

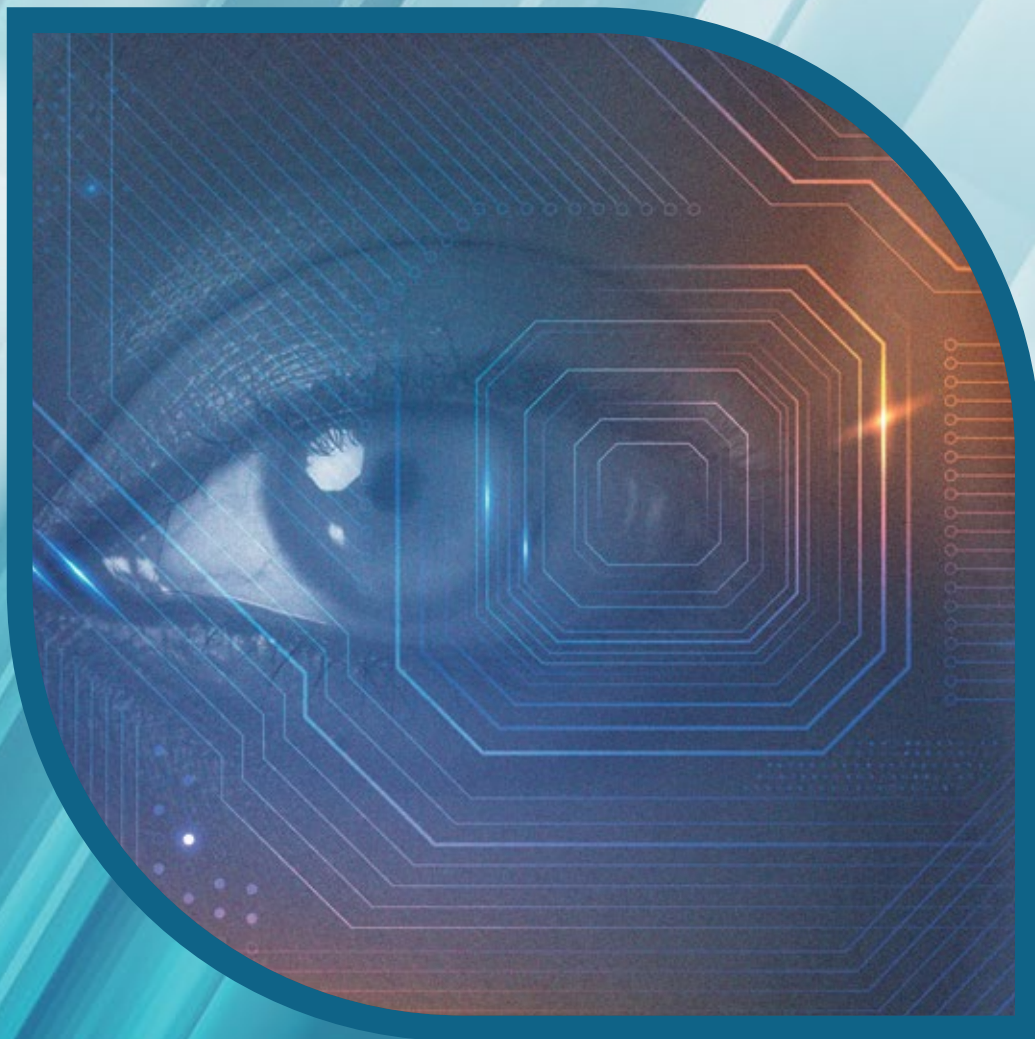


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# MONITOR



**MAY** 2023

# KENYA

14TH MAY 2023

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## DEATH TOLL FROM RELIGIOUS CULT IN KENYA EXCEEDS 200

Kenyan investigators have exhumed 22 more bodies from a suspected cult grave in the Kenyan coastal town of Malindi, a government official said. Coast Regional Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha said on Saturday that so far 201 bodies have been exhumed since the discovery of the mass graves on a piece of land at Shakahola forest in late April, Xinhua news agency reported. The number of people reported missing has increased to 610, Onyancha told journalists at the Shakahola site, adding that one suspect was arrested on Saturday, raising the total number of suspects to 26. The investigators said most of the cult victims were children who were told by Paul Nthenge, a self-proclaimed pastor, to starve themselves in order to “meet Jesus”. A court has allowed an application by the police to have Nthenge and his wife detained for 30 days. Kenyan President William Ruto has described the incident as terrorism

### SOURCE:

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/death-toll-from-religious-cult-in-kenya-exceeds-200-507779>

# UGANDA

12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

## QUERIES AS MUSEVENI SACKS TOP KCCA BOSS

President Museveni has terminated the appointment of Ms Juliet Namuddu, the director of education and social services at Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). In a March 25 letter addressed to the chairperson of the Education Service Commission which this publication has seen, Mr Museveni states: “Information has been brought to my attention that she (Ms Namuddu) is one of the former Directors of KCCA that I had advised shouldn’t be reappointed due to the complaints I had received. I instead advised the positions of some directors be advertised. “He, however, didn’t reveal any of the complaints or the reason for the termination. At the end of last year, the President appointed Ms Namuddu on a three-year contract as the director of education and social service at KCCA.

The contract would be renewed at the end of the three years. When contacted yesterday, Ms Namuddu said: “I can confirm that it is true, I have been informed that my contract has been terminated but I don’t know for what reason because I haven’t committed any crime or anything wrong to the best of my knowledge.” She added: “I haven’t yet received my letter but I am very aware that my termination was made and there is a termination letter that I will be receiving soon so I am waiting to get it, to understand what is in there. But I don’t know why my contract has been terminated when I was just being appointed a few weeks ago, following a thorough process of being appointed, going through interviews and so on.” Ms Namuddu, who could not go into detail of her contract termination, has since appealed to the Public Service Commission against her “illegal termination” and hopes to get a response soon.

“I am appealing against the illegal and irregular termination of service based on the fact that I was not given a fair hearing under the law (Art 28 and 173 of the Constitution of Uganda),” the May 11 appeal addressed to the chairperson of the Public Service Commission, reads in part. It added: “...I wish to state that at no one time did I fail to perform my duties and no omission or error was brought to my attention. Furthermore, all my Performance Appraisals can be accessed through my Supervisors to confirm the above.” It further read: “I would be privileged to have the issues that has caused the termination of my three-year contract which started in December 2022.” Sources in KCCA, who spoke to this publication on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the termination of Ms Namuddu’s contract may be due to her role in the fight against the theft of school land and corruption in Kampala. Mr Asuman Lukwago, the secretary to the Education Service commission, said he was not aware of the reasons behind the termination of Ms Namuddu’s contract. according to the President’s letter, he says that she is among the people whom he had identified not to appoint.

We don’t know what informed that whether because of poor performance or there is any other problem,” Mr Lukwago said. He, however, noted that the commission has no powers to write back to the President to ask why, saying he (Mr Museveni) has the means to investigate such complaints. Mr Lukwago said when the commission received the letter, it was sent to the Ministry of Public Service for action to be taken.

Asked who will replace Ms Namuddu, he said: “The replacement exercise is after [we send out] adverts, then people apply and we indicate that former directors of KCCA are not allowed to apply because they are cited as people who generated complaints which the President received.” The KCCA deputy executive director, Mr David Luyimbazi, said he cannot discuss the matter and referred us to the executive director, who had not responded to our calls and messages by press time. The chairperson of the Committee on Presidential Affairs, Ms Jessica Ababiku, said the committee has not received any information about the termination and couldn’t comment.

### SOURCE:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/queries-as-museveni-sacks-top-kcca-boss-4232194>

2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2023

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## UGANDAN MINISTER SHOT AND KILLED BY BODYGUARD

A bodyguard shot and killed a government minister in Uganda early Tuesday in an apparent private dispute, according to the army and local media. The attacker, who has not been publicly identified, then turned the gun on himself, according to state broadcaster UBC and others. The victim, Charles Engola, served in the government of President Yoweri Museveni as the junior minister in charge of labour. He was a retired army colonel. Army spokesman Brig. Felix Kulayigye said in a short statement that an “unfortunate incident” led to the killing of Engola. “We shall inform the public the details as we jointly investigate the matter,” Kulayigye said on Twitter. The shooting took place inside Engola’s home in a suburb of the Ugandan capital, Kampala. Police detectives are now at the scene.

The motive was not immediately clear, but the local press said there had been an apparent dispute over the guard’s wages “Witnesses claim that the soldier was yelling that he had not been paid for a long time despite working for a minister,” the online newspaper Nile Post reported. The incident is likely to create shockwaves in a country where other high-profile officials have been killed in gun attacks over the years. In 2021, a former army chief in Uganda was wounded and his daughter killed when gunmen shot at their vehicle in Kampala.

### SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/uganda-minister-shot-bodyguard-7edd541da986917ce37bea63e6010249>

12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

## INDIAN MAN SHOT DEAD BY OFF-DUTY CONSTABLE IN UGANDA

A 39-year-old Indian money lender was shot dead with a stolen AK-47 assault rifle by an off-duty police constable in Uganda's capital city of Kampala over a 2.1 million shillings (Rs 46,000) loan, media reports said. Kampala Metropolitan Police said that 30-year-old Ivan Wabwire was arrested after he opened fire at Uttam Bhandari on May 12. Chilling footage from the crime scene showed how Wabwire fired multiple rounds of bullets at Bhandari from close range, according to Kampala-based newspaper Daily Monitor. Bhandari was the director of TFS financial services and Wabwire was his client, police said. The two had a misunderstanding over the amount the constable owed to the firm. When Wabwire was told about the loan amount (2.1 million shillings) on May 12, he reportedly started arguing with Bhandari, claiming that the figure was inflated, the report said. Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson, Patrick Onyango told the Daily Monitor that after shooting Bhandari, Wabwire abandoned his AK-47 rifle and fled. Police have recovered 13 cartridges from the crime scene.

Wabwire has a history of mental instability and was banned five years ago from possessing a firearm after being admitted to a hospital twice over the mental breakdown, police said. Wabwire, who is now being held at Busia police station in eastern Uganda, stole the gun from a fellow policeman and roommate, the report said. Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Geoffrey Tumusiime Katsigazi, met the Indian community in Uganda and assured them of their safety, the news portal, Nile Post reported. Uganda President Yoweri Museveni has demanded answers from security forces and questioned: "How an off-duty policeman accessed a gun." "How are guns stored in the police? Did he (Wabwire) walk away from his guard post without permission with a gun to commit a crime? Is there no security at the site where the victim (Bhandari) was? Why did the local security allow an armed person who had no guard business into the building?" Museveni who is also the commander in chief of Uganda's armed forces tweeted.

### SOURCE:

<https://www.ndtv.com/indians-abroad/indian-man-shot-dead-by-off-duty-constable-in-uganda-report-4035031>

## D.R.C

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

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### **DRC FALLS OUT WITH THE WORLD BANK AT THE COST OF \$1 BILLION**

The World Bank has halted funding for more than \$1 billion in humanitarian and development projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo after dissolving the project fund without warning. As part of the \$1.04 billion total, \$91 million had already been granted for the projects, according to the letter, but the bank was still awaiting paperwork on their progress. The change was due to “the evolution of the legal framework governing public institutions,” according to his statement. Albert Zeufack, the country’s head of operations for the World Bank, stated in a letter dated May 12 that the organization had learned about the choice through the media. “Before being able to continue to commit the project funds, the government and the World Bank should agree on transitional measures... in order to ensure that the funds are used for the intended purposes,” he said via the letter.

A spokesman for the Congo’s finance ministry stated that he was awaiting approval from the president before making a statement. The suspension of funding includes projects related to health, education, and agriculture, among others. The World Bank has expressed concern about the impact of this decision on the people of DRC, who are already facing significant challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, disease, and ongoing conflicts in the country. The suspension of funding by the World Bank is a significant blow to the DRC, which is one of the countries that relies heavily on foreign aid to fund its development projects.

#### **SOURCE:**

<https://regionweek.com/drc-falls-out-with-the-world-bank-at-the-cost-of-1-billion/>



10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

## AT LEAST 16 PEOPLE KILLED IN MULTIPLE LANDSLIDES IN EASTERN DRC

The deaths from landslides are the latest in a flurry of tragic incidents related to repeated downpours across parts of East Africa. Ten people were killed in a landslide in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's Lubero territory in North Kivu province overnight on Wednesday, local authorities have said – additional victims of recent heavy rains that have killed hundreds in floods in the broader region. A recent downpour loosened the earth on a hillside above a village in the Vuveyi Lac area, burying the victims as they slept in their houses below, said Alain Kiwewa, Lubero's military administrator. As of now, the bodies are still under the ground. Work is under way to get them out," he said by phone. Meanwhile, at least six people died in a landslide in the Songambebe mine near the town of Rubaya in North Kivu province's Masisi area, communication minister Patrick Muyaya said, according to local media Radio Okapi on Monday. Nearly 100 mine diggers were stuck in the rubble, the report said, citing a source from the local administration. At the same time, authorities in Kalehe territory in the neighbouring province of South Kivu were still digging through the mud to find bodies from deadly floods that have killed more than 400 people. President Felix Tshisekedi declared on Monday a day of national mourning to mark the disaster.

As of Wednesday morning, the death toll was 426 with approximately 1,000 people still missing, according to Desire Yuma Machumu, head of the South Kivu Red Cross. Aid workers expected to stay in the remote mountainous area for several weeks and were preparing for a possible cholera outbreak, which posed a major risk to survivors because of the lack of sanitation, he said. Poverty and poor infrastructure have made these communities more vulnerable to extreme weather such as heavy rain, which is becoming more frequent and intense in Africa due to climate change, according to United Nations climate experts. Repeated recent downpours have also raised the water table in the broader region, increasing the likelihood of flooding, said meteorology and hydrology engineer Theodore Lokakao Ilemba. "It's everywhere in the Congo and in Rwanda, it worsens [the impact of] the rainfall and all pre-existing problems like water drainage and land use," he said. Rains also triggered flooding and landslides in neighbouring Rwanda last week, killing 130 people and destroying more than 5,000 homes.

### SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/10/at-least-sixteen-killed-in-landslide-in-eastern-dr-congo>

22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2023

## PEACE AND SECURITY IN DRC: TSHISEKEDI'S WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- The Teke-Yaka, communal violence in Kwamouth, a city 100 kilometres from Kinshasa, has forced local community leaders to petition the UN to send MONUSCO because the government has failed to protect them; Mobondo rebel's groups have entered Kinshasa, where also Kaluna gangs continue to kill hundreds; Maniema and Katanga criminals operate with impunity, and in Ituri ADF and CODECO set the law of the land.
- The EACRF was deployed with a mandate to support a peace process that prioritised political dialogue, punctuated by the withdrawal of M23 from the territories they captured from the FARDC, per the Luanda and Nairobi agreements. During a recent press conference in Kinshasa, DRC's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Christophe Lutundula, signalled the government's intention to pull the plug on the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) by the end of June, supposedly for failing to defeat M23. "It's simple, they [EAC troops] have not delivered the expected results," he said. "I'm speaking plainly. It is as clear as water in a clear glass. Otherwise, we would no longer be talking about the M23. It doesn't require any particular demonstration. "This scathing assessment by DRC's leadership indicates a profound lack of self-awareness, given that President Tshisekedi's government is not known to ever deliver on any expected results. What they do have is an undisputed track record of chucking blame on others for the insecurity and grim living standards that plague the Congolese people.

The EACRF was deployed with a mandate to support a peace process that prioritised political dialogue, punctuated by the withdrawal of M23 from the territories they captured from the FARDC, per the Luanda and Nairobi agreements. It was also stipulated that the heads of state would mandate offensive action only if M23 refused to withdraw. However, despite various attempts by EAC leaders to clarify the regional force's mandate, Kinshasa remains adamant that the force should be solely offensive. Unsurprisingly, Kinshasa's position has become that they are right, and everyone else – including countries that have deployed their soldiers and invested financially in the mission—is wrong. What the EAC heads of state understand, and Tshisekedi has refused to acknowledge, is that political dialogue that gets to the root of the problem is vital to addressing the M23 question. After all, M23 is one of the symptoms and not the cause of the crisis in eastern DRC. Part of the underlying issue is the persecution of Rwandophones and Congolese Tutsi, who face identity-based violence and are systematically excluded.

Problems rooted in ideology cannot be fixed with bullets. What EAC leaders offer, and Kinshasa rejects, is an opportunity to create conditions for constructive and definitive dialogue to achieve sustainable peace in the east. At the start of the conflict in eastern DRC, Kinshasa rolled out a campaign accusing Rwanda of supporting M23, and then it



was Uganda, then Kenya. Now DRC officials are going on tours des bureaux diplomatiques mondiaux accusing the regional force of siding with the armed group. On a recent trip to Botswana, the president, without evidence, accused the EACRF of colluding with M23 rebels to mount roadblocks to impose illegal taxes on the population. At the strong behest of President Tshisekedi, Rwanda was excluded from the EACRF.

This seems to have been a blessing in disguise as the world now has a front-row seat to what Rwanda has repeatedly pointed out: The core problem in DRC isn't a scarcity or failure of intervention; it's an absence of state and effective governance. The regional force has not failed; it has been failed through a series of deliberate and calculated sabotages. Posturing from Kinshasa would have us believe that insecurity in DRC exists only in the east when, in fact, it's a widespread issue. The Teke-Yaka, communal violence in Kwamouth, a city 100 kilometres from Kinshasa, has forced local community leaders to petition the UN to send MONUSCO because the government has failed to protect them; Mobondo rebel's groups have entered Kinshasa, where also Kaluna gangs continue to kill hundreds; Maniema and Katanga criminals operate with impunity, and in Ituri ADF and CODECO set the law of the land. During his visit to Kinshasa, French President Emmanuel Macron aptly summed up the situation when he asked Tshisekedi "not to find the guilty among third parties. "To replace the regional force, President Tshisekedi has approached SADC, whose deployment is expected to have an offensive mandate.

At this point, the multilateral and bilateral military deployments in eastern DRC are rivalled in number only by the staggering over 260 armed groups that operate there, some of which, like FDLR, are embedded in the government forces. It's not just the EAC regional force that ran afoul of Kinshasa; MONUSCO has also received a cold shoulder. Faced with Tshisekedi's many calculated hindrances, even a legion of angels descended from heaven might re-ascend in protest. SADC certainly has its work cut out for them and will undoubtedly soon learn the bitter lesson that it's either Tshisekedi's way or the highway. Going forward, it's imperative that new actors being drawn into the DRC security dilemma demand good faith from Kinshasa because, right now, they are the biggest obstacle to peace.

## SOURCE:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/peace-and-security-in-drc-tshisekedi-s-way-or-the-high-way-4243194>

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