

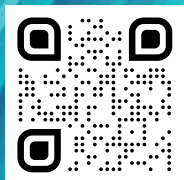
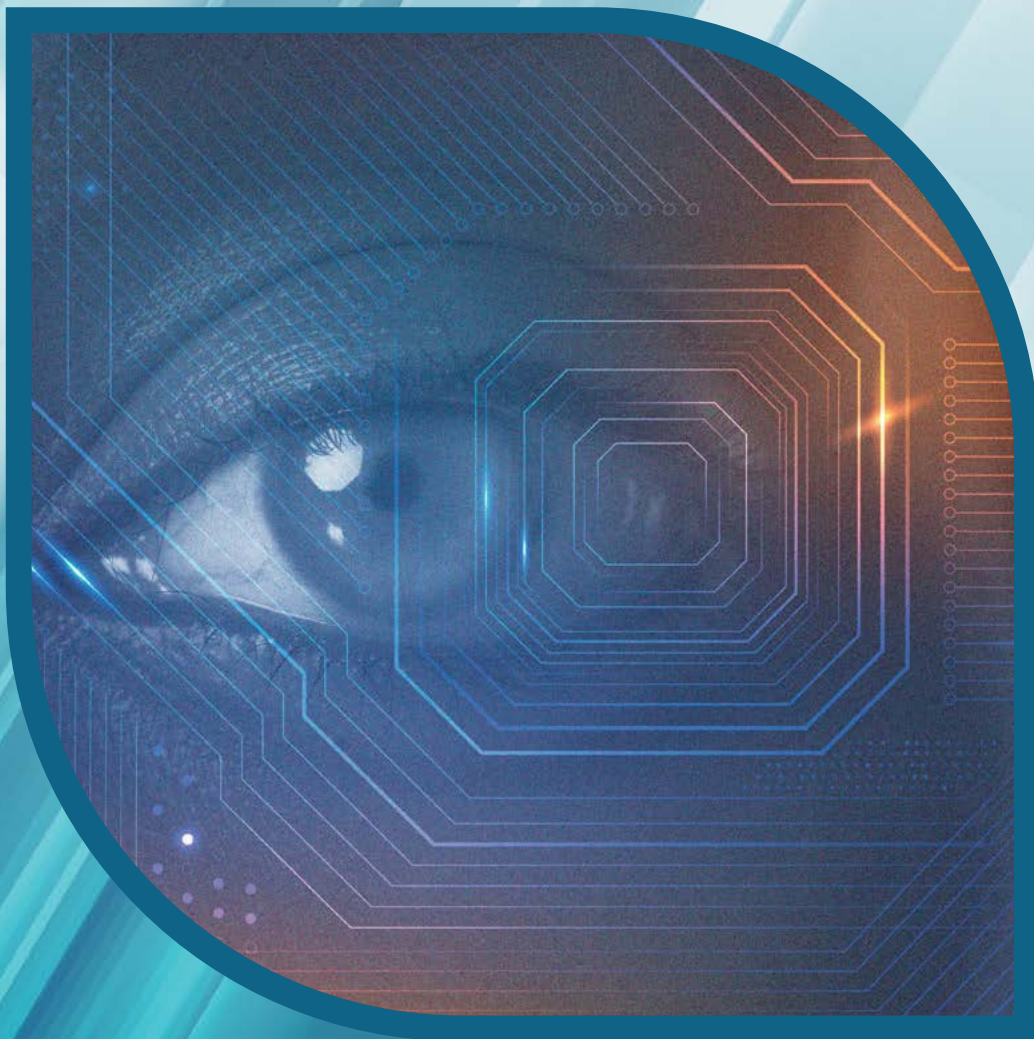


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SEPTEMBER 2022

SUDAN

11TH SEPTEMBER 2022

GOLD REMAINS THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST EXPORT COMMODITY

The Central Bank of Sudan (CBoS) report on foreign trade states that gold still remains the largest export commodity from Sudan. The CBoS trade report indicated that Sudan saw its trade deficit lessen from last year's \$4.7 billion deficit to this current year's deficit of \$1.5 billion. The trade deficit reflects Sudan's import commodities exceeding its exports. Amid growing concerns of economic and food insecurity in the region, as well as the political crisis currently embroiled in Sudan, the [United Nation's Secretary-General António Guterres stated in a report on September 2](#) that Sudan is at risk of being "constrained economically" and this will likely "deter investors". [Sudan is one of the largest producers of gold in Africa](#), however production is often driven by unregulated, artisanal (individual subsistence) mining, and routine gold smuggling across international borders is a constant problem.

It is estimated that between 50 per cent and 80 per cent of Sudan's gold is smuggled out of the country, with proceeds frequently used to finance the internal conflict. CBoS issued a new circular to banks and related authorities in March, banning the export of gold by government agencies and foreigners, individuals, and companies, excluding concession companies operating in mining. The circular also limits the role of the Central Bank of Sudan to purchasing gold for the purpose of building reserves only.

In an interview with Radio Dabanga's Sudan Today programme, Professor of Economics at El Nile in University in Khartoum Dr Hasan Bashir explained that export volumes could have been 10 times the size of current exports and highlighted the continued smuggling of large quantities of gold from the country. Russian looting

CNN published an investigation that had been seven months in the making disclosing how "Russia is plundering gold in Sudan to boost Putin's war effort in Ukraine" with the complicity of Sudanese military rulers. Following the publication, some Sudanese have called for new marches of the millions to protest against Russia's looting of gold today.

CNN's investigation shows the extent to which Russia smuggles gold out of Sudan, bypassing the country's official gold export regulations.

[At least 16 known instances of Russian gold smuggling flights out of Sudan](#), have occurred in the past year and a half, CNN explain. Interviews with high-level Sudanese and US officials suggest the existence of 'an elaborate Russian scheme' to plunder Sudan's gold reserves to strengthen Russian wealth in the face of Western sanctions.

SOURCE:

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202209120123.html>

9TH SEPTEMBER 2022

SUDAN HUNGER - ‘CHILDREN ARE FACING THE THREAT OF DEATH

The deeper crisis is that Sudan’s political economy is structured in an unequal and exploitative manner.’ Reports of hunger deaths in displacement camps and cities have been trickling out of Sudan in recent months, highlighting a growing food emergency that is spreading from rural to urban areas and exceeding the response capacity of humanitarian groups. Almost 12 million people - a quarter of Sudan’s population are currently estimated to be facing acute hunger. That number could reach up to 18 million as the “lean season” ends this month,

according to aid agencies - double the figure recorded in 2021. Economic and political disorder worsened by an October 2021 coup are contributing to the high levels of need. But conflict, climate shocks, and an exploitative political economy that has long generated hunger are also driving the crisis. We have no basic services, and children are dying because of malnutrition,” said Ahmed Adam, from eastern Kassala state, which has some of the highest malnutrition rates in Sudan. “We want the government and international organisations to help us.” Adam,

who is 48, spoke from a health clinic in Kassala, which The New Humanitarian visited last month to better understand how hunger is affecting people. His wife was suffering from anaemia, a blood disorder commonly caused by nutritional deficiencies. Aid agency reports suggest crisis levels of food insecurity will remain high in the months ahead: The next harvest season could be compromised by late planting due to delayed rainfall and surging input costs, while recent flash floods have damaged cropland.

GROWING URBAN NEEDS

The deteriorating humanitarian situation comes three years after protests led to the downfall of former president Omar al-Bashir. The autocrat had struggled to retain power after South Sudan broke away in 2011, taking 75 percent of national oil wealth with it. Al-Bashir was replaced by a transitional civilian-military government, which sought debt relief and new funding streams. But appeasing international creditors required painful adjustments that drove severe inflation, including subsidy cuts for fuel and wheat. The situation worsened when army generals ousted their civilian counterparts last year - a takeover that protesters are still risking their lives to overturn. International assistance programmes were frozen, and living standards fell further. In the past, hunger in Sudan has mainly affected rural populations and war victims who relocated to city fringes. But the current economic crunch - compounded by the Ukraine war - has deepened food insecurity in urban areas too.

“Sudan has faced hunger before, but in the last century it has never faced levels of hunger as widespread, persistent and acute as today,” stated a recent report by the World Peace Foundation at Tufts University. Abdul Rahman

Mohamed, a resident of the capital city, Khartoum, is one of many struggling to get by. “Life is impossible with the current living conditions,” he told The New Humanitarian. “There is a lack of fuel, cooking gas, and flour.” Hassan

Mahmoud, a 44-year-old Khartoum plumber, added that incomes can’t keep up with rising prices at local markets. “Living in dignity for the lower class, even the middle class, is nearly impossible,” Mahmoud said in an interview in April.

FLOODING AND FIGHTING

Conflicts around the country have contributed to the food insecurity. Livelihoods have been eroded and farms damaged as hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes - most notably in the western Darfur region and in southern Blue Nile state. Meanwhile, lengthy dry spells and pest and disease outbreaks have reduced harvests across the country. National cereal production from the 2021/22 agricultural season was 35 percent lower than the previous period. The consequences of these converging issues were plain to see at the health clinic in Kassala's Talkook locality.

The state, which borders Eritrea, has suffered from recent flooding, drought, and conflicts exacerbated by a 2020 nationwide peace deal. Though Kassala has long had poor social indicators, children in the region are now "facing the threat of death due to severe malnutrition", said Rasha Ali, a UNICEF worker based in Khartoum. Among those at the health centre was 31-year-old Aisha Ibrahim, who had recently lost two newborn children to hunger-related deaths. "All this suffering is because of malnutrition," said Ibrahim, who had brought a third child to the clinic for a check-up. Also at the health

centre was 55-year-old Mariam Ahmed. She said her daughter was suffering from anaemia and her grandson from weak bones and stunting - a growth and development condition caused by malnutrition. The lack of food because of drought and the very high prices of food recently is the main problem that we are suffering from in this area," Ahmed told The New Humanitarian. UNICEF's Ali said these problems exist across the country. "Around 12 percent [of children] are suffering because of malnutrition, while one in three children are suffering from stunting," she said.

STRUCTURAL INJUSTICE

Despite the rising needs, aid groups have been cutting back on assistance because they are short on funds. In June, the UN's World Food Programme announced it had halved rations for refugees - among the groups most vulnerable to hunger.

Still, several leading Sudanese researchers argue that humanitarian aid won't solve food insecurity. They say change requires structural reforms to a political system that has long seen rulers place their survival above the needs of rural populations. Sudan's foreign exchange, for example, mostly comes from exports earned from rural production. Yet the cash generated has historically funded bread imports for urban dwellers - a more valued constituency for Khartoum than rural sorghum eaters.

Military and political elites have also maintained their rule by waging vicious counterinsurgency campaigns in rebellious peripheries. These wars have led to starvation crimes and the destruction of rural livelihoods. Decades of displacement have created a pipeline of landless workers who labour on commercial farms around the country. They often don't have enough money to buy the very food they are producing. The deeper crisis is that Sudan's political economy is structured in an unequal and exploitative manner that generates

both widespread chronic hunger and intermittent humanitarian emergency and famine," stated the Tufts University report. Back in Kassala, 55-year-old Ahmed said her immediate concern was that doctors help her stunted grandchild become "a normal and healthy boy" - one able to play with other children in his village. He is very short and cannot walk well, which means he cannot play with the other children that are his age," Ahmed said at the health clinic. "This is very painful for me and for our family."

SOURCE:

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202209100236.htm>

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLKER SAYS ENCOURAGED BY COMMONALITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES OVER TRANSITION IN SUDAN

UN Special Representative and UNITAMS Head Volker Perthes said that Sudanese initiatives to end the political stalemate disagree on the role of the military component in the transition but considerably agree on the remaining issues. Volker Perthes, UN representative and UNITAMS head, on September 13, briefed the Security Council on development in Sudan during the last 90 days from 6 May to 20 August. Perthes told the 15-member body that the overall situation would continue to worsen if no political situation is found. However, he voiced some optimism when he invoked the various initiatives made by the Sudanese political and social forces to settle the political crisis. I am actually encouraged by the degree of commonality in the current debate in Sudan. There are important differences, no doubt, about the institutional division of powers, particularly the role of the military,” he said. After what, he underscored that there is a “wide-ranging consensus” on the need for a civilian head of state, an independent prime minister, and a cabinet of technocrats. So, there is an opportunity to end the crisis, which military and civilian forces need to grasp,” he stressed. In his briefing, the UNITAMS head mentioned the draft constitutional framework of the Sudanese Bar Association and stressed that it was endorsed by the parties behind two other major initiatives. This “Means that the Bar Association initiative now gathers a broad spectrum of civilian forces around one vision, including the parties of the Forces for Freedom and Change (...), relevant parties not included in that government like the Democratic Unionist Party, and Juba Peace Agreement signatories still present in today’s Sovereign Council,” he said.

The Sudanese lawyers call for a very limited role for the military component restricted to the defence and security of the country in a council to be chaired by a civilian. Volker also pointed to the return of the elements of the former regime in the government institutions and some 20 charity groups linked to the former ruling party and its dignitaries after their dissolution by the civilian government. On October 25, 2021, the Sudanese military overthrew the civilian transitional government with

the political support of two Darfur former rebel groups after demands by the FFC groups to control the army’s economic activities and rotate the sovereign council chairmanship as agreed. Speaking via videoconference from Khartoum, Ibrahim Mudawi, President of the Sudan Social Development Organization, a group that mainly supported the IDPs in Darfur called for integrating the signatory groups into the national army instead of “roaming amongst civilians”. He underscored that there is a risk of inter-factional fighting

that might lead to a civil war if the security arrangements of the Juba peace agreement are not implemented. For his part, Sudan’s Ambassador to the United Nation, Al-Harith Idriss echoed the statements of the military leaders in Khartoum about the UNITAMS role. Idriss called on the international community to support the implementation of the peace agreement and stressed that UNITAMS has a role to play in this regard. Rather than simply saying implementation of the Agreement has been slow, the Mission should consider

what it has done to implement the Agreement at the desired pace,” he said. Also, he blamed the Secretary-General’s quarterly report for failing to

mention Government efforts to promote and protect human rights through its cooperation with international human-rights mechanisms but he did not

stop at bloody violence against peaceful protesters.

SOURCE:

[Volker says encouraged by commonality of constitutional initiatives over transition in Sudan \(msn.com\)](#)

TANZANIA

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

INDIA: ON TRADE WITH TANZANIA AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWER PLAY

INDIA AND TANZANIA INITIATED THEIR ECONOMIC RELATIONS SINCE EARLY YEARS AFTER-INDEPENDENCE. HOW HAVE THESE TIES EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?

Our trade and economic ties have progressed in the decades after independence and are the cornerstone of our relationship. Indian companies started trading with Tanzania – they imported global goods to Tanzania and

exported Tanzanian goods to the rest of the world. But in the last 30 years after economic reforms the investments have been multifaceted to include manufacturing, food processing, assembling line of automobiles, etc. Today, some of the biggest

Indian companies are now actively available in Tanzania in the energy sector, oil and gas, agriculture, and export business. We are now also witnessing a new trend where Indian professionals such as financial experts are being hired by Tanzanian companies.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC AREAS IN TERMS OF BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT POLICIES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE FOREIGN INVESTORS?

The business environment has improved in the last one and a half years. The current government is more open to discussions with people from

the private sector. As a result, they feel welcome. Also, the waning of Covid-19 has been an additional advantage. So, if the government continues with this policy of

private sector engagement, listening to their issues be it taxes or work permits, investments will improve even further.

YOU HAVE BEEN RECEIVING A LOT OF COMMERCIAL QUERIES FROM INDIAN INVESTORS WHO WANT TO INVEST IN TANZANIA SINCE OPENING UP OF THE BUSINESS SPACE. HOW MANY COMPANIES

According to Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), about 630 Indian companies are registered companies that have invested and are working here on different projects. The investment shown is roughly worth \$3.68 billion

giving employment to about 60,000 people. In the last one year, big and medium companies from India have shown interest in projects like bio science, with Hester Biosciences Ltd investing \$20 million to set up an animal vaccine manufacturing unit in

Tanzania to cater for the African market. Similarly, India's largest port company, Adani ports, wants to invest in the port sector and they're currently holding talks with the Tanzania Ports Authority and other ministries. There's also investment in machinery where

we've managed to convince investors that rather than exporting machinery they should come and invest here since most Tanzanian companies use sugar processing machinery, cashew processing machinery and other processing machinery from India.

In the pharmaceutical sector, there's a company investing in the iv fluid plant. There are many more investments in the pipeline that are being negotiated with various ministries and in the last year and a half there has been good progress. During this same

period, we have seen a jump in Indian exports to Tanzania. But we have seen a disproportionately higher jump in Tanzanian exports to India. This has made India not only the biggest but the best trade partner to Tanzania.

THE VALUE OF GOODS AND SERVICES IMPORTED FROM INDIA TO TANZANIA IS OVER SH3 TRILLION A YEAR, EQUIVALENT TO AN ANNUAL INCREASE OF 11.2 PERCENT. TANZANIA'S EXPORTS, MOSTLY UNPROCESSED AGRICULTURAL GOODS TO INDIA IN 2021 WERE VALUED AT OVER SH2 TRILLION. HOW CAN TANZANIA ADD VALUE TO ITS EXPORTS IN ORDER TO BENEFIT MORE?

About 98 percent of Tanzanian commodities have duty free access to India, whether it is primary or processed commodity, it does not get taxed. We introduced avocado importation in January 2022 and in a few months, we saw massive amounts of avocados being brought to the Indian market and

this is because other competing countries that bring in their products pay 30 percent import duty and 5 percent GSD, making Tanzanian avocados have a 35 percent tax advantage. In terms of value addition, we're working government to government and also at the private sector level by encouraging Indians to come and

invest here. We're encouraging people to set up processing plants here and some have already invested in Mtwara, Shinyanga and other regions.

Tanzania has a lot more potential in the agricultural sector than what is being utilised now.

A NUMBER OF MOUS HAVE BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND TANZANIA TARGETING AREAS SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, DIPLOMACY, AND EDUCATION. HOW HAVE THESE AGREEMENTS BENEFITED TANZANIA AND INDIA?

We have several MoUs in diverse sectors but the most important are our development projects and Tanzania is our biggest development partner. Even though recently we've become the 5th largest economy in the world, we're still a poor country as 30 percent of our people still have difficulties meeting their needs. So, we're not a rich country but we still have strong development partnership programmes and have a strong commitment to work with developing countries in Africa – Tanzania being number one. We have water projects here and the development assistance is \$1.1 billion. Furthermore, we

have the biggest scholarship programmes in Africa and in Tanzania in particular which were badly affected during Covid, but luckily we have recovered from last year. Apart from those two programmes though, we still have other agreements and in a nutshell all the MoUs are doing fairly well. We did four rounds of India-Africa Forum Summit, the last being held in 2015. In India, all the important ministries have a separate Africa focus desk because we need to engage more with each other and that's why recently India opened 18 new embassies in Africa. What we're doing is increasing our presence in smaller countries where we're not present for

different reasons. If you look at East Africa, the Indian Ocean side, we believe that is a zone of security because whatever happens here would affect India and vice versa. We believe it is an area where we need to work together for permanent stability since it's a common security space and that's why our security advisor recently visited Tanzania and Mozambique. Eastern Africa remains a zone of priority. While the summit hasn't taken place in seven years, the focus is still there. We engage all the important countries, so you find Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers visiting regularly and meeting all leaders, we're having regular trade missions. Five years

down the line, the strong areas emerging the India-Africa linkage will be strongly based in two areas: People to people relations which will strongly involve education and health line. immediately after we got independence in 1947, we championed the cause for decolonisation at a global level along with few other leaders from this continent and Asia. This shows that we were not shy to play a global role even though we were just newly independent. The only difference is that at that time we were not taken seriously. But now, because we have a larger economic presence and have much stronger day-to-day cooperation

with various countries we're being heard more attentively. I believe that India should have its rightful place in global issues because despite having more economic muscle today, we understand that whatever happens globally will affect us if we do not voice our opinion to be candid, our cooperation on security is huge and has been there for the last several years but is not as strong as development partnership, economic and political engagement. Defence was basically lagging behind but the good thing is that we're now working to improve that. We have agreed to set up a joint defence

coordination committee which will be a permanent committee from both countries that will monitor the progress on what we're discussing. At the moment, our engagement with Tanzania was limited to capacity building and training but we want to move ahead of that to the equipment side. That is why in May this year we had 16 Indian public and private sector companies showcase their equipment here, offering a cost effective alternative for import of equipment. In the coming months, you'll see more engagement in our defence establishments. We are committed to increasing our defence cooperation.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/-india-on-trade-with-tanzania-and-global-economic-power-play-3947112>

14TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ELSEWARDS ELECTRIC LAUNCHES ITS TRANSFORMERS FACTORY IN TANZANIA

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Ibrahim Qamar, Managing Director, Elsewedy Electric East Africa, amongst other senior management and regional stakeholders of Elsewedy Electric, the leading integrated infrastructure solutions provider in the Middle East and Africa. During the ceremony, the transformers factory was launched, ushering the beginning of the second phase of Elsewedy Electric Industrial Complex in the East African country, and marking the latest step in establishing the complex as a regional manufacturing and exporting hub for wires & cables, transformers, meters, and insulators. Tanzanian Minister of Energy January Makamba said: "Having the second phase of this huge industrial complex inaugurated within nine months of inaugurating the first phase proves that Elsewedy Electric is a real partner willing to exploit the favourable business climate in Tanzania and supporting the inter-African collaboration."

Ambassador Abu El Wafaa expressed his pleasure at participating in the opening of the second phase of the Elsewedy Electric Industrial Complex in Tanzania and praised Elsewedy Electric's efforts to boost its investment in the highest priority economic

sectors of the Tanzanian Government, In this regard, he explained the company's participation in the Egyptian alliance implementing the Julius Nyerere hydropower dam project, This is consistent with the Egyptian Government's interest in encouraging Egyptian companies to invest in various fields in Tanzania. The Transformers factory covers an area of 5,000 square metres and has a production capacity of up to 2,500 Oil Immersed Distribution Transformers per year. President of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan inaugurated the first phase of Elsewedy Industrial Complex last December, the wires and cables factory. The cables factory is built on 35,000m², with a capacity of up to 1,200 tonnes per month, catering equally to the local market and exporting to the region.

In his speech via video, Ahmed El Sewedy, President and CEO of Elsewedy Electric, said that launching the transformers factory is a further step in line with Elsewedy Electric's strategy

of sustainable investment in Tanzania and whole Africa. We are on a mission in Tanzania to empower better lives in the local communities through our investment and expansion plans. The new factory will add more direct and indirect jobs and manufacture local resources to meet the needs of the market locally and abroad. This achievement demonstrates Elsewedy Electric's vision of taking advantage of the favourable investment climate in the United Tanzania as a strongly qualified country to become an economic hub and regional transit point, particularly in the East and South Africa region. Built on 120,100 square meters in Kigamboni, Tanzania, the complex comprises several manufacturing facilities, currently cables, wires, and transformers, to be followed by PVC, meters, and a logistics center, as well as an expansion of the Cables and Transformers factories to accommodate a wider portfolio. The complex will produce the solutions and equipment necessary for the industrialization strategy of

Tanzania 2025, also offering a technical training academy to provide innovative technical education and vocational training programs with international standards to skill and train aspiring employees and feed the growing labour market in the developing nation. Investment will reach more than \$50m upon completion, with a plan to create 1,500 jobs for the Tanzanian people. Ibrahim Qamar, Managing Director of Elsewedy Electric East Africa, expressed the company's keenness to support the growth of industrialization of Tanzania. "Launching the transformers factory following the wires and cables opens another opportunity for Elsewedy Electric to transfer expertise and build capacities of the local talents in line with the historical friendly relations between Egypt and Tanzania. We have a strong belief in the potential of Tanzania and Africa, and we will keep exploring and developing opportunities that support the industrialization strategy of Tanzania 2025."

SOURCE:

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2022/09/14/elsewedy-electric-launches-its-transformers-factory-in-tanzania/>

ETHIOPIA

14TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ANALYSIS: SALARIED GOVERNMENT WORKERS SCRAMBLE TO COPE WITH SOARING COST OF LIVING; ECONOMISTS URGE END TO MONEY PRINTING

A [survey released by “Statista”](#) in August 2022 ranked the city of Addis Ababa second among the fifteen African cities with the highest cost of living. Nowhere is the pain of that felt deep than among the city government employees who depend on fixed income to cope with the unstoppable rising cost of living. Addis Ababa is ranked among the leading cities for its high cost of living because the average amount of money required in the city to cover basic expenses such as housing, food, taxes, and health care is simply too high. This cost of living index measures how expensive it is to live in a city, and Addis Ababa’s cost of living index score stands at 50.49. Such soaring cost of living in the city is directly related to the salaries of its residents. Under normal circumstances, if the expense or the cost of consumption is higher, so should the salary levels. But in Addis Ababa, the base salary scale for government employees is 1100 ETB and the high ceiling reaching around 26,959 ETB. Addis Standard spoke to some government employees living in Addis Ababa, the city with the highest cost of living in Africa. Shimelis Megersa has been working as a teacher at an elementary school in Addis Ababa for the past 7 years. During a conversation with Addis Standard, he said that the inflation observed in the city is not only worrying him badly but also challenging their existence. According to him, with the salary he earns, he pays the house rent, buys food, and because there is no money left over, it is difficult for them to educate their two children, forcing him to quit his job in search of better income. “My wife earns 2000 ETB per month for a cleaning job and we are not able to meet our basic needs. **Since it is difficult to continue in this situation, I have decided to quit my teaching job and do some private work, even if it is small.**”

Zinash (whose name has been changed because she did not want to be disclosed) who is working in Gulele sub-city and is making a living, explained to Addis Standard that the cost of living has affected all sections of the society, but the government employees have been hit hardest. Mrs. Zinash also mentioned that the inflation is increasing day by day and said that the government should either increase the wages of the workers or reduce the price of goods. Since it is difficult to continue in this situation, I have decided to quit my teaching job

and do some private work, even if it is small.”

Another government employee, who did not want his name and office to be mentioned, says that “since it is the holiday season, there is an increase in goods. It is difficult for me to live on eight thousand birr, the salary runs out before the end of the month. The government does not understand the plight of [its] employees. We are confused about what to do,” he said about the problem. **July 2022 inflation**

Ethiopian Statistical Service, it is mentioned that inflation is becoming a challenge not only in our country but also in developed countries. In July 2022, the food index showed moderate stability, while the non-food index showed an increase. Based on the report, last month’s total inflation rate reached 34.0 percent, and in July 2022, the annual total inflation rate was 33.5 percent. The reason for the low rate of inflation this month is that the rate of inflation recorded in July last year showed relatively rapid growth. The non-food component

of the index has shown an increase in the current month, according to the report. The statistical service mentioned that the increase in prices has been observed in the last 12 months, but that the growth has increased in the same manner from month to month, and explains that the measures taken to stabilize the

price have contributed greatly to prevent further damage. In the last 2 months, the overall and food price inflation has shown a slight decrease. However, the rate of non-food inflation has shown a slight increase in the last few months. In July 2021, the total inflation rate was 26.4% and in July 2022, it had risen to

33.5%. Similarly, in July 2021, the total consumer price index in Addis Ababa city administration was 228.8, and in July 2022, it increased to 300.6. This report from the Ethiopian Statistical Service indicates that the rate of inflation has increased significantly.

ECONOMISTS FORWARD SOLUTIONS

Minister of State for Finance, stated on March 8, 2022, that product costs are increasing dramatically and that one of the main reasons for the current inflation is that the price of imported goods fell directly on consumers. He added that the

government will open the market system to foreign firms. He stated that the cost of several products, such as steel, oil, and fuel, which Ethiopia imports from abroad, have more than doubled and that the country's security situation has caused huge disruptions in

product supply, which has greatly contributed to the price increase. "The monetary policy that the government is using to cover its expenses is also causing pressure of its own," he added, "and if the government can't fix these over time, things will get worse."

A street vendor of vegetables in Addis Ababa waiting for his customers.

He pointed out that because the country's retail market system is controlled by a few, it has made the government to rethink about bringing rapid reforms. Just like the telecom sector was opened to foreign competition, so will Ethiopia's retail market system. He said that this will prevent the trader from making too much profit.

Minister of State said, "There is no one within the government that says the reform we have started in foreign exchange sector is not harmful, but the government needs to overcome the impact. There are also implications of the delay in the reform itself, but we will implement that quickly and work to solve the problems."

of economics at Addis Ababa University, the cause for the inflation is that the government is printing money. He explained that if the government does not stop remittances into the country while the economy is printing more than it can handle, government employees and low-income sections of society will suffer as inflation worsens. While the National Bank has the authority to manage the amount of money in the economy, it chooses to remain silent on the issue of not printing money; as a result, the government will enter debt, causing another problem, he explained.

Apart from these factors, the constant expansion of the exchange rate between the dollar and Birr has contributed significantly to the running inflation, he said. The

Although reforms have made a big difference, especially in the export sector, when challenges pile up, delaying some reforms will be seen as a considered solution, he said. According to Atlaw Alemu, an assistant professor

“THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW SPENDING ON NON-ESSENTIALS, WHICH LEADS TO MONEY PRINTING AND INFLATION, WHICH PROMOTES INFLATION”

The professor said that, unless there is an abundance of money in the economy, the merchants cannot increase their sales as there is no buyer. Because of the availability of printed money, an item that cost one billion birr a year ago bought two billion birr this year, according to the economist. As a result, when those with purchasing power buy at high prices, they make life difficult for government employees. As a result, the government should stop printing money. Another economics lecturer at a local university, Addis Ababa, said that inflation is 30 to 40% this year,

citing the country’s war as one of the reasons. He went on to say that the government’s egregious spending has ramifications (cause). “The government is now spending on non-essentials, which leads to money printing and inflation, which promotes inflation; for example, money spent on entertainment should be temporarily halted and spent on food and other necessities to ensure the survival of civilization. He added, “The war between Ukraine and Russia has caused the price of oil to increase, so the price of production has also increased.” He mentioned that this has had a big impact

on low-income earners and government employees. An increase in prices means a decrease in income, while those with a fixed income are getting poorer, while businessmen have an opportunity to earn a better income, and income inequality is created. He explained that the higher the inflation rate, the lower the taxes, and the government’s tax revenues will be unstable, so the government will start printing money, and the inflation will worsen, and the people will be exposed to the high cost of living.

SOURCE:

<https://addisstandard.com/analysis-salaried-government-workers-scramble-to-cope-with-soaring-cost-of-living-economists-urge-end-to-money-printing/>

26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

FINANCE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WARNS AGENCIES, LOCAL ACTORS TO REFRAIN FROM ILLEGAL MONEY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

The Ethiopian Finance Intelligence Service (FIS) has warned agencies and local actors it accused of involving in illegal money transfer activities to refrain from their activities. In a statement it issued via state media, FIS, a federal institution established to

coordinate various institutions involved in the fight against money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation of financing crimes, among others, said “some entities” were “carrying out money transfer under the guise of legal money transfer,” depriving Ethiopia

of the foreign currency that it should be getting from various sources and committing financial crimes and keeping away the foreign currency Ethiopia needed to get “in foreign countries.” The warning came in the backdrop of a never before seen gap in foreign currency exchange rates

between the official and the informal market attributed to shortage of foreign currency. According to media reports last week, the Ethiopian birr being “traded as high as 92 a dollar on the black market.” FIS accused some money transfer agencies based abroad of keeping their deposits outside of Ethiopia and making payments in Ethiopian Birr “by colluding with their accomplices in Ethiopia and avoiding the foreign currency that should be legally brought into Ethiopia.” In particular, FIS named agencies called ‘Adolis’, ‘Shege’, ‘Salam’, and ‘Red Sea’ that it said were involved in money transfer activities abroad

and accused them of preparing and using fake receipts to pretend that they had sent foreign currency to Ethiopian banks, which should have been legally brought into Ethiopia. But in reality FIS blamed them of retaining the forex in foreign banks and exacerbating the cost of living” in Ethiopia.

FIS further said that its information indicates that the money transfer agencies were making payments in Birr assisted by more than 600 financial sources from their associates based in Ethiopia. “These entities are causing damage to Ethiopia’s financial

system by allowing money that should have entered Ethiopia legally to be used for various criminal activities including contraband,” state media referred FIS’s statement as saying. The federal Service has announced that it will continue its work with local stakeholders and partner institutions in foreign countries to hold those who commit such financial crimes, including illegal money transfer activities, and their accomplices involved in the act accountable by law and warned the actors and their local accomplices who participate in such activities knowingly or unknowingly to refrain from their actions.

SOURCE:

<https://addisstandard.com/news-fed-finance-intelligence-service-warns-agencies-local-actors-to-refrain-from-illegal-money-transfer-activities/>

16TH SEPTEMBER 2022

AUTHORITY VOWS TO HOLD CSOS WORKING AGAINST “SOVEREIGNTY, PUBLIC INTEREST” TO ACCOUNT

Director General of the federal Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) told state media that the Agency would strengthen its works to make civil society organizations “working against Ethiopia’s sovereignty and the public interest” accountable by law. Jima further pointed out that the Authority was working

with the relevant parties to establish a strong monitoring and control system. However, he also said that the support of the federal government to civil society organizations will continue in accordance with the purpose for which they were established. The news comes a week after a group of 35 local civil society organizations

issued a joint statement calling for peace in Ethiopia and an end to the ongoing militarized hostilities in parts of Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions, as well as other conflicts involving the federal and Oromia regional state forces on the one hand and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), known by the government as “OLF Shene” on the other.

The presser called by the group was however blocked by security forces, forcing the group to issue the statement online. A news report by Wazema Radio said that the group of CSOs was warned by a senior government official who criticized the statement for failing to “consider the danger” the country was facing now and failing to “explain the damage done by the TPLF.” According to Jima “following the changes in Ethiopia, more than 4000 organizations are operating legally in order to fully guarantee the right of civil society organizations to organize” and that most of these organizations are working in compliance with the law of the country. However, he accused some of them for “standing against the interests of the country and the people, wasting money coming in the name of the people, committing embezzlement and secretly

acting as couriers for foreign agents to betray the country’s sovereignty”, according to the news. According to the Director General CSOs have been given a wide opportunity to expand the space for democracy in Ethiopia, but their duty to work independently of political influences and prioritize the interests of the country and its people. CSOs that work “contrary to this objective and work against the sovereignty of the country and the interests of the people will be held accountable by law.” The Authority has taken legal actions against such organizations found to be operating outside of their established purposes, he said, adding that last year alone, warning letters were sent to organizations that were found to have violated the law, and action was taken against three organizations to revoke their legal licenses. Similar actions

will continue to be taken against those who violate the law in the future. Jima further urged individuals and organizations to refrain from actions of trying to fulfil their own and traitors’ hidden agenda by sacrificing the interests of the country. CSOs that are found to be a hindrance to “Ethiopia’s struggle to maintain its sovereignty,” will not escape legal responsibility. On a positive note, Jima mentioned that most of the civil society organizations stand for the public good and support the country when it is in crisis. he cited in-kind and financial support of more than 460 million birr pledged by CSOs to rebuild the infrastructure destroyed Ethiopia’s civil war “waged by the TPLF” as an example. More preparations are being made to gather additional support, he said.

SOURCE:

<https://addisstandard.com/news-authority-vows-to-hold-csos-working-against-sovereignty-public-interest-to-account/>

SOUTH SUDAN

23RD SEPTEMBER 2022

SOUTH SUDAN, ETHIOPIA AGREE ON JOINT PROJECT TO LINK WITH DJIBOUTI PORT

Ethiopia and South Sudan have agreed to carry out a series of joint infrastructure projects that would eventually enable the latter to link with the port of Djibouti. The agreement was reached on Tuesday after a high-level South Sudan delegation led by Vice-President, Taban Deng Gai, met with a group of Ethiopian Ministers led by Finance Minister, Ahmed Shide.

Earlier, the two sides discussed ways how to enhance joint infrastructure connectivity projects. In this regard, both sides agreed on ways to enhance their previously designed plans in the areas of road infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, water transportation, and other vital economic sectors with a view to

creating integration for mutual benefits. Per the newly reached agreement, one of the key projects being prioritized was to undertake road projects with a view to boosting connectivity between the two landlocked countries. After the discussions, Ethiopia's Finance Minister, Ahmed Shide, confirmed that the two sides have concluded a very

important agreement in terms of advancing two road projects. "We comprehensively agreed to work on joint infrastructural connectivity that will overcome geographical barriers in terms of trade and logistics flows between our two countries and people-to-people relations."

CUT RELIANCE ON KENYA'S PORT

The fresh agreement with Ethiopia comes only a few days after South Sudan announced buying three acres of land at the port of Djibouti for the construction of a facility to handle its import and export of goods as the landlocked country eyes an alternative route to cut high dependency on Kenya's Mombasa port. "We have only been using Port Sudan and

Mombasa but recently, we have decided to go to Djibouti and as I am speaking to you, we have landed in Djibouti," South Sudan Minister for Petroleum Puot Kang Chol is quoted as saying by local media. The minister said the land was procured by the Ministry of Petroleum for the purpose of exporting the country's crude oil as well as using it on imported goods. If

effected, the move will hit the port of Mombasa given that Juba is one of Kenya's largest clients importing nearly all of its cargo through the Kenyan port. Rising costs Khartoum charges Juba for pipelines have also pushed South Sudan to eye alternative routes to export its crude oil to the international market.

PORT OF DJIBOUTI

The road projects will be given top priority to open up transportation so that connectivity of South Sudan will be enhanced via Ethiopia through the Djibouti corridor, the Ethiopian minister added.

“These projects will be financed jointly and we have agreed to finalize the feasibility and preparations in terms of selecting a contractor so that the joint financing mechanism will be worked upon,” Shide said.

The South Sudanese delegation, on its part, vowed to cooperate and work for the immediate implementation of the joint projects.

“The agreed projects will be operationalized and put into consideration as soon

as all the technical aspects are addressed,” said Michael Makuei Lueth, South Sudan’s Information minister said on behalf of the delegation.

Lueth said that it is worth mentioning that South Sudan, as a landlocked country, will benefit from the port of Djibouti using Ethiopia as a transport hub. Trade can be facilitated by Ethiopia through the Djibouti corridor,” he said adding “We expect Ethiopia to support us so that we can grow and be as strong as Ethiopia is today.” the South Sudanese minister added.

In transport connectivity, river, fibre optics and transmission line connectivity has been agreed upon and the preparation to realize the agreement will commence right after this meeting, Ethiopian officials said.

“As soon as the preparations are completed we will work together for resource mobilization and reaching out to development financial institutions as part of the Horn of Africa initiative” Shide added.

AVIATION SECTOR

The two sides have also agreed to work on the aviation sector.

“Ethiopia has massive experience in airport construction. With this capacity, we have also agreed to

share our experience and work on a joint mechanism on aviation connectivity and development with the republic of South

Sudan.” the Ethiopian Finance Minister told journalists.

PEACE PROCESS

Ethiopia will continue to work and support the peace process in South Sudan, the minister said. He noted that ensuring regional peace and stability are crucial for the two countries’ joint infrastructural development.

“We have a very comprehensive political commitment and will to advance the cooperation between the two countries,” Shide added.

The South Sudanese high-level delegation arrived in Addis Ababa on Wednesday for a three-day official working visit. Upon arrival at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, the South Sudanese delegation

was warmly received by Ethiopian Defence Minister Abraham Belay and Director General of African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fisseha Shawul, among other senior government officials.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article264464/>

23RD SEPTEMBER 2022

SOUTH SUDAN HOPES PLANNED PORT IN DJIBOUTI WILL INCREASE MARKET ACCESS, PROFITS

Officials in South Sudan confirmed this month they have bought land on the coast of Djibouti to build a port. South Sudan says the port will be key for exporting the country’s crude oil, which currently goes through Sudan, as well as for importing goods, most of which come through the Kenyan port of Mombasa. Puot Kang Chol, South Sudan’s minister of petroleum, said last week that the land was purchased for exporting crude oil. I would like to announce to all of you, that as we have been pushing to make sure we open all our ways because as we all know, South Sudan is a landlocked country and therefore there is need for us to try our level best to have access to the market,” he said. Two other African Great Lakes countries, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, recently said they will shift their port operations to Tanzania, leaving just Rwanda and Burundi

still fully dependent on the port of Mombasa. Duncan Otieno, a Nairobi-based economist, said the move leaves Kenya in a difficult situation as it feels the pinch of competition from the regional port in Dar es Salaam and now Djibouti. There is every reason to believe that exit of South Sudan will affect the port of Mombasa in the essence that, with Uganda existing and considering the port of Dar es Salaam, that is likely to affect the operations in the port of Mombasa,” he said. “We need to ask ourselves what could have led to DRC and Uganda and now South Sudan considering giving the port of Mombasa a wide berth.” South Sudanese economist Abraham Manimer said the Djibouti port will provide a cheaper route for South Sudanese exports and imports. In terms of economies of scale, we are better off than building another railway to connect us to Sudan,” he said. “We are saving to directly import or export

our oil from the eastern part of South Sudan through Djibouti, Ethiopia. So, for us we are not losing, we are gaining, South Sudan is not land-locked, it is land-linked so it is OK.” However, Otieno said Juba’s attempt to cut reliance on Mombasa might have ramifications within the East African Community bloc, such as undermining the LAPSET project, a regional cargo transportation network starting at the Kenyan port of Lamu. “Every country is guided by its national interest, which changes from time to time,” he said. “But that also needs to be looked into within the geopolitics of the regional body, EAC. There is need to consider this because it runs the risk of affecting the economy of this region.” Manimer, on the other hand, said that South Sudan’s acquisition of land for a port in Djibouti will have no impact on LAPSET.

He said South Sudan cannot afford to lose that project, which will connect the country with Rwanda and Uganda. “If we have many ways to import and export our goods then we are the best,” he said. We are going to build a refinery where we are going to import and export our finished product. Even if we have Djibouti, it is a way we can import and export, so we are not losing we are maximizing our impact in the region.” South Sudan has oil deposits estimated at 3.5 billion barrels. That means if the country could ever find a way to end its chronic state of conflict and increase oil production, the economic impact could be enormous — no matter which port the country uses for its exports.

SOURCE:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/south-sudan-hopes-planned-port-in-djibouti-will-increase-market-access-profits/6761334>.

DJIBOUTI

27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

HOW DJIBOUTI EMERGED AS A COMMERCIAL AND STRATEGIC CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD

Djibouti's location, on the Bab Al-Mandab strait and at the intersection of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, has proved a blessing in countless ways. Its ports serve as the main gateway for trade for landlocked Ethiopia, handling 95 percent of the country's trade. As a gateway to the Suez Canal, one of the world's busiest shipping routes, Djibouti's ports also service trans-shipments between Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Relative political stability and strategic location have also made Djibouti an ideal site for foreign military bases, which in turn has ensured a steady flow of government revenue and foreign assistance. The government holds longstanding ties to France, which maintains a military presence in the country, as does the US, Japan, Italy, Germany, Spain, and China. Radical Islam, which has caused havoc in neighbouring Somalia among other African countries, has not been able to make inroads into Djibouti, a predominantly Muslim country with a smattering of other faiths.

During a visit in March, Ferid Belhaj, the World Bank's vice president for the Middle East and North

Africa, reaffirmed the bank's commitment to Djibouti's "resilient and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 and its efforts to accelerate more and better investments in people." According to the African Development Bank Group's "Djibouti Economic Outlook" report, the economy began to recover in 2021 with gross domestic product growth of 3.9 percent, up from 1.2 percent in 2020.

The pickup was supported by a revitalized services sector, which generates about three-fourths of GDP, port activities in particular. The group report said: "The outlook is positive. Average GDP growth over 2022 to 23 is forecast to reach 4.3 percent and remain supported by port and investment activities." In recent decades, Djibouti has invested heavily in building new ports and modernizing existing infrastructure. Work is ongoing on new facilities including a liquefied natural gas terminal, a business zone, ship repair yards, a crude oil terminal, an international airport, and railway lines connecting Tadjourah, Mekelle, and the capital Addis Ababa with the Port of Djibouti. Every day, an estimated 2,500 ships pass

through and call through the port, with hopes pinned on it to turn Djibouti into the linchpin of global maritime commerce. As recently as Tuesday, a UN-chartered ship loaded with thousands of tons of Ukrainian wheat arrived in Djibouti, destined for some of the 22 million people at risk of starvation in the Horn of Africa. Tourism is also one of the growing economic sectors of Djibouti and is an industry that generates between 53,000 and 73,000 arrivals per year. Besides historical sites, a national park, beaches, and mountain ranges, the country's attractions include rock-art sites in Abourma, islands and beaches in the Gulf of Tadjoura and the Bab Al-Mandab, scuba diving, fishing, trekking, and hiking. The right to own property is respected in Djibouti and the government has reorganized the labour unions. There are an estimated 15,000 foreigners residing in the country.

The indigenous population is divided between the majority Somalis (predominantly of the Issa tribe, with minority Isaaq and Gadabuursi representation) and the Afars (also known as the Danakils). Djibouti is a member state of the Organization of Islamic

Cooperation and Arab League. It strongly supports mediation efforts in the war in Ethiopia and promotes vaccination against COVID-19. The history of Djibouti, recorded in the poetry and songs of its nomadic peoples, goes back thousands of years to a time when Djiboutian traded hides and skins for the perfumes and spices of ancient Egypt, India, and China. Through close contacts with the Arabian Peninsula for more than 1,000 years, the Somali and Afar tribes in the region became the first on the African continent to adopt Islam. Trader and diplomat Rochet d'Hericourt's exploration into Shoa (1839 to 1842) marked the beginning of French interest in the African shores of the Red Sea, an interest that grew in step

with increased British activity in Egypt and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. In 1884 and 1885, France expanded its protectorate to include the shores of the Gulf of Tadjoura and Somaliland. The administrative capital was moved from Obock to Djibouti in 1896. Djibouti attracted trade caravans crossing East Africa, as well as Somali settlers from the south. The Franco-Ethiopian railway, linking Djibouti to the heart of Ethiopia, was begun in 1897 and reached Addis Ababa in June 1917, further facilitating the increase of trade. In 1957, the colony was reorganized by the French government to give the people considerable self-government. The next year, in a constitutional referendum, French Somaliland opted to join

the French community as an overseas territory. In March 1967, in a referendum conducted by the French government, 60 percent chose to continue the territory's association with France. In July of that year, a directive from Paris formally changed the name of the region to the French Territory of the Afars and Issas. Djiboutian voted for independence in a May 1977 referendum, and the Republic of Djibouti was established on June 27, 1977. Hassan Gouled Aptidon became the country's first president and was re-elected multiple times until 1999, when Ismail Omar Guelleh became the new president

SOURCE:

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2163416/world>

KENYA

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT

Hustler Ruto becomes Kenya's fifth president after close election William Ruto was sworn in as Kenya's fifth president on Tuesday, a week after the Supreme Court rejected a challenge by his defeated opponent in a close-fought election he won by portraying himself as an underdog "hustler" battling the elite.

Deputy president for the last decade, Ruto must now confront

an economic crisis in East Africa's wealthiest and most stable nation, where food and fuel prices are surging, unemployment is high and public debt rising. A village boy has become the president of Kenya," Ruto said at the ceremony, as the crowd erupted in cheers. As severe drought exacerbates a major food crisis in East Africa, he promised to make 40 million half-price bags of fertiliser available next week. The 55-year-old won last month's election despite a public repudiation by his

boss, outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta, who said Ruto was "not fit for office." Both sides hurled accusations of corruption during a deeply personal, acrimonious campaign. Kenyatta's preferred successor, veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga, had accused Ruto of cheating his way to victory. But Odinga accepted the Supreme Court ruling upholding the result, laying to rest fears of political violence like that seen after disputed elections in 2007 and 2017.

SOURCE:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/william-ruto-be-sworn-kenyas->

27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

KENYAN LAWYER ON TRIAL AT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT IS FOUND DEAD

Paul Gicheru was accused of tampering with witnesses in favor of President William Ruto, whose trial at The Hague collapsed in 2016. The cause of death is not yet known. A Kenyan lawyer on trial at the International Criminal Court on charges of witness tampering in a case linked to President William Ruto was found dead at his home in a suburb of the capital, Nairobi, his family and the police said on Tuesday.

The lawyer, Paul Gicheru, 49, had been awaiting a verdict in the trial, which took place in The Hague from February to June. Prosecutors accused him of bribing and intimidating witnesses to prevent them from testifying against Mr. Ruto over his role in post-election violence

in Kenya in 2007 and 2008. Mr. Ruto, who announced his new cabinet on Tuesday, was sworn in as president on Sept. 13 after winning last month's hard-fought election by a narrow margin. Michael G. Karnavas, Mr. Gicheru's lawyer, confirmed his death, which was received with shock by

many in Kenya — the latest twist in a decade-long legal journey at the International Criminal Court, punctuated by collapsed trials, disappearing witnesses and accusations of meddling, that has drawn in Kenya's leaders and framed its politics.

SOURCE:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/27/world/africa/kenya-lawyer-icc.dead.html>

SOMALIA

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

CATASTROPHIC HUNGER

Catastrophic hunger levels leave 500,000 children at risk of dying in Somalia a call for immediate funding to help vulnerable communities hit by successive droughts, high food prices and conflict, the UN Children’s Fund UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) stressed that the emergency shows no signs of letting up. Without action, famine will occur within the next few weeks FAO said. The UN Agency added that drought-related deaths have been occurring and the toll could be much higher in hard-to-reach rural areas, compared with the number recorded in camps for displaced families. A ‘nightmare’ not seen this century During the famine of 2011, 340,000 children required treatment for severe acute malnutrition, UNICEF spokesperson James Elder told journalists in Geneva.

“Today it’s 513,000,” he added.

“It’s a pending nightmare we have not seen this century.”

According to FAO, approximately 6.7 million people across Somalia will likely endure high levels of acute food insecurity between October and December this year (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes more than 300,000 who have been left “empty-handed” by the country’s triple emergency and who are expected to fall into famine (IPC Phase 5). Livestock dropping dead In pastoral communities where herders have been desperately searching for pasture, “they are now watching their livestock drop dead like flies”, said Etienne Peterschmitt, FAO Representative in Somalia. The perilous situation of those forced from their homes by hunger in Baidoa town of Bay region in Southern Somalia, is particularly concerning, Mr.

Peterschmitt added. “The repeated warnings have been clear: act now or a famine will occur within the next few weeks,” he insisted. “The drought situation is spreading at an alarming rate; more districts and regions are facing emergency levels of food insecurity as the cumulative effects of multiple failed rainy seasons take their toll.” In a call for radical change to stop famine happening again, UNICEF’s Mr. Elder described the disturbing scenes already playing out in Somalia’s worst-affected region. Everyday bugs now deadly “Children are already dying,” he said.

“Our partners report that some stabilization centres are in fact full and critically-ill children are receiving treatment on the floor.” With greater funding, more severe and acutely malnourished

children can be given lifesaving food which will make them strong enough to ward off diseases, just like healthier youngsters. “This is not just about nutrition, severely malnourished children are in fact up to 11 times more likely to die from things like diarrhoea and measles than well-nourished boys and girls,” Mr. Elder said, adding that both diseases “are spiking” in the worst-hit areas.

The UN’s response involves reaching the most vulnerable communities to prevent mass displacement before famine has been declared, to help to promote a faster recovery. Humanitarian assistance has been increasing and reached an average of 3.1 million people per month between April and June 2022 and 4.5 million people per month between July and September

2022, according to FAO's Mr. Peterschmitt. "We know that the deaths, half of the deaths of 2011, happened before the declaration of famine," said El-Khidir Daloum, WFP Somalia Representative and Country Director. "As we speak right now, we are heading to 15

areas classified as hard-to-reach and we are scaling up together with UNICEF, the nutrition and the priority areas."

In June, UNICEF reported that 386,000 children aged six to 59 months needed treatment

for severe acute malnutrition. "That's increased (today) to more than half a million, to 513,000; that's a 33 per cent increase. Said one more way, it means 127,000 more children are at risk of death," Mr. Elder said.

SOURCE:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126491>

25TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ONE KILLED IN SUICIDE BOMBING IN SOMALIA CAPITAL

One soldier was killed and at least six others were wounded in Somalia when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a military base near the capital, Mogadishu. The bomber disguised himself as a soldier and joined others as they filed into a military base early on Sunday before he detonated the explosive, said Captain Aden Omar, an officer at the base. "We lost one soldier and several others were injured. The bomber blew up himself at a checkpoint," he said. A nurse at Madina Hospital in Mogadishu

said it received one dead soldier and six others who were wounded. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack but the armed group al-Shabab frequently carries out bombings and gun attacks in Somalia and elsewhere. The al-Qaeda-allied group wants to topple Somalia's government and establish its own rule. It has battled Somalia's central government for more than a decade. The group frequently launches bombings, gun assaults and other attacks on military and civilian targets. Last month

more than 20 people were killed in an attack in which al-Shabab fighters stormed the Hayat Hotel in Mogadishu, triggering a 30-hour battle as government troops sought to end the siege and free hostages. The armed group was driven out of Mogadishu by African Union forces in 2011. However, it still controls swaths of countryside. The deadliest attack occurred in October 2017 when a truck packed with explosives blew up in Mogadishu, killing 512 people.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/25/one-dead-in-suicide-bombing-in-somalian-capital>

UGANDA

29TH SEPTEMBER 2022

SIX MEDICAL WORKERS AT MUBENDE HOSPITAL TEST POSITIVE FOR EBOLA

According to Herbert Luswata, the General Secretary of the Uganda Medical Association, three are medical workers, two are interns and one medical student. The samples of the health workers were sent to the Uganda Virus Research Institute which confirmed the Ebola virus.

Dr Alex Adaku, the Director of Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital says

that they are waiting to receive the six medical workers. According to Adaku, the health workers will be managed at the Joint Mobile Emerging Disease Intervention Clinical Capability-JMEDICC clinic.

Rosemary Byabashaija, the Mubende Resident District Commissioner says that currently, there are 42 people admitted at the Ebola center in Mubende with 16

people tested and confirmed to be positive for Ebola virus. She said that one died bringing to six while 19 others died in the villages making 25, the total number of deaths. She said that at least 300 contact persons have since been traced from the villages and that they have created more space for the suspected and confirmed Ebola patients after an isolation centre was created at Madudu health center III.

SOURCE:

<https://www.independent.co.ug/six-medical-workers-at-mubende-hospital-test-positive-for-ebola/>

29TH SEPTEMBER 2022

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATION BODIES PUSH FOR HARMONY

Statutory authorities involved in the financial sector regulation have admitted that some of the business

cooperators find it a burden to comply with the requirements of the different regulators.

With new businesses coming up, including cryptocurrency trade, collective investment

schemes and use of trading agencies, as well as technological advancements, entrepreneurs are finding themselves under multiple regulatory regimes. Some of these include the collective investment schemes, CIS, which have to be regulated by the Capital Markets Authority CMA, the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority, URBRA, as well as the Bank of Uganda. Miriam Musaali, the Legal and Compliance Manager at CMA says that this over-regulation does not only create confusion but is also a cost addition for the enterprises which also spend more time processing compliance requirements. She was speaking on Wednesday at Stanbic Bank's "investor client services" event under the theme; "Emerging Trends in the Investor Services Business."

This was meant for the industry leaders and regulators to discuss the legislative and regulatory environment supporting custody

services business in Uganda and the relevance of custody services in the client's investment value chain and more. Emerging trends include the evolving marketplace, changing consumer behaviour, and technological disruptions and opportunities. These call for the need of new products, like digital investments, and IT solutions for trading, settlement, and accounting to enhance operational efficiency and risk mitigation in the entire value chain. Stanbic Bank, which offers investor services like asset management, says on their part they have only three regulators. Andrew Omiel, Head, Investor Services and Financial Institutions says that so far, regulation does not overlap or interfere with their business operations. Financial sector industries include banking, asset wealth management, asset custody, electronic finance, and FinTech among others. In Uganda, some of the regulatory authorities are the Bank of Uganda, the Uganda Microfinance

Regulatory Authority, the Capital Markets Authority, the Insurance Regulatory Authority, the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority, and the Financial Intelligence Authority among others. An enterprise falls under one or more of the authorities depending on the kind of business it offers, and each regulatory body will set its own terms and conditions on the business. Musaali says that for now, there is a need for the agencies to cooperate in their regulatory roles so as to be efficient, but also reduce the burden on the organizations being regulated. One of the critical businesses that have remained under no direct regulation is cryptocurrency trade, a growing virtual currency business. This has seen many Ugandans make losses without knowing who to run to, with the Bank of Uganda clearly stating that any Ugandan dealing with cryptocurrency traders does so at their own risk.

SOURCE:

<https://www.independent.co.ug/financial-industry-regulation-bodies-push-for-harmony/>

26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

EBOLA DISEASE CAUSED BY SUDAN VIRUS – UGANDA OUTBREAK AT A GLANCE

On 20 September 2022, Uganda health authorities declared an outbreak of Ebola disease, caused by Sudan virus, following laboratory confirmation of a patient from a village in Madudu sub-county, Mubende district, central Uganda. As of 25 September 2022, a cumulative number of 18 confirmed and 18 probable cases have been reported from Mubende, Kyegegwa and Kassanda districts, including 23 deaths, of which five were among confirmed cases (CFR among confirmed cases 28%). This is the first Ebola disease outbreak caused by Sudan virus (SUDV) in Uganda since 2012. Description of the outbreak On 20 September 2022, the health authorities in Uganda declared an outbreak of Ebola disease caused by Sudan virus (SUDV), after a case was confirmed in a village of Madudu sub-county in Mubende district, central Uganda.

The case was a 24-year-old male who developed a wide range of symptoms on 11 September including high-grade fever, tonic convulsions, blood-stained vomit and diarrhoea, loss of appetite, pain while swallowing, chest pain, dry cough and bleeding in the eyes. He visited two private clinics, successively between 11-13 and 13-15 September without improvement. He was then referred to the Regional Referral Hospital (RRH) on 15 September where he was isolated as a suspected case of viral haemorrhagic fever. A blood sample was collected on

17 September and sent to the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Kampala where RT-PCR tests conducted were positive for SUDV on 19 September. On the same day, the patient died.

Results of preliminary investigations identified a number of community deaths from an unknown illness in Madudu and Kiruma sub-counties of Mubende district reported in the first two weeks of September. These deaths are now considered to be probable cases of Ebola caused by SUDV. As of 25 September 2022, a

cumulative number of 36 cases (18 confirmed and 18 probable cases) have been reported from Mubende (14 confirmed and 18 probable), Kyegegwa (three confirmed cases) and Kassanda (one confirmed case) districts. Twenty-three deaths have been recorded, of which five were among confirmed cases (CFR among confirmed cases 28%). Of the total confirmed and suspected cases, 62% are female and 38% are male. There are currently 13 confirmed cases hospitalized. The median age of the cases is 26 years (range 1 year to 60 years). A cumulative number of 223 contacts have been listed.

SOURCE:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022->

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

2ND SEPTEMBER 2022

SECOND UN HELICOPTER CRASHES IN EASTERN DR CONGO IN FIVE MONTHS

There were no passengers on board and three crew members were injured, the UN's World Food Programme said. A United Nations helicopter has crashed while flying over the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo's North Kivu province, the World Food Programme (WFP) said. The UN Humanitarian Air Service chopper, managed by the WFP, went down near the city of

Goma on Friday morning. There were no passengers on board and three crew members were injured, the aid agency told Reuters news agency in an emailed response. Without providing further detail, the WFP said the cause of the crash was not yet clear. Eight peacekeepers were killed in March when a UN helicopter crashed in the area of Tshanzu, in North Kivu. That helicopter

was on a reconnaissance mission when it went down amid clashes between the Congolese army and a rebel group known as the M23. DRC's army at the time said the helicopter was shot down by rebels, which the M23 denied. The UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO did not state the cause of the crash and said investigations were under way.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/2/second-un-helicopter-crashes-in-eastern-dr-congo-in-five-months>

27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

DRC DECLARES END TO LATEST EBOLA VIRUS OUTBREAK

The country's 15th outbreak comes to an end as neighbouring Uganda races to tackle virus outbreak of its own. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has declared an end to its latest Ebola virus outbreak, according to officials.

The outbreak, the 15th recorded in the country, emerged when one case was confirmed in the eastern city of Beni, in North Kivu province, on

August 22. But the outbreak was the virus's "least catastrophic" since no other case was recorded, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement on

Tuesday. Testing showed the case was genetically linked to the 2018-2020 outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, which killed nearly 2,300 people. "After

42 days of reinforced surveillance without a new confirmed case ... I am happy to solemnly declare the end of the 15th epidemic that lasted one month and 12 days,” the DRC’s Minister of Public Health Mbungani Mbanda said in a

separate statement.

Ebola is an often-fatal viral haemorrhagic fever. Human transmission is through body fluids, with the main

symptoms being fever, vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea. The death rate is typically high, ranging up to 90 percent in some outbreaks, according to the WHO.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/27/dr-congodeclares-end-latest-ebola-virus-outbreak>

6TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ONE DEAD IN FRESH ANTI-UN MISSION PROTESTS IN EASTERN DR CONGO

Since July, there have been violent demonstrations against UN peacekeepers who have been accused of using deadly force in retaliation. At least one person has been killed in the eastern Congolese city of Beni as shots were fired during another protest against the United Nations’ MONUSCO peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo). The incident happened on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said. Protesters on motorbikes had gathered and blocked a MONUSCO convoy in Beni – a continuation of violent demonstrations against the mission that have killed dozens, including civilians, peacekeepers and Congolese police elsewhere in eastern DR Congo in recent months. Thirty-six people, including four UN peacekeepers, were killed in July as hundreds of protesters vandalised and set fire to the mission’s buildings in several cities in the region.

One motorcycle taxi driver was killed when shots broke out, Beni police spokesperson Nasson Katembo said without giving further details about who was responsible for the gunfire. MONUSCO did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The situation was calm by mid-afternoon, a Reuters reporter said. UN peacekeeping troops have been accused of

retaliating with force during the recent protests against them in the eastern cities of Butembo and Goma, which saw hundreds of protesters throw rocks and petrol bombs and set fire to UN buildings.

The protests have been spurred by complaints that the peacekeepers have failed to protect civilians

against militia violence that has raged for years. The mission has been deployed to Congo for more than two decades and costs more than \$1bn per year. In August, the DR Congo government expelled MONUSCO spokesman Mathias Gillmann, saying he had made “indelicate and inappropriate” statements that contributed to the tensions between the population and the peacekeepers.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/6/one-dead-in-fresh-anti-unmission-protests-in-eastern-dr-congo>

RWANDA

5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

UK MINISTERS IGNORED EVIDENCE RWANDA VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS, COURT TOLD

AFRICAN COUNTRY WENT BACK ON LIST OF DESTINATIONS FOR 'MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP' AFTER CIVIL SERVANTS HAD RULED IT OUT, JUDGES HEAR

The UK's plan to deport people seeking asylum to Rwanda has been challenged in the high court, with claims that ministers deliberately ignored evidence that the east African country had violated human rights, including the right to live free from torture. Rwanda was put back on to a list of potential destinations for a "migration partnership" after previously being ruled out by civil servants, the court was told. An extra payment of £20m was made to the Rwandan government on top of the previously announced £120m in economic development funding, it was disclosed. The legal challenge came as the number of

refugees arriving by small boats across the Channel rose to record levels. Liz Truss, who won the Conservatives' leadership contest and will become the new prime minister on Tuesday, has pledged to stick with the policy. Raza Husain QC, appearing on behalf of asylum seekers, along with the Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) and the groups Care4Calais and Detention Action, on Monday said the policy was "unlawful under the Human Rights Act and the common law". "Asylum seekers removed to Rwanda face a significant risk of violation of their rights to be free from torture and inhuman treatment," the court was told. In written

submissions, the claimants said the home secretary, Priti Patel, and the government "including the Foreign Office and No 10 were themselves aware of, and appear to have had serious concerns, over Rwanda's present and historic human rights record". Husain told the court: "Rwanda is a one-party authoritarian state that does not tolerate political opposition. It is a regime that repeatedly imprisons, tortures and murders those it thinks [are] its political opponents. "Those who protest or dissent from government directives, including refugees, are faced with police violence. All of those observations are drawn from our own government officials."

SOURCE:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/05/deported-uk-asylum-seekers-human-rights-at-risk-in-rwanda-court-told>

29TH SEPTEMBER 2022

TOP RWANDA GENOCIDE SUSPECT AND FINANCIER FÉLICIEN KABUGA GOES ON TRIAL

One of the last fugitives charged over the Rwanda genocide to face justice, Félicien Kabuga refused to appear in court at the start of his trial on Thursday. Twenty-eight years after the events, this trial is about holding Félicien Kabuga to account for his substantial and intentional role in that genocide, prosecutor Rashid S. Rashid told the UN tribunal. A frail 87-year-old Rwandan accused of encouraging and bankrolling the country 1994 genocide goes on trial at a United Nations tribunal Thursday, nearly three decades after the 100-day massacre left 800,000 dead. Félicien Kabuga is one of the last fugitives charged over the genocide to face justice, and the start of his trial marks a key day of reckoning for Rwandans who survived the killings or whose families were murdered. Naphtal Ahishakiye, the executive secretary of a genocide survivors' group known as Ibuka, said it's never too late for justice to be delivered. "Even with money and protection, one cannot escape a genocide crime," Ahishakiye said in Rwanda ahead of Thursday

trial at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in The Hague. The mass killing of Rwanda's Tutsi minority was triggered on April 6, 1994, when a plane carrying President Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down and crashed in the capital Kigali, killing the leader who, like the majority of Rwandans, was an ethnic Hutu. Kabuga's daughter married Habyarimana's son.

The Tutsi minority was blamed for downing the plane. Bands of Hutu extremists began slaughtering Tutsis and their perceived supporters, with help from the army, police, and militias.

Kabuga's 15-page indictment alleges that, as a wealthy businessman with close links to the Hutu political elite, he incited genocide through the broadcaster he helped establish and fund, Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM). He's also accused of having paid for weapons, including machetes, used by

militias to slaughter Tutsis and their perceived supporters. The indictment says Kabuga and others at the radio station "operated RTLM in a manner that furthered hatred and violence against Tutsi and others perceived as 'accomplices' or 'allies' ... and agreed to disseminate an anti-Tutsi message with the goal to eliminate the Tutsi ethnic group in Rwanda." In some cases, the broadcaster provided locations of Tutsis so they could be hunted down and killed, according to the indictment. "RTLM broadcasts glorified this violence, celebrating killings, praising killers and encouraging perpetrators to continue the violence at roadblocks and other locations," the indictment says. It also accuses him of arming and supporting Hutu extremist "Interahamwe" militias, including one unit known as "Kabuga's Interahamwe." Kabuga is charged with genocide, incitement to commit genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide as well as persecution, extermination and murder. He has pleaded not guilty. If convicted he faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

SOURCE:

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220929-top-rwanda-genocide->

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