

MEMORANDUM

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KENYAN RERUN: DEATH THREATS AND DIVISION PUT POLL ON KNIFE'S EDGE

Death threats to top members of Kenya's electoral body are endangering preparations for a rerun of August's annulled presidential election, a senior official at the authority said.

The relatives of one administrator at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) fled the country after their lives were threatened, while chairman Wafula Chebukati made additional security arrangements for his family, said the official, who asked not to be identified citing personal safety reasons.

"The fact that there's a split at the IEBC and the fact that threats are being made to specific commissioners means we have external influences controlling the IEBC," said Dismas Mokua, an analyst at Nairobi-based risk-advisory firm Trintari.

"There's a very high risk that the wrangling between the commissioners and the external influences may compromise the ability of the IEBC to prepare a free, fair and credible election."

The election is scheduled for October 17.

The seven-member commission is split over issues including the removal of staff suspected of being complicit in the August 8 vote. The Supreme Court nullified the outcome of the ballot, the first time a presidential-election result has been legally overturned in Africa, after finding the commission committed unspecified "irregularities and illegalities" and failed to conduct the vote in line with the constitution.

There is a risk that if the commissioners are not able to tackle their differences there could be a repeat of violence triggered by a disputed 2007 election that left more than 1,100 people dead, the official said.

Growth slump

Following that election, economic growth slumped to 1.7% in 2008 from 7.1% a year earlier and the shilling plunged as much as 15% against the dollar.

Kenya is the world's biggest black-tea exporter and serves as an East African hub for companies including General Electric and Coca-Cola Co.

Chebukati did not answer his mobile phone when Bloomberg tried to contact him.

The declaration of President Uhuru Kenyatta as the winner of the vote sparked protests and led to clashes between security forces and opposition supporters in which 24 people died, said the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga has demanded sweeping changes at the commission, including the removal of CEO Ezra Chiloba before the rerun takes place. The ruling Jubilee Party has rejected any changes to the commission.

In a September 5 memorandum to Chiloba, Chebukati demanded to know why a user-name created in his name and without his consent had been used to log onto the electoral authority's computer system more than a thousand times. He also sought responses on why satellite phones distributed to constituencies for results transmission failed to work, along with the absence of security features on ballot papers and the failure of the IEBC's election-results transmission system.

Commissioners split

The split among the commissioners is preventing Chebukati from firing staff members complicit in the failed August vote, according to the official. The chairman does not have veto powers and has only two of the at least four commissioners needed to back his decisions, the official said.

The opposition alliance led by Odinga wants a "thorough, independent, transparent, end-to-end audit and quality assurance" of systems prior to the vote.

The electoral body will hire an international firm to conduct an independent audit of computer servers.

The audit and a detailed written judgment from the Supreme Court, due this week, could be used to remove staff complicit in the presidential election, the official said.

IEBC commissioners want the audit in order to know whether its servers were hacked, as alleged by the opposition, after the authority failed to comply with a Supreme Court order to open the servers to scrutiny, the official said.

The state of affairs means the commission may need divine intervention to pull Kenya back from the brink of a crisis while some commissioners have taken hard-line positions and may not realise the gravity of the situation, the official said.

"Kenya could still go ahead and hold an election in October, but not necessarily a credible one," said Emma Gordon, an analyst at Bath, England-based Verisk Maplecroft. (Bloomberg 19-09-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE ENERGY FUND PRESENTS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

The Mozambican Energy Fund (Funae) on Tuesday is scheduled to present a portfolio of renewable energy projects worth an estimated US\$500 million to help ensure that by 2030 the Mozambican population has full access to electricity, according to a statement issued on Monday in Maputo.

The statement cited by Mozambican state news agency AIM said the project portfolio provides for electrification through the use of solar and hydro sources, covering the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane (south), Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambézia (central Mozambique) and Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado (north of the country).

The project portfolio identifies potential sites for the implementation of projects based on "solar power, hydro power and/or combined (hybrid), taking into account the availability of energy resources in each location," said the statement, with the initiative, ensuring that within 15 years the Mozambican population will have access to electricity using models of systems outside the national grid, namely micro, mini-networks and small autonomous systems.

Last May, Funae and Portuguese group Galp Energia signed a partnership agreement for a project to set up photovoltaic systems in schools, health centres and communities in the provinces of Maputo, Sofala, Manica and Cabo Delgado provinces.

The initiative has an estimated budget of 40 million meticaís, with activities expected to take place over a period of two years.

From 2005 to 2014, more than 3.7 million Mozambicans living in rural areas benefitted from solar energy systems, including 201 towns, 669 schools, 623 health centres and 77 public buildings being electrified. (19-09-2017)

OPERATORS INVITED TO BID FOR ZAMBIA'S FOURTH MOBILE NETWORK LICENCE

Zambia is seeking bidders for a fourth mobile-network licence to take on operators including market leader MTN in the Southern African country, transport and communications minister Brian Mushimba said.

Last week, the ministry gave the go-ahead to the telecommunications regulator to start the process, he said in a recorded response to questions on Monday. The new carrier could be in place over the next 6-12 months and the country may even have capacity for a fifth operator, he said. The local unit of India's Bharti Airtel and state-owned Zamtel make up the current trio.

Communication costs in Zambia have been "rather on the high side", Mushimba said from Lusaka, the capital. "The market analysis that we have done supports the fact that we can have a fourth licensee and possibly a fifth and still the market will be profitable."

The upcoming auction represents a rare opportunity for international wireless carriers to expand in sub-Saharan Africa without making an acquisition. Slowing economic growth and falling tax revenue have limited the need for new providers, while Ethiopia is the only significant market that hasn't already opened up spectrum to private bidders. Some companies, including Airtel and Millicom International Cellular, have made a partial retreat by selling off country units.

Zambia had 12.4-million active mobile subscribers at the end of June, 10% more than a year before, according to data from the finance ministry. The country had 5.9-million internet users by the end of June, a 3% rise from the figure at the end of December. Almost all of these use mobile internet.

MTN Zambia had the country's largest market share of 48.3% in 2016, while Airtel Zambia had 41.4%, according to the finance ministry's economic report for that year. Zamtel had the smallest market share with 10.4% of mobile subscribers.

MTN is the continent's largest wireless operator by sales and customer numbers. (Bloomberg 19-09-2017)

JUBA FORMALIZES STEPS TO JOIN AFRICA'S FINANCE NETWORK

South Sudan has taken its first legal step toward joining two of the biggest continental banks after its interim parliament endorsed a move which will see the country boost trade and development collaboration with partners.



The ratification of the treaties of the African Export-Import Bank and the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank comes after the Chairperson of the Finance and Economic Planning Committee presented it to MPs on Friday.

“The house ratified the agreement for the Export and Import Bank and also the Trade and Development Bank; these two institutions are very important,” David Nailo Mayo said.

It will enable South Sudan acquire loans from the banks, he said.

He also said the importance of joining the two African Union institutions is to attract direct foreigner investments into the country.

Mayo said the country has to contribute some money to be a full member of the financial institutions.

“The subscriptions require for us is \$54 million which the country will have to pay for us to become a member” he revealed.

He said the subscription payment will done by installments lasting a period of one year.

The Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank commonly known as PTA Bank, is an African regional development financial institution established in 1985.

The bank’s mandate is to finance and foster trade, socio-economic development and regional economic integration across its member states.

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), is the foremost Pan-African multilateral financial institution devoted to financing and promoting intra- and extra-African trade.

It was established in October 1993 by African governments, African private and institutional investors, and non-African investors.

Since 1994, Afreximbank headquartered in Cairo, Egypt has approved almost \$35 billion in credit facilities for African businesses, including about \$4.5billion in 2014. (APA 16-09-2017)

AGRIBUSINESSES AND AFRICAN SMALLHOLDERS SEIZE US\$1 TRILLION FOOD MARKET: AASR

The recent Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) has demonstrated that the power of entrepreneurs and the free market is driving Africa’s economic growth from food production, with the food production in Africa expecting to reach more than US\$1 trillion per year by 2030

Africa should focus on SMEs and smallholder farmers for creating the high productivity jobs and sustainable economic The report has been launched at African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in held Cote d’Ivoire from 4-8 September 2017.

According to the report, agriculture will be Africa’s quiet revolution, with SMEs and smallholder farmers creating high productivity jobs and sustainable economic growth. More number of jobs has been created in lower paid and less productive services rather than in industry. Planned investments in the food system can created even more employment opportunities, said the report.



Commenting on this year's report findings, Dr Agnes Kalibata, president of the alliance for a green revolution in Africa (AGRA), said, "Africa has the latent natural resources, skills, human and land capacity to tip the balance of payments and move from importer to exporter by eating food made in Africa. This report shows us that agriculture involving an inclusive transformation that goes beyond the farm to agri-businesses will be Africa's surest and fastest path to that new level of prosperity."

Kalibata explained that in order to succeed, Africa requires an approach to link small farms to agribusinesses, creating extended food supply chains and employment opportunities.

The report has further highlighted the importance of domestic food production to meet the growing demand of the people. Currently, Africa relies on imports to meet the demand. According to the report, this presently amount to US\$35bn per year and is expected to cost US\$110bn by 2025, unless Africa improves its food productivity.

The report acknowledges the role of private sector for the transformation of food system. Peter Hazell, technical director of the report, stated, "Impressive value addition and employment is being created by SMEs along value chains in the form of increased agricultural trade, farm servicing, agro processing, urban retailing and food services. Large agribusinesses like seed companies, agro processors and supermarkets are also playing an increasing role in the food value chain in many regions."

The study has also said that government support is needed for stimulating and guiding the transition. Governments needs focus on creating infrastructure such as improving reliability of energy and water supplies, building more wholesale market spaces, promoting open regional trade, identifying and investing in first mover crops and introducing stricter standards for food safety and quality.

The report has further pointed points out the need for digital technology such as satellite tracking and big data to help to locate new high value agri-economic zones and smarter financing and food security polices, especially in the face of climate change.(African Farming 11-09-2017)

TOURISM GROWTH IN AFRICA OPENS UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOZAMBIQUE AND OTHER PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Tourism is growing significantly in Africa and Mozambique is one of the destinations that has benefited from the increase in the number of foreign tourists, according to figures released by the Euromonitor International consultancy.

The Euromonitor study shows that international arrivals to Africa are growing by 6.5% in 2017 so far, reaching 18.55 million, compared to 16.351 million in 2012, with the number of visitors continuing to grow sharply and expected to reach 25 million in 2022.

South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Cameroon, Mauritius and Tanzania accounted for 70% of international travel to sub-Saharan Africa, according to the study presented on the sidelines of the 41st Annual World Tourism Conference in Kigali , Rwanda.

The growth can be attributed, according to the consultancy, to better connections to the continent and the diversification of destinations and types of supply, within the various countries.

Tourism is a way for African countries to diversify their economic base, in addition to the extraction of natural resources, with countries such as Angola prioritising the development of the sector, which is important for increasing revenues and foreign currency income.

Developing and emerging countries are the “stars” of the 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report recently published by the World Economic Forum, which concludes that most of them “have significantly improved their performance since 2015” when the previous edition was published.

According to surveys by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), India will be the destination with the most growth in leisure travel between 2016 and 2026, followed by Angola, Uganda, Brunei, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Oman, Mozambique and Vietnam.

The tourism competitiveness report also highlights the sector’s great growth potential, in particular due to the expected growth of the world middle class by 2031 – an additional 3 billion people, most of them in China, India and emerging countries.

Mozambique is one of the countries with the best performance, eight places above 2015, in 122nd place.

“The strengths of Mozambican competitiveness for tourism and travel continue to be its natural resources and its very open visa policy. (...) Although there is still no natural attraction on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Mozambique has slightly increased its protected areas and has managed to improve knowledge of its extraordinary natural resources, from safari parks to beaches and virgin islands,” it said.

According to the World Economic Forum, Mozambican tourism potential is largely untapped, and investments in infrastructure, human resources and health and hygiene conditions are needed, which would enhance the competitiveness of the sector and the economy in general.

Cabo Verde climbed three places to 83rd place, with higher scores on the “air transport infrastructure” criteria (43rd, with the 2nd highest density of airports in relation to the size of the population), “Environmental sustainability” (44) and “price competitiveness” (49).

The Cape Verdean Government’s programme aims to be among the 30 most competitive countries in the world and among the five in Africa in terms of tourism by 2021.

Portugal is the best-placed Portuguese-speaking country in 14th place, one place above the 2015 list, followed by Brazil in 27th, which also rose one place. (18-09-2017)

SPAIN'S FCC TO BUILD \$320M WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN EGYPT



The New Cairo wastewater treatment plant built and operated by FCC Aqualia

FCC Aqualia, the water management subsidiary of Spain's FCC Group, has signed a \$320m contract for the design, building and operation of the Abu Rawash wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Cairo, Egypt.

Once completed the facility will treat 1.6 million cubic metres daily and serve more than six million people. The project will be delivered in collaboration with FCC Construcción.

FCC said the economic situation in Egypt necessitated changing a previous agreement with the Egyptian government, which involved a 20 year concession.

Egyptian contractor Orascom is part of the consortium, and the African Development Bank is financing project.

The contract includes a three-year operation and maintenance period. The initial agreement with the Egyptian government included an operating concession for 20 years but the economic situation in Egypt led the government to seek to maintain direct control of the scheme.

This is the third major project undertaken by FCC Aqualia in Egypt after it was chosen in 2010 to design, build, finance and operate for 20 years the New Cairo wastewater treatment plant (pictured). Located in the capital of Egypt, this was the first contract awarded in the country as a public private partnership (PPP). (GCR 15-09-2017)

WORLD BANK SUPPORTS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN CONGO

The World Bank and the Congolese government have co-financed the Project to Support the Improvement of Congo's Education System (PRAASED), designed to improve and strengthen school performance at the primary and secondary levels, the state-owned radio announced Monday in Brazzaville.



"The priority of this project is focused on rural areas and where the school yields are very low, especially marginalized groups such as poor children, disabled and indigenous children," said the source.

According to the World Bank's representation in Congo, this financing, which comes in a specific context, should help the country maintain support for the social sectors in order to avoid the deterioration of social indicators and to strengthen the foundations of economic growth in the longterm.

The Congolese Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Anatole Collinet Makosso, stressed that by concluding this project on the eve of the start of school with the World Bank, the government has set itself the ambition of meeting three education sector challenges, which consists of providing quality education for all, revising the school curricula and ensuring the credibility of diplomas through better organization of examinations.

This project succeeds the PREABASE (Basic Education Support Project), which was implemented from 2000 to 2013 with World Bank's financial support. (APA 18-09-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA COULD START NUCLEAR PROCUREMENT PROCESS AGAIN AS SOON AS NEXT MONTH

The chairperson of the Necsa, speaking at the World Nuclear Association conference in London, says the politicians just have 'to press the re-start button'

SA could re-start a procurement process for its nuclear expansion project as soon as next month, but the government still has to determine the exact timing, the chairperson of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) said on Friday.

SA is planning to build several new nuclear reactors with a combined capacity of 9,600MW, which could be one of the world's biggest nuclear deals in decades. The plans aim to help resolve the country's chronic power shortages.

The plans were disrupted this year when SA's High Court ruled that a nuclear co-operation pact with Russia was unlawful, after which the government started to draw up new pacts with countries with nuclear expertise. South African officials have made progress on the nuclear project since the court ruling, selecting potential sites for the new power stations, Necsa chairperson, Kelvin Kemm told Reuters.

Speaking on the sidelines of the World Nuclear Association conference in London, he said Eskom and Necsa were ready to proceed. "All that needs to happen is for the politicians to press the re-start button." Kemm said officials had sought the Department of Environmental Affairs' approval for one of the sites, at Thyspunt in the Eastern Cape, and approval could be granted in the next couple of months. The next step would probably be for SA to issue a request for proposal to the world's top nuclear reactor firms, all of which had responded to the government's previous request for information (RFI), he said, adding he did not see the need for a new RFI after the ruling.

Nuclear reactor makers, including Russia's Rosatom, South Korea's Kepco, France's EDF and Areva, Toshiba-owned Westinghouse and China's CGN are eyeing the South African project, which could be worth tens of billions of dollars.

A senior executive from Russian state firm Rosatom told Reuters on Thursday his firm was keen to win the contract and was ready to use a business model suitable to SA.

South African officials say the nuclear project, which is backed by President Jacob Zuma, is needed to help ensure stable power supplies and diversify the country's energy mix. Zuma's opponents have said the project could be used as a conduit for corruption, a charge the president and officials deny. Some investors say the project is too big and expensive for a developing economy, such as SA.

Kemm said all top nuclear reactor makers were still in the running for the project and that he hoped a firm contract with a foreign partner would be signed next year. SA aimed to achieve 50% local input to the project to lift the economy, he said, adding that ordering several plants at once should help bring down costs. (Reuters 15-09-2017)

IATA ADMITS NIGERIAN CARRIER AIR PEACE

A Nigerian carrier, Air Peace has been admitted as a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), few months after securing its Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certificate.

A statement by Air Peace on Sunday quoted the Director General of the IATA, Alexandre de Juniac, as saying that the organisation was pleased to have Air Peace as its member and assured Air Peace Chairman Allen Onyema that the global aviation body was focused on creating the right atmosphere for safe air services.

"Our vision is to be the force for value creation and innovation driving a safe, secure and profitable air transport industry that sustainably connects and enriches our world," Juniac said.

The airline noted that its admission into the global air transport body was a heart-warming development, coming at a time it was deepening the quality of its flight services and expanding its operations to seamlessly connect more local, regional and international destinations.

"The Chairman promised that the airline's membership of IATA would expand its space to continue to deliver exceptional flight services in Nigeria and energise its drive to connect more countries in the West Coast of Africa.



"As an airline irrevocably committed to excellent customer service and safe flight operations, we are ready and willing to exploit all the opportunities provided by our membership of IATA to deliver the best flight experience to our numerous guests," he said.

He noted that the membership will aid the launch of its flight operations to London, Atlanta, Dubai, Guangzhou-China, Mumbai and Johannesburg and that the airline is delighted to be part of the "reputable IATA". (APA 18-09-2017)

EGYPT IS TRYING TO GET THE TOURISTS BACK TO SEE THE PYRAMIDS AFTER YEARS OF SECURITY FEARS

For generations, Mohammed Ahmed's family made a living offering tourists visiting the Egyptian pyramids in Giza a ride on their gaily decorated horses. But in the years since the Arab Spring uprising in 2011, as arrivals dwindled from over 14 million in 2010 to just 9 million in 2015, Ahmed experienced a change of fortune. Fierce competition arose among the horsemen—and camel owners—for customers, and whatever fees and baksheesh they collected were not enough to pay bills or save for another day. "It's been very tough for us," Ahmed said on a recent sunny afternoon while eyeing a group of Chinese tourists alighting from a tour bus. "You cannot imagine how life has changed."

For decades, Egypt was the [main draw](#) for international tourists visiting North Africa. But the country's tourism industry has suffered a critical blow following a string of political misfortunes, a major airline disaster, terrorist attacks, and church bombings. The failed revolution of 2011 and the military's violent reassertion of power dampened growth in the sector, sent tourists packing, and turned luxury resorts into abandoned "[ghost hotels](#)." At one point in 2013, the political upheaval in the country [was costing](#) the tourism sector \$400 million in monthly revenues, according to estimates from JP Morgan analysts.

The situation was exacerbated in 2015 after the Islamic State took responsibility [for downing](#) a Russian airliner over Sinai, killing all 224 people—most of them tourists—on board. Russia put an indefinite ban on all air travel to Egypt, while a number of European airlines and governments placed flight restrictions over security concerns. Terrorists also stabbed tourists in the Red Sea town of Hurghada, and gunmen [opened fire](#) on a tourist bus in Cairo. Deadly [attacks on churches](#) in the bustling seaport of Alexandria and the city of Tanta also put a dent on Egypt's image as a favorite tourist destination.

Egypt's ancient sites, museums, and parks have also experienced trouble, with several of them looted, deserted and artifacts stolen. A car bombing also [damaged the façade](#) and exhibits at the Museum of Islamic Art in 2014, forcing it to close for up to two years.

The Aquarium Grotto Garden in Cairo, which was once home to a rare collection of African fishes, is now almost empty. On a recent visit, most of the water tanks were devoid of any aquatic life, and couples strolled in the grotto caves strewn with garbage and Cola cans.

All these negative trends have coalesced to harm tourism, [significantly reducing](#) international flight bookings to Egypt, and pushing visitors to look to countries like Spain as [alternative holidaying](#) destinations. The low number of inbound tourists has also affected the economy, which looks to the sector as a crucial source of hard currency. To augment this and to secure funding for research and

restoration activities, the government [increased ticket prices](#) to enter these parks and museums. Egypt's government also [received](#) a three-year, \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund and devalued its currency by almost half against the dollars in order to combat the severe economic crisis. For ordinary citizens like Ahmed, the devalued Egyptian pound has meant rising inflation rates and a weak purchasing power. "The currency means nothing," Ahmed said. "You get it, you spend it, and then you have none of it."

Glimmer of hope

For the first time since the uprising, the government believes the number of tourists visiting Egypt in 2017 [could come close](#) to the levels seen before the 2011 revolution.

To stimulate growth, Egypt has been [offering incentives](#) and reducing levies for airlines and tour operators in order to bring more tourists into the country. The government, pressed hard with [security reforms](#), has spent millions of dollars upgrading security at its airports. Officials have also publicized the [high-profile visits](#) by Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel and Hollywood star [Will Smith](#) to the pyramids as a way to boost the sagging tourism sector.

The government also launched a campaign dubbed [Wahashtouna](#) ("We have missed you" in Arabic) in order to attract more visitors from the Arabian Gulf. These Arab visitors have [continued to boost](#) hotel bookings in key tourist cities like Cairo, Hurghada, Sharm El Sheikh, and Alexandria, according to estate agency, Colliers International.

But before the tourism sector can revive from its current slump, its sluggish growth will continue to harm many people who depend on it for income. These include small hotel owners, tour guides, drivers, and souvenir shop owners who benefit from the streaming flock of tourists. Hossam Abdullahi, who had his horse-drawn carriage by the Sphinx, says he's however optimistic about the future. "It's going to take a long time before everything is fine," Abdullahi said, "but we are patient. And the good days will come back God-willing."(Quartz 15-09-2017)

MAPUTO COMBINED-CYCLE THERMAL POWER PLANT TO START OPERATING IN AUGUST 2018

The Maputo Combined Cycle Thermolectric Plant is expected to start operating in full in August 2018, after the first fuel is burned in January of that year, the director of Production Services of Mozambique's state electricity company, EdM.

Narendra Gulab, speaking during a visit to the construction site by the Japanese ambassador to Mozambique, Toshio Ikeda, said the first tests of the equipment for gas supply and the compressors, should begin in December.

The facility, located in the Luís Cabral neighbourhood of Maputo, is the first combined cycle plant in the country and in southern Africa, and will produce 106 megawatts of electricity from natural gas extracted from Pande and Temane in the province of Inhambane.

The project has an estimated cost of US\$180 million, of which US\$167 million will be provided by the Japanese government through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the remaining US\$13 million by EdM from its own funds.

The loan will be paid back over 40 years, with a grace period of 10 years, at an annual interest rate of 0.01%, according to information released at the time and quoted by daily newspaper Notícias.

The power plant project, along with a project to recover the Mavuzi and Chicamba hydroelectric plants, in the central province of Manica, will help to diversify energy sources and increase EDM's production capacity from 206 megawatts to around 315 megawatts from mid-2018. (19-09-2017)

ETHIOPIA'S TENSE ETHNIC FEDERALISM IS BEING TESTED AGAIN

The federal republic of Ethiopia is one of Africa's most daring constitutional experiments. The radical idea—that by institutionalizing ethnic divisions the country might peacefully overcome them—was a gamble from the outset. The doubters have largely been proven wrong: Ethiopia's distinct model of ethnically-based federalism has, since it was introduced in 1995, just about worked. But a particularly nasty spate of violence along a long-contested regional boundary has alarm bells ringing once again. Reports emerged this week of deadly clashes between ethnic Oromos and ethnic Somalis in the country's dry and mainly pastoralist south-east. [More than 30 people](#) are estimated to have been killed in the town of Awaday on Sept. 11. Protest followed, during which at least [two people died](#). At least [600 were displaced](#) following clashes (some say far more), and are now sheltering around the city of Harar. Local militia and police, including the controversial [Somali special forces](#) known as the *Liyu* and accused by [Human Rights Watch](#) of human rights abuses, are thought to have been involved in the violence. The government in Addis Ababa, the capital, [confirmed](#) the national army had been sent into restore order.

This is not new: the two regions have been competing for territory since the birth of the federal republic. And sporadic violence all along the border between Ethiopia's two largest states has been [reported](#) for several months. A [tax strike](#) in several Oromia towns in August also included an end to "the Somali invasion of Oromia" among its demands. Earlier in the year several hundred were reported dead following [weeks of unrest](#), prompting the federal government to broker a [short-lived peace agreement](#) between the two regional presidents in April.

Nonetheless the latest incidents contain signs of some worrying trends. The two regional governments have exchanged increasingly inflammatory rhetoric, with spokesmen on either side accusing the other of conspiring with terrorist groups and foreign mercenaries. On Sept. 13 an Oromo spokesman [claimed](#) its police had in custody a member of the armed forces of neighbouring Somalia; this prompted a swirl of conspiracies on social media, including a part-related theory that Islamists from central Somalia had been recruited by the Ethiopian government to wage war on the Oromos. A Somali spokesman, meanwhile, accused his counterpart of being a sympathiser of the banned Oromo Liberation Front (considered a terrorist group by the Ethiopian government).

The large number of displaced civilians is an especially bad sign. "This is the worst story we've ever heard," says a local academic, who asked not to be named. "These are townspeople far from the border areas being chased out of their neighbourhoods. It sounds like ethnic cleansing."

There is a widespread belief, especially among Oromos, that the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), is behind the violence. Anger and distrust reaches back years—exacerbated by the brutal suppression of [anti-government protests last year](#)—and many believe that the EPRDF, dominated by a small group of ethnic Tigrayans, has an interest in keeping Oromia, home to more than a third of the population, weak and unstable.

Most experts are doubtful of this, though some note that the EPRDF's role in arming and training the *liyu* police has aggravated the situation. This is a murky and poorly understood conflict. Where the government is certainly at fault, says the academic, is that for too long it has failed to keep the peace in this tense part of the country. "Each time the question is the same: where is the federal government?" (Quartz 15-09-2017)

MOZAMBICAN FARMERS HAMPERED BY INDIAN DECISION TO LIMIT PULSES IMPORTS

India's decision to freeze imports of some types of pulses to protect local production prices has meant that a number of farmers in Mozambique have run out of markets to export their produce, according to Mozambican newspaper Notícias.

The newspaper wrote that more than 300 tonnes of Boer beans produced in the current agricultural campaign in the districts of Ancuabe, Montepuez, Chiúre, Balama and Namuno, in the south of the Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, run the risk of deteriorating because they have no market in which to be sold.

As a result of the Indian government's decision, the buying price for pulses producers has been declining in recent days, falling from 60 meticaís per kilo to 15 meticaís (each US dollar is worth over 61 meticaís) at the moment.

Ansumane Tawacali, one of the rural farmers affected by the lack of market for his produce, told Notícias that current prices do not cover the work it takes to produce the goods and it is necessary to solve the problem of the market and offer a fair price to the producers.

Vasco Mondlane, of the Promer (Agricultural Markets Promotion) project, said there was a problem with a lack of markets, in Cabo Delgado, to sell all the produce from the current campaign, particularly Boer beans.

Mondlane said that the purchase prices of agricultural products had fallen significantly due both to the increase in supply and the limitation on the export of Boer beans to India, which until now had been the main market. (19-09-2017)

EAT, PRAY, LIVE: THE LAGOS MEGACHURCHES BUILDING THEIR VERY OWN CITIES

Redemption Camp has 5,000 houses, roads, rubbish collection, police, supermarkets, banks, a fun fair, a post office – even a 25 megawatt power plant. In Nigeria, the line between church and city is rapidly vanishing

“Ha-lleluuuu-jah,” booms the distinctive voice of Pastor Enoch Adeboye, also known as the general overseer.

The sound comes out through thousands of loudspeakers planted in every corner of [Redemption Camp](#). Market shoppers pause their haggling, and worshippers – some of whom have been sleeping on mats in this giant auditorium for days – stop brushing their teeth to join in the reply.

Hallelujah is the theme for this year's [Holy Ghost convention](#) at one of Nigeria's biggest megachurches, and all week the word echoes among the millions of people attending.

As evening falls on Friday, Adeboye, a church celebrity, is soon to take the stage at his vast new auditorium to give the convention's last, three-hour sermon. Helicopters land next to the 3 sq km edifice, delivering Nigeria's rich and powerful to what promises to be the night of the year.

Thousands of worshippers surge up the hill towards the gleaming warehouse. Shiny SUVs, shabby Toyota Corollas and packed yellow buses choke the expressway all the way from Lagos, 30 miles away.

The congregation prays during the Redeem Christian Church of God's annual Holy Ghost convention. But not everyone has to brave the traffic. Many of those making their way to the auditorium now live just around the corner. The Redeemed Christian Church of God's international headquarters in Ogun state has been transformed from a mere megachurch to an entire neighbourhood, with departments anticipating its members' every practical as well as spiritual need.

A 25-megawatt power plant with gas piped in from the Nigerian capital serves the 5,000 private homes on site, 500 of them built by the church's construction company. New housing estates are springing up every few months where thick palm forests grew just a few years ago. Education is provided, from creche to university level. The Redemption Camp health centre has an emergency unit and a maternity ward.

On Holiness Avenue, a branch of Tantaliser's fast food chain does a brisk trade. There is an on-site post office, a supermarket, a dozen banks, furniture makers and mechanics' workshops. An aerodrome and a polytechnic are in the works.

And in case the children get bored, there is a funfair with a ferris wheel.

Set up 30 years ago as a base for the church's annual mass meets, as well as their monthly gatherings, Redemption Camp has become a permanent home for many of its followers. “The camp is becoming a city,” says Olaitan Olubiyi, one of the church's pastors in whose offices Dove TV, the church television channel, is permanently playing.

Throughout southern Nigeria, the landscape is permeated by [Christianity](#) of one kind or another.

Billboards showing couples staring lovingly into each other's eyes, which appear at first glance to be advertising clothes or condoms, turn out to be for a pentecostal church. Taxi drivers play knock-off CDs of their favourite pastor's sermons on repeat, memorising salient lines.

“I’m a Winner,” read the bumper stickers that adorn the fancier cars, declaring their owners’ allegiance to Winners’ Chapel, a grand white megachurch whose base, Canaanland in the Ota region, is all neat fences and manicured lawns.

“Where I’m from, people long for tractors to farm with. Here they just use them to cut grass,” exclaims one visitor, driving through Heaven’s Gate. It is a world away from the throng of people, fumes and rubbish outside.

Canaanland has banks, businesses, a university and a petrol station – one of a number of churches beginning to offer these services.

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But none can match Redemption Camp for scale. Daddy GO – as the charismatic Adebayo is affectionately known by his followers – has been perfecting the package for the past decade.

“If you wait for the government, it won’t get done,” says Olubiyi. So the camp relies on the government for very little – it builds its own roads, collects its own rubbish, and organises its own sewerage systems. And being well out of Lagos, like the other megachurches’ camps, means that it has little to do with municipal authorities. Government officials can check that the church is complying with regulations, but they are expected to report to the camp’s relevant office. Sometimes, according to the head of the power plant, the government sends the technicians running its own stations to learn from them.

There is a police station on site, which occasionally deals with a death or the disappearance of a child, but the camp’s security is mostly provided by its small army of private guards in blue uniforms. They direct traffic, deal with crowd control, and stop children who haven’t paid for the wristband from going into Emmanuel Park – home to the aforementioned ferris wheel.

Comfort Oluwatuyi is a food trader in the Redemption Camp market. She says she pays a very low rent for her little lock-up shop and can make up to 10,000 naira a day in profit – much more when a convention is on. The market formed seven years ago, when women in the camp petitioned “Mummy GO” – Adebayo’s wife, Foluke – to build it so they would not have to cross the eight-lane expressway every time they needed some tomatoes.

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Oluwatuyi’s 10-year-old daughter, Emmanuelle, helps her pour palm oil into plastic bottles and stack potatoes in tin dishes. Emmanuelle and all her siblings were born here. “It’s quite possible for a child to be born in this camp, grow up and be educated here, and then live here,” Pastor Olubiyi says.

Outside the Holy Ghost convention, Redemption Camp has the peaceful surroundings and conveniences of a retirement village – in large part because the power plant, fed by its own gas pipeline from Lagos, removes the need for the constant thrum of diesel generators.

“My generator is on vacation. In the morning, I can hear the birds sing,” says Kayode Olaitan, a retired engineer who moved his family here from Lekki, one of Lagos’ most upmarket areas, two weeks ago. He loads his pink-frocked granddaughter into the car, ready to drive to the all-night service.

Olaitan’s neat £78,000 bungalow has been built on what used to be a swamp. Workmen are scraping up concrete from the paving slabs, putting the finishing touches to the 75 identikit houses on Haggai Estate Nine.

Haggai, the church’s property developer, is named after the prophet who commanded Jews to build the second temple of Jerusalem. Almost all the houses on Nine have been sold, and Haggai is about to move on to Estate Ten. There is no perimeter wall around Redemption Camp, so it can expand indefinitely.

It’s quite possible for a child to be born in this camp, grow up and be educated here, and then live here
Pastor Olubiyi

Mortgages are arranged through Haggai bank, headquartered in Lagos. There has been a knock-on effect on surrounding areas: in some cases, the price of land near Redeemed Camp has increased tenfold over the past decade.

For years, people have owned houses here to stay over after conventions and the monthly services. But increasingly, families like the Oliatans find themselves wanting to live full-time with people who share their values, in a place run by people they feel they can trust. “We feel we’re living in God’s presence all the time. A few days ago, Daddy GO took a prayer walk around here,” Oliatan says.

While you have to be a Christian and a church member to buy and live on site, there is no such requirement for doing business. The FCMB bank is one such business that has set up shop here, with bright white mock-Corinthian columns installed just behind the auditorium.

Outside, a young woman in elaborate sunglasses and a polo shirt with “MILLIONAIRE” emblazoned on the chest has persuaded Tayo Adunmo to open an account. The bank employee is normally based in Lagos, but has been at Redemption Camp for Holy Ghost week, and says she has signed up 500 people already.

Adunmo already has a bank account, but decided to open another because the minimum withdrawal amount is 200 naira (about 55p) – a fifth of the minimum at her current bank. She’d love to live in the camp, she says, but can’t afford it unless she finds work there.

Like all the other businesses on site, banks are attracted by the infrastructure and the sheer numbers in attendance – it’s like having a stall at a music festival. But the tentacles of the Redeemed Christian Church of God reach much further: it says it has five million members in Nigeria, and more at its branches in 198 other countries. “It’s in virtually every town in [Nigeria](#), and that means some business,” Olubiya says. “Anywhere you have two million people congregating, banks are interested.”

This also means business for the church, of course. Daddy GO’s private jets don’t appear out of thin air, though there is plenty of cash flowing in from collection plates – which these days are often just card machines.

Religious institutions are tax-exempt in Nigeria. Redeemed authorities say that its income-generating arms pay tax, but it is hard to say where these end and the church begins. In any case, the church has powerful members, so it would take a brave tax-collector to look deeply into its finances.

Pastor Adeboye, the general overseer of the Redeem Christian Church of God, is projected live on big screens during the annual convention

In fact, Daddy GO is a former mathematics lecturer, and has clearly not lost his head for figures. He is constantly dreaming up new enterprises – including a printing press, hundreds of holiday chalets on the site and a church-owned window manufacturer, which imports the components from China and assembles them to sell or use in camp projects.

“This is our peak period. We have produced 200,000 copies of different books and magazines in the past three months,” says Ben Ayanda, head of Redeemed’s press, dressed in a bright yellow and green tunic and matching trousers.

He plucks Daddy GO’s Gems of Wisdom Part V from a pile of papers. “If you bring anything less than the tithe of *all*, you miss the blessings because He is very good in mathematics,” one line reads. (Guardian 11-09-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE’S BANKS ARE DEPENDENT ON THE STATE TO GROW

Mozambique’s banking sector has become reliant on loans to the public sector to maintain growth due to the economic environment created by the state’s financial default in 2016, according to consultancy BMI Research.

In a note on the financial sector sent to analysts, the Fitch group consultancy adds that this is because “the government has increasingly been kept away from international markets following the disclosure of hidden debts and subsequent financial default.”

With limited access to external financing, the government has increasingly relied on national banks for credit, BMI said, adding that this is unlikely to be a sustainable growth model for banks.

BMI Research added that credit provided by banks to the government through the purchase of public debt securities saw annual growth of 19.1% on average, compared with an average increase of just 4.1% in public credit to companies and individuals.

“This model is not sustainable beyond 2018, given that the agreement that the government may sign with the International Monetary Fund will require a reduction of public debt,” said the BMI Research report, quoted by the Lusa news agency.

The consultancy also noted that potential IMF loans have a lower interest rate and will eventually replace the role of the Mozambican banking sector as a State creditor. (19-09-2017)

U.S. SLAPS VISA SANCTIONS ON 4 NATIONS

The U.S. imposed visa sanctions on four countries that refuse to accept deported nationals, the Homeland Security Department said Wednesday.

The four countries are Cambodia, Eritrea, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. They are being sanctioned “due to lack of cooperation” on deportations, according to DHS.

The most severe sanction — a pause in the issuance of B visas for business and tourism — will be leveled against Eritrea. In Cambodia, high-level government officials and their immediate family members will be denied access to business and tourism travel.

In Guinea, the issuance of student and cultural exchange visas to certain government officials and family members will be suspended, along with B visas. In Sierra Leone, officials in the country’s foreign ministry and immigration offices will be denied business and tourist visas.

An executive order [signed](#) in January by President Donald Trump directed the Secretary of State to enter negotiations with “recalcitrant countries” that wouldn’t accept deported nationals from the U.S. If the countries failed to comply, the executive order said, DHS and State must impose sanctions.

“The United States itself routinely cooperates with foreign governments in documenting and accepting its citizens when asked, as do the majority of countries in the world,” said acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke in a related announcement. “However, these countries have failed to do so, and that one-way street ends with these sanctions.”

Sanctions have been used sparingly in the past, but have emerged as a weapon in the president’s immigration crackdown. DHS spokesperson David Lapan said in late August that 12 countries were flagged as uncooperative. That list, which predated the Trump administration, included China, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Iran, Guinea, Cambodia, Eritrea, Burma, Morocco, Hong Kong and South Sudan. Lapan said at the time that four of those nations would be subject to visa sanctions, but did not confirm a [news report](#) that identified them.

Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke notified the State Department that the four countries refused to accept deported nationals, which triggered the sanctions, [according to DHS](#).

DHS said the nations had not established reliable processes to issue travel documents to people with removal orders.

“Without an appropriate response from the impacted countries, the scope of these sanctions may be expanded to a wider population,” DHS said in a written statement. The policies will remain in place until Duke notifies Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that cooperation “has improved to an acceptable level,” the department said. (The Global Politico 13-09-2017)

CHINESE-OWNED COMPANY PLANS TO PRODUCE TILAPIA IN ANGOLA

Chinese state-owned company RSI Su, Lda is building 200 tilapia tanks in the Barra do Dande district of Angola’s Bengo province, the company’s spokesperson told Angolan news agency Angop.

Pedro Panzo also said that this project represents an investment of US\$1 million and the production will be sold both in the province and in other parts of Angola.

The spokesman said that the company had already purchased enough fish food to launch the business, which requires tank construction to be completed, but it plans to produce fish food locally at a later date.

Tilapia is the name given to various species of freshwater fish, which are naturally occurring in Africa and are now produced in many places in South America and southern North America. (19-11-2017)

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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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