

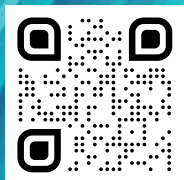
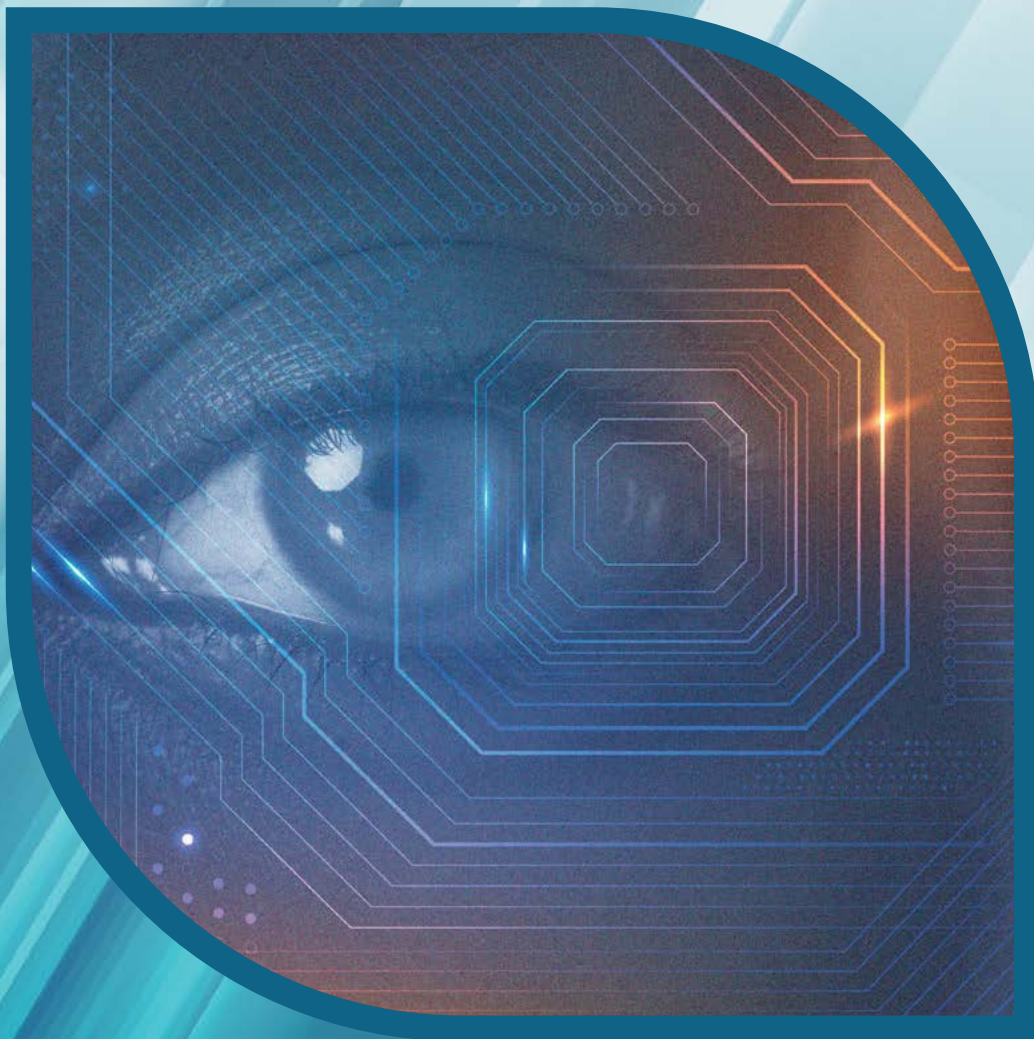


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JULY 2022

UGANDA

11TH JULY 2022

UGANDA AND SOUTH AFRICA COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION (JCC)

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY HON. OKELLO HENRY ORYEM AND HON. DR. NALEDI PANDOR AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE UGANDA - SOUTH AFRICA JOINT COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION (JCC), HELD ON JULY 11TH AND 12TH 2022 IN KAMPALA.

At the invitation of Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, led the South African delegation to the Second Session of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) between the Governments of the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Africa, held on July 11 and 12 2022, in Kampala, Uganda. Uganda's delegation was led by Hon. Okello Henry Oryem, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Ministers recommitted their efforts to ensure that the JCC is convened biennially as envisioned in the Agreement and further directed the officials to convene the midterm review on an annual basis, in-between the Sessions of the JCC, to review the status of implementation of decisions and explore new areas of cooperation.

The two Ministers reviewed and exchanged views on the status of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with progress achieved in various areas of cooperation between

the two countries which are contributing to the alleviation of poverty, elimination of inequality and creation of employment. They hailed the historic, broad and friendly relations that exist between the two countries and emphasized the need to continue working jointly towards enhancing political, economic and social cooperation. Both Ministers reaffirmed the close bilateral relations, common interests and values that are the foundation of strong cooperation between the two countries.

SOURCE:

<https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/news/>

30TH JULY 2022

UGANDA REJECTS PLAN TO BUILD EAST AFRICAN CENTRAL BANK IN TANZANIA.

Uganda has rejected a verification report by a select Committee of the East African Community – EAC Council of Ministers proposing the establishment of the East African Central Bank headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

This was revealed by Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the First Deputy Prime Minister and also the Minister of East African Community Affairs – MEACA during a press briefing at the Ministry in Kampala on Friday.

On February 26th 2021, the EAC Council of Ministers at its 40th meeting in Arusha designated July 1st 2021 as the date for the coming into being of the East African Monetary Institute (EAMI), a precursor to the East African Central Bank.

The Ministers had also directed the Secretariat to initiate the process of identifying the Institute’s host Partner State, in accordance with

the EAC procedures. However, following the pandemic lockdown imposed by the global Covid-19, the process was stayed until this year.

Around March this year after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in Uganda, the Secretariat dispatched a verification team to complete the task by undertaking feasibility study in all the seven partner states which included; Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo – DRC.

But Kadaga told Uganda Radio Network (URN) that the evaluation report by the verification team of experts interacted with stakeholders in Uganda and their final recommendations were that Tanzania were given priority to host, while sidelining Uganda to be host to the EAC Central Bank.

It is anticipated that the operationalization of the Monetary Institute will effectively set give leeway to the EAC single currency by 2024 as envisaged in the East African Monetary Union Protocol. Kadaga revealed that the Government of Uganda has offered space at the former Greenland Ban to host the Institute while a prime plot of land in Naguru has been secured for the construction of the East African Central Bank headquarters.

Currently, the capital Arusha, Tanzania is a host to the EAC headquarters; East African Legislative Assembly – EALA and the East African Court of Justice. According to resolution of the Council of Ministers, a Partner State that will host the Monetary Institute shall as well cover office rent, office equipment, utilities and other support for the first two years. The Institute will act as a transitional mechanism to the EA Central Bank that will issue the single currency expected to be in place by the year 2024.

SOURCE:

<https://www.independent.co.ug/uganda-rejects-plan-to-build-east-african-central-bank-in-tanzania/>

31ST JULY 2022

UGANDA'S INFLATION RISES TO 7.9 PCT IN JULY

Uganda's inflation rate for the year ending July has risen to 7.9 percent from 6.8 percent in the year ending June 2022, the country's statistics agency said Friday.

Uganda Bureau of Statistics attributed the increase to rising food crop prices and transport fare.

During the period, the energy fuel and utilities inflation increased to 17.2 percent, up from 14.2 percent, owing to a hike in the liquid energy fuels inflation.

KENYA

14TH JULY 2022

IN KENYA, ELECTIONS HAVE LOST THEIR SHINE

THE COUNTRY MAY NOW APPEAR TO BE CAUGHT IN THE GRIP OF ELECTION FEVER, BUT THERE IS LITTLE EXPECTATION FOR REAL AND SUSTAINABLE CHANGE AFTER NEXT MONTH'S POLLS.

With polls less than a month away, Kenyans are well and truly off to the races. After an uncharacteristically hesitant start, the country is caught in the grip of raging election fever. Running mates have been selected, and party manifestos issued. Campaigns are at each other's throats; the government is playing favourites and the media is giddily sensationalising it all. The electorate is salivating over promises of the good life with everything from free health and free cash, to fabulous new industries exporting cannabis and hyena testicles.

It was so different just a few months ago. There has been little in the way of the political

mobilisation and zeal that has characterised previous contests. John Githongo, prominent anti-corruption activist and publisher of The Elephant, an online news analysis journal where I work, has described it as an election about nothing in March. "Kenyans are going into an election believing in nothing, standing for nothing," he wrote. "No big idea, no galvanising issue".

The nomination of Martha Karua as running mate for erstwhile opposition doyen, Raila Odinga, one of the main candidates in the election, represents the first time that a major coalition has picked a woman to join its top ticket, and seems to have breathed new

life into his previously flagging campaign. A poll conducted after the announcement in mid-May showed the ticket taking the lead in the race for the first time. Odinga and Karua are still leading the race by six points, according to the latest polls.

Their main competition for State House comes in the person of current Deputy President William Ruto, who also picked his running mate in mid-May, selecting Rigathi Gachagua, a businessman and former personal assistant to his estranged boss, President Uhuru Kenyatta.

SOURCE:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/7/14/in-kenya-elections-have-lost-their-shine>

RWANDA

14TH JULY 2022

RWANDA AND ITS FINTECH ECOSYSTEM IN 2022

The following looks at Rwanda and the wider fintech and digital ecosystem of this thriving East African nation. As highlighted in The **Fintech Times'** Fintech: Middle East and Africa 2021 report, Rwanda has made significant social and economic strides forward in its timeline, from a country once weighed down by the evils of civil war to now being described as the 'Switzerland of Africa'.

Its recovery efforts have orientated largely around accommodating economic and political stability that is both business-friendly for locals and for foreign direct investment (FDI). For instance, the **World**

Bank 2019 Doing Business report ranked Rwanda as the second highest country in Africa; only preceded by Mauritius.

The Rwanda Vision 2050 defines this wider economic development strategy. Similar to other schemes across the Middle East and Africa (MEA), it will help improve the standard of living for its citizens while pioneering digital transformation and a wider diverse and innovative economy.

Given that Rwanda, along with much of Africa, has had a difficult past and high poverty when compared to developed economies, there is a

much more focus on improving the standard of living and alleviating poverty when compared to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region for example, where there it is more on diversifying the economy and being less reliant on oil and gas.

A noticeable milestone of 2050 is that it targets Rwanda to be a 'globally competitive knowledge-based economy'. Importantly, aspirations can be seen as by 2050, Rwanda aspires to be a high-income country with digital technology playing a strong role in achieving that.

SOURCE:

<https://thefintechtimes.com/rwanda-and-its-fintech-ecosystem-in-2022/>

7TH JULY 2022

STAKES ARE HIGH' AMID RENEWED RWANDA-DR CONGO TENSIONS OVER REBEL FIGHTERS

Fresh clashes broke out Thursday between the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DR Congo) army and the M23 rebel group, one day after DR Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame met in Angola and agreed to de-escalate tensions amid renewed fighting, which risks "inadvertent escalation". FRANCE 24 spoke to Chatham House's Ben Shepherd to get an understanding

of the origins of these tensions, which can be traced back to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Renewed fighting over the past month between the DR Congo army and M23 in North Kivu (eastern DR Congo) has led to increased tensions between DR Congo and Rwanda. M23 is a rebel military group that is based in eastern DR Congo

and mainly operates in the North Kivu province. The rebels are named after a peace agreement they signed with the Congolese government on March 23, 2009, form part of the minority Tutsi ethnic group and are closely linked to the Tutsi in Rwanda. DR Congo has accused Rwanda of using the rebel group, which captured the key border town of Bunagana last month, as a proxy. Rwanda has denied these accusations.

SOURCE:

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220707-stakes-are-high-amid-renewed-rwanda-dr-congo-tensions-over-rebel-fighters>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

4TH JULY 2022

DR CONGO DECLARES END TO LATEST EBOLA OUTBREAK

There were four confirmed cases of Ebola and one probable case, all of whom died, the WHO said in a statement.

The outbreak was the third in Congo's north-west Equateur province. In the previous outbreak in Equateur Province that lasted

from June to November 2020, there were 130 confirmed cases and 55 deaths.

“Thanks to the robust response by the national authorities, this outbreak has been brought to an end swiftly with limited transmission of the virus,” said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

According to WHO, the just ended outbreak saw a total of 2,104 people vaccinated, including 302 contacts and 1307 frontline workers. To facilitate the vaccination rollout, an ultra-cold chain freezer was installed in

Mbandaka which allowed for vaccine doses to be stored locally and safely and be delivered effectively.

WE CAN STAY A STEP AHEAD.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has now recorded 14 Ebola outbreaks since 1976, six of which have occurred since 2018. “Africa is seeing an increase in Ebola and other infectious diseases that jump from animals to humans impacting

large urban areas,” said Dr. Moeti.

Noting that “crucial lessons” had been learned” from past outbreaks and they have been applied to deploy an ever more effective Ebola

response, Dr. Moeti stressed that: “We need to be ever more vigilant to ensure we catch cases quickly. This outbreak response shows that by bolstering preparedness, disease surveillance and swift detection, we can stay a step ahead.”

STAYING VIGILANT

The UN health agency supported the DRC in implementing a strong national strategy developed early to guide response coordination; decentralizing operations to the lowest level to work closely with communities; basing the response on

evidence; and regularly analysing the epidemiological risk to rapidly adjust the response.

Although the outbreak in Mbandaka has been declared over, health

authorities are maintaining surveillance and are ready to respond quickly to any flare-ups. It is not unusual for sporadic cases to occur following an outbreak, WHO cautioned.

SOURCE:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121922>

31ST JULY 2022

SEVERAL KILLED AFTER UN PEACEKEEPERS OPEN FIRE IN EASTERN DR CONGO

TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHERS INJURED AFTER UN PEACEKEEPERS OPENED FIRE DURING AN INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO ON THE UGANDA BORDER ON SUNDAY, THE UN SAID.

Video of the incident, shared on social media showed men, at least one in police uniform and another in army uniform, advancing towards the immobilised UN convoy behind a closed barrier in Kasindi. The town is in eastern DR Congo's Beni territory on the border with Uganda.

After a verbal exchange, the peacekeepers appeared to open fire before opening the gate, driving on and continuing to shoot while people scattered or hid. "During this incident, soldiers from the intervention brigade of the MONUSCO force returning from

leave opened fire at the border post for unexplained reasons and forced their way through," the UN mission in Kasindi said in a statement. "This serious incident caused loss of life and serious injuries." Barthelemy Kambale Siva, the North Kivu governor's representative in Kasindi, earlier said that "eight people, including two policemen who were working at the barrier, were seriously injured" in the incident.

Kambale Siva, interviewed by AFP, did not give a reason for why the UN convoy was prevented from crossing the barrier. There are more than

120 militias operating in the DRC's troubled east. The UN first deployed an observer mission to the region in 1999. In 2010, it became the peacekeeping mission MONUSCO -- the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo -- with a mandate to conduct offensive operations. There have been 230 fatalities among them, according to the UN. Last week, deadly demonstrations demanding the departure of the United Nations took place in several towns in eastern DRC. A total of 19 people, including three peacekeepers, were killed.

SOURCE:

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220731-several-killed-after-un-peacekeepers-open-fire-in-eastern-dr-congo>

SOMALIA

27TH JULY 2022

SOMALIA IS FACING ITS WORST DROUGHT IN MORE THAN FOUR DECADES

Multiple areas of Somalia are experiencing its worst drought crisis in a decade, with millions of people facing acute water shortages and being forced to leave from their homes in search of water and food. Significant portion of the population are facing the threat of starvation following four consecutive failed rainy seasons, a climatic event not seen in at least 40 years.

The Deyr (September-November) 2020, Gu (April-June) 2021, Deyr (September-November) 2021 and Gu (April-June) 2022 seasons were all marred by below-average rainfall, leaving large swathes of the country

facing the most prolonged drought in recent history. The Gu (April-June 2022) rainy season was the driest on record in Somalia's recent history—making the 2020-2022 drought surpass the horrific droughts in both 2010-2011 and 2016-2017 in duration and severity.

On the other hand, forecasts indicate that the 2022 Deyr (September-November) rainy season could also fail, leading to an unprecedented and catastrophic situation, the likes of which has not been witnessed in Somalia's recent history.

ImmEDIATE action is therefore required to prevent the worst from transpiring in the months ahead.

Despite the dire situation in the country following the four consecutive below rainy seasons, partners on the ground are responding but the extremely low funding is hampering their capacity to respond the need of the populations.

Funding levels remain far below those in 2017 and is more comparable to 2011, when funding was slow to come in until the declaration of famine, with devastating consequences including 260,000 deaths.

SOURCE:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-wash-cluster-drought-update-27-july-2022>

27TH JULY 2022

SUICIDE BOMBING IN SOMALIA KILLS 11 INCLUDING LOCAL OFFICIAL.

Witnesses say at least 11 people are dead after a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance to a government building in southern Somalia. District Commissioner Abdillahi Ali Waafow was among those killed in Wednesday's attack, the lower Shabelle region, Mohamed Osman Yariisow, told the associated press by phone.

Minutes after we had concluded a meeting, we had at the district headquarters and were on our way out, we found an unknown man approached us and blew himself up, Yariisow said, adding that the commissioners' bodyguards, traditional elders and women also were killed.

The Somali-based extremist group al Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack.

Marka is about 100 kilometers south of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

Witness Hassan Abdullahi confirmed to the AP by phone that 11 people including the district commissioner had been killed. I heard a huge blast. I ran toward the explosion scene. I have seen with my own eyes several bodies and remains of human flesh scattered on the ground, he said.

SOURCE:

<https://apnews.com/article/africa-bombings-somalia-suicide-mogadishu-2d51274f2bdd3b3220c8f91d7ce00607>

SUDAN.

4TH JULY.

TOP GENERAL SAYS MILITARY SUDAN POLITICAL TALKS

Sudan's leading general said Monday the country's military will withdraw from negotiations meant to solve the ongoing political crisis after a coup last year, allowing civil society representatives to take their place.

In televised statements aired on Sudan's state television, General Abdel-Fattah Burhan also promised that he would dissolve the sovereign council that he leads after a new transitional government is formed. The council has governed the country since the military took power in a coup last year.

Since the coup, the U.N. political mission in Sudan, the African Union and the eight-nation east African regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development have been trying to broker a way out of the political impasse. But talks have yielded

no results so far. Pro-democracy groups have repeatedly said they will not negotiate with the military, and they have called for it to immediately hand the reins to a civilian government.

Burhan did not specify any dates or who would replace the military at the negotiating table. After the ruling council is dissolved, he said, the army and the powerful paramilitary known as the Rapid Support Forces will be placed under a new governing body responsible for the country's defense and security.

Sudan has been plunged into turmoil since the military takeover upended its short-lived transition to democracy after three decades of repressive rule by former strongman Omar al-Bashir. The military removed al-Bashir and his Islamist-backed government in a popular uprising in April 2019.

Burhan's statements come after a deadly week for the country's pro-democracy protesters. On Thursday, nine people were killed and at least 629 injured by security forces in anti-military demonstrations, according to the Sudan's Doctors Committee, which has tracked protest casualties.

Sudanese military authorities have met the near-weekly street protests since the coup with a crackdown that has so far killed 113 people, including 18 children.

Western governments have repeatedly called on the generals to allow peaceful protests but have also angered the pro-democracy movement for engaging with the leading generals.

SOURCE:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/top-general-says-military-to-leave-sudan-political-talks/6644848.html>

12TH JULY 2022

Sudan junta leader El Burhan names retired army, police Generals as ambassadors. The head of the Sudanese Sovereignty

Council, Commander-in-Chief of the Sudan Armed Forces, and leader of the military junta, Gen Abdelfattah El Burhan, has appointed five retired

police and army officers as ambassadors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in preparation for their dispatch to a number of neighbouring countries.

POLICE MAJ GEN BUSHRA IDRIS. AS AMBASSADORS.

According to the news reported by Sudan Tribune, El Burhan named Lt Gen Jamal Gasm El Sid, Lt-Gen Fateh Saleh Mohamed, Lt Gen Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, Police Lt Gen Osman Younis and Mohamed has appeared since the coup d'état on October 25 last year on satellite channels as a strategic expert defending the El Burhan regime.

Gasm El Sid is former director of the General Intelligence Service, an army officer who, according to informed sources, is likely to assume the duties of the embassy in Juba. The destination of Younes is expected to be Chad.

Idris is expected to be ambassador to the Central African Republic, according to the sources. Salih Mohamed and Mohamed Ahmed are

presumed to serve in Eritrea and Libya.

Sudan's ambassadors to more than 12 countries, including the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, China and France, rejected the army's control of power in Sudan, which led El Burhan to issue a decision to relieve them of their positions and appoint others to replace them.

SOURCE:

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-/article/sudan-junta-leader-el-burhan-names-retired-army-police-generals-as-ambassadors>

3RD JUNE 2022

WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE': HUNDREDS IN SUDAN CONTINUE PROTESTS AGAINST MILITARY RULE

A violent crackdown by security forces during mass rallies on Thursday killed nine people, according to medics, the deadliest day for several months in the long running protests against a

military takeover last October led by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Recent protests have seen crowd's burn tyres and barricade roads

with bricks, with security forces using live bullets, firing barrages of tear gas canisters and using powerful water cannons, according to medics and the United Nations.

Demonstrators demand a restoration of the transition to civilian rule that was launched after the 2019 ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir, which the coup derailed.

“We will continue this sit-in until the coup is overturned, and we have a fully civilian government,” demonstrator Muayyad Mohamed told AFP in central Khartoum.

The death toll from protest-related violence has reached 114 since last year’s coup, with the latest fatality recorded Saturday when a demonstrator died from wounds sustained at a June 16 rally, according to pro-democracy medics.

“WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE’

“We will not compromise until the goals of our revolution are realized,” said Soha, 25, another protester, who only gave her first name. “We are here in the street demanding freedom, peace, justice, a civil state and the return of the military to the barracks.”

The coup plunged Sudan further into political and economic turmoil that has sent consumer prices spiralling and resulted in life-threatening food shortages.

On Sunday, witnesses reported a heavy deployment of security forces on the streets of Khartoum, including both army vehicles as well as those of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a feared paramilitary unit commanded by Burhan’s deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

The RSF incorporated members of the Janjaweed militia, which was accused by rights groups of atrocities during the

conflict that erupted in 2003 in the western region of Darfur. More recently, the RSF has been accused of taking part in crackdowns on protesters marching against the army.

The international community has condemned the recent bloodshed, with the UN rights chief urging an independent probe into Thursday’s violence.

‘DIALOGUE’

The UN, African Union and regional bloc IGAD have tried to facilitate dialogue between the generals and civilians, which the main civilian factions have boycotted.

On Friday, the three bodies jointly condemned the violence and “the use of excessive force by

security forces and lack of accountability for such actions, despite repeated commitments by authorities”.

In the restive Darfur region, which has seen a recent surge in violence, General Daglo -- known as Hemeti -- on Sunday called “on all political forces, especially the youth, to

come to the dialogue table”

“Dialogue is the only way to guarantee stability in our country,” he said at a ceremony where 2,000 ex-rebels completed their training to join Sudanese security forces.

The integration of former rebel fighters into the Sudanese army and police was part of a 2020 peace deal with rebel groups involved in decades of civil conflict, including in Darfur.

The first of its kind, the cohort “will confront the chaos in Darfur”, Daglo said.

Hundreds have been killed in recent months in Darfur, in a renewed spike of violence triggered by disputes mainly over land, livestock and access to water and grazing.

SOURCE:

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220703-we-will-not-compromise-hundreds-in-sudan-continue-protests-against-military-rule>

SOUTH SUDAN.

11TH JULY 2022

SOUTH SUDAN SUSPENDS DREDGING OF NAAM RIVER, SUDD WETLANDS

South Sudan’s president ordered the suspension Saturday of all dredging-related activities in the country until evidence-based studies are carried out on their impact on surrounding communities and the ecosystems they rely on.

Salva Kiir Mayardit’s announcement, which was made during his address on the country’s 11th independence anniversary, means the dredging project on the Bahr el Ghazal-Naam river, approved by the cabinet last year, and the century-old Jonglei canal project will now be halted.

In May, Unity State government received dredging equipment from Egypt for the project on the Naam river, claiming it would reduce the flooding that displaced thousands in the state. This was met with strong criticism from environmentalists, citizens and activists who said that the plan would result

Environmental and economic catastrophe, drying up the country’s White Nile River and the Sudd wetlands which farmers and local wildlife rely on.

But government officials, including South Sudan’s vice presidents, have argued that the dredging process

would help open up rivers for economic activity and help mitigate floods that have affected most of the country. South Sudan has been experiencing extreme flooding over the past three years, with 1.2 million people affected by flooding across the country.

“The contending sides have put forward legitimate arguments both for and against dredging,” said Kiir in his address, adding that feasibility studies for the projects are paramount.

On Friday environmental experts and academics at the University of Juba called on the government to carry

out an environmental and social impact assessment before dredging the Nile tributaries. Tag Elkhazin, an expert on the Nile, equated South Sudanese support for the dredging project to treason.

“Stop dredging, it’s not in your interest, it is in the interest of a foreign country,” said Professor Elkhazin during a virtual presentation on the Jonglei Canal and water resources in South Sudan. Elkhazin said

that other countries along the Nile, such as Egypt, would benefit from dredging projects which would divert more water upstream

Elkhazin added that flooding is seasonal and should not be a reason to drain the Sudd tributaries, which would have an everlasting environmental impact. Academics and local water engineers also accused the government of allowing the dredging to go on without consulting with

the general public.

President Kiir has set up a 40-member Public Consultation and Awareness Committee on the Sudd region and the White Nile river to discuss the best options for flood and water management. He said a decision on the projects, supported by citizens on both sides of the debate, will be made once the committee publishes its findings.

SOURCE:

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/world/2022/07/11/south-sudan-suspends-dredging-of-naam-river-sudd-wetlands/>

13TH JULY 2022

EGYPT’S NEXT DEADLY MOVE ON SOUTH SUDAN

“And its canals will become foul, and the branches of Egypt’s Nile will diminish and dry up, reeds and rushes will rot away.” – Isaiah 19:6.

Egypt lost miserably to stopping Ethiopia from filling their dam because Ethiopia has two critical strengths, a vibrant military, and a vast population. To compensate for the volume of water lost from the Blue Nile

to the Dam, Egypt fell back on its only vulnerable prey, South Sudan, and is willing to spend billions of dollars on government and individuals to achieve its interests through proxies and bloodshed.

Egypt is confused after finding out that almost all the South Sudanese people rejected their attempt to take over South Sudan. Judging from how they planned

it, they had underestimated the intelligence and patriotism of the citizens, thinking that they would take anything thrown at them, just like their leaders had been doing.

As a result of this paradox, the following scenarios are most likely to take place in the future:

SCENARIO ONE

The scientific community and the majority of the South Sudanese people have to a more significant extent, voiced that dredging of rivers and digging of the Jonglei Canal won't solve the problem of flooding; the only sticking South Sudanese interest. Instead, it will cause more disasters. As a result, the report, if not interfered with politically, will conclude that there will be no dredging and

digging of the Jonglei Canal. Egypt will not be pleased with this decision.

It will devise ways to remove President Salva Kiir Mayardit and cause severe political and armed conflicts by exploiting the already fragile unity of the people. Egypt is capable of arming anti-government militias in Equatoria Region to

disturb the government while creating and empowering warlords in Upper Nile and Bahr El Ghazal Regions. Through these warlords, Egypt could safely dredge the northern rivers and dig Jonglei Canal under community-based militias' protection. At the same time, the government will struggle to hold on to Juba or with the high possibility of losing it.

SCENARIO TWO

Anyone who understands politics will agree that President Salva Kiir Mayardit is in a fix, sharing the government with rivals, non-cooperative peace partners, and many angry and hungry citizens threatening riots. R-ARCISS is not near completion for the elections, which is another worry for the President because if elections are not held in 2023, questions of legitimacy will come into play because the South Sudanese people will not allow another agreement extending the life of the Unity Government as

ruling by agreements is not a popular option. I am unsure if an extension will be hot for a unity government that didn't deliver much in six years of the ARCISS and R-ARCISS.

Being politically cornered will force any politician to make deals with the devil. To capture and maintain power, you need any available resources, and Egypt has presented itself as a very desirable ally – politically, diplomatically, economically, and militarily for the government. For any

government or leader and as a matter of survival, choosing to give away water to Egypt in exchange for protection can't be entirely ruled out.

For a country struggling to feed and protect its population, pay its army and civil servants, pay debts or build its infrastructure, and faced with numerous rebellions, I find it difficult to believe that President Salva Kiir Mayardit won't politically alter the findings of the Public Consultations in favor of Egypt.

SCENARIO THREE

In the event President Salva Kiir Mayardit does not stand up to Egypt out of fear of the sabotage Egypt can cause him or losing

Egypt's vast resources being thrown at him, the citizens of South Sudan, including his loyalists and those already in opposition, are most likely to

be united to save the virgin nation from being raped by Egypt. Suppose the fury of citizens shown in the last few weeks is something to go by,

you can easily conclude that the South Sudanese people will not wave any white flag at the Government or Egypt if it's indeed the Government that decided to sign off their natural resources to Egypt despite scientific warnings and objections.

It's not difficult to imagine that civil society will solidify its "Kiir Must Go"

slogan. If this feeds into the frustration of the struggling army, this could quickly spark an unstoppable uprising. Whether this uprising can succeed is not essential, but it can be costly in terms of human suffering. Should the uprisings succeed in capturing power, another unpredictable thing is that, if no unifying leaders emerge, regions will loosely break away, not

necessarily working together, but organized and led by tribal or interest groups, perhaps driven by resources in certain areas.

The author is the chairman of Red Army Foundation, South Sudan.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article261402/>

8TH JULY 2022

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS CALL FOR INCLUSIVE CONSTITUTION MAKING PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN

An honest, transparent and inclusive debate is essential for a durable permanent constitution in South Sudan, stakeholders resolved.

The resolution was part of training on inclusive permanent constitution-making process for civil society organizations held in Wau on Wednesday.

The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan mandates the drafting of a permanent constitution meant to usher in a new political order for the country. This process began in 2012 with the appointment of a National Constitutional Review

Commission (NCRC) as the drafting body.

While opening the workshop, the state Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Anthony Ngerende said the constitution is the highest law of the country.

A people-driven constitution-making process is a process whereby people are allowed to speak, but also one where a conducive environment is created for everybody to air their views and aspirations in regard to what kind of constitution we want," said Ngerende, on behalf of the governor.

He added, that means, every citizen of South Sudan has a right to deliver his opinion without any segregation because the constitution is for people".

The minister lauded the organizers of the inclusive training of trainers' workshop, urging participants to exercise the right to freedom of expression.

Moses Gizam, the Executive Director of Humanity and Community Empowerment Organization (HCEO) said public awareness campaigns are essential for conducting inclusive permanent constitution making process.

The most profound component of the peace agreement for all South Sudanese is Chapter VI which provides for an inclusive permanent constitution making process. It is high time we sensitized our people to participate actively once the

Reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission (R-NCRC) starts the consultative process,” said Gizam.

“Local civil society organizations are profound tools for public mobilization and civic education. HCEO felt obliged to empower them to educate people to actively participate at all stages of the constitution making process,” he stressed.

Stephen Robo, a Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)

coordinator, acknowledged the role of civil society actors in ensuring the country’s constitutional making process is people-centered.

“The constitution making process gives an opportunity to draw the kind of South Sudan we want and type of governance we want to have,” he said.

For his part, Paulino Aguer, a representative of civil society organizations said a permanent constitution would act as the supreme law of the country.

The dialogue also urged citizens of South Sudan to leave their differences behind, holistically rally behind full implementation, full participation and inclusiveness in transparent constitution making process and to return the country back to the people through free and fair democratic elections.

The multi-stakeholders dialogue, organized by HCEO on the theme, “Advancing People Centered Constitution Making Process in South Sudan”, attracted chiefs, women, youth, and religious leaders, among others.

A decade after its independence in July 2011, South Sudan has a ceasefire and peace deal in place and is now beginning the journey towards a new constitution that will ultimately pave the way for free and fair elections.

The stakes are high for political parties and the people of South Sudan as they embark on the process of making a new constitution that will provide an opportunity for Africa’s newest nation to finally determine its own future.

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article261320/>

ERITREA

13TH JULY 2022

SOMALI MILITARY TRAINEES OFFICIALLY APPEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ERITREA

The Eritrean government has for the first time officially announced providing military training to thousands of Somali national army members.

The announcement comes as the newly elected Somalian President Hassan Sheik Mohamud pays a visit to Asmara in his first leg tour to Africa since its inauguration.

The Eritrean government on Sunday officially inaugurated thousands of Somalis who had been undergoing military training for three years.

The Eritrean state-run Television (ERITV) displayed the inauguration of the Somali soldiers in the presence of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

At the event, the Commander of the trainees explained that they have been provided with adequate military training and gained experience from the people of Eritrea on building one united country and that they are ready to discharge their duties.

Congratulating the trainees for successfully completing the military training, President Mohamud expressed hope that the graduated Somali military live up to the expectations of the people and the Government of Somalia

The secretive military training program has sparked controversy and bitter disputes in Somalia between politicians and their families as they feared that their sons would be expedited to fight alongside the Ethiopian troops in Tigray.

Tigray militants, which are at war with the federal government, have also accused Somali forces of infiltrating Tigray and fighting alongside the Eritrean army.

Last year, Tigrayan forces alleged to find Somali troops killed in battles in Ethiopia's Tigray region.

Tigray military officials then said that those Somali soldiers were allied with Eritrean and Ethiopian federal forces in the fighting in the northern Ethiopia's conflict which broke out in November 2020.

The Somali government has previously denied that its forces fought in the Tigray region but confirmed the presence of Somali forces in Eritrea.

Former President Farmajo had been accused by rival politicians of secretly recruiting and sending these young Somalis to an undisclosed location.

The unannounced training program in Eritrea came to light last year after a UN human rights report revealed that Somali trainees have crossed the Eritrean border along with the Eritrean forces to fight in Ethiopia's conflict-hit Tigray region.

The UN report triggered mass protest as parents and relatives of recruits camped in the streets of the capital Mogadishu, demanding the government disclose the whereabouts of their sons.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has also said in a statement that it had received information that Somali soldiers were being taken to Tigray and that they were in Axum.

In January 2021, the former deputy head of the Somali National Security and Intelligence Agency, Abdisalam Guled, said that hundreds of Somali soldiers who took military training in Eritrea had taken part in the Tigray war.

He said some 370 Somali troops were killed while fighting in Tigray.

There is no way these Ethiopian commanders tell me lies, Somali soldiers fighting alongside Eritrean troops

and commanded by Eritrean military officials were killed in the war in Tigray,” said Guled.

I think the reason why these soldiers were killed in large is contributed by a number of factors including, inexperience, lack of knowledge about the battlefield and the Eritrean commanders who never mind the casualties among Somali soldiers” he added.

The former spy deputy was reacting to remarks by Information Minister

Hassan Dube who denied claims Somalis were involved in the Tigray war.

Former Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo Reports said that 5,167 cadets were taken to Eritrea for military training three years ago.

At the end of the four-day visit on July 12, President Mohamud and the Eritrean leader Isaias Afwerki signed a military and security cooperation agreement

SOURCE:

<https://sudantribune.com/article261436/>

12TH JULY 2022

ERITREA, SOMALIA LEADERS EFFORTS VOW COOPERATION ON DEFENSE, POLITICAL

The leaders of Eritrea and Somalia have announced the signing of an agreement covering defense, security, diplomatic and political cooperation.

The agreement, finalized by Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, was reached following a four-day visit to Asmara by the new Somalia leader.

In a seven-point memorandum of understanding released Tuesday, the two leaders said they have agreed to enhance defense and security cooperation to safeguard peace, stability and security. They also have agreed to strengthen diplomatic and political cooperation, to protect and advance their national interests, and to promote relations between their two peoples, they said.

Afwerki and Mohamud said the memorandum they signed is based on historical and fraternal ties and common interests they share and on recognition that the successful fight against terrorism in Somalia is a “prerequisite for peace, stability and security, not only in Somalia but in the Horn of Africa.”

Eritrea has been training thousands of Somalia forces for nearly three years. Most of the military has received regular and specialized training,

including the naval force, as well as mechanized units.

VOA Somali has reported the number of Somali troops trained in Eritrea at 5,167, a figure later confirmed by former president of Somalia Mohamed

Abdullahi Farmaajo, who sent the troops to Eritrea.

The first wave of Somali soldiers was flown from Mogadishu to Eritrea on Aug. 19, 2019. There were second and third waves in February and

June 2020, respectively.

FILE - Somali soldiers attend a training session at a Turkish military base in Mogadishu, Somalia, Sept. 30, 2017.

SEE ALSO:

CLANDESTINE TRAINING OF SOMALI FORCES IN ERITREA STIRS FAMILIES' CONCERN

The training of the soldiers was a clandestine operation hidden from the public and the media. The program was criticized by Somali parents of the soldiers and opposition politicians. It attracted controversy after unverified media reports alleged their participation in the conflict in Tigray, a claim strongly denied by the previous Somali government. VOA Somali did not find evidence backing their alleged link to the Tigray war.

During this week's visit, Mohamud attended a parade by the Somali forces and congratulated them for completing their military training.

According to a statement issued by the president's office, Mohamud renewed his pledge to return the troops to Somalia and said he has told them about his plans to stabilize the country and to liberate areas still under al-Shabaab control.

The Somali people will be excited by your sight, and the enemy will be demoralized by [your] strength," Mohamud told the soldiers, thanking the Eritrean government.

Earlier this month, the new Somali government reported that "some" Somali soldiers died during the training, and "some" died of natural causes. No exact figure was given, but some of the soldiers who defected last year gave mixed figures, with one deserter reporting that four died, and a second soldier saying seven soldiers died.

According to one soldier who deserted and arrived in Somalia in July of last year, one died of dehydration from severe diarrhea, one was electrocuted and a third drowned in a lake while escaping from Eritrean guards.

Ali Said Faqi, the Somali ambassador to the European Union who is among just a few Somali officials to visit the soldiers' training camp in late 2019, said the troops received "tough training" and most of them were trained as Special Forces. He said the original plan was that Eritrea would train them and arm them.

That was the plan and I believed that is still the decision, he said.

Faqi said it's the new president's call to determine a policy of operation and decide about how specifically the soldiers will be deployed.

They can participate in the fight against terrorism; they can participate in opening the highway between Afgoye and Baidoa; they can participate in the opening of the highway between Mogadishu and Kismayo," he said. "These are young personnel who

obtained the best military training.

Somali President Mohamud last week introduced a new security strategy to counter al-Shabab, comprising a military, ideological and economic

approach toward the militant group.

Meanwhile, the leader of al-Shabab, Ahmed Umar Abu Ubaidah, vowed in a new audio threat to fight the new

government, asserting the group will “never allow a government that is not founded upon Islam and an administration that doesn’t fully implement Sharia [law].”

SOURCE:

<https://www.voanews.com/a/eritrea-somalia-leaders-vow-cooperation-on-defense-political-efforts-/6656039.html>

2ND JULY 2022

ERITREA: NUTRITION FOR OPTIMAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

After getting her first degree in nutrition, Dr. Eden Tareke studied food toxicology and food bio-chemistry. As a food scientist she has done research in Sweden and the USA and a preliminary study on Eritrea’s nutrition status. She is now working on the development of a national strategic plan on nutrition being developed by the Ministry of Agriculture along with partners with a view to improving nutrition in Eritrea. An excerpt of an interview with Dr. Eden on the objectives of the development of nutrition Social Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) Roadmap and Manual and the way forward follows.

strategic plan on nutrition?

Various activities have been carried out to sensitize stakeholders to nutrition. It is mainly aimed at developing a multi-sectorial strategy in nutrition security and Social Behavioral Change Communication in nutrition. There have been misconceptions about nutrition. Even if there is plenty of production, lack of correct understanding of balanced diet has been a challenge. We have been witnessing people suffer from nutrition-related communicable and non-communicable diseases in spite of the availability of sufficient food.

a form of nutrition survey. It was a very interesting survey. We first visited a village and asked the residents about their food production, what kinds of food they have in their house and what they put on the table. Based on an analysis of the information, we suggested how they could improve their nutrition at a household level using the resources they have. We did this at household and community levels. We understand that by making a small change in people’s awareness, we can make a big change in nutrition security. So, the efforts that are being made are directed at making sure that we have correct understanding about nutrition and bringing about behavioral change through an effective and efficient approach.

What are the efforts that are being made to develop a national

We did research known as trial on food practices, which is

HOW IMPORTANT IS NUTRITION IN A SOCIETY?

Nutrition is a very important part of national development. Improvement in nutrition is the first step that needs to be taken for a nation to develop. Nutrition is a foundation for health. Almost 80% of both communicable and non-communicable diseases could be avoided by appropriate nutrition. A well-nourished child is more likely to escape poverty and

to contribute to the development of a nation and a well-functioning development program also contributes to the nutrition of a child, completing a positive loop of development.

An unbalanced diet could occur in two different ways, either due to deficiency of food or due to overconsumption

and improper consumption of food. An unbalanced diet may lead to non-communicable diseases that could in the first place have been prevented through proper nutrition. A non-communicable disease can lead to dependency on medicine with all its financial and other drawbacks. In short, for Eritrea, nutrition is a very important part of its development programs.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED GOALS AND WHAT ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE SO FAR?

For the time being, we are expecting to have a Social Behavioral Change Communication manual that will help to change the behaviors that are preventing us from achieving nutrition security. The biggest

achievement of the workshops that have been carried out so far is the understanding of what nutrition is and the recognition of the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to achieve the desired nutrition security. But the direct

effect of the workshops is that a Social Behavioral Change Communication manual will be developed.

WHY IS NUTRITION SO IMPORTANT IN A CHILD'S FIRST 1000 DAYS?

Eighty percent of the development of a child takes place before the child is two years old, and the time from conception, until a child turns two years of age, is 1000 days.

Both the mental and physical developments of a child take place during that time. This time is a window we can use to make a life-long change. For instance, if the neurology of a child is

done at an older age there isn't much to improve, and that is why proper nutrition is needed more when women are pregnant and breastfeeding and until the child is two.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH YOU DID ON NUTRITION?

We have done two research studies although we haven't presented the findings of the latter, which includes the six regions of the country. One of the biggest challenges we have is 'lack of awareness' and what we

can see is that a rise in the level of awareness of communities can make a lot of change. We tend to equate food production to nutrition. But nutrition is more than just food production. When we talk about nutrition we also talk about malnutrition, and

the scope of nutrition needs to include optimal health which is much bigger than prevention. The main finding I've observed is that awareness about nutrition can bring about a lot of change just like an increase in food production.

CAN NUTRITION SECURITY BE ACHIEVED IN THE ENVISAGED TIME FRAME?

Definitely! We can do that. I have to say that if we have a multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition, the goal that has been set out is achievable. When we talk about nutrition it's not only about having food on the table but also about the safety

and standard of the food and identifying food items that can boost health. We have a lot of wild vegetables and fruits that we can add to the list of food on the table. Our people readily comply with guidelines, and the big trust they have in the government has been

helpful in implementing projects of any kind. It should be noted that a consolidated approach of multi-stakeholders, where all stakeholders know their role, is quite imperative in achieving food and nutrition security. So, yes! it is achievable.

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED TO ENSURE NUTRITION SECURITY?

The first thing is awareness. Mobilization or equal distribution of food is also another factor. For instance, if we go to Assab about 95% of

the population eat fish because it is abundant there. If we go to Gash-Barka, on the other hand, there is an abundance of milk, fruits and vegetables but no

fish. So, we have to find ways of ensuring equal distribution of food items. If we do that we can definitely meet nutrition security.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE FARMERS' KNOW-HOW OF NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE?

We need to know what we should have on the table. In terms of nutrition, half of the plate should be filled with fruits and

vegetables and the rest could be carbohydrates, proteins and fat. When we say nutrition-sensitive agriculture, we are saying that we should decide what to produce

by taking into account what we want to have on the table. This is another area that farmers need to be aware of.

“NO ONE LEFT BEHIND” HAS BEEN A POPULAR SLOGAN USED IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT.WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN THE ERITREAN CONTEXT?

In our culture no one is supposed to be left behind. So, it is not just words for us but a way of living. It has been like that for generations and we do not leave any one behind. The Eritrean

society has a history of living together and prospering together, and this noble culture, coupled with a scientific approach, will make a difference.

ANY MESSAGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY AT LAST?

I would like to say research-based knowledge is vital for our development. We cannot live with what others find out. Research carried out elsewhere does not reflect our real needs. When we conduct an awareness raising campaign, it is based on knowledge that has been accumulated in our context. So, we have to have our own research-based knowledge.

SOURCE:

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202207040182.html>

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