

**Report # 124**  
**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**  
**Central Africa**  
**Hafiz Akif Naeem**  
**Weekly Report from June 13 to 19 June 2010**  
**Presentation: 23 June 2010**

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## **Summary**

### **1. Politics**

#### **Rwanda: Kagame, UK Minister Discuss Dev't**

The United Kingdom's Minister for International Development, Stephen O'Brien, held discussions with President Paul Kagame on the nation's road to achieving Vision 2020. In an interview shortly after the meeting, O'Brien expressed his appreciation of the partnership between the two governments. He pointed out that his discussions with the President focused mainly on the programs that his government funds as well as how both countries can work towards a better future.

#### **Burundi Police Deny Attempt to Arrest Opposition Leader**

An official of Burundi's national police has dismissed as "rumor" reports that security agents want to arrest Agathon Rwaso, leader of the main opposition National Forces of Liberation (FNL) party. But, Jean Bosco Habyarimana, spokesman of the FNL, said agents of the intelligence police in civilian clothes went to the opposition leader's house, sealed it off and then attempted to enter it by force. This comes a day after leaders of a coalition of opposition parties called on their supporters to boycott the 28th June presidential election. Several opposition groups, including the FNL, pulled out of the upcoming presidential election after accusing the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of being biased towards incumbent President Pierre Nkurunziza's ruling CNDD-FDD party – a charge both the ruling party and CENI deny.

#### **Rwanda: MP Urges Religious Groups to Participate in Elections**

Lawmaker, Francis Kaboneka, has urged members of all religious groups to massively participate in the forthcoming presidential elections slated for August 9.

### **2. Peace keeping/ Conflict Resolution and Security matters**

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: Top UN Envoy Bids Farewell to First Batch of Blue Helmets Leaving Country**

The top United Nations envoy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) today paid tribute to a group of Senegalese blue helmets who are the first batch of peacekeepers to leave the country in line with the recent decision by the Security Council to alter the UN mission there. The Council last month agreed to transform the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC (MONUC) into a stabilization mission in the coming weeks, authorizing the withdrawal of up to 2,000 UN military personnel - from an existing strength of 19,815 - by 30 June from areas where security has improved enough to allow their

removal. It also authorized the new operation, which will be known as the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), to stay in the country until 30 June 2011.

### **Civilians in Central African Republic Organizing Self-Defense Forces** **Scott Stearns**

With fighting in the Central African Republic displacing thousands of civilians, some people are setting up self-defense forces to protect their families. Civilians fleeing fighting in surrounding areas have doubled the population of the town of Obo, near the border with Congo and Sudan. With Central African Republic rebels and the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army attacking, abducting and raping civilians in neighboring villages, the people of Obo are organized to defend themselves.

### **Uganda Says 10 Soldiers Killed in Central African Republic**

The Ugandan army says at least 10 of its soldiers were killed in the Central African Republic last month while chasing Lord's Resistance Army rebels. Ugandan newspapers report the army chief has ruled out an attack by the LRA, placing the blame instead on Sudanese militiamen. Ugandan forces have been pursuing LRA fighters across the CAR, southern Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo since December 2008.

### **Rwanda: US, UK Support UN Council's Demand On Govt Over Rwanda Suspect**

The United States, United Kingdom and France backed a demand on Friday in the United Nations Security Council for Kenya to cooperate in the hunt for a Rwanda genocide fugitive. The three donor states aligned themselves with charges by the UN's Rwanda Tribunal prosecutor that Kenya is withholding information on the whereabouts of the fugitive, Felicien Kabuga.

## **3. Economy and Energy**

### **Rwanda: Forty Train in Fiber Optics**

Forty Rwandan Computer and Telecommunication Engineers, this week started four day fiber optics training, expected to equip them with the necessary skills on fiber optics, basic practical hands-on experience on fusion splicing and the operation of best equipment. The workshop was jointly organized by the United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), Kigali Institute of Science of Science and technology (KIST) and the Cable Communications Training Services (CTTS).

## **Rwanda: CMAC Encourages Investment in KCB Rights Issue**

The Capital Markets Advisory Council (CMAC) has encouraged the existing local shareholders in Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) to take advantage of the recently announced rights issue and buy extra shares. According to Olivier Kamanzi, the Deputy Executive Director at CMAC, local investors have an opportunity to buy extra shares at a discount.

## **4. U.S-Africa**

### **Rwanda: Erlinder's Trial Not Related to His Work at the ICTR - Tribunal**

American defence lawyer, Peter Erlinder has immunity from prosecution as a defence lawyer at ICTR, but that applies only when he is in Rwanda on work related to the tribunal, the Arusha based court has emphasized. Erlinder appeared before the High Court in Kigali on Monday to appeal against the ruling by a lower court to be remanded in custody awaiting the beginning of his trial on charges of Genocide denial.

### **Rwanda: Erlinder Granted Bail**

The High Court yesterday granted bail on medical grounds to embattled American defence lawyer, Prof. Peter Erlinder. Pronouncing the bail ruling, High Court president, Johnston Busingye, said that the court had considered the medical documents presented by Erlinder in his bail appeal which indicate that indeed he has a history of grave medical problems requiring urgent attention and do not permit him to stay in jail. Erlinder, 62 who was in hospital at the time of the ruling, will continue to face charges of Genocide denial and revisionism.

## **5. Social issues/ Human Rights**

### **Rwanda: Miss Universe, USA Here**

Miss Universe, Stefania Fernandez and Miss United States, Rima Fakhri, who are in the country, yesterday visited a clinic run by TRAC-Plus, a research centre on HIV. The two beauty queens met and interacted with a cross section of teenagers infected with HIV. In a Question and Answer session with the teens, the visitors expressed their appreciation on how the clinic executes its duties, specifically in dealing with minors.

### **Rwanda: UN to Boost Vulnerable Children's Education**

The United Nations' Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Rwanda will soon embark on a campaign to provide education to vulnerable children. The coordinator of

GCAP Rwanda said during the celebrations to mark this year's International Day of the African Child.

## **6. Health**

### **Rwanda: Global Body Assesses Anti-HIV Progress**

An eight member delegation from UNITAID, an international organization dedicated to provision of affordable HIV/Aids therapy in developing countries arrived in Rwanda this week to assess progress in anti HIV programs. The President of UNITAID said the team will be assessing the achievements registered by institutions involved in the HIV fight, particularly in the areas of mother-to-child HIV prevention, and provision of pediatric care and treatment.

### **Rwanda: Access Bank CEO Appointed to Global Business Body**

The Global Business Coalition (GBC) at its recent 2010 Global Health Action Conference announced the appointment of Access Bank CEO, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede to its Corporate Advisory Board. According to a statement issued, he will be joining a stellar group of corporate leaders whose companies have distinguished themselves in the global battle against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

## Details

### 1. Politics

#### **Rwanda: Kagame, UK Minister Discuss Dev't**

The New Times

Kigali — The United Kingdom's Minister for International Development, Stephen O'Brien, yesterday held discussions with President Paul Kagame on the nation's road to achieving Vision 2020.

In an interview shortly after the meeting, O'Brien expressed his appreciation of the partnership between the two governments.

"I am very pleased to see the strength of our relations and the partnership between Her Majesty's government and the government of Rwanda, and particularly the ones we have been able to build through our international programmes, some of which I got an opportunity to see for myself," he said

O'Brien said that he was impressed by the difference DFID programmes are making in Rwanda and also the government's commitment to make the programs work.

He pointed out that his discussions with the President focused mainly on the programs that his government funds as well as how both countries can work towards a better future.

"We were looking forward to the future, to be able to deliver on the 2020 vision, but also the ability of development to give people a chance to help themselves, to grow as future participants of Rwanda's development," he said

"We share equally the same ambition with President Kagame for the Rwandan people, and we are looking forward to an exciting future and we hope very optimistically to build on the strength of these programmes and the partnerships we already have," he said.

Upon arrival on Tuesday, O'Brien paid a visit to the Land Tenure Regularisation Programme in Kinyinya Sector, Nyarugenge District to see the progress made and challenges remaining in the areas of land tenure, maternal health and social protection as a means towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

O'Brien was appointed as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development in May this year.

## **Burundi Police Deny Attempt to Arrest Opposition Leader**

VOA

An official of Burundi's national police has dismissed as "rumor" reports that security agents want to arrest Agathon Rwasa, leader of the main opposition National Forces of Liberation (FNL) party.

Police spokesman Pierre Chanelle Ntarabaganyi said there is no reason to arrest the opposition leader.

"It is a rumor. There is no warrant to arrest him and there is no reason at all to arrest him (Rwasa)," he said.

But, Jean Bosco Habyarimana, spokesman of the FNL, said agents of the intelligence police in civilian clothes went to the opposition leader's house, sealed it off and then attempted to enter it by force.

He also said that hundreds of FNL supporters surrounded the opposition leader's house to prevent his arrest after hearing reports that the police were going to arrest him.

But, police spokesman Ntarabaganyi dismissed the arrest allegation.

"People started going to his dwelling just staying to protect him. And, the police went on the spot to see, to analyze the situation (but), right from there, they started to conclude that the police were trying to arrest him. But, it was quite a rumor and a rumor. But, we tried to negotiate with the people so that everyone can go home, but they didn't hear us," Ntarabaganyi said.

This comes a day after leaders of a coalition of opposition parties called on their supporters to boycott the 28th June presidential election.

The group, known as the Alliance of Democrats for Change, is demanding a re-run of the last local election after it claimed the vote was fraught with irregularities.

Leonard Nyangoma, a leading member of the group was quoted as saying

"we have told our militants not to go and cast their ballots for presidential elections because the communal ones held on May 24 were characterized by massive fraud and irregularities."

Several opposition groups, including the FNL, pulled out of the upcoming presidential election after accusing the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of being biased

towards incumbent President Pierre Nkurunziza's ruling CNDD-FDD party – a charge both the ruling party and CENI deny.

Meanwhile, police spokesman Ntarabaganyi said several FNL supporters were arrested after “they broke the law.”

### **Rwanda: MP Urges Religious Groups to Participate in Elections**

The New Times

Kigali — Lawmaker, Francis Kaboneka, has urged members of all religious groups to massively participate in the forthcoming presidential elections slated for August 9.

He was addressing over 700 faithful in Nyarugenge District, during a one-day seminar organized by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

"I encourage you to turn up in large numbers in the forthcoming presidential elections and also sensitize and mobilize others to do the same," Kaboneka said.

He called on them to work hand-in-hand with the commission in order to ensure a free and fair election.

The in-charge of election in Nyarugenge District, Jean Bosco Rutikanga, requested participants to cross-check with the voters register to avoid last minute disappointments.

## **2. Peace keeping/ Conflict Resolution and Security matters**

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Top UN Envoy Bids Farewell to First Batch of Blue Helmets Leaving Country**

UN News Service

The top United Nations envoy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) today paid tribute to a group of Senegalese blue helmets who are the first batch of peacekeepers to leave the country in line with the recent decision by the Security Council to alter the UN mission there.

The Council last month agreed to transform the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC (MONUC) into a stabilization mission in the coming weeks, authorizing the withdrawal of up to 2,000 UN military personnel - from an existing strength of 19,815 - by 30 June from areas where security has improved enough to allow their removal.

It also authorized the new operation, which will be known as the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), to stay in the country until 30 June 2011.

At a ceremony held in Kisangani in North Kivu province, Alan Doss, the Secretary-General's Special Representative and head of MONUC, lauded the Senegalese troops for their professionalism and courage, as well as their flexibility to deploy wherever the mission requires.

He also paid tribute to those Senegalese peacekeepers who lost their lives in the DRC since April 2001, when the country first deployed troops to the UN operation.

"This ceremony is a historic moment in the evolution of the United Nations mission in Congo," Mr. Doss said, noting that it marks the first phase of the reduction of forces as stipulated by the Council.

"However, the work is not finished," he stated, pledging that the new operation will continue to carry out the vital task of protecting civilians in the country.

Mr. Doss, who is finishing his term as the top UN envoy in DRC at the end of this month, added that any decision to further reduce troop levels by the Security Council will be done in consultation with the Congolese Government and based on assessments of the security situation in sensitive areas.

### **Civilians in Central African Republic Organizing Self-Defense Forces** **Scott Stearns**

#### **VOA**

With fighting in the Central African Republic displacing thousands of civilians, some people are setting up self-defense forces to protect their families.

Civilians fleeing fighting in surrounding areas have doubled the population of the town of Obo, near the border with Congo and Sudan - and more than 1,000 kilometers from the capital Bangui.

With Central African Republic rebels and the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army attacking, abducting and raping civilians in neighboring villages, the people of Obo are organized to defend themselves.

Wamba Aniragbe, who heads Obo's self-defense committee, says they create these civil defense groups out of concern for all the suffering, the numbers of women and children who are being killed.

Sorovo Sarvatoriopal and his seven children fled their village one year ago. Returning home, he finds a lifetime of possessions scattered across the compound.

Before the rebels, he says, he farmed and hunted and raised enough money to buy clothes for his children. Now it is difficult. He can not go hunting. He has no access to his fields, so there are no crops to sell.

He is living in a makeshift shelter with his children.

He says he is suffering because he is far from his home. He collects firewood to earn a little money to support his children, and some neighbors have given them corn.

Because the roads farmers used to bring food to market in Obo are now unsafe, former mayor Pierre-Ambroise Takouall says trade in the town has virtually stopped, and food is scarce.

He says there is a total shortage of food and goods. The farmer can not access his fields. The hunter can not go into the bush to get fresh meat. And the shopkeepers can not move around to bring back essential goods. We are stuck.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been distributing food to the people of Obo since October. Convoys of trucks bring basic food staples and seeds for crops, but Red Cross officials say with all the security problems, most farmers are too afraid to tend their fields.

## **Uganda Says 10 Soldiers Killed in Central African Republic**

VOA

The Ugandan army says at least 10 of its soldiers were ambushed and killed in the Central African Republic last month while chasing Lord's Resistance Army rebels.

Ugandan newspapers report the army chief has ruled out an attack by the LRA, placing the blame instead on Sudanese militiamen.

The chief of defense forces, General Aronda Nyakairima, confirmed reports that the attack occurred on May 27 but he said the LRA is no longer capable of attacking Ugandan forces.

The general said the attackers were probably armed men from Sudan on a hunting expedition.

Ugandan forces have been pursuing LRA fighters across the CAR, southern Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo since December 2008.

The Ugandan offensive has scattered the LRA from its former bases in Congo but the U.N. and various human rights groups say the rebels continue to attack villages and conduct massacres across central Africa.

The LRA is notorious for abducting children to use as soldiers and sex slaves and mutilating civilians to terrorize local populations.

Four of the group's leaders, including its chief Joseph Kony, are wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes.

The rebels fought the government of President Yoweri Museveni in Uganda for nearly two decades before evolving into a regional threat.

### **Rwanda: US, UK Support UN Council's Demand On Govt Over Rwanda Suspect**

Daily Nation on the web

New York — The United States, United Kingdom and France backed a demand on Friday in the United Nations Security Council for Kenya to cooperate in the hunt for a Rwanda genocide fugitive.

The three donor states aligned themselves with charges by the UN's Rwanda Tribunal prosecutor that Kenya is withholding information on the whereabouts of the fugitive, Felicien Kabuga.

None of the roughly 20 diplomats of member-states who spoke at the Security Council session took Kenya's side on the Kabuga dispute, leaving the country isolated and defensive in the foremost international forum.

Francis Kimemia, permanent secretary of the Internal Security Ministry, responded forcefully on Friday to what many UN watchers saw as an embarrassment for Kenya.

Mr Kimemia called the UN Tribunal prosecutor's allegations "baseless." The PS insisted there is no evidence that Kenya had failed to assist in the hunt for Mr Kabuga, a wealthy businessman accused of having helped finance the slaughter of 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu in 1994.

Kenya has nothing to gain by harbouring such a figure, Mr Kimemia told the Council, noting his country's relations with Rwanda are "excellent." Kenya has arrested and handed over 14 Rwanda genocide suspects, Mr Kimemia added.

But in a rejoinder at the Security Council session, Chief Prosecutor Hassan Jallow challenged the PS' comments.

There is clear evidence that Mr Kabuga had been in Kenya for a long time, Mr Jallow said.

Kenya had in fact acknowledged Mr Kabuga's past presence in the country, Mr Jallow noted, recalling that Kenyan officials told him last year that Mr Kabuga had left the country.

Kenyan authorities also agreed on that occasion to provide further information on Mr Kabuga but have not followed through on this commitment, Mr Jallow added. Requests for a meeting with Kenya's attorney general, foreign minister and internal security minister have been ignored, Mr Jallow told the UN.

Despite the calls for cooperation by the UN and Kenya's major donors, it appears unlikely that any punitive action will be taken soon. Diplomats say they will await the outcome of Mr Kimemia's offer on Friday to meet with UN investigators in Nairobi.

### **3. Economy and Energy**

#### **Rwanda: Forty Train in Fibre Optics**

The New Times

Forty Rwandan Computer And Telecommunication Engineers This Week Started a Four day fibre optics training, expected to equip them with the necessary skills on fibre optics, basic practical hands-on experience on fusion splicing and the operation of best equipment.

The workshop was jointly organized by the United Kingdom Telecommunications Academy (UKTA), Kigali Institute of Science and technology (KIST) and the Cable Communications Training Services (CTTS).

While opening the workshop, the Minister of ICT in the President's Office, Dr. Ignace Gatara, said that the training was intended to build a critical mass of technicians who will play a key role in implementing cost-effective ICT programmes in the country. He pointed out that backbone networks are increasingly relying on fibre-optic which will also expand the last mile access networks.

The chairman of UKTA, Prof. David Mellor, said the training would impart the necessary technical skills among the trainees.

Prof. Mellor is part of a team of visiting professors who conduct two Masters' courses at KIST; the Master of Communications Management (MCM) and the Master of Science in Operational Communications (MOC). KIST offers the training in conjunction with UKTA.

The Government recently imported from the UK equipment for fibre splicing practical exercises valued at US\$120,000.

Prof. Mellor urged KIST to set up at least one laboratory with the equipment to facilitate students undertaking the Master of Science in Operational Communications since fibre splicing practical exercises were mandatory for all students undertaking the course.

The Rector of KIST, Prof. Abraham Atta Ogwu, confirmed that KIST was working closely with Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA) to set up a one-stop telecommunications centre that would offer open fibre optics training. He said that KIST as an International Communication Union (ITU) centre of excellence network for Africa, received considerable support from the ITU and the UKTA.

Participants will be given practical lessons on fibre optics stripping tools and techniques, cleaving bare fibres as well installation and maintenance. The training will cover practical testing exercises and troubleshooting.

### **Rwanda: CMAC Encourages Investment in KCB Rights Issue**

The New Times

Kigali — The Capital Markets Advisory Council (CMAC) has encouraged the existing local shareholders in Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) to take advantage of the recently announced rights issue and buy extra shares.

According to Olivier Kamanzi, the Deputy Executive Director at CMAC, local investors have an opportunity to buy extra shares at a discount.

"The existing shareholders will buy rights issue at a 20 percent discount and for every 5 shares, they will be offered two extra shares," said Kamanzi.

According to the information from KCB, the trading of the rights issue will commence on July 1st 2010 at a right issue price of Rwf122 approximately.

KCB has registered a total turnover of Rwf14 million from transactions on the Rwandan market since the time it crossed listed.

Kamanzi also said that although the market in Rwanda is young but through sensitization, they hope that people will participate in the right issue.

However, in august the general public besides the shareholders will be given an opportunity to invest KCB's rights issue.

Currently, the bank's share price is trading at an average price of Rwf156 down from a close of Rwf165 on April 14, when it announced plans for the KCB Rights Issue.

The KCB rights issue will increase the bank's paid up capital to Kshs3.1billion shares of Shs1 each from 2.2 billion shares.

This will be the third time the bank is seeking to raise funds through a rights issue since it's first one in 2004 which raised some Kshs2.45 billion and a Kshs5.5 billion issue in June 2008, both of which were oversubscribed.

In the 2008 the KCB rights issue, which allowed shareholders to buy one share for every nine, the new shares were sold at Kshs25 per share which marked a 20 percent discount from the then trading price of Kshs31.50.

#### **4. U.S-Africa**

##### **Rwanda: Erlinder's Trial Not Related to His Work at the ICTR - Tribunal**

The New Times

Kigali — American defence lawyer, Peter Erlinder has immunity from prosecution as a defence lawyer at ICTR, but that applies only when he is in Rwanda on work related to the tribunal, the Arusha based court has emphasized.

"The arrest of Erlinder and the questions he is being asked do not seem to be linked to his activities at the tribunal," ICTR spokesman, Roland Amoussouga told Agence France Presse (AFP).

He said the court was also trying to find out if the Rwandan judicial authorities "intend to use Erlinder's work at the ICTR as evidence for the prosecution".

Amoussouga said ICTR will not take an interest in his fate, but rather that the formulation of the ICTR's reaction will depend on what elements the prosecution decides to use against the accused.

He said the court does not claim to have the power or the mandate to obtain immunity for its lawyers in cases that are not directly linked to their work at the ICTR.

"There are two situations where we can claim immunity for our lawyers: when they are on a trip for the ICTR and when the actions they are accused of committing were carried out in the framework of a case they are defending at the ICTR," he said.

Prosecution Spokesperson, Augustin Nkusi declined to comment, saying they would make their case in court.

The tribunal was reacting to criticism from its defence attorneys that it had failed to take action after the arrest of Erlinder for denying the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

Two French lawyers at the tribunal, Arthur Vercken and Anta Guisse, on Tuesday criticized what they said was the ICTR's silence over Erlinder's arrest.

The two, who are defending a former senior official in Rwanda's Interior Ministry charged with Genocide, Callixte Kalimanzira, said they fear Erlinder's pleas at the ICTR may be used as evidence against him in Rwanda.

Erlinder appeared before the High Court in Kigali on Monday to appeal against the ruling by a lower court to be remanded in custody awaiting the beginning of his trial on charges of Genocide denial.

The Gasabo Intermediate Court denied him bail on the basis that the charges against him were serious and there was strong evidence attesting to this. The bail ruling will be determined on Thursday.

### **Rwanda: Erlinder Granted Bail**

The New Times

Kigali — The High Court yesterday granted bail on medical grounds to embattled American defence lawyer, Prof. Peter Erlinder.

Pronouncing the bail ruling yesterday, High Court president, Johnston Busingye, said that the court had considered the medical documents presented by Erlinder in his bail appeal which indicate that indeed he has a history of grave medical problems requiring urgent attention and do not permit him to stay in jail.

Busingye in his ruling said that the documents submitted by three doctors who treated Erlinder for various medical problems, is sufficient evidence that the appellant is in ill health and it would be inhuman for the court to keep him in detention.

"Having referred to all circumstances of the case, and without dwelling further into all the appellant's physical and mental records, I have sufficient reasons to believe that here is a case of the accused still at the pre-trial phase---you need to have relevant positions because physical and mental health must take precedent in the case in question," Busingye said.

"It would be unjust for court to keep his life at the risk of mortality and morbidity as suggested by doctors".

Erlinder, 62 who was in hospital at the time of the ruling, will continue to face charges of Genocide denial and revisionism.

Busingye said that the prosecution has strong reasons to suspect that Erlinder, has a strong case against him, but his state of health could not allow him to stay in detention.

He, however, rejected the other arguments Erlinder and his defence team were basing on to appeal for bail which, including lack of competence of Gasabo Intermediate Court which denied Erlinder bail, saying that the court has the competence and territorial jurisdiction.

He judged that court falls within the territory where he was arrested and that lower courts have the legal authority to hear pre-trial cases without going into the substance of the case.

Busingye disregarded the argument that the ruling was made in Kinyarwanda, arguing that in the bail hearing, an interpreter was provided but the bail hearing did not require any interpretation and the judge is required to make a ruling in a language he understands better and is comfortable with.

He noted that one of his counsels was asked to interpret for his client.

At the same time, the High Court Judge also disregarded the letter from the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) submitted by Erlinder defence asking court to release him because he had immunity.

Busingye said that the letter has no value because it was not addressed to the High Court but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said that Erlinder will be required to report to court and prosecution at any time, and also provide the necessary information to facilitate investigations as well as his address at the time.

His defence team welcomed the outcome of the case saying that their client's state of wealth is worrying.

Meanwhile, the Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga said that the decision to grant Erlinder bail is because of concerns for his physical and mental state and will in no way deter the prosecution process or even diminish the seriousness of the charges.

"Bail on health grounds cannot be mistaken as vindication for Mr. Erlinder, it just proves that the justice system he so freely criticises, was willing to show him compassion with respect to his physical and mental well being," said the Prosecutor General.

## **5. Social issues/ Human Rights**

### **Rwanda: Miss Universe, USA Here**

The New Times

Kigali — Miss Universe, Stefania Fernandez and Miss United States, Rima Fakhri, who are in the country, yesterday visited a clinic run by TRAC-Plus, a research centre on HIV.

The two beauty queens met and interacted with a cross section of teenagers infected with HIV.

In a Question and Answer session with the teens, the visitors expressed their appreciation on how the clinic executes its duties, specifically in dealing with minors.

The Spanish speaking Fernandez explained that her organization was working with organizations from all over the world to increase awareness so that the number of people contracting the virus decreases significantly.

"I believe the answer lies in educating the people," she said through a translator.

Asked why they chose Rwanda, Fasih said that she had always wanted to come to Rwanda even before she won the contest.

"I have decided that when I go back, I am going to be the face of TRAC -Plus clinic," Miss Universe informed the excited teenagers.

On her part, Miss US promised to create a link between the Rwandan HIV positive children and those in the US.

Both beauty queens are in the country at the invitation of the government and are being hosted by the First Lady, Jeanette Kagame.

Yesterday, they visited Imbutu Foundation which operates under the Office of the First Lady, before being hosted to lunch by the First Lady.

While in the country, they plan to meet women Members of Parliament, visit Genocide memorial sites and trek gorillas in the Northern Province.

### **Rwanda: UN to Boost Vulnerable Children's Education**

The New Times

Kigali — The United Nations' Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Rwanda will soon embark on a campaign to provide education to vulnerable children.

Speaking during the celebrations to mark this year's International Day of the African Child at Gisimba Memorial Centre in Nyakabanda Sector, Nyarugenege District, the coordinator of GCAP Rwanda, Rene Niyonteze, said the move is aimed at giving all children access to education.

"There are many children on the streets because of poverty," he said.

During the event, GCAP Rwanda donated to 242 orphans school items, food stuffs and an assortment of goods worth Rwf1.2 million. It will also sponsor the best student attain his or her higher education.

## **6. Health**

### **Rwanda: Global Body Assesses Anti-HIV Progress**

The New Times

An eight member delegation from UNITAID, an international organization dedicated to provision of affordable HIV/Aids therapy in developing countries arrived in Rwanda this week to assess progress in anti HIV programs.

The President of UNITAID, Philippe Douste-Blazy, said the team will be assessing the achievements registered by institutions involved in the HIV fight, particularly in the areas of mother-to-child HIV prevention, and provision of pediatric care and treatment.

Addressing the press at the National Aids Control Commission (CNLS) offices Tuesday, Douste-Blazy, said that the organization's mission was to make treatment for HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis accessible, primarily for people in low-income countries.

"UNITAID seeks to influence price reduction for quality diagnostics and medicines and accelerate the rate at which they are available in developing communities," Douste-Blazy said.

He added that the price of antiretroviral drugs to treat children suffering from Aids had reduced by over 50%, which enabled UNITAID to finance three out of four children receiving Aids treatment worldwide.

Anita Asimwe, the Executive Secretary of CNLS, praised the international body for its support to the country's HIV control institutions and programmes.

"UNITAID has provided commodities worth US\$ 1.5 million that help in the prevention of mother-to-child infections, whereas their support to pediatric institutions was estimated at US\$ 6.3 million for the period of 2007-2009," Asimwe said.

She added that, as a result of UNITAID's initiative, over 7,000 children and 5,000 women in various institutions and hospitals had benefited.

A statement released from CNLS yesterday states that the entourage will visit several health institutions, including Kacyiru Police Hospital, Bugesera District Hospital and Rilima Health Centre.

UNITAID was officially launched in 2006 in New York during a United Nations General Assembly with the aim of decreasing the price of medicines for priority diseases and to increase the supply of drugs and diagnostics.

### **Rwanda: Access Bank CEO Appointed to Global Business Body**

The New Times

Lagos — The Global Business Coalition (GBC) at its recent 2010 Global Health Action Conference announced the appointment of Access Bank CEO, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede to its Corporate Advisory Board.

According to a statement issued on Thursday, he will be joining a stellar group of corporate leaders whose companies have distinguished themselves in the global battle against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

John Tedstrom, President and CEO of the GBC is quoted in the statement saying that Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede will, alongside the other board members, advise GBC on its future strategic direction in spearheading the business fight against global epidemics.

Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede on behalf of the GBC presented the GBC Vision and Impact Award to Condoleezza Rice the 66th U.S. Secretary of State.

She was honoured for her support towards the creation of President G.W. Bush Junior's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); her efforts at making the United States the first country to invest in the Global Fund and her contributions to the fight against the triple pandemics of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In receiving her award, Rice commended Access Bank's efforts in the fight against the triple pandemics noting that the private sector leadership being demonstrated by the Access Bank CEO, is worthy of emulation by others.

Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede who is also Chairman of 'Friends of the Global Fund Africa' was a member of the GBC delegation received at the White for a high-level meeting with top US Government officials.

The White House meeting highlighted the important contributions of the business sector in improving global health; advocated the need to fill funding gaps and emphasized the opportunities for scaling up platforms for partnership.

The Global Business Coalition is a Coalition of over 200 companies globally, united in the fight to defeat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria around the world. It was founded in 2001 at the request of the then Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan

and now provides tailored support to members so that companies can take an active role in defeating the pandemics.

The Coalition also organizes collective actions among companies, and links the public and private sectors in ways that pool talents and resources. The GBC is headquartered in New York with offices in Beijing, Moscow, Nairobi, Paris and Johannesburg.

Access Bank is a leading African financial services brand established in 1989. The Bank has a full banking subsidiary in the UK and is present in all monetary zones across sub-Saharan Africa.