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## Mugabe: South Africa needs another revolution



development Council (SADC) convention. His comments come on the heels of the recent spate of xenophobic violent attacks against other African migrants by disenchanted and disgruntled South Africans clamouring for their expulsion because they claim jobs are being taken away from them.

By Peter Uduehi

Mugabe said there's a vicious problem in South Africa regarding unemployment among Blacks since the fall of apartheid in 1990 and noted that instead of addressing income inequality and the wide economic gap between Whites and Blacks, the new political dispensation spearheaded by former revered leader Nelson Mandela failed to bridge these gaps, stressing that income redistribution has worked out better among other SADC members than in South Africa.

"The pressures with people of South Africa are so much that we cannot avoid incidents of that nature (xenophobia), Mugabe told reporters. "People are unemployed, lots of young men and women are in the streets so when they see people from neighbouring countries running small shops they conclude that it's these people that have robbed them of their chances, which is not the case.

"It's not the other African, but it's a factor of the whites that have kept opportunities to themselves. The political dispensation did not address the disparities between white and black with most of the land in the hands of whites and most of the employment opportunities enjoyed by them (whites)...so we must help them. They need another revolution." South Africa's xenophobic attacks last month killed several African migrants and wounded scores, itself spurred on by Zulu chief Goodwill Zelethwini's controversial comment that other Africans should go back to their countries of birth.

**Z**imbabwe's president Robert Mugabe says South Africa will need another revolution to set it on course for the new millennium as a viable nation.

He was speaking in Botswana's capital Gaborone shortly after the Southern African De-

## Canada reverses visa ban for Liberians

By Peter Uduehi

Canada has dropped its visa ban to the people of Liberia following declaration by the World Health Organisation that the west African country is now free of ebola.

Canada imposed visa sanctions last October on Liberians and citizens of Sierra Leone and Guinea because of the persistence of ebola in their countries. The ban was seen as controversial with the WHO saying it violated the International Health Regulations, a treaty to which Canada is a signatory. The treaty states that nations are not to embark on policies that obstruct commerce and travel in case of global health emergencies, especially if the WHO has not advised on such a move. But the Canadian government argued that because the ban did not affect Canadian volunteering health workers travelling in and out of the ebola-affected west African countries its policy did not violate the treaty.

WHO and global health experts criticised



the Canadian government and advised other nations to respect the letter of the treaty. Meanwhile, the ban on those seeking visas from Sierra Leone and Guinea remains in ef-

fect as the two countries struggle to rid themselves of ebola, which claimed more than six thousand lives since the outbreak a year ago. Ebola claimed more than 4,700 lives in Liberia before the "free" declaration in early May. Students have since returned to school in all countries since March as only a handful of cases were recorded three months ago. A country is declared free of ebola after 42 days of zero reported cases.



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## Nigeria's laudable elections augurs well, and Jonathan makes his mark in history

Here in Canada, the seemingly peaceful transition of power that is about to take place in Nigeria, as a result of the recent elections, is a win for all. It means oil prices will likely remain as low as they have been for quite some time now.

Nigeria is the fifth largest producer of oil in the world and many analysts were already predicting a rise in crude oil prices should civil war erupt as a result of the vote. But, the violence and ethnic firestorm many fearfully anticipated did not happen when challenger Muhammadu Buhari defeated the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan.

Of the Nigerians living in the Toronto area, many were comforted by the fact that they "don't have to worry too much about loved ones we left back home," noted Peter Obuba, a Toronto-based lawyer. "Can you imagine the type of headache a violent atmosphere would have brought to many of us living here?" he asked.

"[W]e Nigerians in Toronto and Canada can rest easy knowing that our people back home are sound and okay, and that some of us whose investments are in Nigeria will feel safer to continue to invest in our homeland." - Emelike Ukpabi, Nigerian-Canadian

Most Nigerians living in Canada, with the exception of embassy and consular staff, did not vote in the elections.

Financial investor Emelike Ukpabi is also of the opinion that the successful elections don't only, "make us look good in Canada as Africans, it also means we Nigerians in Toronto and Canada can rest easy knowing that our people back home are sound and okay, and that some of us whose investments are in Nigeria will feel safer to continue to invest in our homeland," he stressed, adding, "these are indeed good times."

While the much-dreaded Nigerian elections have come and gone relatively peacefully, what they actually mean for Africa's most populous nation and biggest economy, as well as for the entire continent, can be far-reaching.

Many sceptics feared the elections would throw the country into turmoil, as previous ones have, and with good reason. No election has passed off so peacefully as this one, as no incumbent in the country's history has ever been voted out of office: the incumbent has always won while his challenger and supporters have always found themselves throwing rocks and missiles afterwards - maiming and killing innocent people.

"[The election was] a testament to the maturity of Nigeria's democracy... a democratic shift." - Ban Ki Moon, United Nations

In spite of the low turnout (because voters were apprehensive of violence), stakeholders, world leaders and international observers have praised the vote as impressive and a promising event for democracy in Africa. United Nations secretary general Ban Ki Moon described the elections as, "a testament to the maturity of Nigeria's democracy... a democratic shift."

Outgoing president Jonathan put it succinctly, announcing that, "Nobody's ambition is worth the blood of any Nigerian... I thank all Nigerians once again for the great opportunity I was given to lead this country and assure you that I will continue to do my best at the helm of national affairs until the end of my tenure." In the statement, which was delivered shortly after he conceded defeat publicly, he also noted, "I have conveyed my personal best wishes (in a telephone call) to General Muhammadu Buhari."

Jonathan's concession in defeat was not only magnanimous, but an exemplar of pure sophistication and panache, especially in a continent where politicians have always felt it was their birthright to be leaders, blemishing the face of their countries

## Analysis

By Peter Uduehi

through violence and intolerance. That's one implication of the Nigerian elections that will bode well for the continent if all politicians take heed.

*"Jonathan is no Mandela for sure, but his temperament is profound, genuine and didactic as he chooses to lead by example. That is exactly why the recent elections in Nigeria were without bitterness in the end..."*

Peter Uduehi

Another implication of the Nigerian elections is that it highlights how imperative it is to have educated and forthright leaders, known to be selfless and humble.

Jonathan is no Mandela for sure, but his temperament is profound, genuine and didactic as he chooses to lead by example. That is exactly why the recent elections in Nigeria were without bitterness in the end.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's Mobutu Sese Seko, Chad's Hissène Habré, Ivory Coast's Laurent Gbagbo, Libya's Col Muammar Gaddafi and Equatorial Guinea's president-for-life, Teodoro Obiang, to name a few

dim-wit tyrants, were (and are) all depraved, vile and abhorrent men who got it into their heads that their countries would be nothing without them, continuously supplying themselves as heads of state and plunging their citizens into the abyss of deprivation.

The erstwhile and late emperor of the Central African Republic, Jean-Bédél Bokassa, for example, was reported by his detractors to feed some of his political enemies to caged lions in an annex to his palace.

But the likes of Nelson Mandela come to mind as shining stars of a new order, though he was advanced in years when he actually reached the political scene. The great Madiba almost single-handedly brought South Africa out of the dark ages of the worst human rights record that apartheid dealt the southern tip of the continent, and led the nation into a modern era where justice and peace became tangibles.

Jonathan is no Mandela for sure, but his temperament is profound, genuine and didactic as he chooses to lead by example. That is exactly why the recent elections in Nigeria were without bitterness in

the end.

Jonathan's critics have denounced him as too spineless to go on a full attack of the Boko Haram Jihadists, who essentially are bandits preying on young women and harassing the innocent.

Nigerian-Canadians were in almost total agreement that the ship of state had become too burdensome for Jonathan to steer and that a more militaristic Buhari was the answer to the Boko Haram disturbances.

But Jonathan went soft on the terrorist extremists for years, not because he's weak, but because he is a thinking man. He preferred to give the militants enough rope to hang themselves.

When he did decide to actually thrash them two months ago - to pave way for the elections to really happen in those once-tense

regions - the Islamists succumbed to cowardice; hence many of the areas they once overran from hapless villagers in the northeast of the country fell from their hands without much military prodding. Yet it was clear that many Nigerians wanted a change at the helm, as did members of the diaspora living in Canada. Nigerian-Canadians were in almost total agreement that the ship of state had become too burdensome for Jonathan to steer and that a more militaristic Buhari was the answer to the Boko Haram disturbances. Little wonder the incumbent lost.

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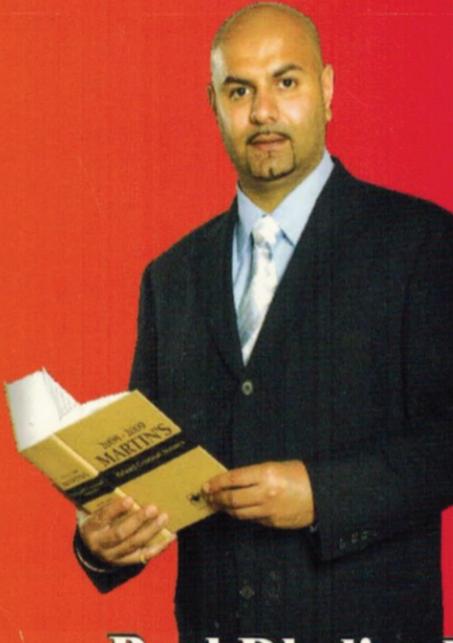
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Okonjo-Iweala

## Nigerian governors ask finance minister to explain case of lost billions from oil revenue

From Daily Trust, Nigeria

The Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) on Monday night demanded an explanation from the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the \$20 billion excess crude account.

At a meeting chaired by Governor Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers state in Abuja, the governors also reconciled and re-united as a single umbrella association "regardless of party differences."

The forum had been sharply divided for several months into two factions after an election of new chairman ended in controversy. One group was led by governor Jonah Jang of Plateau state (Peoples Democratic Party) and the other by Governor Amaechi of the All Progressive Congress (APC). By Saawua Terzungwe

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## Kenya's Westgate Mall, scene of al-Shabab terrorism, to reopen

From CapitamFM, Kenya

Westgate Mall will reopen in July, 21 months after it was attacked and destroyed by terrorists, director Alex Trachtenberg has said.

In a statement issued after an inter-denominational prayer service hosted at the Westgate Shopping Mall foyer, Trachtenberg said that tenants had begun taking up space at the mall and will soon be moving in to start outfitting their stores ahead of the reopening. "As the Management and Directors' of Westgate Mall alongside our esteemed tenants, we are today joined in this interdenominational thanksgiving and prayer service as we prepare for the reopening sometime in July," Trachtenberg said.

Giant retailer Nakumatt was the anchor tenant of the mall. Nakumatt's managing director Atul Shah said the firm will start working on finishes and fittings of its Westgate store next week as it gears



up for the reopening.

## Decision to lift lion hunting ban questioned in Zambia

GREEN Party president Peter Sinkamba has expressed concern over the decision by Government to lift the ban on big cat hunting in the country.

Tourism and Arts Minister Jean Kapata last week announced the lifting of the ban on cat hunting in the country on account that it greatly affected the wildlife resource livelihoods of local authorities in game management Areas.

But Mr Sinkamba said in a statement in Kitwe yesterday that the decision by Government to lift the ban on hunting lions and leopards was wrong. He urged Government to reverse lifting of the ban and instead come up with other revenue generating schemes.

But the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) commended Government for lifting the ban which was enforced two years ago.

ZAWA public relations officer Sakabilo Kalembwe said the lifting of the ban on hunting of big cats will ensure a great improvement in Government revenue.

Kalembwe said ZAWA will make sure that hunting of cats was carried out according to statutory regulations.

Government lifted the ban on cat hunting on condition that the guidelines were grafted into a statutory instrument so that they become part of the wildlife law.

Ms Kapata explained that lion hunting should only resume in the 2016/2017 hunting season and not this year.

She, however, said leopard hunting could resume this year 2015/2016 but with very precautionary quotas.

The two-year hunting ban was among others, necessitated by the weak regulatory mechanisms, declining lion populations in some areas due to over-harvesting, hunting of underage lions and depletion of habitats for lion.

Other reasons were the increased lion deaths in human-lion conflicts and lack of solid statistics upon which to base quotas.

The leopard ban was effected due to lack of serious monitoring lapses by ZAWA, which had since been rectified.

## New FAO report traces fisheries' glass ceiling

From UN, Rome

While women are estimated to make up nearly half of all people in the fisheries sector, their work often goes unrecognized and underpaid, their access to opportunities and resources remains limited and their representation in positions of leadership trails far behind other industries.

These are among the key findings of a new review of women's participation in the industry, published by FAO today. Capture fisheries, aquaculture and related post-capture activities support the livelihoods of over 120 million people, many of whom work in the traditional, small-scale sector.

Fish are also an important source of nutrition across the world and provides more than 20 percent of animal protein in low-income food-deficit countries.

Increasing gender equality in the fisheries sector is important for food security - both at a household level, where women contribute essential food and income to their families, and at the global level, where the seafood industry faces the challenge of sustainably increasing production to feed a growing world population. Production in the sector will need to rise by 20 to 30 million tonnes a year to meet these growing needs, according to FAO. The globalisation of markets, stagnating catches from the world's oceans, and climate change are among the factors putting extra pressure on the livelihoods of women in the fisheries sector. In many cases, this adds to existing limits women entrepreneurs face due to established gender roles and a lack of access to resources like processing technology and storage facilities, according to the report, which traces women's participation across the industry - from catch to professional conferences to corporate board rooms.

### Invisible women

While men continue to dominate capture fisheries - particularly offshore and industrial fishing-- women across all regions are often relegated to processing, local sale and support roles, including cleaning boats and bringing fish to market, the report says.

These jobs are typically lower paid - in some cases unpaid - and less recognized for their contribution to the economy, employment and food security.

Future growth in the fisheries industry is expected to come from fish farming, while FAO is supporting governments and the private sector to keep capture fisheries stable and sustainable.

Yet, women who want to enter into fish production in some developing countries still face a lack of ownership rights that prevents them from owning a boat or land needed for fishing and fish farming.

Limited access to loans, in addition, often bars women from starting or upgrading their own businesses and adding value to their products to better compete in an increasingly globalized and mechanised industry.

Widespread gaps in sex-disaggregated data for the fisheries and aquaculture sector however are hindering efforts to address these gender issues, says FAO's study.

### A new network for women in the industry

The problem of gender equality in the fisheries sector is not limited to small-scale fisheries in developing countries. It is also reflected in their rela-



tive absence in the board rooms, executive positions and fisheries conferences.

Out of the world's 100 top seafood companies, only one company is currently run by a woman as CEO, according to the report, compared with 8 percent of top positions held by women in the Fortune 100 USA companies.

"Right now, the higher up you look in the industry, the fewer women you see," added Audun Lem, Deputy-Director of FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division.

# Anxiety grips Somalia as US bank plans to close money transfers



Al-Shabbaz militants in military drill

The announcement by the US bank, the Merchant Bank of California, that it is closing down accounts run by Somali money remittance companies, has sparked fears of economic decline and multiple ripple effects in Somalia.

Somali lawmakers and beneficiaries said on Saturday the decision is likely to cut the lifeline of over one million Somalis who depend on foreign remittances which account for 35 percent of the country's Gross Domestic product (GDP). Remittances from the US alone are approximated at 200 million dollars annually.

"The effect of this decision is not only economic, but a security concern to the country and the region," Mohamed Omar Dalha, a lawmaker told Xinhua in Mogadishu.

"This is an economic embargo and it gives a chance to terrorist groups in the country to recruit young who will be dispossessed of any source of income and school fees since most people depend on their relatives from abroad to send money every month," Dalha said.

A 2014 report by Institute of Security Studies noted that the militant group Al-Shabaab recruited young men for as low as 50 dollars.

Dalha is also worried that with a recent UN-backed report saying over 730,000 Somalis are facing starvation this year, the decision to cut off remittances might further exacerbate the situation subjecting families to more suffering.

"Millions of families depend on remittances from relatives in the Europe and the US with some sending even between 100 dollars to 200 dollars; therefore, stopping this could put livelihoods into danger. We request the American bank not to close the Somali companies accounts," added Dalha.

Abdullah Moalim Ahmed, an economic expert in Mogadishu, said the decision to close the accounts means families in Somalia are not able to receive the regular remittances and thus hurt families and contribute to economic downfall in Somalia.

"The remittances support a number of businesses in Somalia thus a cuff-off could negatively impact on this business hence many people losing jobs," Ahmed said.

The closure comes after Somali Parliament last week held a special session to debate on the possi-

ble closure of the remittance accounts, noting that the decision will have far-reaching effects not only on the economy but also a threat to peace and cohesion.

Sunrise Community Banks in US state of Minnesota closed all Somali-American remittance accounts in 2011 while Barclays Bank in the UK announced plans to close the accounts of about 250 money

transfer businesses, citing concerns about money laundering.

The US currency regulator OCC had warned Merchant Bank of California last year that it found its anti-money laundering procedures inadequate, expressing fears that the money could be channeled to terror groups in East Africa and, particularly, the Somalia based militant group Al-Shabaab.

The banking system in Somalia is relatively small picking up after over two decades of civil war, but remittance companies commonly known as, Hawalas, have been instrumental in facilitating money transfer serving the Somali community in Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya.

## Angola - European Bank Supports Angola Cable TV With 20M Euros

Luanda — An agreement to finance the expansion of broadband Internet service for, public/private companies and private clients in an amount of 20 million Euros was signed between TV Cabo Angola and the European Investment Bank, Angop learnt on Friday through a press note from Angola Telecom.

The contract for the long-term loan was signed for the Angolan side by Naiole Cohen dos Santos, Administrator for the Subsidiaries of Angola Telecom and its representative in TV Cabo Angola and Patrick Walsh, Director of the European Investment Bank, responsible for financing outside Europe.

The loan from the European Investment Bank will support the expansion of broadband networks in Luanda, Benguela and Lobito and the installation of new fibre optic communication networks in the city of Lubango, Huambo, Cabinda and Soyo.

Naiole Cohen dos Santos stressed during the ceremony that this second loan from the referred bank to TV Cabo shows the confidence that the European Investment Bank has on the project of TV Cabo Angola, along with its shareholders, Angola Telecom and Visabeira Global.

In 2006, the European Investment Bank supported the successful installation of the first network of TV Cabo Angola, in what was the first large investment project supported by the referred bank in the country.

European Investment Bank has been developing activities in Angola since 1992.

## Algeria: Money laundering, terrorism financing, top commitments

Algiers — Fighting money laundering and terrorism financing "is at the top of Algeria's international commitments," affirmed Wednesday the spokesman of Foreign Affairs Ministry Abdelaziz Benali Cherif, underlining that this issue "is not likely to be handled at the bilateral level with any Arab country or another."

"The issue of fight against money laundering and terrorism financing is at the top of Algeria's international commitments. It is not likely to be handled at the bilateral level with any Arab country or another," said Benali Cherif in a statement to APS in response to what was relayed by some media, "with too much exaggeration, vagueness and distorted data, concerning the handling by the specialized Algerian institutions of the issue of fight against money laundering and terrorism financing."

"Algeria which has, in all times, been in the vanguard of fight against terrorism, continued its efforts at the international level to build a legal system aimed at eradicating this scourge. It is, thereby, undeniable that it is pioneer in terms of drying up of the terrorism's financing sources, within a group made up of 36 countries whose mission is to tighten the noose around terrorist groups," said Benali Cherif.

"The recommendations the group has decided on, among other measures, provide for the implementation of a legal and regulatory framework for every country that must be adapted to the requirements of an efficient and effective fight against all what can represent a flaw likely to be exploited by the terrorists to obtain financing to their criminal acts," he underlined.

## Burkina Faso: Green- fingered Burkinabe women protect shea 'gold'

Cassou, Burkina Faso — The Nezeledoun resource centre in Cassou village is a hive of activity, unlike the thirsty farms nearby, as women cultivate tree seedlings and vegetables here, thanks to a borehole that provides much-needed water.

The centre in Ziro province, 160 km south of the Burkina Faso capital Ouagadougou, was set up last year with support from international forest research bodies and Burkina Faso's Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA).

They approached Diasso Dialia, a woman from Cassou village who negotiated with middlemen buying locally produced shea butter known as "women's gold", and asked her to help enlist her peers to start a tree nursery in the area.

Shea trees are important to Burkina Faso's economy, as they yield nuts that are crushed into a creamy off-white or yellow butter widely used in soaps, cosmetics and food. But climate change threatens to undermine this traditional business.

In the past, the region's small-scale farmers relied on six months of rainfall between May and October to grow sorghum and okra

## Boko Haram landmines hamper security on Cameroon-Nigeria border

Cameroon's defense minister, Edgard Alain Mebe Ngo'o, says efforts to secure Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria are being hampered by land mines planted by Boko Haram fighters. He says Cameroon and Chad military units have been deployed to the area around the Sambissa forest hide-out of the terrorist group where numerous mines have been detected.

Chad and Cameroon say huge numbers of land mines planted by Boko Haram fighters along Cameroon's border with Nigeria are a danger to people, livestock and soldiers. The two countries have deployed specialized units of their military to detect and destroy the mines.

He says Chad's President Idriss Deby Itno has again taken a laudable initiative to send Chad soldiers to assist Cameroon in detecting and destroying the land mines. He says much has been done, but a lot still needs to be done to eradicate Boko Haram so people may live in peace.

Last month, Nigeria's military launched air raids on the Sambissa forest and reported that it had freed hundreds of people held captive by the insurgents. Nigerian officials also said the final push to clear out the Islamist militants was hampered by land mines.

Colonel Jacob Kodji, who commands Cameroon soldiers fighting Boko Haram, says they received complaints from local residents that the mines were killing people and livestock.

He says the population of border villages with Nigeria has been helping by giving useful information to competent authorities.

Boko Haram has not launched a major attack on Cameroon within the past two months, but officials believe that the mines around their havens were intended to surprise and deter the Chad, Cameroon and Nigerian forces fighting the militants.

## Uganda says working with neighbors to resolve Burundi crisis

Uganda's Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda says his country is working with other regional leaders to find a solution to the crisis in Burundi.

Rugunda is currently in Washington to meet with senior officials at the U.S. State Department and is scheduled to meet with Ugandans across the country. In an interview with VOA, he said the meeting aims to improve already good relations between the United States and Uganda.

"This was really consolidating the already warm relations between our two countries. We have worked together on various programs and we expect an even broader scope of cooperation between the United States and Uganda, and between the United States and the region," said Rugunda.

The United States has called on East African leaders to help resolve the crisis in Burundi. The African Union has also called for dialogue after urging the government, opposition and civil society groups to encourage their supporters to respect the constitution.

Rugunda said the administration in Kampala will continue with efforts to help restore peace and stability in Burundi.

"Uganda has by tradition played a very constructive and active role in peace and security in the region, and actually Burundi in particular,"



Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni

said Rugunda.

"President Museveni has been a regional chairman of the peace process in Burundi and therefore, Uganda continues to play an important role in ensuring that the people of Burundi are able and do manage their security situation well, so that peace and security can prevail in the country and issues can be resolved across the table other than other methods that would create a conflict," he added.

Rugunda says relations between Burundi and Uganda remain warm despite Burundi's ongoing political crisis.

"The Burundians living in Uganda live in peace, they do [a] very significant amount of trade, so relations between the two countries are good relations," said Rugunda.

## Opposition quits Burundi peace talks following murder of party head

Burundi's opposition said it is quitting U.N.-sponsored peace talks with the government after one of its leaders was gunned down in a drive-by shooting.

Zedi Feruzi of the Union for Peace and Development party was buried Sunday, a day after he and a bodyguard were shot to death in the capital, Bujumbura.

Thousands of opposition members accompanied his coffin through the downtown streets to a Muslim cemetery.

Another opposition leader, Frederick Bamvuginyumvira, bitterly said that his party can no longer hold talks with the government.

"It is impossible. We have decided to leave the negotiations because they are of no use...the most urgent thing is to cease the killings we are seeing and the organized assassination of opposition leaders."

The spokesman of another opposition party said he cannot guarantee that anti-government protesters will stay peaceful.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has condemned Feruzi's murder and is urging all parties to shun violence and work to resolve the country's political crisis.

Burundi authorities have violently cracked-down on anti-government protesters, who are angered by President Pierre Nkurunziza's announcement that he will seek a third term in next month's election.

Critics say a third term would be unconstitutional and violate the two-term limit.

Nkurunziza insists he is eligible to run again because parliament, not voters, elected him to his first term in 2005.

His plans for another five-year term has plunged Burundi into its worst crisis since a 2006 peace deal ended more than a decade of civil war.

The government's violent reaction to the protests has killed more than 20 people, brought on a failed coup, and sent more than 100,000 Burundians fleeing to safety in neighboring countries.

On top of the violence, the U.N. refugee agency says an outbreak of cholera has killed 31 Burundian refugees near Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania. Three-thousand other people have been sickened. Officials have brought in clean water and medicine.

## Official: Murdered Somali lawmaker shot by soldiers

Somalia's government says a parliament member killed in Mogadishu Saturday was shot by mistake by government soldiers.

The Somali defense ministry says soldiers opened fire on the car of lawmaker Yusuf Dirir because

they thought it might be on its way to a suicide bombing.

A ministry spokesman says the soldiers got suspicious because Dirir's driver had blocked the soldiers' vehicle from passing and ignored signals to stop the car.

The spokesman, Mohamed Yusuf Osman, says the soldiers' car had been speeding and traveling recklessly. Dirir's driver was also killed and another lawmaker was wounded in the attack.

The government says that once the investigation is over, all those involved in the shooting will be brought to justice.

Somali militant group al-Shabab on Saturday had claimed responsibility for the attack. The group has killed several other lawmakers since the start of 2014.

## Nigeria: Buhari not happy with transition process

Nigeria's president-elect Muhamadu Buhari says he's disappointed with the transition process that would swear in his new government on May 29.

Buhari, who was once head of state in the 1980s, said outgoing president Goodluck Jonathan's ministers are not cooperating enough to ensure a smooth transition of power by May's end.

A statement issued by the president-elect's directorate of media and signed by Malam Garba Shehu yesterday said Buhari made his feelings known yesterday after he received an interim report from the Transition Committee set up to assist him transit smoothly to the Presidency under the leadership of Alhaji Ahmed Joda.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the committee's chairman, Alhaji Joda, said his committee received tremendous cooperation from members of the organized private sector (OPS), Nigeria's international development partners as well as other stakeholders from across the country. Joda revealed that the committee worked hard through four sub-committees to arrive at the interim report, adding, however, that the report did not receive any input from the outgoing administration.

He, however, expressed optimism that the final report of the committee would include the input of the present administration, provided it is made available.

According to the statement, the interim report dealt with issues of good governance vis-a-vis the executive, legislature and judiciary arms of government, including finance and economy as well as core sectors like agriculture, solid minerals and oil and gas.

The report also looked at infrastructure, power, national



President-elect Buhari

security, education, health and social welfare, which feature in the manifesto of the All Progressives Congress (APC). These were also intensely studied and recommendations made. In his response, Buhari thanked the committee for doing a thorough job and presenting an interim report within the time allocated to it.

"Buhari, however, expressed disappointment that ministers and other government leaders were not at hand, so far, to brief the committee but he assured that since the bureaucrats who write the reports will be at hand after the departure of the politicians, whatever is there will eventually be known. He requested the Joda-led committee to be in readiness to resume work the moment the outgoing government's handover notes are received," the statement added.

Present at the event were APC national chairman, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun; former chairman, Chief Bisi Akande; APC national leader, Ahmed Bola Tinubu and Rivers State Governor Rotimi Amaechi.

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# Africa's richest man wants Arsenal club



Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, said he still wants to buy English Premier League soccer team, Arsenal, even after its owners rebuffed him in 2010.

Nigeria's Dangote, an Arsenal fan worth \$15.7 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, discussed buying a stake in the club five years ago before talks with the owners fell through, he said. Since then his wealth has grown more than seven-fold.

"I still hope, one day at the right price, that I'll buy the team," Dangote, 58, said in an interview as he traveled on a plane owned by one of his companies between the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa and the Nigerian commercial hub of Lagos recently. "I might buy it, not at a ridiculous price but a price that the owners won't want to resist. I know my strategy."

Arsenal is one of England's most successful clubs, having won 13 top flight league titles in the country, the most after Manchester United and Liverpool.

Arsenal Holdings Plc., the owner, trades on the ICAP Securities & Derivatives Exchange, or ISDX, and is valued at £988 million (\$1.49 billion).

A successful bid would make Dangote the first African owner of a club in a league where billionaires including Russia's Roman Abramovich, the owner of Chelsea, and Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, who controls Manchester City, have acquired teams.

Stan Kroenke, worth \$5.6 billion and owner of the National Football League's St. Louis Rams, holds 67 percent of Arsenal, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. About 30 percent is owned by Red & White Sec Ltd., controlled by billionaire Alisher Usmanov, a former Uzbekistan youth fencing champion who is now Russia's third-richest man, and Farhad Moshiri.

Dan Tolhurst, a spokesman for the London-based club, declined to comment as did Rollo Head, a spokesman for Usmanov in London. Tomago Collins, a spokesman for Kroenke in Denver, did not immediately respond to e-mails requesting comment.

Dangote has interests in sugar and flour and controls Dangote Cement Plc, Nigeria's biggest publicly traded company. He is investing \$11 billion in a 650,000 barrel-a-day oil refinery near Lagos and as much as \$2.5 billion in gas pipelines running to the city from Nigeria's oil-rich Niger River delta region.

*From the Nigerian Guardian*

## African players help Chelsea lift trophy again in EPL

Ivorian legend Didier Drogba and Nigerian John Obi Mikel helped Chelsea defeat Crystal Palace 1-0 at the weekend and clinch the English Premier League title.

Deputising for injured striker Diego Costa, 37-year-old Drogba played the 90 minutes at Stamford Bridge while midfielder Mikel came off the bench for the second half.

Senegalese Sadio Mane was the lone African scorer in the Premier League, but his goal could not prevent Southampton losing 2-1 at lowly Sunderland. ENGLAND

SADIO MANE (Southampton)

The Senegal midfielder was quickest to react after Sunderland goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon spilt the ball, firing the Saints level at the Stadium of Light with a 22nd-minute equaliser. Unfortunately for the south coast club, his goal came between two Jordi Gomez penalties that saw Sunderland to a 2-1 win.

CHEIKHOU KOUYATE (West Ham)

Was involved in the controversial incident that led to the Hammers' winning penalty in a 1-0 victory

over relegation-threatened Burnley at Upton Park. The Senegal star worked his way into the Burnley penalty area and was sent tumbling to the turf by Michael Duff's trip as he prepared to shoot. Referee Jonathan Moss, somewhat harshly, ruled that Duff's foul denied Kouyate a goal-scoring opportunity and showed a red card before Mark Noble scored with the ensuing spot-kick.

DIDIER DROGBA (Chelsea)

The veteran Ivorian once more led the line, and for the entire 90 minutes too, as Chelsea wrapped up the Premier League title with a 1-0 victory at home to Crystal Palace. Drogba tested Palace keeper Julian Speroni early on with a dipping free-kick and then dropped deep before, in common with manager Jose Mourinho, enjoying title success in his second spell at Stamford Bridge to add to the Premier League crowns he won first time around.

JOHN OBI MIKEL (Chelsea)

One of the Blues 'go-to' men when they are looking to close out a match, the Nigerian replaced the ineffectual Juan Cuadrado at half-time and did what was required of him as Chelsea maintained what turned out to be a title-winning clean sheet.

SPAIN

YOUSSEF EL ARABI (Granada)

El-Arabi gave Granada's survival hopes a huge boost under new coach Jose Ramon Sandoval as he scored twice in a 2-1 win at Getafe. The Moroccan opened the scoring from the penalty spot and then sealed Granada's first win in nine games with a bullet header from Piti's cross to register his sixth goal of the season.

ITALY

SEYDOU DOUMBIA (Roma)

The 27-year-old Ivory Coast striker scored his second goal for the club since moving from CSKA Moscow after 35 minutes in a 2-0 win over Genoa which allowed the capital city side to leapfrog rivals Lazio into second place and automatic Champions League spot.

FRANCE

FLOYD AYITE (Bastia)

Togo international Ayite scored the goal that saw Bastia edged high flyers Saint Etienne 1-0 and climb six points clear of the relegation zone with three games to go. Since joining from Reims last summer the attacking-midfielder has scored eight goals, and insiders at the club are expecting big things from



Nigeria's Mikel Obi

him.

GERMANY

SALIF SANE (Hanover 96)

A stunning second-half bicycle kick by the Senegal defender sealed relegation-threatened Hanover's 2-2 draw at VfL Wolfsburg, who threw away a two-goal lead. Sane struck from 11 metres out with a kick which slammed into the top left-hand corner on 58 minutes. KEVIN-PRINCE BOATENG (Schalke 04)

Dropped for the last few games due to a lack of form, the Ghana midfielder came off the bench for Cameroon's Eric Choupo-Moting to help create two goals in Schalke's 3-2 fight-back win against VfB Stuttgart. Boateng put in a final pass for Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar to equalise on 78 minutes and then his 89th-minute shot was deflected by Stuttgart left-back Florian Klein to give Schalke the winner.

IBRAHIMA TRAORE (Borussia Moenchengladbach)

The Guinean came off the bench to score Moenchengladbach's winner in their 2-1 victory at strugglers Hertha Berlin to reclaim third in the Bundesliga table. Traore scored his first goal for Gladbach since joining from Stuttgart last year when he came on with 73 minutes gone and drilled home the winner five minutes from time.

*Compiled by AllAfrica.com*

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# Ethiopia elections since death of Meles



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Ethiopians have been voting for a new parliament in the first election since the death of long-serving Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in 2012.

The outgoing parliament has only one opposition MP. Mr Zenawi's successor Hailemariam Desalegn is expected to hold on to power.

ised along ethnic lines. Other contenders include the Ethiopian Federal Democratic Unity Forum, a coalition known as Medrek [the Forum] and the Semayawi [Blue] Party, which has held protest rallies and draws support from young people.

have seen so many changes during this regime, especially roads and bridges and development in villages. Long ago, women had to walk long kilometres to get water but now they can get water easily," government supporter Samira Abdull Razak told me.



Polls closed at 18:00 local time.

No major irregularities were reported, election officials said. However, the opposition said their representatives were barred from some polling stations.

Voting in some areas has been extended to Monday after some polling stations ran out of ballot papers. Observers from the African Union issued an initial assessment to say the polls were conducted in a calm and peaceful manner.

Some preliminary results will be announced this week, the electoral board says. Full results are due next month. Meles Zenawi's Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) has been in power for almost a quarter of a century.

More than 36m Ethiopians - and 57 political groups - registered for the election. Many groups are organ-

In 2005, 174 opposition politicians won seats in the 547-seat parliament, but many did not take them up after pronouncing the vote rigged. Many of the voters turned up

**"As a woman, this moment is very important for me because I have seen so many changes during this regime, especially roads and bridges and development in villages."**

— Samira Abdull Razak

early at polling stations. People stood quietly in the queues, talking in low tones. At each polling station, there were separate lines for women and men. Most of the women in one polling station in Addis Ababa, were covering their heads with the traditional netela, a handmade cloth.

"As a woman, this moment is very important for me because I

A Semayawi Party supporter, Yonathan Tesfaye said he was voting for change: "If the government doesn't interfere with the votes then I expect that the opposition will get at the very minimum, 100 seats in parliament, but you never know." Ethiopia has one of Africa's fastest growing economies - with government-financed investments extending to new railways, roads and hydro-electric dams.

Human rights groups have accused Prime Minister Hailemariam's government of stifling the opposition and narrowing freedom of expression.

The opposition say its members have been intimidated, harassed and some arrested ahead of the polls. The government rejects the criticism. Government spokesman Redwan Hussein told AFP it was up to voters

to choose.

"If they want to give us another chance, they will vote for us. If they have a grudge, they will not. "Predictions of another government success turned some voters off the idea of casting a ballot. "The election will bring no change," Behailu Ayele told Reuters. "It is already known that the EPRDF will win the vote like the previous elections - by fraud."

In the 2010 polls, Girma Seifu, of the Unity for Democracy and Justice (UDJ), was the sole opponent to win, while the EPRDF garnered 99.6%. An independent candidate was also elected.

The opposition MP is not running again.

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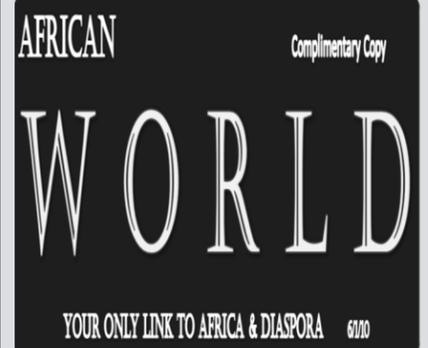
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