aux enfers du peuple burundais se poursuit. Le dernier développement en date est la disparition d'un journaliste, le week-end dernier. Tout porte à croire que Jean Bigirimana, puisque c'est de lui qu'il s'agit, s'est retrouvé

dans le collimateur du pouvoir de Bujumbura pour ses va-et-vient jugés suspects au Rwanda voisin, connu pour ne pas être du tout en odeur de sainteté avec le satrape burundais. De là à voir en lui un pactisant du « diable », il y a un pas que les autorités soupçonneuses de Bujumbura devraient ne pas franchir, dans un contexte délétère où le président lui-même n'est pas loin de se méfier de sa propre ombre.

Le boucher de Bujumbura semble pris à son propre piège

C'est ce qui justifie du reste les craintes de la famille du journaliste qui est, depuis, sans nouvelles de lui. D'autant que depuis le début des manifestations, très peu de gens ont disparu pour réapparaître après. Mais, au pays de Pierre Nkurunziza, cela passe désormais pour un non-événement, tant sont monnaie courante les tueries en masse et autres assassinats ciblés dont le dernier en date est celui, la semaine dernière, de la députée Hafsa Mossi, qui n'a pas encore livré tous ses secrets. Et c'est peu de dire que le Burundi est devenu une prison à ciel ouvert pour tous ceux-là qui ne sont pas d'accord avec le président Nkurunziza. Car, si un vice-président de l'Assemblée nationale comme l'ex-opposant Agathon Rwasa, ne peut plus circuler librement, ce n'est pas un journaliste critique vis-à-vis du régime, qui pourrait se permettre une telle liberté. Et dire que tout cela se passe désormais dans la quasi-indifférence de la communauté internationale, on ne peut s'empêcher de croire qu'elle a abdiqué et détourné son regard du Burundi. Une démission qui donne carte blanche au satrape pour sévir à cœur joie contre son peuple. Nkurunziza est dans une logique de pis-aller. Car il est allé trop loin pour reculer. Et sachant qu'il ne peut plus rien attendre de cette même communauté internationale, il fait ce qu'il veut et ne se prive plus d'aucun moyen pour annihiler toute contestation. Le moins que l'on puisse dire, c'est que le Burundi est en train de sombrer complètement, pour le plus grand malheur de ses populations livrées à elles-mêmes et impuissantes devant la boulimie mortifère d'un président qui a totalement perdu le Nord et qui est prêt à tout pour conserver son fauteuil. Autrement, comment comprendre qu'en pleine année scolaire, l'on puisse jeter en prison ou exclure par centaines, des collégiens et des élèves du primaire, pour une affaire de gribouillages de photos du président dans des manuels scolaires ? Si ce n'est pas hypothéquer l'avenir des enfants, cela y ressemble fort. A moins que le message ne vise à faire comprendre qu'au Burundi, il n'y a point d'avenir envisageable sans Nkurunziza. A la vérité, le boucher de Bujumbura semble pris à son propre piège. Etant allé trop loin, la seule solution pour lui reste la force, et il veut massacrer en silence. Et le fait de s'en prendre à des journalistes, est la preuve qu'il ne veut pas que ces derniers relayent des informations qui pourraient le desservir et ternir davantage son image déjà bien écornée. L'on comprend alors pourquoi dès le début de la contestation, il s'était employé à réduire les médias indépendants au silence.

En vérité, le peuple burundais est extrêmement traumatisé. Et le comble, c'est que son bourreau n'est personne d'autre que son président qui a pourtant, ironie du sort, juré sur la Constitution de travailler à le protéger. Alors, qui pour sauver le Burundi ?

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

L'opposant congolais Etienne Tshisekedi de retour en RDC

Le Vif/27/07/16

L'opposant historique congolais Etienne Tshisekedi wa Mulumba s'est envolé mercredi matin de Bruxelles à destination de Kinshasa, rentrant en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) après près de deux ans de convalescence en Belgique afin de poursuivre ses activités politiques dans un contexte de tensions croissantes, a-t-on appris auprès de son parti.

M. Tshisekedi a quitté l'aéroport de Bruxelles peu après 07h00 à bord d'un "jet privé" d'une dizaine de places emmenant huit membres de sa délégation, a indiqué un de ses collaborateurs de l'Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès social (UDPS), le principal parti d'opposition en RDC.

Son avion est attendu vers 14h00 locales à Kinshasa, a-t-il précisé à l'agence Belga.

Lundi, le secrétaire général de l'UDPS, Bruno Mavungu, avait assuré que "toutes les dispositions ont été prises en concertation avec le gouverneur de la ville de Kinshasa", André Kimbuta, pour le retour du vieil opposant.

L'UDPS a appelé la population kinoise à "se mobiliser massivement" pour réserver au président de l'UDPS "un accueil délirant, [mais] dans le calme et la discipline".

"Les militants doivent arriver à l'aéroport et de là, nous allons nous diriger à la 10ème rue à Limete (la commune de Kinshasa qui abrite le siège de l'UDPS, ndlr)", avait expliqué lundi M. Mavungu.

A l'entrée du siège du parti, on trouve des prospectus sur lesquels on peut lire: "Congolaises et Congolais, Etienne Tshisekedi wa Mulumba rentre au pays par Kinshasa le mercredi 27 juillet. Venez nombreux l'accueillir depuis l'aéroport jusqu'à la 10ème rue Limete", avait constaté la radio onusienne Okapi.

M. Tshisekedi, 83 ans, en "convalescence" à Bruxelles, avait quitté la RDC le 16 août 2014 à bord d'un avion médicalisé. Il a intensifié ces derniers temps ses activités politiques, convoquant notamment début juin un "conclave" de l'opposition à Genval, en Brabant wallon.

Son retour intervient à quelques jours du lancement prévu des travaux préparatoires au "dialogue national" en vue d'élections "apaisées" en RDC, selon le calendrier publié par le facilitateur de l'Union africaine (UA), l'ex-Premier ministre togolais, Edem Kodjo.

Mais dimanche soir, une plate-forme d'opposition présidée par M. Tshisekedi, le "Rassemblement des Forces politiques et sociales acquises au Changement", créé à Genval, a annoncé son refus de participer à ce dialogue national" et récusé le facilitateur désigné par l'UA.

La RDC traverse une crise politique depuis la réélection contestée du président Joseph Kabila en novembre 2011 pour un second mandat, à l'issue de scrutins entachés de fraudes massives.

M. Tshisekedi était arrivé en deuxième position, selon les résultats officiels. Mais il se considère comme le "président élu".

M. Kabila est au pouvoir depuis 2001. Aux termes de la Constitution, il ne peut se représenter et doit abandonner son poste le 19 décembre à la fin de son mandat.

A moins de six mois de cette échéance, aucune date n'a encore été fixée pour la présidentielle - censée se tenir avant le 19 septembre - et tout indique que celle-ci ne pourra pas être organisée dans les délais constitutionnels.

Un récent arrêt de la Cour constitutionnelle autorise dans ce cas le président à rester en fonctions jusqu'à l'élection de son successeur.

L'opposition, qui dénonce cet arrêt comme nul et non avenue, accuse depuis des mois M. Kabila de chercher à trahir la Constitution pour se maintenir au pouvoir.

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

Modi in Africa, Tanzania: When culture is part of interrelations

27 July 2016 /dailynews.co.tz

PICTURES of the incumbent Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi beating (cultural) drums in Tanzania may have been exciting for Tanzanians.

But, the premier of a 1.2bn souls-strong India caught by the cameras indulging in 'drumming' in Bongo-Land (read 'Tanzania, land of the mentally alert/smart') raised hackles among his political rivals back home!

"On a day when Kashmir was burning, Prime Minister Modi was playing drums in Tanzania," wrote Ashok K Singh – adding that, "on the same day, US President Barack Obama announced curtailing his visit to Spain and dash home to deal with the aftermath of the Dallas violence. "Nobody is asking Modi to cut short his visit and return home. Africa is important. Diplomacy is important.

But surely there are ways to show that the nation's elected leader feels for the sufferings of his people?" Well, the foregoing is more about sentiment than substance on terra firma.

Tragedies like the current one in Kashmir – Premier Modi's backyard, as it were – and that in Dallas (in President Obama's household, so to speak) are part and parcel of the daily life of nations and Humankind this side of Heaven.

In My Book of Things, the world must learn to sincerely take the Good and the Bad... To say nothing of the Ugly – like Kashmir and Dallas! Premier Modi's Africa visit this year coincided with drastic deterioration of law and order in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir, where more than 30 people died – with 1,200 injured – in clashes between security forces and irate demonstrators against the killing of a 22-year old Hizbul Mujahideen Commander Burhan Wani in the Kashmir valley on July 8.

The Dallas tragedy was about the death-shootings on July 7 of five police officers by a sniper, an army veteran who targeted the officers – perhaps in retribution for police violence whereby White

officers have been shooting dead, usually unarmed black youths!

While US President Obama cut short his tour of Spain to commune with fellow Americans over the Dallas affair, Modi saw to completion of his African tour before returning home – the Kashmir affair notwithstanding! What critics don't appreciate is that India (including Kashmir) isn't the same as the US (Dallas notwithstanding)!

Without prejudice, it must be said in all honesty that the critics must understand – or be made to understand and appreciate – the philosophy that 'life must go on'... Just because "the sun always sets/The moon always falls/(and) It feels like the end/Just pay no mind at all... We must endure, keep rolling... Life must go on," and on, and on... [pardon, 'Alter Bridge,' an American rock band based in Orlando, Florida].

So, premier Modi's whirlwind tour of four African countries – Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya, all on the coastline to the east of the Indian Ocean – was accomplished as originally slated.

Apart from sharing the Indian Ocean coastlines with India, the four countries also have long, strong historical and cultural ties with India. India's Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi lived and worked in South Africa long before he returned home to become an icon in that country's history, past, present and future!

Indians came to Africa in general (and East Africa in particular) to 'help' (for lack of a better term) the British and Portuguese in administering and developing the African countries – albeit there eventually wasn't much of socio-econopolitical development to be seen and felt on the ground!

So, there's absolutely nothing wrong with Indians coming to Africa once more – albeit doing so several generations later, represented by their political leaderships...

And also doing so at this point in time not for and on behalf of the colonists of yore, but as partners-indevelopment every which way possible: economically, socially, politically and culturally – including drums-beating!

In fact, India needs not only to pull up its socks, but to also pull itself up with its bootstraps if it is to substantially entrench and expand its footprint in the relations stakes with Africa.

In that regard – and to that end – it must seriously find the requisite ways and means to effectively contend on a sustainable basis with the likes of China and the United States.

And, if this calls for Indian leaders beating drums with their African counterparts in the latter's courtyard, front yard or backyard – so be it! As it is, China's annual trade with Africa stands at around US\$200bn, compared to India's \$72bn.

For comparison's sake, the US/Africa trade in goods in 2015 stood at US\$27.135bn (exports) and \$25.379bn (imports) This is to say nothing of other major world economic players like Japan, South Korea – and, lately, Israel in Uganda! – who have been stalking around and about Africa predator-like in the hunt for (largely) economic ties! So, more 'Modi-like' tours of Africa are needed, I say... Cheers!

Tanzania: GSMA unveils rural connectivity project

July 27, 2016/itnewsafrika.com

At Mobile 360 – Africa, the GSMA announced the launch of the first active infrastructure sharing initiative in East Africa between mobile network operators (MNOs) Airtel, Millicom and Vodacom. The MNOs have committed to launch six 3G pilot sites across the country to test the sustainable provision of mobile broadband services to 13 million underserved people across rural areas of Tanzania.

“This cooperation between the Tanzanian MNOs demonstrates that the industry is committed to connecting the unconnected – particularly the millions living in rural areas – and enabling them to gain access to essential internet services,” said Mats Granryd, Director General, GSMA. “Digital inclusion has become a strategic priority for operators and the government alike. Building on the 17 million citizens who currently access the internet, this initiative will focus on the remaining 13 million citizens in Tanzania yet to be connected to the internet.”

The mobile telephony market in Tanzania has grown significantly and, as of the end of 2015, there were over 17 million individual mobile subscribers, accounting for 34 million connections across the country. While mobile growth in Tanzania has been substantial, large sections of society are still left out of the digital realm. Tanzania’s population of 49 million people is widely dispersed, with 69 per cent of the population living in rural regions. As population density in rural wards varies significantly, operators have so far been able to deploy their 2G networks to up to 85 per cent of the population, while 3G network deployment is mostly limited to urban areas, resulting in only 35 per cent of the population being covered and able to access the mobile internet.

The agreement is the result of a year-long collaboration between the GSMA Connected Society programme, the three local operators and the government of Tanzania. The pilots are structured around a replicable methodology to roll out mobile broadband networks, providing critical access to the unconnected and the GSMA expects to launch similar projects in other markets over the next three years.

Granryd concluded, “To connect the unconnected, governments with large rural communities need to promote the acceleration of national broadband coverage by releasing low-frequency spectrum, incentivising commercial sharing arrangements to facilitate infrastructure roll-out in rural areas, and creating an enabling taxation environment in order to deliver the mobile internet, even in the most challenging of places.”

KENYA :

UN Needs Extra \$115 Million to Return Somali Refugees From Kenya
Samuel Gebre/bloomberg.com/July 27, 2016

The United Nations Refugee Agency appealed for an additional \$115.4 million to support the voluntary return and reintegration of Somalis from Africa’s largest refugee settlement in Kenya.

The funding is also needed to relocate people from northeastern Kenya’s sprawling Dadaab camp to Kakuma, further west, as well as “related projects” and infrastructure in both Kenya and Somalia, the agency said in an e-mailed statement.

Kenya, which hosts as many as 600,000 refugees mainly from neighboring Somalia, said in May it will close Dadaab, citing costs to its economy and security. The UN presented a plan afterward that

envisages reducing the camp's population by 150,000 by end-2016, from 343,000. Dadaab was set up to deal with an influx of Somalis fleeing conflict following the ouster of President Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

First Lady gets AU passport for Africa trips

Jul. 27, 2016/the-star.co.ke

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta on Monday joined the few dignitaries who have acquired the new Pan African passport.

She received her new Common African Union Passport on the sidelines of the 10th Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The passport, which was introduced by the continental agency during the recent AU summit in Kigali, Rwanda, allows holders free movement across the 54 African countries.

The First Lady received her new passport from acting AU chairperson Erastus Mwencha.

Only a few heads of state have acquired the new travel document, including Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

The passport potentially turns the continent into a borderless region and holds out hope of solving problems standing in the way of intra-Africa trade and the movement of businesspeople, tourists and workers.

Half the 54 African countries require entry visas that can take days or weeks to process.

Elsewhere, the First Lady joined four of her colleagues to tour the Woreda 3 Health Centre in Kigali that specialises in treating cancer patients, including children.

She joined her Ethiopian host Roman Tesfaye and the First Ladies of Mozambique, Chad and Djibouti to tour the facility. Oncology students from Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences train at the centre.

The Satellite Health Centre is a project of the Ethiopian First Lady aimed at reducing overcrowding at the Black Lion Referral Hospital for cancer patients.

Medical officer in-charge Dr W Tigeneh said only serious cases are referred to the Black Lion Hospital, whereas other patients are treated at the Woreda 3 Health centre by visiting doctors and in-house nurses.

The health centre is largely an outpatient facility, although it has 20 beds for patients awaiting

referral to the Black Lion Hospital.

On Monday, the First Lady said Africa has the ability and resources to contain cancer if nations unite. “We have the power and the purpose, the wisdom and the will, the ability and the empathy, to make a lasting difference. We can have a continent where cancer does not cripple us, and a world where we beat cancer,” she said.

The First Lady said Africa can build a stronger and healthier continent, where boys and girls, women and men are protected from cancer. “We can have a continent where cancer does not cripple us, and a world where we beat cancer,” she said.

UN/AFRICA :

UN demands armed groups in CAR cease violence, release children

Wednesday 27 July 2016/enca.com

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council on Tuesday demanded all armed groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) "immediately and unconditionally" cease all forms of violence and release children from their ranks.

In a unanimously adopted resolution, the 15-nation council urged the CAR authorities to urgently implement reconciliation in the country, while noting the security situation in the country remains fragile due to the armed groups and ongoing violence.

The latest conflict in CAR broke out in December 2012. More than two years of civil war and sectarian violence has displaced thousands of people in the country.

Stakeholders in CAR are expected to complete the election process in August this year, which will hopefully facilitate the country's political transitional process.

The council also extended the mandate of UN peacekeeping mission in CAR, known as MINUSCA, until November 15, 2017 and maintained its troop ceiling of 10,750 troops and 2,080 police, according to the resolution.

The mission was set up in April 2014 with the mandate to protect civilians from violence, support the country's transition process and facilitate humanitarian assistance.

In the resolution, the council called on all parties in the CAR to ensure safe and free movement of the MINUSCA to enable the mission to carry out fully its mandate.

U.N. warns South Sudan president over replacement of rival

Tue Jul 26, 2016/reuters.com

The United Nations warned South Sudan's President Salva Kiir on Tuesday that any political appointments must be consistent with a peace deal that ended nearly two years of civil war after Kiir replaced his vice president and rival Riek Machar.

Machar left the South Sudanese capital Juba earlier this month after an eruption of violence in the

city when forces loyal to Kiir and Machar battled each other for several days with tanks, helicopters and other heavy weapons.

An August peace agreement states that the vice president must be chosen by the South Sudan Armed Opposition. Machar was sworn in as vice president in April.

However, Kiir replaced Machar on Monday with General Taban Deng Gai, a former chief opposition negotiator who has broken ranks with Machar and has the support of some other opposition members.

"Any political appointments need to be consistent with the provisions outlined in the peace agreement," U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters in New York on Tuesday.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said some members of the South Sudanese opposition had met in Juba on Saturday and agreed to appoint Deng Gai as vice president.

"In terms of this and whether it's allowed under the peace agreement is going to be a question for the leadership of South Sudan," Trudeau told reporters.

Kiir's appointment of Deng Gai - a former minister of mining - came after Kiir issued an ultimatum last week, demanding that Machar contact him within 48 hours and return to Juba to salvage the peace deal, or face replacement.

Deng Gai, who was the chief negotiator for Machar's SPLM-IO group during the peace talks, and some other opposition members backed Kiir's ultimatum. Machar said on Friday he had fired Deng Gai and accused him of defecting to Kiir's party.

"We call on all parties to ensure that the ceasefire is maintained and that any divisions within the opposition or between the parties be dealt with peacefully through dialogue," Haq said.

Machar has said he would only return to Juba after international troops were deployed as a buffer force to separate his forces from Kiir's.

South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, descended into civil war after Kiir fired Machar as vice president for the first time in 2013. More than 10,000 people were killed and some 2 million displaced, many of whom fled to neighboring countries.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

Africa will be the secret victim of Brexit

Will Martin/businessinsider.com.au/Jul 27, 2016

Britain's economy may bear the brunt of the fallout from the UK's decision to leave the European Union, but another region of the world — Africa — is set to be an unexpected victim.

Since Britain voted to leave the EU much of the economic spotlight has understandably been trained on how the Brexit vote will affect the British economy, as well as those countries within the eurozone, and the wider European Union.

In the UK one word — recession — dominates, with banks, economic research houses, and supranational institutions all predicting that growth in Britain will shrink either this year or next.

Barclays claims that the UK is on the “cusp of recession,” Credit Suisse predicts a recession will cost Britain 500,000 jobs, and Morgan Stanley that while a recession is coming, they don't know exactly what that recession will look like.

It isn't just predictions that are dire. Economic surveys, like last Friday's disastrous Markit flash PMI data, are also pointing to recession.

Europe is a slightly different story. Pre-referendum it was generally accepted that a vote to leave would drag massively on growth and crush confidence, but so far, the impact looks to be negligible, if surveys from German think tank, the Ifo Institute, and Markit, are to be believed.

However, according to new research from Barclays, Brexit's economic impact on Africa, and particularly sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), could be profound and incredibly damaging to the continent's burgeoning development. In a note by analysts led by Peter Worthington, Barclays argues that the referendum is going to materially affect growth on the continent, saying:

“Post-Brexit, we see growth in sub-Saharan Africa halving to just 1.4% in 2016, the slowest pace in decades, due principally to sharply weaker growth outlooks in sub-Saharan Africa's three biggest economies: Angola, Nigeria, and South Africa, which together account for nearly three fifths of SSA GDP.”

Barclays identifies seven key reasons why SSA growth is at risk from Brexit. Take a look below:

Brexit could harm global demand for goods, particularly hitting Africa's raw material, export-focused economies. This, in turn would lead to “slower growth and wider current account deficits,” Barclays argues.

Weaker global demand could also, Barclays says, cause key commodity prices to fall, further undermining the African economy, which as noted previously, relies heavily on exporting minerals, ores, and other commodities. The possible exception would likely be gold, which has been boosted by market uncertainty since the referendum. Two of the world's ten biggest gold producing nations are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Tourism will dwindle. A key area of economic prosperity for African nations is tourism, particularly through safaris and other nature tours. The basic argument here is simple — if Brits and other Europeans are suffering through economic hardship, an African holiday is going to be far less

affordable.

Fewer African workers will be able to work in developed nations, which in turn will reduce the amount of money sent back to SSA countries. As Barclays puts it “economic opportunities for African migrants to the UK and Europe, and hence less workers’ remittances to home countries.”

If things get really bad, aid from UK and European governments could start to dry up, robbing SSA countries of vital funding for infrastructure projects and other economically beneficial schemes.

Brexit is causing heightened uncertainty, and in some respects, increased risk aversion. These factors are likely to increase financing costs and shrink capital inflows into sub-Saharan Africa.

Earnings on sub-Saharan investments into Europe and the UK will be lower. That is likely to have the biggest impact on sub-Saharan Africa’s most developed nation, South Africa, which has substantial investments in Europe.

Barclays said it is impossible to quantify exactly how big the impact will be (emphasis ours):

“Quantifying the aggregate impact of all these factors is challenging, especially because of the many feedback loops between financial markets and the real economy, and the interlinking second order, multiplier, and lagged effects as the Brexit shock reverberates across borders around the global economy. Moreover, even once the UK triggers Article 50 (the procedure to formally initiate divorce proceedings) it is likely to take at least two years to negotiate the terms of the UK’s exit from the EU. Until these terms are clear, the ultimate effect of Brexit will be obscured by much uncertainty.”

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

Africa woos investments from India

July 27, 2016/thehindu.com

Africa is inviting Indian industries to explore business possibilities in their continent by offering a slew of incentives.

On Tuesday, a delegation from Mali, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Namibia and Zambia spoke to potential investors at a meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Niankoro Yeah Samake, Ambassador, Embassy of Mali, said, “There are investment opportunities in agriculture sector. With the two largest rivers in West Africa and vast alluvial plains, Mali has the best irrigation potential in the region.” He also said that he was in talks with potential buyers in Coimbatore to source cotton directly from Mali.

Mohammed Hija, Acting High Commissioner, Tanzania High Commission, said, “Tanzania offers attractive fiscal incentives for firms investing there. Agriculture is big business,” he said. The Tanzania economy depends on agriculture which accounts for about 30 per cent of GDP, provides 85 per cent of exports and employs 80 per cent of the workforce.

Molalign Asfaw, Minister Counsellor and Charge d' Affairs, Embassy of Ethiopia, said that Ethiopia was now a hot cake. "There is huge scope for investments in priority sectors like agro processing, chemical industries, textiles and garments," he said.

Total trade between India and Africa grew from approximately \$ 30.75 billion in 2007 to approximately \$ 75 billion in 2014, with a compounded annual growth rate of 13.6 per cent.

India has emerged as Africa's fourth largest trade partner after the EU, China and the US.

According to CII, Indian companies have become the largest source of FDI to Africa amongst all developing countries, including China.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 27 Juillet 2016... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 27/07/2016