



### Lamido wins Forbes magazine Africa Person of the year award

Nigeria's central bank gover-

nor Lamido Sanusi has been voted Africa Person of the Year by Forbes

He beat five other candidates for the inaugural award - including Nobel Peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote.

Mr Sanusi, 50, has spearheaded reforms in Nigeria's troubled banking sector since his appointment in 2009.

The central bank bailed out nine banks and removed their chief executives who were accused of fraudulent practices.

Several of the ousted bankers have been put on trial for alleged financial mismanagement.

Forbes magazine's readers gave Mr Sanusi the most votes in an online poll. He beat Mrs Sirleaf, the Liberian president who was awarded this year's Nobel Peace prize, Mr Dangote, a Nigeria business tycoon who tops Forbes' list of Africa's richest people, former Cape Verde President Pedro Verona Pires, who won this year's \$5m (£3.2m) Mo Ibrahim prize for good governance

in Africa and Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan Nobel Peace laureate who died in September. You cannot be

> exporting crude oil and be importing refined petrol"

> End Quote Lamido Sanusi Nigeria's central bank governor Last year, another financial publication, The Banker, named Mr Sanusi the Central Bank Governor of the Year. Mr Sanusi's critics says his reforms have led to massive job losses in the banking sector. But when receiving the award, he said the central bank's role was not to create jobs but to create an environment for business to thrive, Nigeria's privately owned newspaper, The Daily Trust, reports.

He called on the government to show tighter fiscal discipline and to discourage imports. "You cannot be exporting crude oil and be importing refined petrol," Mr

Sanusi said, according to The Daily Trust.

Nigeria is a leading oil producer but most people live in poverty. Corruption is also seen as a huge problem in the West African state.

#### **US Congress calls** Boko Haram a threat

A US Congressional report says Nigeria's militant Islamist group Boko Haram is an "emerging threat" to the US and its interests. Boko Haram has carried out a spate of bombings, including in the capital, Abuja, as well as in the mainly Muslim north where the group originated.

The report said it may be forging ties with al-Qaeda-linked groups in Af-

It comes as Nigeria's defence minister said pro-Gaddafi fighters from Libya were smuggling weapons into the north.

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## Food giant Nestle to tackle child labour in Ivory Coast

Global food giant Nestle says it has taken a major step to end child labour on cocoa farms supplying its factories. The firm, one of the world's largest chocolate producers, says it is going to work with the Fair Labor Association (FLA) on tackling the problem.

The FLA is set to examine Nestle's cocoa supply chains in Ivory Coast in

January, the firm said in a statement.

Critics ask why it has taken Nestle so long to act if it knew children were involved in its cocoa production.

Nestle and the world's other biggest chocolate producers signed a cocoa protocol - an international commitment to end child labour in the cocoa industry – 10 years 🗖 ago.



Allasane Quattara —Ivorian president

Earlier this year, a report commissioned by the US government found that the chocolate industry's funding since 2001 had "not been sufficient" and it needed to do more.

Nestle, in its statement, said the "cocoa supply chain is long and complex" - making it "difficult for food companies to establish exactly where their cocoa comes from and under what conditions it was harvested".

The firm said the FLA would send a team of independent examiners to Ivory Coast - where Nestle buys most of its cocoa – to map the supply chain. The results of its assessment will be published next year and will guide future operations there, the firm said.

"Child labour has no place in our supply chain," said senior Nestle executive Jose Lopez.

"We cannot solve the problem on our own, but by working with a partner like the FLA we can make sure our efforts to address it are targeted where they are needed most".

The US government-backed report by Tulane University, published in March, found that more than 1.8 million children in West Africa were involved in growing cocoa.

Earlier this month, some reporters travelled to Ivory Coast and found children using machetes to hack open cocoa pods to extract the beans. One boy told him that he had been sent by his father to the farm to work, and had not seen his family for three

Gilbert Kone Kafana, Ivory Coast's minister for labour and social affairs, said there was a "moral obligation" on

chocolate companies to help rebuild the country ravaged by years of civil

"We need to build roads, schools, hospitals and social centres; anything that would allow Ivory Coast to progress," he said.

"This development is necessary for farmers to have a good life, and it is in the interest of the industry to work

## UN says new Libyan leaders holding Black Africans against their will

United Nations is demanding speedy resolution to thousands of Black Africans currently held in Libya's prisons against their will. The organization says up to 7,000 people including Libyans who fought on the side of the falling erstwhile leader Muammar Gaddafi are languishing in prison without legal recourse, most of them Blacks from other parts of the continent. Reports say many West African migrants and mercenaries joined in the eight-month long civil war that toppled Gaddafi, many of them forced by the slain leader's influential son Saif Gaddafi (himself now in the custody of the new Libyan government) to support the Gaddafi regime. Many of the Black Africans are said to be tortured in prison. By Pter Uduehi

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African World 12/1/11 p 2

## Kenya: Al-Shabaab ban on aid outfits leaves Somalis starving

Over 1.4 million Somalis face starvation after the Al-Shabaab banished 16 humanitarian organisations from Southern Somalia.

The United Nations and its refugee

agency, the Nations United High Commissioner for Refugees warned that millions of dis-Somalis placed faced a humanitarian crisis after the militants expelled the aid agencies.

The agencies were accused of collaborating with the Kenyan military and the Transitional Federal Government troops in running

Al-Shabaab out of their bases in southern Somalia.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described as brazen the seizure of property and equipment of the aid agencies.

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos also warned that famine could return to some drought-hit areas.

Separately, the refugees agency warned that the ban had placed the lives of millions of Somalia people in danger.

"More than two thirds of Somalia's estimated

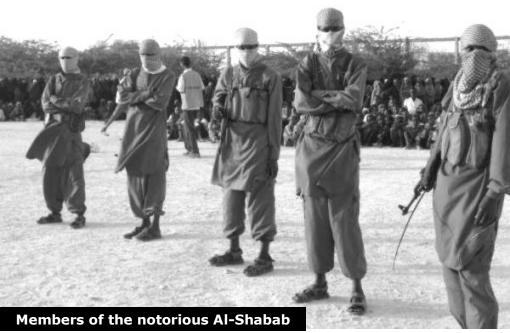
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1.46 million internally displaced people in the south and central parts need immense humanitarian aid," the agency said in a statement.



The militants accused the aid agencies of conducting activities that did not subscribe to Islamic practices.

Among the organisations expelled are the World Health Organisation, the UN Population Fund, the UN Office for Project Services and the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit.

The refugees commissioner reported that over 500 people, including children were walking from the towns of Beles Qooqaani, Tabta and Afmadow towards Dobley without food.

Federal president Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed termed the terrorist group "an enemy" of the Somali people.

The president also urged the United Nations to lift an arms embargo imposed on the war-torn country in 1992 so his government can set up military bases in areas captured by Kenyan troops and their allies.

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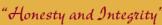
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#### By Peter Uduehi

# The conundrum of Boko Haram?

**Editorial:** 

It is always a conundrum in Nigeria that a lesser known group of bandits and societal misfits would hold entire nation to ransom through nefarious activities as throwing bombs to a mass of innocent civilians and no-one knows who is actually funding the evil ragtag organization.

But thanks to the Nigerian security services some captured members of the Islamist group Boko Haram are now speaking out and confessing that their sponsors are within Nigeria itself, some of them members of the political elite. If this is the case, then what we are actually witnessing in Nigeria is a defacto war being waged by religious and ethnic bigots against the south of the country. It is unfortunate to draw this conclusion, but how else can one analyse the situation in the country knowing full well that Nigeria's real problems in almost every sphere lies in the fact that we have one country with two

The north of the country has already divided the nation by its constant ly reminding the south that its people are different and as such wants to be treated differently by law and economics and culture and religion. When the rest of the country is forging ahead in modernity, the north prefers archaic and Islamised ways to the future. In this day and age the north is still preaching Sharia, a set of Muslim laws

that run counter to democracy and the rule of law. So it is clear form the workings of Boko Haram that what the north wants is division, but the problem with its elements is that despite their disgust for westernization and the south they are still hanging around as part of Nigeria. Boko Haram simply means "western education is bad", it also mens by extension that southern Nigerians are bad. So why is the north not seceding? Many have suggested—and nothing could be further from the truth—that the reason they are still hanging around like lost souls is that their land s have neither the human or natural resources like oil. That is the real conundrum.

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# Cote d'Ivoire: Gbagbo arrives in Netherlands

A plane carrying Ivory Coast's former leader Laurent Gbagbo landed at Rotterdam airport early Wednesday as he headed for transfer to the International Criminal Court (ICC), ANP news agency reported.

The plane, from the Ivory Coast, touched down a little before 4:00 am (0300 GMT), ANP reported. From there, Gbagbo is to be taken into detention at ICC facilities in The Hague, 20 kilometres (12 miles) away.

One of Gbagbo's lawyers in Ivory Coast, Jean Gbougnon, announced that the ICC prosecutor had served an international arrest warrant on his client.

Hours later, he was flown out of the country in a plane chartered by the Ivorian authorities. ICC spokesman Fadi el-Abdallah told AFP the court could not comment on the matter until judges made their decision public.

Gbagbo, 66, had been held in Korhogo, northern Ivory Coast, since his arrest in Abidjan on April 11, Gbougnon said.

Gbagbo faces charges on home soil for "economic crimes", allegedly committed during the political crisis and conflict triggered by his refusal to hand over power, which left about 3,000 people dead.

But the ICC launched its own investigation.

Last month, ICC judges allowed prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo to probe alleged postelection war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by forces loyal to both Gbagbo and the new Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara.

Ivory Coast's new rulers had been pressing for weeks to have Gbagbo transferred to The Hague.

# Nigeria criminalises same-sex marriage

In an apparent defiance of the pressure by Western interests, especially the United Kingdom, which



h a s threat-ened to stop its financial assis-tance to a n y country that legislates

against gay marriage, the Senate Tuesday passed the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill.

Henceforth, people found guilty of indulging in same sex marriage risk a jail term of 14 years with no option of fine.

Also, persons who witness, aid or abet the solemnisation of a same sex union or support the registration, operation of gay clubs in the country risk a jail term of 10 years.

This followed the adoption of the report of the Senator Umaru Dahiru-led Committee on Judiciary.

In a veiled reference to the threat of the UK government, Senate President David Mark said any country that would refuse the country any aid on account of the passage of the Bill should hold such aid, insisting that the practice of same sex marriage remains strange to the Nigerian cultural values and practices.

The Bill, which was originally sponsored by Senator Domingo Obende (ACN, Edo), enjoyed the unanimous consent of all the senators.

It provides in Section 5 that, "persons who entered into a same sex marriage contract, or civil union commit an offence and are each liable on conviction to a term of 14 years in prison".

Also, sub-section 2 states: "Any person, who registers, operates or participates in gay clubs, societies and organisations or directly or indirectly make public show of same sex amorous relationship in Nigeria commits an offence and shall each be liable on conviction to a term of 10 years in prison."

Sub-section 3 also provides that "any person or group of persons that witness, abet and aids the solemnisation of a same sex marriage or civil union or supports the registration, operation and sustenance of gay clubs, societies, organisations, processions or meetings in Nigeria commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a term of 10 years imprisonment".

During the debate on the bill, most senators condemned the ugly practice of same sex marriage, stressing that Nigeria is a conservative society and if the Senate closes its eyes to the ugly menace, it would have no excuse to give to the future generation

Speaking on the law that prohibit same sex marriage, Senator Ita Enag said the bill be forwarded to the House of Representatives for concurrence, adding that the passage of the bill into law by the National Assembly was part of the effort to ensure that Nigerians are in good health condition.

He said that looking at those involved in it, most of them look unhealthy and "we have a responsibility to protect everybody in the country".

He said passing the bill into law would be a signal to other countries.

Also in her comment, Senator Nkechi Nwogu said 14 years jail term for same sex marriage was a unanimous decision by the senators because "the country, our culture, tradition and the religions are against it".

She said: "Same sex marriage has negative effect on the health of anyone that is involved in it. It was a unanimous decision by the Senate to pass the Bill into law. It is very unfortunate that the Western countries want to force their culture on us."

Meanwhile, rights group, Amnesty International, Tuesday reiterated its call on Nigerian authorities to scrap the Bill.

"By broadly defining 'same-sex marriage' as including all same-sex relationships, and targeting people who 'witness', 'aid' or 'abet' such relationships, the bill threatens the human rights of a large number of people," Amnesty said.

According to the group's Director of the Africa Programme, Erwin van der Borght, "Nigeria's House of Representatives should show leadership and uphold the rights of all in Nigeria by rejecting this reprehensible Bill.

"If passed, this measure would target people on the basis of their identity, not merely their behaviour, and put a wide range of people at risk of criminal sanctions for exercising basic rights and opposing discrimination based purely on a person's actual or presumed sexual orientation or gender identity."

"By broadly defining 'same-sex marriage' as including all same-sex relationships, and targeting people who 'witness', 'aid' or 'abet' such relationships, the bill threatens the human rights of a large number of people,"

AMNÉSTY INTERNATIONAL

## Angola: Over 1000 Angolan Refugees Return From DR Congo

Mbanza Kongo — At least 1.040 Angolan refugees returned to the country from DR Congo, in the ambit of the voluntary and organised repatriation process of Angolan citizens living the neighbouring countries.

This was said to Angop on Wednesday by the director of welfare and social reintegration department of the northern Zaire province Madalena das Dores.

She explained that these nationals returned through bordering locality of Luvo.

It is estimated that until June 2012, about 43.000 Angolan refugees in DRC will return to the country.

## Algeria: Radical Islamist to create new party

Former presidential candidate in Algeria and radical Islamist Abdallah Djaballah is set to create a new political party, Algeria's national radio said on Saturday.

Djaballah announced on Friday the imminent creation of "national body" which would later form a party, to be baptised the Justice and Development Front.

The new party would base itself on "the culture of mutual aid and social justice" said Djaballah, who was beaten in presidential elections in 1999 and 2004 by current President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

He has already been at the helm of the Ennahda (Renaissance) Movement, which he formed in the early 1990s, and the National Reform Movement (MRN), both Islamist parties that he left after internal disagreements.

There was "no official response so far" to his application but the latest declarations from Algeria's Interior Minister Daho Ould Kabila were "encouraging", he said.

At the end of this month, Algeria's parliament is set to vote in a new law that would facilitate the creation of parties, one of a number of political and constitutional reforms President Abelaziz Bouteflika has promised before the end of January to strengthen democracy in Algeria.

Controversially though the law would ban ex-Islamic Salvation Front members -whose electoral success in 1991 led to civil war -- from forming a party.

Dozens of potential new parties are awaiting authorisation to form once the law is approved.

Islamist parties, such as Tunisia's Ennahda which won a majority of seats in an October 23 election to form a new constituent assembly, have been winning more influence across North Africa since the "Arab Spring" revolutions.

### African Newspapers' write...

# Nigeria: Ojukwu's body to tour four countries before burial

From the Nigerian Vanguard newspaper

STATESMEN are usually given state burial but former Biafran Leader, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, will get more than that. His body will be flown to three African countries and one American country before the final burial in his Nnewi country home, according to his will.

Anambra State Governor, Mr. Peter Obi, who gave the indication, yesterday, in Awka said that Odumegwu-Ojukwu listed where his body would be taken to before burial.

The countries are nations that supported the Biafran struggle and recognised Biafra as an independent state. They are Gabon, Tanzania, Ivory Coast and Haiti

At the end of the civil war, Ojukwu sought asylum in Ivory Coast from where he returned to Nigeria in 1982 when he was granted state pardon by former President Shehu Shagari

Obi who reiterated the determination of Nigerians to give the leader of the All Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA, a befitting burial, added that arrangements for the burial would soon be announced.

He said that government activities had been scaled down as a mark of respect for Ojukwu, adding that only very necessary activities would be taking place in the state.

Meanwhile, condolence registers have been opened in various places in Anambra State for people to record their feelings about the late Ikemba. An announcement in Awka named the places as the Government House, the state secretariat, the judiciary headquarters, the House of Assembly complex and all the 21 local government headquarters in the state.

This came as the Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra, MASSOB, declared seven-day mourning and rain of tributes for the late Ikemba Nnewi continued to pour yesterday. Among those, who eulogised Ojukwu were General Olusegun Obasanjo, Justice Dahiru Musdapher, Chief Edwin Clark, Major-General Adeyinka Adebayo, Alhaji Yusuf Ali, Governor Gabriel Suswam, Governor Adams Oshiomhole, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, TUC.

Ojukwu's death marks the end of an era - Obasanjo Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who went down memory lane on his relationship with Ojukwu, said: "It is with deep sadness that I received the news of the demise of my friend and colleague. He and I were sub-lieutnants in the army at Nigeria's independence in 1960. In a way, his death marks the end of an era in Nigeria."

Obasanjo also reminisced over discussions he had with Ojukwu before the latter's demise, noting that at several times, he discussed the possibility of an expression of remorse from Ojukwu "on the Nigerian civil war which in itself was a culmination of actions and reactions. I condole with his family and pray for the repose of his soul."

MASSOB declares 7-day mourning

Declaring a seven-day mourning for Ojukwu, MASSOB Leader, Chief Ralph Uwazuruike, said the mourning period would commence on December 1 during which Ndigbo all over the world were expected to offer prayers for the repose of Ojukwu's soul in the bosom of the Lord.

He said: "Ojukwu's death should not be used for politics. His death should be the basis for the unity of Ndigbo. We have to start the unity of Ndigbo from somewhere. With the death of Ojukwu the trouble of Ndigbo has come to an end. Let his

death unite us rather that using it to play politics." I did not expect him to die now - Obi Anambra State governor, Mr Peter Obi has said



Former rebel leader Odumegu Qiukwu, who died recently

that he did not expect Ojukwu's death on Saturday, noting that he was with the legendary Igbo leader the previous day. Obi, who was on President Goodluck Jonathan's entourage to France for an investors' forum said he had asked the president to permit him to break protocol so that he could go to London to see Ojukwu.

He said: "I spoke with him, he was fine. And I boarded a plane back to Nigeria. I was about boarding a plane to Enugu on arrival in Nigeria when I got a text message to the effect that Ojukwu had passed on. I now had to go in search of a flight back to London. I was not so lucky with BA but Virgin Atlantic did well although I had to pay a commission. So I got on that flight back to London. I just got back today."

# Where are the women?

#### **ANALYSIS**

By OSI in Johannesburg, South Africa

Botswana has been lauded as a true 'shining example of democracy in Africa', but when it comes to empowering women in politics the country is like most other African states. In fact it's even worse - with little improvement since independence in 1965.

While the number of women holding key positions in the private sector and government parastatals has increased over the years, the same cannot be said of the number of women holding positions in politics.

It is no surprise - although still shocking - that in the 2009 general elections, the country's two largest political parties, the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and the opposition Botswana National Front (BNF), each fielded just three female candidates even though there are 57 constituencies. The third largest party, the Botswana Congress Party (BCP), was slightly more progressive, putting up four female candidates!

And how did they fare? All seven female opposition candidates lost, while two of the ruling party's women candidates won. The president later nominated two more women to parliament, raising the number of female legislators to four - or just 6.6 percent of the seats in parliament.

At least there are more women representatives in local government. But even there, according to the Botswana Association of Local Authorities, women only account for 19 percent of positions.

And yet, more women participate in the elections than men. In 2009, 403,000 women registered to vote compared to just 320,000 men. It is also common for women in Botswana to be at the forefront of grassroots campaigns, singing and drumming up support and conducting door-to-door campaigns. So why do we have so few women in parliament and local government?

Despite Botswana's economic success and enviable developmental record, the country's riches have not trickled down to everyone, particularly women. Most women are still manacled by poverty, while income disparities between men and women make it difficult for women to even dream of running for public office.

The lack of income means that women would rather channel funds to raising kids, and supporting family members than 'wasting' the little they have on politics. In a country where political parties are not funded, the thought of going into politics without resources is not attractive. And the result of insufficient funds is plain for all to see - not a single female opposition candidate has one a seat in parliament since independence.

Botswana is still a fairly conservative society - and the general perception among Batswana is that a woman's place is in the kitchen and looking after the children. There is a lack of appreciation of the capacity of women to run for public office and ultimately lead. Tswana sayings - such as 'Ga di nke di e etelelwa pele ke manamagadi pele' (loosely translated, 'women would never lead') - do not make the situation any better.

Interestingly, most women voters subscribe to these cultural values and find it difficult to vote their fellow women into positions of power. Most female votes go to men not women. According to gender activists, most women candidates, who are married or staying with partners, are not allowed by their partners to campaign at night. The women, in most cases, are treated like children and rely heavily on their husbands for survival

Botswana is full of examples of capable women who handled political offices exceptionally well. Some of these women have contributed greatly to the success of the country. The country's first female MP and cabinet minister, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, was instrumental in shaping the country's foreign policy. Chiepe first became an MP in 1974 and resigned from active politics a quarter of a century later in 1999.

When Botswana really began to fight back against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Joy Phumaphi was the Minister of Health and was at the forefront of the battle. She showed amazing leadership. It was during her term as minister that the country - with the help of donor organisations - rolled out life-saving antiretroviral drugs. Phumaphi later joined the World Health Organization and then the World Bank as one of its vice presidents.

Botswana's first woman speaker of the national assembly, Dr Margaret Nasha, also demonstrated that women are more than capable of holding key political positions - and holding their own with their male colleagues.

And yet - they remain the very few exceptions to the male-dominated system.

Since 1965, the country's electoral system has always been first-past-the-post - a winner-takes-all system that has disadvantaged women and other marginalised groups. In a conservative country like Botswana it will always be difficult for a woman to win both the party primary and later the actual election.

Many commentators have called for electoral reforms, with the opposition and women activists calling for the introduction of a proportional representation (PR) system. PR means that the number of seats won by a party or group of candidates is proportionate to the number of votes received - and those seats are filled from a party list, which would include a larger number of women.

Many people argue that this system would ensure that marginalised groups are better represented in parliament - but the ruling party's position on electoral reform is clear, there won't be any changes in a near future.

SADC Gender Protocol

Botswana and Mauritius are the only two SADC countries that have not signed or ratified the SADC Gender protocol.

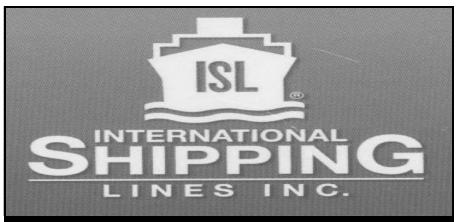
The protocol advances the cause of women in SADC. It covers constitutional and legal rights; governance; education and training; productive resources and employment; gender based violence; health and HIV/AIDS; peace building; and media, information and communication. Furthermore, the protocol calls on SADC states to adopt and implement legislative and other measures to eliminate all practices that negatively affect the fundamental rights of women and girls.

Botswana is touted around the world as a beacon of democracy and good governance but its failure to ratify the protocol exposes the country's dismal record in relation to women's rights. The country's refusal to sign really is scandalous.

And shows that the Botswana government is not genuinely committed to promoting and protecting the rights of half the population.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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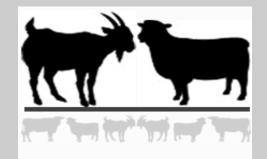
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## African papers....continued from page 7

## Uganda: Kony quits hi-tech tools, uses runners

From the Monitor in Kampala

Faced with special forces troops from the most sophisticated army in the world, Lord's Resistance Army rebel leader Joseph Kony has reportedly abandoned the use of radios and satellite phones to avoid being tracked and captured.

Instead Kony, whose insurgency goes way back to 1987, has turned to low-tech methods of communication like using human couriers to coordinate what is left of his fighting force in his hideouts somewhere in the vast jungles of Central Africa.

"He is now using runners to communicate to his fighters and this made the operations laborious especially tracking him down," says Lt. Col. Rugumayo, one of the senior Ugandan soldiers involved in the hunt for Kony and his remaining fighters.

"But we know LRA behaviours because of our historical engagements. That's why we follow and attack their positions." Despite having some of the best surveillance equipment, the US soldiers sent to assist in the hunt will have to use a bit of instinct when they hit the Central African jungles later this week.

The troops are here following a directive from the US President Barrack Obama to have some 100 commandos after a US legislation to help disarm the LRA and bring its leader to justice.

Despite operating in unfriendly environment, the overall commander of the operations, Col. Joseph Balikuddembe, said they have "depleted" LRA fighting capacity, adding that they will not rest unless the Uganda's most wanted man is dealt with.

A former LRA insider, Richard Komakech Abwola, currently camped at the UPDF base in Nzara said Kony was becoming less brutal to his fighters because of defections. "He has realised he doesn't need to be rude because life is hard," said Mr Abwola and that "some good fighters have run away because of pressure from the UPDF."

Second Lt. Leonard Tusiime, the commander of the UPDF 31 Battalion, said they killed three rebels and recovered two Micro-Galil, suspected to have been got from Guatemalan peacekeepers in DR Congo. It is suspected Kony had just ended a briefing.

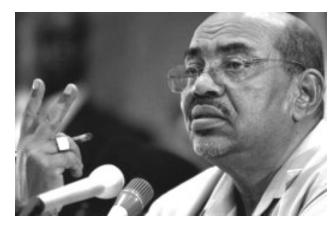
## Kenya: Country to appeal Bashir Arrest order

From the Daily Nation

Foreign Affairs minister Moses Wetangula has said the government will appeal a court ruling that directed the arrest of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir.

Mr Wetangula said Attorney General Githu Muigai will be requested to seek a reversal of Justice Nicholas Ombija Monday move to issue an arrest warrant for President Bashir, wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity committed in Darfur.

"Since our judicial system provides for right of appeal, we shall carefully look at the judgement with a view to requesting the At-



torney General to expeditiously prefer an appeal in the matter," said Mr Wetangula in a statement. He said that Kenya enjoys "excellent bilateral relations" with Sudan and that Khartoum's action to expel Kenya's Ambassador to Sudan Robert Mutua Ngesu "may have been prompted by the Sudanese Government's displeasure with the High Court ruling".

"Kenya does not, therefore, contemplate any retaliatory action," said Mr Wetangula.

He said the government was committed to ensuring that the ruling would hurt relations between the two states.

"The Government of Kenya therefore expresses its deep concern at the very unhelpful High Court ruling and will do everything within its powers to ensure that the ruling does not undermine in any way whatsoever the very cordial and fraternal relations that exist between Kenya and Sudan."

# Sudan: Darfuri refugees in Chad make demands

Radio Dabanga — Darfuri refugees in Jebel refugee camp in eastern Chad said on Thursday that they would agree to voluntary repatriation only when their conditions are met.

Security in their home towns, persecution of perpetrators in Darfur, disarmament of Janjaweed, expulsion of new settlers from their land, compensation at individual and collective levels and meeting basic services were some of the demands made by the refugees.

The meeting of Darfuri refugees in Jebel camp on Thursday included over 50 leaders from various camps in eaastern Chad, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the National Committee for Reception of Refugees (NCRR).

A sheikh (local leader) from Jebel camp Daood Abdul Rasool told Radio Dabanga that the representatives of refugees were asked some questions by the other participants. They were: would you agree for voluntary repatriation to Sudan, when do you wish to return, do you wish to return to your home town or other areas, do you wish to return to Sudan or stay in Chad or be resettled in a third country. After the meeting Daood assured the gathering that the refugees would not return to Sudan unless their conditions are met.

# Mauritius: Pick N Pay opens second store

In line with its aggressive African expansion plans, retailer Pick n Pay (PIK) on Friday, 28 October 2011, announced the opening of its second Mauritian store at Cascavelle in Mauritius.

The company opened its first Mauritian store in Bagatelle's Mall of Mauritius at the end of September and said one more store opening in the country was on the cards for 2012.

"We are set to continue along this expansion path in a planned and deliberate way," Pick n Pay's head of group enterprises, Dallas Langman said.

Pick n Pay's expansion into other Africa countries has been made easier with the establishment of a centralised distribution system.

The company was the last of the country's big grocers to roll out centralised distribution when it opened an expanded warehouse in Longmeadow in July.

Pick n Pay's strategy into Africa has mainly been through partnering with locals and the franchise route where local experts own the franchise in their own communities.

However, there are instances such as with stores in Zambia, where the company will develop corporate-owned stores.

The Mauritian stores will be run by franchisees who are familiar with the Mauritian market, providing Pick n Pay with further significant insight into this market, it said.

Mauritius has, in three decades, transformed from a mono-crop sugar dominated economy, to a services-orientated one, with a growth rate of 3% per annum.

According to the World Economic Forum's latest Global Competitiveness report the country was one of two sub-Saharan African economies in the top half of the Global Competiveness Index rankings.

Located off the southeast coast of the African continent, Mauritius is ranked 54th on the index this year, up one place since 2010, and is the second-highest ranked country in the region after SA.

"The country benefits from strong and transparent public institutions, with clear property rights, strong judicial independence, and an efficient government," the report noted.

Pick n Pay's expansion into Mauritius follows its first store opening in Mozambique in June and its second store opening in Zambia in March.

"We have received official notification from the Indigenisation Board of Zimbabwe that the purchase of a further 24% of the Zimbabwean operation TM Supermarkets, has been granted," Langman said.

He added that the company had expressed a strong interest in the new Mall of Zimbabwe and that its investment would be via TM Supermarkets. "It will be a Pick n Pay-branded store but our investment is still via TM Supermarkets," Langman noted

Earlier this month, Pick n Pay reported that headline earnings per share had plummeted to 54.7 cents for the six months to end-August, from 90.17 cents in 2010, on the back of start-up costs for its Smart Shopper loyalty programme and investment in its centralised distribution system - initiatives taken up by the group as part of its turnaround strategy in the face of increased competition.



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