

MEMORANDUM

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JACOB ZUMA SURVIVES, RAND FALLS SHARPLY

President Jacob Zuma has survived a motion of no confidence against him as ANC MPs closed ranks around their embattled leader on Tuesday.

Though the outcome was somewhat expected, given the ANC's vocal stance against voting with the opposition, the result underscored the depth of opposition Zuma faces within and outside the ANC as a number of the party's MPs voted in support of the motion.

The rand fell sharply within seconds of the announcement, losing 16c to trade at R13.36 to the dollar. After a long and laborious voting process via secret ballot, 177 MPs voted in favour of the motion, while 198 voted against it. A total of 384 MPs voted with nine MPs abstained. The tally suggests 26 ANC MPs voted in favour of the motion to remove their party's leader. The ANC enjoys a majority in Parliament with 249 of the 400 National Assembly seats; opposition parties have a combined 151 seats.

Despite intense lobbying by opposition parties, who were emboldened by National Assembly speaker Baleka Mbete's decision to allow the secret ballot, ANC MPs followed the party line choosing to retain Zuma as president of the country. Opposition parties had pushed for an anonymous, no-confidence vote to protect disgruntled ANC MPs who feared openly criticising Zuma, but under strict instructions from Luthuli House, the party's parliamentarians ultimately voted in support of the president.

Previous motions of no confidence brought by the opposition have been stifled by the ruling ANC. The latest motion had been tabled by the DA earlier in 2017 following Zuma's decision to fire then finance minister, Pravin Gordhan, and his deputy, Mcebisi Jonas, which sent the rand and markets into a tailspin. Zuma, dogged by scandals and declining popularity, has faced growing calls to step down, but ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu said that while the party was aware of its challenges under Zuma's leadership, it would not vote with the opposition to collapse the government, saying voting in support of the motion would further fracture and weaken the ANC.

All the ANC's top-six leaders, including Zuma and secretary-general Gwede Mantashe, had descended on Parliament ahead of the vote and met the party caucus in a last-minute attempt to make sure members voted to quash the motion. However, some defiant MPs, including former Ekurhuleni mayor Mondli Gungubele and Makhosi Khoza, had indicated they would support the motion.

Some within the ANC argued that under Zuma's leadership the party is falling apart and the country moving backwards. His decision to sack Gordhan had heaped more uncertainty onto an already faltering economy and prompted ratings agencies to downgrade the country to junk status. The Nkandla scandal had also cost the ANC, becoming a manifestation of rampant corruption and greed.

The state capture allegations led to calls for Zuma to resign. A collection of e-mail correspondence between the Gupta family and their associates, including Cabinet ministers and Zuma's son, Duduzane, also revealed how the Guptas have been influencing government operations and looting state-owned companies.

Defence of Zuma

During Tuesday's debate, ANC speakers came out strongly in defence of Zuma.

Opening the debate for the ruling party, deputy chief whip Doris Dlakude said the DA's motion was part of a regime-change agenda. "This motion is [the opposition's] publicly stated intention of regime change ... our individual and collective integrity must propel us to rise above political expediency. We know and trust our members not to betray their movement and the imperatives of our democracy."

She described the opposition as "hypocritical and devoid of integrity". "The DA disciplines its public representatives for voting with their conscience, yet it wanted ANC members to defy the ruling party's line."

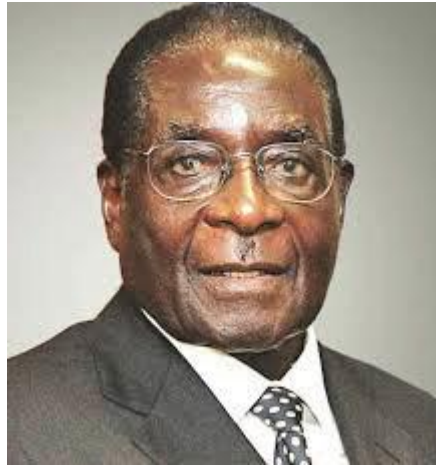
ANC MP Pule Mabe said: "Everything the DA does is guided by opportunism and desperation for fame. It is frivolous motion of no confidence ... [tantamount] to a coup d'état".

Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said the DA's motion was essentially meant to topple the ANC. "The only way the ANC can lose power is by way of a negative vote at the next general election ... we should not use other tactics to get rid of a governing party, that will be akin to a coup d'état ... I have a duty to defend the ANC."

DA leader Mmusi Maimane said history will judge the ANC harshly if it "does not do the right thing and vote to remove Zuma". (BD 08-08-2017)

MUGABE HOLDS BILATERAL TALKS WITH IRANIAN LEADER

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe met his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani in Tehran on Monday during which they discussed the strengthening of bilateral economic and political relations.



According to the state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation on Tuesday, the closed-door meeting held at the residence of the Iranian president focussed on implementation of the several bilateral agreements that have been signed by Harare and Tehran in the past.

The agreements include cooperation in the production of drugs for people suffering from HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe, as well as technology transfer by Iran.

The Iranian Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation entered into a partnership with the Harare Institute of Technology to set up facilities for the manufacturing of the immuno-modulator drug (IMOD) for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The IMOD, which was developed in Iran, helps boost the immune system for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Iran has also offered to transfer technology to Zimbabwe to assist the southern African country in its economic development. Such technology is in the fields of agriculture, industrialisation and information systems.

Both countries have common political challenges in that they have been placed under Western sanctions. (APA 08-08-2017)

ZUMA MAY HAVE SURVIVED, BUT HIS PRESIDENCY IS WOUNDED

In his final address to Parliament in the no confidence debate, DA leader Mmusi Maimane mangled the quote, but it was apposite nevertheless. He quoted liberal stalwart and PFP parliamentarian Helen Suzman, who once said in the days of National Party rule: "I can see a shiver running around these green benches looking for a spine to go up."

The colour of the benches might have changed (in the old parliament they were green, in the new parliament they are brown) but the challenge to the ruling party is comparable.

What Suzman was doing was to challenge her colleagues across the aisle to put aside their fears, their sense of history and their own positions, and vote in favour of what they knew to be the right thing: the reform of apartheid.

Like a writhing eel, the National Party prevaricated, rationalised, justified and turned away. And then, after years of political suppression and economic chaos that seemed endless, in one dramatic moment, it changed.

Maimane's task was similar. In a rare moment, he was seeking not necessarily to put his own party's point, but to reach into the inner psychology of his opponents in an effort to convince them to do what they know to be the right thing, but something they also know would put them at odds with their own party and their own colleagues.

Like its National Party predecessors, the ANC writhed and wriggled. ANC speakers claimed the motion was an attempt at "regime change" and a "coup d'etat", despite, as EFF and DA parliamentarians repeatedly pointed out, the fact that a vote of no confidence is a constitutionally mandated action. Obviously it would have political effects, but trying to win support is not a crime, it's politics.

The intellectual paucity of the ANC's rebuttal unwittingly underpinned the arguments of their opponents. The claim of a coup d'etat was not only outrageous but ridiculous. The ANC's difficulty — and why, in the end, it failed to grasp the historical moment — lies in its conception of itself. For many, perhaps most, ANC members, the party is more a mission than an intellectual construct. Membership of the party is an act of fealty, not a process of choosing among policy bouquets. The ANC talks of itself as a broad church, and perhaps precisely for that reason, it is held together by emotional bonds as much as it is by strictly rational processing.

But it is also held together by its status as the governing party. Parliamentarians might have voted the motion of no confidence down, but they did so looking over their shoulders. The ANC might have had several electoral shocks recently, but by voting the motion down, members are obviously confident enough that this particular crisis is not sufficiently pressing to threaten its electoral position, especially when the election is still a few years away. In that, the party is making a terrible strategic error; one that all parties with an overdeveloped sense of their own virtues tend to make.

So, where are we now? It's important to distinguish the facts from perceptions of facts. The president's supporters will argue that the president's position has in fact been strengthened. The vote, they will argue, was secret so the claim that MPs would be intimidated falls away. And yet, incredibly for the eighth time, Zuma has survived a no confidence vote. Surely no more are possible and his position is now immutable.

The contrary perception about the facts is, however, also valid. The president's detractors will argue that this vote was incredibly close, much closer than ever before, and much closer than most would have guessed. Somewhere around 30 ANC members voted in favour of the removal of their own president, something that has never happened before. This was in the face of huge pressure from the ANC whips to toe the line and the number was at the high end of estimates. These are not suggestions about arguments leaking out of closed meetings. These are concrete, undeniable numbers.

Perceptions and arguments aside, the fact of the matter is that the Zuma presidency is wounded and bleeding. For ANC members, once the initial relief at their victory has subsided, the truth will begin to dawn. The ANC is lumbered with a leader who has lost the ability lead. The economy remains weak, the administration remains uneven, the policy process has stalled and a bracing leadership battle looms. They should enjoy their moment of victory, because the future looks grinding. (BD 08-08-2017)

INDIA'S ESSAR PORTS TO BUILD US\$275M COAL TERMINAL IN MOZAMBIQUE

India's port company Essar Ports has signed a 30-year concession agreement with the Mozambican government to develop a new coal terminal at Beira port in Sofala province, according to media reports monitored here on Tuesday.



The deal forms part of a public private partnership project that will be executed on Design, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis through a subsidiary, New Coal Terminal Beira SA (NCTB SA), which is a joint venture between Ports and Railways Company of Mozambique and Essar Ports.

The project aims to increase the coal handling capacity of Mozambique, Essar said.

“We would like to congratulate the Government of Mozambique for this initiative and for partnering with Essar on such a prestigious national-level project. It will not only boost coal exports from Mozambique and strengthen its economy, but also deliver significant direct and indirect benefits,” Essar Ports chief executive and managing director Rajiv Agarwal said.

Mozambique is estimated to have reserves of over 23 billion tonnes of coal, which makes the country a major coal exporter that is well placed to cater to the international steel and power industries, especially in India, China, Japan and Korea.

The NCTB SA has dedicated rail connectivity to Mozambique’s coal mining belt in the Tete region.

The first phase of this project will be developed at a cost of close to US\$275 million and will entail developing dedicated berths, along with mechanized and environmentally-friendly systems, Essar added.

Essar Ports is an India-based port company which develops and operates ports and terminals. (APA 08-08-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA'S ZUMA SURVIVES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE

South African President Jacob Zuma has survived a secret vote of no confidence in the country’s parliament on Tuesday.



Zuma will continue as leader after MPs mainly of the African National Congress stuck to him despite a spirited campaign by the opposition Democratic Alliance to oust him through a secret ballot keenly followed by South Africans watching large screens showing the proceedings in parliament.

The secret ballot triggered by the opposition’s efforts to remove him from power for flouting the constitution, was held in secrecy for the first time, after National Speaker Baleta Mbeke ruled to that effect on Monday.

The no-confidence vote against Zuma was his ninth since he succeeded President Thabo Mbeki in 2008.

Previous efforts failed to oust Zuma from power because his African National Congress (ANC) party enjoys a strong majority in the House, thereby always out-voting the opposition.

Ahead of the vote, the ruling ANC warned its MPs that they would be committing “political suicide” if they voted with the opposition to remove Zuma from office.

The entire nation will be on edge as South Africans await the most anticipated political debate in the House since the end of apartheid, according to analysts taken by surprise at Mbete’s decision to hold the secret ballot to enable ANC members to vote without fear of being punished if they voted against Zuma.

Thousands of South Africans followed the proceedings in parliament with an air of suspense as MPs voted in secret ballot.(APA 08-08-2017)

GHANA'S FREE ZONES RECORDS \$2.3BN WORTH OF EXPORTS IN 2016

The Free Zones Board (FZB) of Ghana exported products worth \$2.3 billion for the year 2016, APA learns here on Tuesday.



According to statistics made available by the Finder newspaper, the board has been exporting an average of \$1.5 billion worth of products since its establishment in 1995, thereby resulting in a colossal amount of \$30.9 billion over two decades.

The sector was established to promote local industries and venture into manufacturing, agro-processing, mining and other economically viable ventures.

It also helps to create a conducive atmosphere for investments and currently has capital investment worth \$3.4 billion.

The free zones enclave has 201 companies that employ 30,357 workers, out of which 29,215 are Ghanaians.

The Chief Executive Officer of the board, Mr. Michael Okyere Baafi, has stated that the outfit was expanding its operations to cover more regions in the country. (APA 08-08-2017)

KENYANS TAKE NO CHANCES, HOARD FOOD AHEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The likelihood of disputed poll rises with rigging alerts

Nervous Kenyans stockpiled food and water on Monday and police prepared first emergency aid kits as families headed to their ethnic heartlands on the eve of an election many fear could descend into violence.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga, 72, who lost elections in 2007 and 2013, has already said President Uhuru Kenyatta, 55, can only win if his ruling Jubilee party rigs the vote, a stance that increases the chances of a disputed result and unrest.

Opinion polls before Tuesday's presidential election put the pair neck-and-neck. Kenyans will also be voting for members of parliament and local representatives.

In 2007, Odinga's call for street protests after problems with the vote count triggered a widespread campaign of ethnic violence in which 1,200 people lost their lives and 600,000 were displaced.

The violence also hammered East Africa's biggest economy as regional trade ground to a halt and tourists, the biggest source of foreign exchange, cancelled their holidays.

Much of the killing a decade ago was in Kisumu, a city of a million people, most of them from Odinga's Luo tribe, on the shores of Lake Victoria.

On Sunday, its open-air markets and shops were packed with customers stocking up on last-minute essentials.

"We are fearful because before, there was rigging and that led to violence," said orange seller Christine Okoth.

Wilson Njenga, a central government official overseeing the western region, said police had received disaster equipment including first aid and gloves, but insisted it was all part of normal contingency planning.

"We don't want to be caught flatfooted," he told reporters.

On the campaign trail last week, Odinga told Reuters that Kenyatta could not win without cheating, a message that has fired up supporters in his back yard. "If he doesn't win, we are going to the streets and we'll demonstrate," said 28-year-old Kisumu potato seller Ruth Achieng.

Deputy President William Ruto, who was charged along with Kenyatta by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for organising the 2007 violence, tweeted a prayer for peaceful and transparent polls. The ICC cases against both him and Kenyatta collapsed.

Going back to rural roots to vote is a long-standing Kenyan tradition, driven by a desire to catch up with friends and family as well as choose a suitable local political representative.

More recently, fear of unrest has become a factor.

In all, 150,000 security personnel including park rangers have been called up to maintain order across the country, including preventing demonstrations in hot spots immediately before or after the polls.

In Kisumu, where many people feel neglected by a central government led by a president from the Kikuyu ethnic group since 2002, county commissioner Mohamed Maalim told local media, protests close to election day were banned.

Rights groups say hate-speech has been notably absent from large public speeches in both campaigns, an important difference from 2007. (Reuters 08-08-2017)

SAUDI ACWA POWER TO ESTABLISH 3 SOLAR PROJECTS IN EGYPT

Saudi Arabian water and power project developer ACWA Power has been awarded three solar photovoltaic power projects by Egypt.



The projects will be built in Benban, under Egypt's Round 2 of the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) programme, the Saudi firm said in a statement on Tuesday.

Acwa Power will develop, finance, build, own, and operate the three projects with an aggregate capacity of 165.5 MW and total investment value of \$190 million.

Gamal Abd-Al Rehem, chairman of the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC), and Mohammad Abunayyan, chairman of Acwa Power, signed the power purchase agreement in the presence of Egypt's Prime Minister Sherif Ismail.

The projects, which are located in the Aswan Province in Benban, will have capacity to generate 67.5 MW, 70 MW and 28 MW individually.

The projects are expected to achieve financing and commence construction by the fourth quarter of this year.

Once the solar power plants start operations in 2018, they will power 80,000 houses while saving around 156,000 tonnes of CO2 a year, according to the statement. (08-08-2017)

LE FMI CONFIRME QUE BRAZZAVILLE LUI A CACHE UNE PARTIE DE SA DETTE



Le président congolais, Denis Sassou-Nguesso

Le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) a confirmé samedi que le Congo-Brazzaville lui avait caché une partie de sa dette publique lors de leurs discussions bilatérales en vue de parvenir à un programme d'aide et de réformes.

« La dette de la République du Congo est en effet plus forte que celle qui était mentionnée dans notre communiqué de presse à la fin du mois de mars 2017 », a indiqué à l'AFP un porte-parole du FMI, Ismaila Dieng, confirmant une information de Radio France Internationale (RFI).

« Cette nouvelle évaluation est basée sur des informations fournies par les autorités congolaises en juin », poursuit le porte-parole, mentionnant une dette publique représentant 117% du PIB contre le ratio de 77% avancé en mars par Brazzaville.

Une mission du FMI doit se rendre dans « les prochaines semaines » à Brazzaville pour poursuivre des discussions sur « un programme économique destiné à restaurer la stabilité macro-économique et ouvrir le chemin à la reprise économique ».

Ces discussions avec le FMI ont été initiées avec les autres pays d'Afrique centrale (Gabon, Guinée-Equatoriale, Cameroun, Tchad, Centrafrique) à l'issue d'un sommet à Yaoundé fin décembre en présence de la directrice générale du FMI Christine Lagarde.

Une dévaluation du franc CFA avait été écartée moyennant l'intervention du FMI dans ces pays frappés par la crise du pétrole.

Le FMI a ainsi accordé en juin un prêt de 642 millions de dollars au Gabon tout en demandant des « réformes », par exemple « pour accroître la mobilisation de recettes non pétrolières » ou pour « améliorer les marchés publics afin de réduire les contrats de gré à gré ».

« Les perspectives économiques à court terme du Gabon demeurent délicates, la croissance économique globale devant être modeste, aux alentours de 1%, en 2017 », a déclaré mercredi le FMI au terme d'une mission à Libreville. (JA 05-08-2017)

ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT USES POLISH CREDIT LINE TO PAY FOR WORK AT NEW LUANDA AIRPORT

The Angolan government will use US\$113 million from a credit line opened by Poland's BGK bank to award two work contracts for the new Luanda international airport under construction in the municipality of Icolo e Bengo 30 km from the capital, per the terms of a presidential order.

The first work contract, worth US\$93.3 million covers finishing and equipping the protocol section of the VIP terminal and the manufacture and supply of external infrastructures and equipment for the new airport. The second is worth US\$19.7 million and covers building and equipping the aeronautic training centre.

The presidential order authorises the transportation minister to sign the respective contracts with the companies Quenda Business Initiative and Cipro.

“The Finance Ministry is authorised to proceed to frame the aforementioned contracts in the scope of the financing programme with the credit line from Poland’s BGK bank and to create conditions to assure financial implementation of the respective work contracts,” the presidential order also specifies.

According to estimates by Lusa news agency, based on the sum of several contracts already signed, the cost of building Luanda’s new international airport has already surpassed US\$6.4 billion.

Construction of the airport, under way since 2004, was contracted to the China International Fund Limited company for US\$3.8 billion. The equipment to be supplied by the China National Aero-Technology International Engineering Corporation costs US\$1.4 billion.

A consortium led by China Hyway Group Limited was contracted in 2015 to build the railway branch line from the current Baía station on the Luanda Railroad to the new international airport (a total of 15 km) for US\$162.4 million plus US\$255 million for five stations.

Finally, the programme for construction and other work on road accesses to the new airport is assessed at US\$692.7 million, likewise involving Chinese companies. (09-08-2017)

AFRICA: IGAD MEMBER STATES APPROVE MEDICINE REGULATORY HARMONIZATION INITIATIVE

Home to about 266 million people the east and horn of Africa region is well known, among other things, for the large scale movement of people. In most cases the movement of the people is cross border.

The people usually carry various commodities while traveling across borders. Among the commodities they carry include medical products. But this mode of drug transaction is considered unsafe as it increases the vulnerability to substandard and falsified drugs.

Ethiopia, the epicenter of the region has felt the dangerous consequences of the cross border illegal drug trafficking and has been taking actions earlier. FMHACA, an authority in charge of the issues works in collaboration with the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority and Federal Police Commission to control the trafficking of pharmaceuticals in 17 customs checkpoints of the country, says Samson Abraham Public Relations and Communication Director with FMHACA.

For this end it has established a system where it can standardize drugs. Furthermore it has established excellence center.

Even though Ethiopia puts in place its own regulation and standards for medicine, it is likely to face challenges from the regional countries as IGAD member countries where the drugs are trafficked illegally do not have harmonious standards for the pharmaceutical supplies in their respective countries. Taking this into consideration Ethiopia took the initiative for the formation of regional level initiative in charge of standardizing pharmaceuticals in the region and controlling the movement of substandard and falsified drugs, according to Samson.

Established in 1986 to coordinate anti drought efforts of the region, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought (IGAD) has been working as an umbrella organization of countries of the region. It undertakes concerted activities of the region in political , economic and social spheres.

As part of its overall responsibility it has recently embarked up on coordinating the countries to formulate a proposal which aims to establish a regional level Medicine Regulatory Harmonization Initiative.

During a three day workshop that took place here in Addis Ababa from August 1-3 the medicine regulation harmonization initiative of IGAD has been approved by the member states and was welcome by donors and partners including the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO) and donor nations.

Speaking on behalf of IGAD Executive Secretary Fathia Alwan, Health and Social Development Acting Director of IGAD said the just approved proposal to establish medicines regulatory harmonization initiative is in line with IGAD Regional Strategic framework and Implementation Plan 2016-2020 that provides an overall guidance of how IGAD intends to deliver its mandate and incorporates the priorities given in the African Unions Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals.

The movement of substandard and falsified medical products and illegal trade in medicines in the region is mainly facilitated by the movement of people, she noted.

Alwan reiterated that the presence of unregulated substandard and falsified medical products and illegal trade in medicines circulating with in IGAD member states is a serious public health threat which must be prevented and controlled in order to spur confidence on our public health care systems and programs.

The IGAD-MRH initiative aims at harmonizing regulatory system, guideline and processes for regulation of medicines in accordance with internationally recognized standards in the coming five years.

WHO's Dr. Mike Ward said lack of health related infrastructure, shortage of qualified human and financial resources and lack of capacity to enforce regulatory provisions are some of the factors that hinder access to safe, efficacious, quality and affordable medicines.

Mike noted that the development of the project proposal is a critical milestone in the process of the establishment of harmonization program in the region and raised concern on the continuity of the support from member states and mobilization of the financial support for the implementation of proposal are vital.

He indicated that WHO attaches special importance to regional medicine regulatory harmonization initiatives as they reduce cost and time of regulatory activities, increase confidence in product safety, efficacy and quality, promote interdependence in regulatory decisions and in building regulatory capacity and ultimately improve access to medicines.

He finally indicated that WHO will continue providing technical guidance and support to the IGAD - MRH initiative.

The successful implementation of the initiative will not only to alleviate the illegal movement of drugs but also increase the availability of more options for medicine as all countries use uniform standards, according to Samson (The Ethiopian Tribune 08-08-2017)

ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZES GOLD TRADE

Four Angolan companies received on Tuesday in Luanda contracts from the Ministry of Geology and Mines granting them the right to commercialise gold extracted by artisanal producers in Angolan territory.

The companies are: Socassoma – Prestação de Serviços, Comércio Geral, Importação e Exportação; BY-AE Produção de Artigos de Joalheria; Alcra – Gestão e Participações; and TKE – Prestação de Serviços Mercantis.

Minister Francisco Queiroz said on the occasion that the appearance of companies with gold trading contracts is the first step in the organisation of small-scale production as a specific component of the gold exploitation value chain in the country.

Organised trading of gold from artisanal production also helps combat illegal possession of gold and its illegal export to other markets, without benefit for the country, Queiroz added.

The president of the Gold Agency, Moisés David, said that about 40 license requests had been received by the agency since it was established in 2014.

“The licensing of these companies means it should be possible to register and formalise the informal operators in the near term, and also to finish work associated to regulation of the gold market, specifically the legal system governing precious metals,” David said.

Illegal gold prospecting currently takes place mainly in Cabinda province, although there are reports of such activity in Cuanza Norte, Huíla and other regions of the country. (09-08-2019)

KENYAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS PEACEFUL; VIOLENCE FEARED OVER RESULTS

Kenyan officials were compiling the results early Wednesday after millions of Kenyans went to the polls to pick their next president, the culmination of a campaign dominated by concerns about the potential for vote-rigging and fears that the country would be plunged into violence once the winner was announced.

In the days leading to this year’s vote, fake news reports, candidates’ accusations of peddling hatred and electoral fraud, and [the killing of a top election official](#) cast further doubt on the fairness of the race between President Uhuru Kenyatta, 55, leader of the Jubilee Party, and [Raila Odinga](#), 72, a former prime minister who was making his fourth, and possibly last, bid for the presidency.

Early Wednesday, with more than 75 percent of the votes counted, the election commission’s website showed Mr. Kenyatta leading with just over 55 percent and Mr. Odinga with nearly 44 percent. But Mr. Odinga contended that the vote-counting process was flawed, and he disputed the partial results. “The system has failed,” he said, according to The Associated Press.

The election was carried out peacefully, and there were few technical glitches compared with the previous poll, in 2013, when voting machines were afflicted by widespread malfunctions. An election in 2007, widely believed to have been flawed, touched off bloodshed that left at least 1,300 people dead and 600,000 displaced.

Efforts were made to head off potential violence once voting ended: The electoral authorities used biometric technology to prevent fraud and to instill confidence; the two leading candidates made pleas for peace; and even [former President Barack Obama, whose father was born in the country, called on Kenyans to reject violence](#).

Most Kenyans say they do not want to see the kind of violence that nearly tipped the country into a civil war after the 2007 presidential election, and thousands have fled cities to avoid potential clashes. The police and troops were deployed to areas believed to be at risk of turning violent if there is a perception that the vote has been manipulated.

As voting wound down, voters and election observers were looking toward the next step: ensuring that ballots were properly counted, which was being done manually, and matched with the electronic data in an effort to ensure no ballot stuffing. Results are then sent to a national tallying center in Nairobi.

“The voting and tech side have so far been a success,” said Brian Manasseh, 23, an opposition party official assigned, along with other observers, to make sure there was no meddling.

“If something is wrong,” said his colleague, Felix Otieno, 22, “we will go to the judiciary. There is no need for fighting.”

Even so, just hours after polling stations opened, there were some signs of voting irregularities. Hundreds of voters discovered that their names were not on the register; there were reports that voting materials in some constituencies had not been delivered; and voting kits were not working properly in other areas.

One polling station had mixed up the password for its electronic voting system with one for a neighboring unit, causing delays, according to an election observer.

Kisumu, [Kenya](#)'s third-largest city, and the port city of Mombasa, the second-largest, were considered "hot spots," and both were eerily quiet in recent days because many residents left.

Shops were closed. Roads, usually jammed with traffic and pedestrians, were empty. In the Rift Valley, ethnic Luos and Luhyas, aligned with Mr. Odinga, headed farther west. Kikuyus, the base of support for Mr. Kenyatta, went east from Kisumu, a port city on Lake Victoria.

Kenyans, of whom more than half get their news from social media, according to Africa Check, lined up to vote while digesting the latest unverified news and opposition claims. Those cast the election in warlike terms: the police had been provided with body bags; hundreds of grenades had been transported in an aircraft on a "suspicious mission"; the government was secretly planning to switch off electronic devices used to identify voters.

"Are we going for war today or are we going for elections?" demanded Silas Owiti, 30, a voter in Kisumu and a youth leader for the National Super Alliance, the opposition umbrella group led by Mr. Odinga.

Mr. Owiti said he was skeptical that the elections would be credible, having already spotted the names of two dead people, both acquaintances, on the voting register. One died last November and the other two years ago, he said. "Kenya is sitting on a bombshell," he added. "If these elections don't reflect the majority of Kenyans, believe me, the bombshell will explode."

However, others said the voting had gone smoothly.

Joseph Obongo, a 28-year-old banker, was impressed by the process, which, he said, had taken three minutes at a polling station in Kisumu. "I gave my ID, then my thumbprint, and that was it," he said. "It's very difficult for the election to be rigged because everything is digitized."

Throughout his campaign, Mr. Odinga roused supporters by warning that the election could be stolen. He said he had been robbed of victory in the previous two contests. In 2013, Mr. Kenyatta won by a margin so tiny that Mr. Odinga sought unsuccessfully to have the Supreme Court invalidate the election.

Mr. Kenyatta and Mr. Odinga were virtually tied in recent polls. If no candidate crosses the 50 percent threshold, there will be a second round. Voters also cast ballots on Tuesday for members of Parliament, governors and local offices.

Given the tightness of the presidential race, the concerns expressed by Mr. Odinga increased the chances of opposition supporters protesting in the streets, followed by a crackdown by security forces. In 2007 and 2013, residents of Kisumu said they saw the police fire live ammunition into crowds of opposition supporters after the election.

Lagathe Naftali, an officer at the Kondele police station in Kisumu, said more than 600 police officers in uniform and in plainclothes had been deployed in the city. He expected violence to be contained this year. "We've taken protective measures," he said.

In 2013, there were "only 50 police officers," outnumbered by protesters, he said, many of whom went on a looting spree, burning and attacking shops. "There will be skirmishes and looting this time again," Officer Naftali said.

"They're good looters, you'll see," he added somewhat slyly. "I'm nervous."

Nearby, John Cox Lorionokou, who leads the local office of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission in Kisumu, said there were irregularities, including names that were missing from the

register, or names that had been entered twice and therefore struck from the database, “because the system thinks it wants to duplicate your identity.”

Of the 600,000 or so eligible voters in Kisumu, as many as 4,000 may not find their names on the register, Mr. Lorionokou said. But he was confident that the technology would ensure a free and transparent election.

Election officials, of whom 10,000 were in Kisumu, were better trained and prepared than in previous elections, Mr. Lorionokou said. Those who are caught helping to rig an election face jail time.

The commission has routinely been accused of helping the campaigns of both Mr. Kenyatta and Mr. Odinga.

“People here use anything and everything that will give them the ability to control the process if they can, whether by scaring or whatever you do,” Mr. Lorionokou said. “That’s what we have to fight all the time.” (NYT 08-08-2017)

ANGOLA TO ISSUE UP TO US\$2 BILLION IN EURO BONDS

The Angolan government plans to resume issuing debt in the form of Eurobonds, under a presidential order authorising the Finance Minister to place up to US\$2 billion to “improve the composition of the external debt portfolio.”

The presidential order specifies that the authorisation now granted derives from the need to begin work on gauging the eventual attraction of external financing by means of Republic of Angola government bonds.

The document recalls the successful operation in 2015 when Angola went ahead with a Eurobond issue that “helped establish a new and important channel of access to external financing.”

Angola debuted in Eurobond issuance in November 2015, raising US\$1.5 billion via a syndicate of banks led by the American Goldman Sachs International and including the German Deutsche Bank and the Chinese ICBC International.

The 2017 indebtedness plan envisages gross financing needs of 4.667 trillion kwanzas (US\$28 billion); 75 percent of that total is to be raised in the internal market. (09-08-2017)

UGANDA CHOOSES MULTI-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM TO BUILD NEW OIL REFINERY

Uganda chose a group that includes General Electric (GE) to build and operate a 60,000-barrels-a-day refinery that will process part of the crude extracted from fields being developed by Total and Tullow Oil Plc.

The Albertine Graben Refinery Consortium — which also includes Yaatra Ventures, Intracontinent Asset Holdings and Italy’s Saipem — was picked after a review of more than 40 companies, Uganda’s energy ministry said on Monday in a statement on its Facebook page.

The government expects to conclude a project framework agreement with the consortium over the next two months, the Kampala-based ministry said. Uganda has been seeking a new developer for the \$4bn facility since negotiations with groups led by Russia’s RT Global Resources and South Korea’s SK Engineering & Construction collapsed.

“The consortium has proposed to government a financing approach and a path to establish, develop and operate a commercially viable refinery company with a strategic benefit to the country and the region,”

the ministry said. "The oil refinery is expected to spur growth of petrochemical and other related industries in Uganda."

The facility in Hoima district will initially have a capacity of 30,000 barrels a day. It will be supplied from 2020 by fields with a 6.5-billion barrel resource being developed by Total, London-based Tullow and China's CNOOC.

While Uganda initially reserved 40% of the refinery for itself — with an option to sell part of that holding to regional countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi — it hasn't disclosed the share to be controlled by the consortium. Landlocked Uganda will build a refined-product pipeline from the oil fields to Kampala and a crude-export pipeline through neighbouring Tanzania. (Bloomberg 07-08-2017)

MUSEVENI EXHORTS EAST AFRICA TO CONSUME OWN PRODUCE

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has called on the East African Community member states to ensure the region produces and consumes its own goods to bolster the region's economy.



According to him, East African member states have been producing goods which they don't consume and consume goods which they don't produce.

Museveni was speaking in Tanga on Saturday during the launch of the \$3.5 billion Crude oil pipeline project.

The 1,443 kilometre pipeline will snake through Hoima in landlocked Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania which Kampala preferred to Kenya as an export corridor.

"We have been helping foreign countries like Japan, China to develop their economies by consuming their foods and services, but in return, they don't consume ours" the Ugandan leader claimed.

"On the side of exports, East Africa is exporting goods and services worth \$13.8 billion while we import goods and services from abroad worth \$33 billion" he said.

President Museveni said the construction of the crude oil pipeline will enable both Tanzanian and Ugandan produce their own fuel that will be used by the East African airline industries.

He said that it will ensure such regionally produced fuel is cheaper for consumers in East Africa.

He stressed that petrol, diesel, kerosene and aviation fuel will now be produced in East Africa, thereby creating job opportunities for the people of Uganda and Tanzania.

"This pipeline is not just for crude oil for Uganda, it is for the whole East African community, the oil is very essential for our economy as a region" he said.

The project is expected to commence on January next year and will be completed within three years.

At least 10, 000 jobs will be created at its early stage of construction and 1000 more when it is fully completed. (APA 06-08-2017)

UFM TO ORGANISE MAJOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE BUSINESS FORUM IN CAIRO IN OCTOBER

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is organising its first Energy and Climate Business Forum in Cairo in October, seeking to promote the role of the private sector in the field of renewable energies



The 'UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum: Releasing renewable energy opportunities in the Euro-Mediterranean Region' will take place on 18 October 2017, organised under the auspices of the Egyptian government, in cooperation with the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie, and the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions, and with financial support from the government of Sweden.

The event will bring together high-level government representatives from the UfM region, stakeholders, private sector investors, international financial institutions and successful investment cases, with the aim of identifying business opportunities and providing updated information and networking.

The Forum is in line with the UfM roadmap aiming to "foster regional cooperation in the energy sector (interconnections, interdependency, efficiency, renewable energy, energy mix)", and in direct articulation with the UfM Strategy for the private sector.

Private sector development is key to seizing existing business opportunities and fostering regional integration in the Mediterranean. The UfM seeks to promote investment and the development of a stronger private sector in the Mediterranean region in order to contribute to the economic development of the region. (UfM 08-08-2017)

NIGERIA AND INDONESIA SEEK TO DEEPEN TIES

Nigeria and Indonesia are to deepen bilateral relations, especially in the sharing of information on national planning and development as well as in trade and investment.



Mr. Udoma Udo Udoma, the Minister of Budget and National Planning, unveiled the plan in Abuja on Friday night when he received the Indonesian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Harry Purwanto.

Udoma said that both countries discussed areas of common interests and agreed that a more profound bilateral relationship would be beneficial to both countries, especially on a technical level.

Udoma said Nigeria valued its relationship with Indonesia and feels aligned with it because there was so much linking the countries aside belonging to the South South Cooperation,

The countries have oil and gas, colourful culture and tradition and other similarities in terms of challenges.

He said the drive by the Indonesian government to invest in various sectors of the Nigerian economy is much appreciated because it is coming at a time Nigeria is seeking to grow its economy along a diversified, sustainable and inclusive path.

He added that both countries had a lot to learn and benefit from each other, given their experiences.

Udoma said Nigeria appreciated the investments already made by Indonesian companies and would welcome more, especially in the areas of oil palm plantations and processing mills and manufacturing of small aircraft in Nigeria.

On the desire of the Asian country to expand its rice programme at home, to achieve self-sufficiency, Udoma said Nigeria was embarking on a similar programme and would benefit from experience sharing.

Earlier, Parwunto without giving figures said the initial Indonesian investments in Nigeria proved very successful. (APA 05-08-2017)

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The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), CIP,HTTC,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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