

**Report # 126**  
**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**  
**Central Africa**  
**Hafiz Akif Naeem**  
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**Summary ..... 3-7**

**1. Politics**

- **Gabon: Corruption and Environment Top Ban's Talks with Gabonese Leader.....8**
- **The DRC Marks 50 Years of Independence Wednesday.....9**
- **Congo-Kinshasa: Brutal Colonial past Colors Belgian King's Visit.....10-11**

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

- **Congo-Kinshasa: Death Toll in Oil Tanker Tragedy Rises, as Helicopters Shift Injured.....12**
- **Congo-Kinshasa: 200-Plus Dead in Tanker Truck Explosion.....13**
- **Rwanda: Arrest of Top Genocide Suspect is 'Big catch,' Says Minister.....14**
- **South Africa: 'Unlikely' to Repatriate General.....15**
- **Rwanda: Foreign Agents Involved in Shooting of Rwandan General.....16**
- **Congo-Kinshasa: Secretary-General Inaugurates New Phase of UN Mission.....17-18**
- **Africa: Kabila Pledges Peace, Stability.....19**

**3. Economy and Energy**

- **US\$ 12 bn debt relief for DR Congo.....20**

**4. Social issues/ Human Rights**

- **Rwanda: Unesco Deplores Murder of Independent Rwandan Journalist.....21**
- **Congo-Brazzaville: New UN-Backed Plan Aims to Enhance Child Rights.....22**
- **Amnesty: DRC Falls Short of Human Rights.....23**

- **Central African bush meat hits European market.....24**

## **5. Elections**

- **Burundi Opposition Leader Explains Disappearance.....25**
- **Burundi Holds Single Candidate Presidential Election.....26**
- **Rwandan Opposition Says Government Must Help  
End Violence.....27-28**

## **6. Pan Africa**

- **East Africa: Kibaki Sets Off Common Market.....29-30**
- **Rwanda: Kagame Meets Kabila in Kinshasa.....31**

# Summary

## 1. Politics

### **Gabon: Corruption and Environment Top Ban's Talks with Gabonese Leader**

Gabon's actions to fight corruption and protect the environment were the focus of discussions today between Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the leader of the African nation as he began the final leg of the United Nations chief's third official trip to the continent over the past month. Mr. Ban and President Ali Bongo Ondimba also discussed the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon's border dispute with Equatorial Guinea and its contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General acknowledged Gabon's strides towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline.

### **The DRC Marks 50 Years of Independence Wednesday**

A Democratic Republic of Congo cabinet minister said that President Joseph Kabila's administration will continue with its "massive" infrastructural development program, as the country celebrates 50 years of independence.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Brutal Colonial past Colors Belgian King's Visit**

As Belgium's King Albert II attends the DRC's 50th anniversary celebrations, rights campaigners are pointing the finger at his country's and his family's, controversial record as the former colonial power. Half a century after independence, Belgium has still to come to terms with the legacy of the harsh treatment of the colony through the end of the 19th century and its involvement in the assassination of independence hero Patrice Lumumba.

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

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Death Toll in Oil Tanker Tragedy Rises, as Helicopters Shift Injured**

The death toll in the oil tanker tragedy in the Democratic Republic of Congo stands at 219, according to Red Cross officials in Kinshasa. About 100 more are seriously injured with many being transferred to the provincial capital by UN forces helicopter.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: 200-Plus Dead in Tanker Truck Explosion**

At least 200 people have been killed by an oil tanker truck explosion in a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the Red Cross. The village is 70 kilometres south of Bukavu in Sud-Kivu.

### **Rwanda: Arrest of Top Genocide Suspect is 'Big catch,' Says Minister**

Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi, a fugitive suspect in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, has been arrested in Uganda. Rwanda's Justice Minister Tharcisse Karugarama told that Billie O'Kadameri that many genocide suspects might still be hiding in neighboring states. All the people that feature on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda arrest warrant are important enough. They are high up in the hierarchy and were involved in the planning and executing genocide.

### **South Africa: 'Unlikely' to Repatriate General**

The fugitive Rwandan general granted refugee status in SA was unlikely to be sent back unless there were special circumstances requiring the government to override protections contained in the Refugees Act. Rights groups in SA questioned the government's decision to give refuge to Lt-Gen Kayumba Nyamwasa, who is accused of war crimes saying the move could compromise the integrity of the country's refuge system. Mr Gigaba said SA was a sovereign country with its own policies and would implement provisions of the law guaranteeing that a refugee should not be sent back from where he had fled.

### **Rwanda: Foreign Agents Involved in Shooting of Rwandan General**

Security operatives were involved in the shooting last month of Rwandan General Faustin Nyamwasa, according to South Africa's foreign ministry. General Faustin Nyamwasa was living in exile in Johannesburg. He was shot and wounded outside his home on 19 June 2010, four months after he came to South Africa seeking refuge. Nyamwasa fled to South Africa in February after abandoning his post as Rwanda's envoy to India.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Secretary-General Inaugurates New Phase of UN Mission**

Reflecting the pace made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) over the past decade, the United Nations peacekeeping mission entered a new chapter, with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paying tribute to the commitment demonstrated by blue helmets in bringing peace to the region. Last month, the Security Council passed a resolution authorizing the withdrawal of up to 2,000 UN military personnel, from an existing strength of 19,815, by today from areas where security has improved enough to allow their removal. From now to onward, the UN mission will be known as the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and will stay in the DRC only until 30 June next year. The Secretary-General emphasized the need to continue ensuring protection for civilians, especially women. He also called on all parties,

including Government forces, to put an end to sexual violence, which he called the "most serious denial of fundamental human rights."

### **Africa: Kabila Pledges Peace, Stability**

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila has pledged to work towards permanent democracy in his country, saying the Central African giant is poised to become "a tree of peace and power" on the continent. Speaking at celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of DRC's Independence in Kinshasa yesterday, President Kabila hailed the contributions made by various African countries, including Zimbabwe, in bringing stability to his country. The Congolese leader said their focus was on promoting development at all levels. This vision is encapsulated in a five-point plan that homes in on infrastructure development, education, health, water and electricity generation and employment creation.

## **3. Economy and Energy**

### **US\$ 12 bn debt relief for DR Congo**

The Kinshasa government today was told it was ready to receive a massive debt cancellation of up to US\$ 12.3 billion. The IMF decision was however controversial, with several countries protesting. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank today have decided to support US\$ 12.3 billion in debt relief to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As a result of this relief, the DRC will no longer face a heavy debt service burden in relation to its revenue and foreign exchange resources. The decision was based on an IMF analysis, holding that the Kinshasa government had by now implemented the expected economic reforms required to trigger a debt cancellation program.

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

### **Rwanda: Unesco Deplores Murder of Independent Rwandan Journalist**

The United Nations agency tasked with promoting press freedom today condemned the assassination of a prominent independent journalist from Rwanda, who was gunned down outside his home in the capital, Kigali. Jean-Léonard Rugambage, the editor of the bi-monthly Umuvugizi, died on 24 June after being shot at close range near his home in Kigali's Nyamirambo district.

### **Congo-Brazzaville: New UN-Backed Plan Aims to Enhance Child Rights**

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has welcomed new measures announced by the Republic of Congo to boost child protection, calling them a major breakthrough for the Central African nation. President Denis Sassou Nguesso announced the new child protection framework during recent celebrations to mark the Day of the African Child, making Congo the fifth French-speaking African nation to pass such measures.

## **Amnesty: DRC Falls Short of Human Rights**

The human rights monitoring group Amnesty International says the Democratic Republic of Congo has a long way to go with regard to human rights. The country celebrates five decades of independence, only weeks after the murder of a prominent human rights activist. As the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, celebrates its independence, critics say daily life for many Congolese remains difficult and precarious. Amnesty International warns that the work of human rights activists in the country is increasingly dangerous and deadly.

## **Central African bush meat hits European market**

More than five tones of illegal bush meat are being smuggled in personal luggage each week through the Paris airport alone. Most bush meat comes from Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo Kinshasa (DRC). The scale of Central African bush meat smuggled to Europe is revealed in a new study published in the journal 'Conservation Letters' in June. This study quantifies for the first time the illegal trade of bush meat through a European airport. This first study of the volume and nature of the international bush meat trade has triggered the interest. The French and British researchers now wish to undertake a wider-scale study with greater geographic coverage to determine the overall volume of the illegal bush meat trade into Europe.

## **5. Elections**

### **Burundi Opposition Leader Explains Disappearance**

A top Burundian opposition leader has issued a recorded message explaining why he went into hiding last week. In an audiotope made available to reporters, former rebel leader Agathon Rwaswa says the government plans to arrest him on charges of planning to mount a new insurgency. He said he is being targeted because he led the opposition in alleging that crucial local elections in May were rigged.

### **Burundi Holds Single Candidate Presidential Election**

An opposition boycott has left President Pierre Nkurunziza as the sole candidate on the ballot as Burundians go to the polls Monday. Weeks of tension and sporadic bouts of violence have been capped off by an unlikely calm as citizen's vote for President Pierre Nkurunziza, who is certain to retain his office after Monday's election. With the contest already won, Reuters has reported that many Burundians avoided the polls. After May's municipal elections saw unprecedented voter turnout and a firm stamp of approval from international observers, many hoped that Burundi's summer long series of elections would be the final step in the countries long and tumultuous transition to democracy. The impact of the violence is now being felt outside of the small, central African nation. Burundi is the newest member of the East African Community, an economic and political union which is set to begin its formal integration process in July.

## **Rwandan Opposition Says Government Must Help End Violence**

The leader of the opposition Democratic Green Party of Rwanda has called on President Paul Kagame's government to help end the escalating violence ahead of the general elections scheduled for August this year. Frank Habineza said the period leading up to the election is contributing to the ongoing violence. Habineza's comments follows last week's shooting death of Leonard Rugambage, acting editor of the banned Umuvugizi independent newspaper in the capital, Kigali.

## **6. Pan Africa**

### **East Africa: Kibaki Sets Off Common Market**

The East African Community took a giant leap as member states simultaneously launched the Common Market Protocol. The protocol, which was signed on November 20, last year, allows free movement of goods, services, capital and labor in the bloc. It comes into effect at midnight. Setting off the common market, President Kibaki evening ordered the waiver of work permit fees for all East Africans coming to Kenya.

### **Rwanda: Kagame Meets Kabila in Kinshasa**

President Kagame arrived back in Kigali today from Kinshasa, where he participated in celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Before departing Kinshasa, President Kagame and President Kabila held private talks where they discussed bilateral and regional issues ,including strengthening of cooperation in various economic sectors.

## Details

### 1. Politics

#### **Gabon: Corruption and Environment Top Ban's Talks with Gabonese Leader**

UN News Service

Gabon's actions to fight corruption and protect the environment were the focus of discussions today between Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the leader of the African nation as he began the final leg of the United Nations chief's third official trip to the continent over the past month.

Mr. Ban and President Ali Bongo Ondimba also discussed the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon's border dispute with Equatorial Guinea and its contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General acknowledged Gabon's strides towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline, UN spokesperson Farhan Haq told reporters.

The world body's chief also told Mr. Bongo that he welcomed the calm during Gabon's recent legislative elections, encouraging the Government to maintain its dialogue with the opposition in the run-up to next year's round of polls.

Also today, the Secretary-General addressed the country's National Assembly, where he hailed Gabon for what he called its "exceptional" stability.

On the MDGs, he said the country is showing that the Goals are within reach, with child mortality having declined in the past two decades and progress having been made on improving maternal health.

"Some may call this a miracle, but there is nothing miraculous about it," he said. "This is the result of good policy and strong leadership."

Mr. Ban also noted that the country's "ethnic diversity has never been the trigger for tension or war."

He paid tribute to Gabon's leadership in regional dialogue and reconciliation, pointing out its role in facilitating a peace accord between the Government and rebels in the CAR.

In an address to civil society representatives, the Secretary-General pointed out that Gabon has not experienced conflict or ethnic strife since it gained independence nearly 50 years ago.

"Last year's peaceful transition and this month's legislative elections are [a] testament to the maturity of your democratic process," he said, underscoring the important of civil society in promoting such advances.

Mr. Ban also visited a protection centre, home to children who have been trafficked or abused, in the capital, Libreville, where he called for an end to impunity for crimes against children.

"The people responsible must be found, prosecuted and convicted," he underlined.

He called on all parts of society - including the Government, the private sector, civil society and the police - to play their part to ensure that laws protecting children are implemented. "A society is judged by its treatment of its weakest and most vulnerable members."

Mr. Ban arrived in Gabon after an official visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In two other recent trips to Africa he has visited Malawi, Uganda, South Africa, Burundi, Cameroon, Benin and Sierra Leone.

### **The DRC Marks 50 Years of Independence Wednesday**

VOA

A Democratic Republic of Congo cabinet minister told VOA President Joseph Kabila's administration will continue with its "massive" infrastructural development program, as the country celebrates 50 years of independence today (Wednesday).

Information minister Lambert Mende said the government has rescued the country from the brink of a failed state after several years of turmoil that led to the loss of life and property.

"We are celebrating (the) 50th anniversary of our independence and we are happy to see many heads of state around us, SADC (Southern African Development Community), Central African Republic and even the King of Belgium, (and) the King of Morocco to come and attend this event," he said.

Mende also said the government and the people of Congo feel comforted by the presence of world leaders who are scheduled to participate in the country's golden jubilee anniversary celebration.

Several heads of states and government representatives, as well as other international organizations including representatives from the African Union, have reportedly arrived in the capital, Kinshasa, to participate in the celebration.

"We are originating from colonialism, from bad governance for more than 40 years, and we have launched a rebuilding renaissance program that took place from the year 2006.

And indeed, we have started reconstructing this country and we have decided that this anniversary is the occasion for us to speak and think of our reconstruction because we were almost losing this country,” Mende said.

But, critics say President Kabila’s government has so far failed to alleviate the suffering of the Congolese despite repeated promises and goodwill from the international community.

They also accused the government of what they described as “security pretence” saying the administration is forcing out the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission (MONUC) ahead of the independence celebration. They contend that the country could degenerate into another round of chaos if the peacekeepers leave.

But, Minister Mende dismissed the accusation as colonialism mentality.

“We are facing criticism from abroad (and) from those people who are fond of neo-colonialism and who are unhappy to see Congo overcome their project of disbanding and destroying the national unity of this country. So, we care very much about the feeling of our people, they gave confidence to (Mr.) Kabila and the majority (in parliament) and we are working for them,” Mende said.

The U.N. Security Council mandated its peacekeepers to “use all necessary measures” to protect Congo’s unarmed civilian population against violence perpetrated by various armed groups.

With about 20,000 peacekeepers in the D.R.C., MONUC is the largest U.N. mission to a single country with an estimated budget of more than \$1 billion.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Brutal Colonial Past Colours Belgian King's Visit**

Radio France Internationale (Paris)

As Belgium's King Albert II attends the DRC's 50th anniversary celebrations, rights campaigners are pointing the finger at his country's and his family's, controversial record as the former colonial power.

Half a century after independence, Belgium has still to come to terms with the legacy of the harsh treatment of the colony through the end of the 19th century and its involvement in the assassination of independence hero Patrice Lumumba.

King Leopold II, who ruled Belgium at the end of the 19th century, was known for his harsh treatment of the Belgian Congo, from which he amassed a considerable personal fortune.

He was the founder and owner of the Congo Free State, a one-man holding company that exploited laborers to harvest rubber and extract ivory from the colony. The king was forced to relinquish control to the Belgian government in 1908.

Historians such as Adam Hothschild, author of *King Leopold's Ghosts*, say that Leopold used forced labour, taking women hostage to ensure that men did not run away from rubber plantations, and was responsible for the death of eight to 10 million Congolese.

The brutality inspired US writer Mark Twain to write a famous satirical broadside, *King Leopold's Soliloquy*.

Two generations later, King Baudoin in his farewell speech to the colony, praised the "genius" of Belgium's colonialism.

Last week, liberal MEP Louis Michel, a former foreign minister and the EU's development and foreign aid commissioner until last year, defended Belgium's legacy in the Congo.

"Leopold II does not deserve such criticism," he told a Belgian magazine. "The Belgians created a framework, schools, hospitals and put in place economic growth."

He dismissed descriptions of the colony as a work camp, saying "that was simply the way it was done", adding, "... we cannot deny - civilization arrived."

And the controversy is not just from the 19th century. Patrice Lumumba, the DRC's first post-independence prime minister, was deposed in a coup just 10 weeks after he was elected. He was imprisoned, and eventually executed by a firing squad in 1961.

A team of lawyers from Belgium, Germany and the US representing Lumumba's three sons are preparing a case against former Belgian civil servants, alleging their involvement in Lumumba's death. They are basing their case on a 2001 Belgian parliamentary commission that concluded that Belgium was morally responsible for the assassination.

The complaint will be filed in October against 12 former civil servants in the Belgian colonial administration.

With the tortured history as backdrop, some see the presence of King Albert I at the independence celebrations as a slap in the face. It is no surprise that His Majesty will not make any speeches while in Kinshasa.

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

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Death Toll in Oil Tanker Tragedy Rises, as Helicopters Shift Injured**

Radio France International (Paris)

The death toll in the oil tanker tragedy in the Democratic Republic of Congo stands at 219, according to Red Cross officials in Kinshasa. About 100 more are seriously injured with many being transferred to the provincial capital by UN forces helicopter.

"Two-hundred and eight people were killed immediately, 11 other people died ... after being evacuated in several health facilities of the region," Ina Caloga of the International Red Cross in Kinshasa told RFI.

The village of Sange was set on fire when a tanker truck turned over, leaking oil and then exploding as villagers gathered around it.

Ina Caloga of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent said: "Our estimate so far is that 100 people were injured ... the main injuries are very serious burns," says Caloga.

"Now the priorities for us and the national Red Cross society of the DRC, as well as the provincial authorities of South Kivu, is to take care of the wounded and ensure that they are evacuated to the adequate facilities as soon as possible."

UN forces' helicopters transferred about 30 of the injured to Bukavu during Saturday afternoon with a further 40 hoped to be moved later.

"The Red Cross volunteers have been busy since this morning collecting bodies and burying them, trying to identify those bodies, trying to know who they were, which is proving very difficult because, as you can imagine, many of these bodies are completely burnt up ..." Caloga says.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: 200-Plus Dead in Tanker Truck Explosion**

Radio France International (Paris)

At least 200 people have been killed by an oil tanker truck explosion in a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the Red Cross.

At least five of the dead are reported to be UN soldiers who tried to help. Dozens more were injured by the blast in the village of Sange, which took place after the lorry overturned and leaked oil.

The dead include not only people who had gathered to collect leaking oil but also many who were in their earth and straw homes. Many of those who had surrounded the vehicle were children, according to an unnamed police officer based in the county town of Bukavu who blamed the accident on the lorry's "excessive speed".

The village is 70 kilometres south of Bukavu in Sud-Kivu.

### **Rwanda: Arrest of Top Genocide Suspect is 'Big catch,' Says Minister**

Radio France Internationale (Paris)

Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi, a fugitive suspect in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, has been arrested in Uganda, police said on Friday. Rwanda's Justice Minister Tharcisse Karugarama told RFI's Billie O'Kadameri that many genocide suspects might still be hiding in neighboring states.

All the people that feature on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda arrest warrant are important enough. They are high up in the hierarchy and were involved in the planning and executing genocide. So yes, that the arrest of Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi would be a big catch.

The information we are hearing is that he had changed his name and was trying to settle as a local peasant in Western Uganda. Does this show to you this is a trick commonly used by genocide suspects to evade arrest?

Definitely, that's why we are very concerned about these so-called refugees, either in Uganda or in the DRC. Most of these are people running away from justice. Most of them are fugitives running away from charges that have been brought against them. And they pretend to be refugees, and yes, some of them have changed their names. If you remember one of them was arrested in western Uganda. The suspect was living in a village, looking after goats, planting tobacco, and bore a Ugandan name. So yes, there is a lot of camouflage going on. And we are concerned that genocide suspects will continue to call themselves refugees. They dupe human rights organizations and give interviews about how they ran away from Uganda and fled harassment.

So it is actually possible that many of those remaining on the wanted list may be living within the region and not outside of it because that is where they can easily blend in and change identity?

Yes, a big concentration of genocide suspects might actually be in the region itself, in Uganda, in the Congo and elsewhere. But there are spillovers, in Africa, in North America and in Europe, everywhere. If they have an opportunity to jump out of the region they will do just that. But those trapped in the Congo, Uganda and Tanzania have failed to secure the necessary documents to get out of the country.

## **South Africa: 'Unlikely' to Repatriate General**

Business Day

Johannesburg — THE fugitive Rwandan general granted refugee status in SA was unlikely to be repatriated unless there were special circumstances requiring the government to override protections contained in the Refugees Act, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba said yesterday.

Rights groups in SA questioned the government's decision to give refuge to Lt-Gen Kayumba Nyamwasa - who is accused of war crimes - saying the move could compromise the integrity of the country's asylum system.

Mr Gigaba said SA was a sovereign country with its own policies and would implement provisions of the law guaranteeing that a refugee should not be sent back from where he had fled.

"We will implement the Refugees Act until such time as either the Presidency or the Department of International Relations and Co-operation advise us on whether the Rwandan general needs to be handed back to Rwanda," said Mr Gigaba at a media briefing in Pretoria.

Lt-Gen Nyamwasa's presence in SA came to light last month after he was shot and injured in an apparent assassination attempt while he was returning home to an up market Johannesburg suburb after a shopping trip.

Rwanda has requested that he be sent home to face charges over alleged grenade attacks this year. But SA does not have an extradition agreement with Rwanda.

Spain, along with France, sought Lt-Gen Nyamwasa's extradition to face prosecution for war crimes. But deputy head of the Spanish mission in Pretoria Juan Saenz de Heredia yesterday could not say if Spain would push SA for the extradition. A Spanish judge issued an arrest warrant against the former Rwandan army chief and 40 others in 2008.

"The Spanish government respects judicial decisions ... this is a decision taken by a judicial power," Mr de Heredia said.

Mr Gigaba could not confirm if there had been an increase in requests for asylum among visitors in SA for the Soccer World Cup, saying that SA dealt with large numbers of asylum seekers every day.

## **Rwanda: Foreign Agents Involved in Shooting of Rwandan General**

Radio France Internationale (Paris)

Security operatives were involved in the shooting last month of Rwandan General Faustin Nyamwasa, South Africa's foreign ministry said Thursday. General Faustin Nyamwasa was living in exile in Johannesburg. He was shot and wounded outside his home on 19 June 2010, four months after he came to South Africa seeking asylum.

Nyamwasa fled to South Africa in February after abandoning his post as Rwanda's envoy to India.

Nyamsawa's wife Rosette, who was in the car with him during the shooting, believes the attack was a political assassination attempt. Nothing was stolen during the incident, she said.

South Africa is carefully not accusing the Rwandan government, which denies any role in the attack. Nyamwasa's fallen out with the Kigali government that's angry about his finding refuge in South Africa, correspondent Jean-Jacques Cornish told RFI from Pretoria.

"We want to be cautious and we are not pointing an accusing finger at any country," said Ayande Ntsaluba, South Africa's most senior diplomat.

Ntsaluba said it is common practice for a country to have declared security operatives in another.

Six people were arrested in connection with last month's shooting. Two were released without being charged.

The remaining four appeared in court facing an attempted murder charge. Police have declined to identify their nationalities or comment on their motive.

Ntsaluba says the Nyamwasa case involves a country with which South Africa has good and strong diplomatic relations.

"This is why we will not make a determination about where the suspected attackers of General Nyamwasa come from," he said.

Prosecutors have said they're from Tanzania, Somalia and Mozambique.

The case was postponed so their legal status in the country could be determined, said Cornish.

## **Congo-Kinshasa: Secretary-General Inaugurates New Phase of UN Mission**

UN News Service

Reflecting the strides made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) over the past decade, the United Nations peacekeeping mission entered a new chapter today, with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paying tribute to the commitment demonstrated by blue helmets in bringing peace to the region.

Last month, the Security Council passed a resolution authorizing the withdrawal of up to 2,000 UN military personnel - from an existing strength of 19,815 - by today from areas where security has improved enough to allow their removal.

From today, the UN mission will be known as the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and will stay in the DRC only until 30 June next year.

"The emphasis is on stabilization and consolidating peace," Mr. Ban said at the unveiling of a plaque during the introduction of the mission's new phase in the capital, Kinshasa, yesterday.

He vowed that the UN will continue working with the DRC "to guide the progressive withdrawal of military peacekeepers in a way that does not jeopardize the gains the country has made."

The Secretary-General emphasized the need to continue ensuring protection for civilians, especially women.

He also called on all parties, including Government forces, to put an end to sexual violence, which he called the "most serious denial of fundamental human rights."

At the event, Mr. Ban recognized the dedication of peacekeepers who have served in the DRC, hailing the 157 men and women who have paid with their lives for the cause.

"Let us honour their memory by ensuring that together we can build the stability that the country needs to realize its great potential."

Also in Kinshasa yesterday, the Secretary-General met with representatives of civil society, which he said is "critical to stability, to reconciliation in the wake of conflict, to a healthy democracy, and to human rights."

He expressed his condolences on the death of prominent rights defender Floribert Chebeya, whose body was found on the outskirts of the capital last month after he was summoned to a police station.

So far, the chief of the national police has been suspended and several officers arrested in connection with the murder of Mr. Chebeya, who headed the non-governmental organization (NGO) known as Voix des Sans Voix (Voice of the Voiceless).

The slain defender's work focused on human rights abuses in the DRC, including corruption in the military and the links between militias and foreign political forces.

"His courage was an inspiration for all who are dedicated to upholding human rights and defending public freedoms," Mr. Ban said at yesterday's meeting.

"I hope his death will be investigated thoroughly, transparently and independently, with full respect for due process and the rule of law."

The Secretary-General noted that the health of a country can be gauged by its "willingness and ability to carry out its human rights commitments," stressing the importance of States to provide the conditions necessary to allow rights defenders and journalists to carry out their work, unhindered.

"The United Nations will stand by your side," he told the civil society representatives. "Our priority is to see Africa achieve its potential."

### **Africa: Kabila Pledges Peace, Stability**

The HERALD Published by the government of Zimbabwe

Kinshasa — Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila has pledged to work towards permanent democracy in his country, saying the Central African giant is poised to become "a tree of peace and power" on the continent.

Speaking at celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of DRC's Independence in Kinshasa yesterday, President Kabila - who is the Sadc chair - hailed the contributions made by various African countries, including Zimbabwe, in bringing stability to his country.

Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and - briefly - Chad sent troops to the DRC to stave off an invasion by Western-backed Rwandese and Ugandan-troops.

And in a show of President Kabila's determination to forge unity, Presidents Paul Kagame and Yoweri Museveni of Rwanda and Uganda respectively were present at yesterday's celebrations. President Kabila said ensuring the freedoms of the majority was central to his Government's vision and democracy was key to DRC's envisaged economic boom.

"My desire is for the Congo to awaken after a period of sleep," he said. "The next 50 years should see us continue with the struggle for liberty and permanent democracy."

The Congolese leader said their focus was on promoting development at all levels.

This vision is encapsulated in a five-point plan that homes in on infrastructure development, education, health, water and electricity generation and employment creation.

President Kabila said the reconstruction was critical following decades of ruinous armed conflict.

The Sadc chair said his dream was to see the DRC become an economic powerhouse, adding that the feat was achievable.

He said his Government was creating an investor-friendly environment but warned that foreigners should not think Kinshasa was prepared to enter into exploitative relationships that resulted in looting of its vast natural resources.

He attributed the unity, peace and stability in the country to political dialogue and singled out Zimbabwe, Namibia and Angola for their co-operation. "After 50 years, we have managed to safeguard our territorial integrity. We should also strive to uphold human rights," he said.

"We are also happy with our country's economic stability.

"It takes engagement to maintain the legacy left by our predecessors."

The DRC attained independence from Belgian rule in 1960. However, Western-sponsored wars have continued to plague the mineral-rich country.

President Kabila has long advocated for political dialogue to achieve stability.

Yesterday's celebrations captured the Congolese people's hope for a new DRC. The festivities began on Tuesday with the unveiling of a monument erected in honor of the country's first President, Joseph Kasavubu.

Dignitaries were then treated to a State banquet and a music and dance show in the evening.

Thousands of Congolese turned up for the main celebrations at the Boulevard Triomphe yesterday morning where various activities, among them military parades, were on show. The programme was replicated across the vast country's 11 provinces. There was optimism that the DRC would emerge from the ruins of war into a powerful nation.

Mr David Ngoyi, a financial consultant, said President Kabila's government had brought peace.

"There is peace now. One can now move around freely. There is also a lot of reconstruction going on," he said.

"This area where there boulevard was constructed was a bush, but look how amazing the place looks now!"

Rose Masangu, a local journalist, said the country was progressing. "The government has a lot on its plate. But we are optimistic that things will turn out for the best for our dear country," she said.

Apart from President Mugabe and First Lady Amai Grace Mugabe, other leaders present at the ceremony were Presidents Bingu Wa Mutharika (Malawi and African Union chair), Kagame (Rwanda), Museveni (Uganda), Hifikepunye Pohamba (Namibia), Rupiah Banda (Zambia), Teodoro Obiang Nguema (Equatorial Guinea) and Denis Sassou Nguesso (Congo-Brazzaville).

Also gracing the occasion was King Mswati III of Swaziland and Belgium's King Albert.

They were joined by former leaders Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania) and Sir Ketumile Masire (Botswana) as well as AU Commission chair Dr Jean Ping.

Zimbabwe's delegation included Defense Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa and his Foreign Affairs counterpart Simbarashe Mumbengegwi and senior Government officials.

On arrival in Kinshasa on Tuesday, President Mugabe was honoured with a 21-gun.

He returned home last night.

Among those who received him were Vice President John Nkomo, the Chief Secretary in the President's Office and Cabinet Dr Misheck Sibanda, ministers Webster Shamu (Media, Information and Publicity) and Nicholas Goche (Transport, Communication and Infrastructure Development) and service chiefs.

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

#### **US\$ 12 bn debt relief for DR Congo**

Afrol News

The Kinshasa government today was told it was ready to receive a massive debt cancellation of up to US\$ 12.3 billion. The IMF decision was however controversial, with several countries protesting.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank today have decided to support US\$ 12.3 billion in debt relief to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As a result of this relief, the DRC will no longer face a heavy debt service burden in relation to its revenue and foreign exchange resources.

The decision was based on an IMF analysis, holding that the Kinshasa government had by now implemented the expected economic reforms required to trigger a debt cancellation programme.

This, according to the IMF, had included "satisfactory implementation of the country's poverty reduction and growth strategy, maintenance of macroeconomic stability, improvements in public expenditure and debt management, and improved governance and service delivery in key social sectors such as health, education and rural development."

But the decision was controversial, with several board members voting against it or abstaining. In particular Canada was protesting the decision following a Congolese expropriation of a Canadian company's copper assets in the country.

There were arguments that the DRC was still not ready for debt relief, as the economy needed further reform, corruption is still pervasive and there still was warfare in the vast country.

It was however remembered that most of the debt now burdening the rather progressive government in Kinshasa was made in doubtful conditions more than 20 years ago. At the time, massive loans were made to long-time Dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, creditors knowing the funds would be embezzled by the corrupt regime.

Compared to the earlier chaos in the DRC, the current administration had moved a far way to create a viable foundation for economic growth and reducing poverty, the IMF and World Bank boards found.

"We recognise the government's huge efforts," commented the Bank's Marie-Françoise Marie-Nelly. "This could be a turning point in DRC's long troubled history," she added, the day after the country celebrated its 50th independence anniversary.

But also Ms Marie-Nelly recognised success was still to be secured in the DRC. "Going forward, strengthening the rule of law, improving governance - especially in the oil and mining sectors - and improving the business climate are essential next steps to benefit the most vulnerable Congolese citizens," she urged Kinshasa authorities.

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

### **Rwanda: Unesco Deplores Murder of Independent Rwandan Journalist**

The New Times

The United Nations agency tasked with promoting press freedom today condemned the assassination of a prominent independent journalist from Rwanda, who was gunned down outside his home in the capital, Kigali.

Jean-Léonard Rugambage, the editor of the bi-monthly Umuvugizi, died on 24 June after being shot at close range near his home in Kigali's Nyamirambo district.

According to media reports, two men have been arrested in connection with his murder.

Also known as the "Sheriff," Mr. Rugambage served as well as a correspondent for Rwanda Journalists in Danger, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Irina Bokova, Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), issued a statement condemning the "heinous crime," which she said represents "a blow to the fundamental right of freedom of the press."

Ms. Bokova called on Rwandan authorities to do everything possible to bring the perpetrators of the killing to justice.

UNESCO, which is headquartered in Paris, is the only UN agency mandated to defend freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

### **Congo-Brazzaville: New UN-Backed Plan Aims to Enhance Child Rights**

Un News Service

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has welcomed new measures announced by the Republic of Congo to boost child protection, calling them a major breakthrough for the Central African nation.

President Denis Sassou Nguesso announced the new child protection framework during recent celebrations to mark the Day of the African Child, making Congo the fifth French-speaking African nation to pass such measures.

"This framework will better monitor the violation of children's rights abuses and help to improve the situation to build a protective environment for children," said Marianne Flach, UNICEF Representative in Congo.

"It is a major breakthrough that opens new perspectives in the protection and realization of children's rights in Congo," Ms. Flach stated in a news release.

The framework is comprised of a collection of texts covering all aspects of child protection, including issues concerning children in conflict with the law.

Congo is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which articulates a set of universal children's rights including the right to an identity, a name and a nationality, the right to an education, and rights to the highest possible standards of health and protection from abuse and exploitation.

It has also signed on to the two Optional Protocols to the Convention - on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography - and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

UNICEF noted that the country's legislation will need to be updated and harmonized with the new measures and that national efforts will need more funding and support.

### **Amnesty: DRC Falls Short of Human Rights**

VOA

The human rights monitoring group Amnesty International says the Democratic Republic of Congo has a long way to go with regard to human rights. The country celebrates five decades of independence on Wednesday only weeks after the murder of a prominent human rights activist.

As the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, celebrates its independence, critics say daily life for many Congolese remains difficult and precarious.

Amnesty International warns that the work of human rights activists in the country is increasingly dangerous and deadly.

"The DRC is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary of independence from Belgium and has worked out to put on a good show for these celebrations. But the bleak background is first of all a very worrying human rights situation in general, but also a difficult situation for those who are trying to make the situation better -- the human rights activists," said Claire Morclette, a DRC researcher for Amnesty International.

Amnesty says death threats against human rights activists and journalists in the DRC have increased during the past year.

The funeral of prominent human rights activist Floribert Chebeya Bahizire was held in Kinshasa last Saturday. His body was found in his car on June 2nd, the day after he was summoned to a meeting with police.

Amnesty says Chebeya had been working on several sensitive issues involving the head of the national police and had told Amnesty that he felt he was being kept under surveillance.

Congolese human rights lawyer Joseph Dunia worked with Chebeya and says his murder was "a great loss for all Congolese."

He says that at first, many people were intimidated by Chebeya's murder, but now many human rights defenders are even more determined to work harder and to show the world that that insecurity continues in the DRC and that daily life is difficult. He says 50 years after independence, there still is much to be done and that it is time for Congolese to show that they can improve their lives and liberty.

Dunia says that increased threats and violence against human rights activists, like Chebeya, are a step backward for Congo.

He says that elections had people hoping that the DRC was getting back on track. But he says that now it feels like the country is returning to where it started and that conditions for human rights defenders and journalists are dangerous. He says investigations into attacks do not end in convictions, which leads many in the DRC to believe that they are politically motivated.

John Numbi, head of police for the country, has been suspended. Amnesty International has called on the government to launch an independent commission of inquiry to investigate Chebeya's death.

Morclette says this should include international participation. "Unfortunately, the classical investigation that has been launched by the national prosecution does not really guarantee that any justice will come out of it, particularly if you look back at the precedent set with previous trials in two killings of journalists and human rights defenders, including Pascal Kabungulu who was murdered in 2005 in his home in Bukavu. Since then, no credible investigation has been made and there has been no trial either and the perpetrators are still running free."

Amnesty International says it fears that a withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping mission to DRC will lead to a further deterioration of human rights in the country.

## **Central African bush meat hits European market**

Afrol News

More than five tonnes of illegal bush meat is being smuggled in personal luggage each week through the Paris airport alone. Most bush meat comes from Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo Kinshasa (DRC).

The scale of Central African bush meat smuggled to Europe is revealed in a new study published in the journal 'Conservation Letters' in June. This study quantifies for the first time the illegal trade of bush meat through a European airport.

Working alongside customs officials at France's Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, British and French researchers identified eleven bush meat species from confiscated luggage, including species of primate, crocodiles and pangolins.

134 passengers were searched from 29 flights over a period of 17 days. The single largest confiscation was of 51 kg of bushmeat carried by a single passenger with no other luggage.

"Our results estimate that around 270 tonnes of potentially contaminated illegal bushmeat is passing unchecked through a single European airport per year, posing a huge potential risk to public health," says Anne-Lise Chaber, from the UK Royal Veterinary College (RVC).

The Central African Republic, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were identified as the main sources of bushmeat. The researchers spoke with three traders in Paris revealing that, as well as street trading, traders take orders in advance and arrange delivery of the goods to the customer.

Marcus Rowcliffe from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) says that the study had shown that "this is a lucrative, organized trade feeding into a luxury market; a 4kg monkey will cost around €100 in France, compared with just €5 in Cameroon."

"Importing bushmeat is relatively easy as customs officials are given no financial incentives to uncover illegal meat imports, compared with the bonuses they are awarded for drug and counterfeit seizures. Also, penalties are very low for people caught carrying illegal meat," Mr Rowcliffe added.

39 percent of the confiscated bushmeat was identified to stem from animals being listed as threatened species, "highlighting the unsustainable nature of the trade and its potential impact on species of conservation concern," according to the researchers.

In addition to wildlife conservation concerns, the illegal trade of such large quantities of bushmeat was raising "serious questions" about the importation of dangerous diseases into Europe.

"Surveillance methods need to be more robust and deterrents more severe if we are to have any chance of halting this illegal trade," says Andrew Cunningham, from ZSL.

Compared to the bushmeat trade in Central Africa, the meat smuggled to Europe however still is minimal. Researchers estimate that the current harvest of bushmeat in Central Africa is more than 1 million tonnes annually, the equivalent of almost 4 million cattle.

But this first-ever study of the volume and nature of the international bushmeat trade has triggered the interest. The French and British researchers now wish to undertake a wider-scale study with greater geographic coverage to determine the overall volume of the illegal bushmeat trade into Europe.

## **5. Elections**

### **Burundi Opposition Leader Explains Disappearance**

VOA

A top Burundian opposition leader has issued a recorded message explaining why he went into hiding last week.

In an audiotape made available to reporters, former rebel leader Agathon Rwasa says the government plans to arrest him on charges of planning to mount a new insurgency.

He said he is being targeted because he led the opposition in alleging that crucial local elections in May were rigged.

Rwasa disappeared about a week ago from his home in the capital, Bujumbura.

Burundian authorities say there is no warrant for his arrest. But Rwasa says the government has sent secret agents to look for him in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he is believed to be hiding.

Rwasa's FNL party came in second in the May 24 district elections, which were marked by violence. All opposition parties rejected the results of the polls, saying the vote was rigged.

The parties later withdrew from Burundi's presidential election, held Monday, leaving President Pierre Nkurunziza without a challenger.

On Tuesday, Rwasa confirmed to VOA's Central African Service that he is in hiding, saying he believes his life is in imminent danger. He did not reveal his location.

The FNL was the last rebel group to lay down its arms in Burundi's long civil war.

Burundi is holding a series of elections designed to cap a post-civil war transition to democracy.

Voters head to the polls again in July for two rounds of legislative elections followed by village elections in September.

## **Burundi Holds Single Candidate Presidential Election**

VOA

An opposition boycott has left President Pierre Nkurunziza as the sole candidate on the ballot as Burundians go to the polls Monday.

Weeks of tension and sporadic bouts of violence have been capped off by an unlikely calm as citizens vote for President Pierre Nkurunziza, who is certain to retain his office after Monday's election.

With the contest already won, Reuters has reported that many Burundians avoided the polls.

Despite the low turnout, there is a possible consolation for opposition candidates. Burundi's unique electoral system requires voters to place their choice into a white envelope while placing all others into a corresponding black envelope. Earlier this month, Burundi's electoral commission revealed it would treat any black envelope containing the president's ticket as a no-vote, essentially creating a referendum on Mr. Nkurunziza.

But that statement is unlikely to make up for the once bright outlook for the central African nation.

After May's municipal elections saw unprecedented voter turnout and a firm stamp of approval from international observers, many hoped that Burundi's summer long series of elections would be the final step in the country's long and tumultuous transition to democracy.

But hopes quickly faded as the results were announced and President Nkurunziza's National Council for the Defense of Democracy party took over 60 percent of the available seats. Opposition parties, including main challenger the Forces of National Liberation, accused the electoral commission of fraud and pulled out of the presidential election.

But the chief observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission, Renate Weber, said there was no evidence of any such tampering during the municipal polls.

"In spite of errors, in spite of irregularities, generally the elections have been conducted in a manner that was indeed within the international standards. Why the opposition decided to withdraw?" asked Weber.

"They came with a number of allegations of fraud on the elections that we, personally through our observers but also through the observers of the civil society that were present, were not noticed. There is a difference between fraud and irregularities.

Irregularities may be caused by human errors, by not enough logistics, not enough legal precision while fraud means an intention to affect the result of the election," said Weber.

Despite assurances of the international observers, Burundi has seen a surge in politically motivated violence in the time between polls.

Two weeks ago, a series of grenade attacks across the country injured over 20 people, and a fresh string of attacks on Tuesday killed one person and left another eight injured. The international community has also been targeted. On Sunday, a grenade went off near the offices of the European Union's observation team, though nobody was hurt.

The impact of the violence is now being felt outside of the small, central African nation. Burundi is the newest member of the East African Community, an economic and political union which is set to begin its formal integration process in July.

Kenya's foreign minister, Moses Wetang'ula warned that instability could jeopardize the country's status within the bloc.

"The gains in both security and stability that have been made in the last couple of years must not be lost. Having listened to all the parties, the region advises the people of Burundi, very firmly, that the region will not tolerate any slippage of the country into instability and violence," he said. "We have impressed upon the remaining parties to participate fully in the remaining elections of parliament, senatorial and cell."

These are the first presidential elections since a 2005 peace agreement ended a 13-year civil war. Burundians will head to the polls again in July for two rounds of legislative elections followed by village elections in September.

## **Rwandan Opposition Says Government Must Help End Violence**

VOA

The leader of the opposition Democratic Green Party of Rwanda has called on President Paul Kagame's government to help end the escalating violence ahead of the general elections scheduled for August this year.

Frank Habineza said the period leading up to the election is contributing to the ongoing violence.

Habineza's comments follows last week's shooting death of Leonard Rugambage, acting editor of the banned Umuvugizi independent newspaper in the capital, Kigali.

"I would like to call upon the Rwandan President and the Rwandan government to do all they can, in their means, to make sure that they control the situation. I would like to call upon him (Mr. Kagame) to increase his capacity and to make sure that all Rwandans as,

he had promised, can sleep and wake up without any worry that someone will kill them,” he said.

Rugambage’s death has reportedly heightened tension among many Rwandans who are said to be fearful of a violent crackdown ahead of the August vote.

Jean Bosco Gasasira, editor and publisher of the newspaper, is among those blaming the government for the shooting death of Rugambage, a charge the government denies. Rwanda’s Media High Council (MHC) and the Association of Rwandan Journalists (ARJ) issued statements condemning the shooting death of Rugambage and demanded a thorough investigation.

Local media quoted Eric Kayiranga, spokesman for Rwanda’s police, as saying there is an investigation to ascertain the motive behind the killing of the acting newspaper editor. “It is unfortunate. He was shot and died on the spot. We tried to get to the scene as fast as we could, but the gunman had fled in a car. No one has been arrested or linked to this act, but the police (are) doing everything in its powers to trace the killers.”

Opposition leader Habineza said that Rwandans do not feel safe with the ongoing violence ahead of the vote.

“We want to make sure that the elections, which are coming up, are peaceful. I understand that (an) election is not the end of life; it is just the beginning of a journey to democracy. So, we don’t want to have any problem just because of (an) election,” Habineza said.

Opposition groups have often accused President Kagame’s government of strongly resisting any dissent by refusing to register opposition parties ahead of the upcoming election, a charge the government denies.

Meanwhile, analysts say the escalating violence will undermine Rwanda’s young democracy.

## **6. Pan Africa**

### **East Africa: Kibaki Sets Off Common Market**

The New Times

Nairobi — The East African Community on Wednesday took a giant leap as member states simultaneously launched the Common Market Protocol.

The protocol, which was signed on November 20, last year, allows free movement of goods, services, capital and labor in the bloc. It comes into effect at midnight.

Setting off the common market, President Kibaki on Wednesday evening ordered the waiver of work permit fees for all East Africans coming to Kenya.

"I am directing the Minister responsible for Immigration to waive fees on work permits for all East African citizens," the President said.

He also directed Attorney-General Amos Wako to use Parliament to harmonize conflicting laws with EAC countries for the smooth implementation of the protocol.

Speaking at Nairobi's Kenyatta International Conference Centre, the President said the expanded market will increase opportunities for trade in goods and services.

Pact shatters barriers to free flow of goods

Life will soon be much better for East Africans with the coming into effect of the Common Market Protocol on Thursday. The protocol will bring down barriers to movement of labor and goods in the region in what experts are saying will be a boon to the people of the bloc.

Although analysts say it may take up to two years for the benefits of the protocol to trickle down to the citizens, it is one of the most significant developments in the region.

Ugandan teacher

A Ugandan secondary school teacher working in Kenya, for example, will be able to join the Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET). This is one of the provisions outlined by the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol, allowing workers of nationalities other than the host, but from within the community, to join trade unions in the countries where they work.

Other benefits expected to accrue are lower prices due to enhanced competition and job creation. "With the free movement, lowly paid workers will discover better paying prospects across borders," Prof Inonda Mwanje, the executive director of the Africa Public Policy Institute argues.

This would not only trigger competition for the best workers within the bloc's labour market, but also improve pay and working conditions. Movement by citizens of a partner state in search of greener pastures in another country within the community just got easier. Those who have hitherto been considered "foreigners" but hail from within the community will enjoy new preferential status, equivalent to the local people.

Upon retirement

Upon retirement, the workers will also enjoy social security benefits such as pension and health insurance within their adopted countries, just like the citizens of that country. "Partner states shall ensure non-discrimination of the workers of the other partner states, based on their nationalities, in relation to employment, remuneration, and other conditions of work and employment," the protocol indicates under the article on free movement of workers.

However, it will take time before this translates into action due to the drawn out process that involves amending the Labour Relations Act, in the case of Kenya, and other national laws. "We will have to amend our constitution to embrace workers from other countries," says Mr Akello Misori, the acting secretary general of Kuppet.

Mr Misori explains that presently, the union's membership is drawn from individuals employed by the Teachers Service Commission, exclusively Kenyan. For this process to conform to the protocol, a possible change of name to reflect the diverse nationalities may be necessary.

This would also pave the way for closer collaboration among unions within the region. Presently, in the case of Kuppet, for instance, the collaboration within related bodies is through a global organ, Education International, based in Brussels. Prof Mwanje notes that since the protocol does not address itself to detail on effecting the provisions on labour issues, it is upon the Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) and its equivalents within the region to harmonise labour laws.

"This process will define more clearly how a worker moving into another country within the community will be treated," Prof Mwanje says. Nationality will no longer be a basis for recruitment; the competitiveness of the services that individuals provide will be the determining factor.

And cases where workers from other EAC member countries are discriminated against will be a thing of the past. And the process of getting official clearance to begin working upon moving to another partner state is much easier. Upon presenting a valid travel document (or electronic national identity card, in cases where it is accepted) and a contract of employment, besides declaring all the information required upon entry and exit, a pass for temporary movement will be issued free, and will be valid for six months to allow time to obtain a work permit.

However, enjoyment of all these benefits is not automatic. The partner states still retain the right to admission, according to the protocol: "The free movement of workers shall be subject to limitations imposed by the host partner state on grounds of public policy, public security, or public health."

**Rwanda: Kagame Meets Kabila in Kinshasa**

The New Times

Kigali — President Kagame arrived back in Kigali today from Kinshasa, where he participated in celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Before departing Kinshasa this morning, President Kagame and President Kabila held private talks where they discussed bilateral and regional issues ,including strengthening of cooperation in various economic sectors.

Speaking to the press at Ndjili airport, President Kagame congratulated the people of the DRC and said that he was pleased to have been invited to the Independence Day celebrations. (Photo Urugwiro Village)