

**Report # 137**  
**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**  
**Central Africa**  
**Hafiz Akif Naeem**  
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## Summary

### 1. Politics

#### **Rwanda: Kagame Delivers the 2010 Oppenheimer Lecture in UK**

President Paul Kagame yesterday delivered the 2010 Oppenheimer Lecture at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), in London. Addressing over 200 participants, Kagame explained that for Rwanda to be where it is today, it has had to deal with parts of its history that led to the country being underdeveloped. Speaking on the theme; "The Challenges of Nation Building in Africa - the Case of Rwanda", President Kagame pointed out that the period between Rwanda's independence in 1962 and 1994 was dominated by politics mainly based on ethnicity and exclusion, thereby destroying the identity and unity of the nation through conflict. The President added that the politics of exclusion led to coercion and as a result, leaders diverted national resources, pouring them into their preferred regions, and leaving other areas in dire need.

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: Thirty-One Ifex Members Appeal to President Kabila for Improvement in Press Freedom**

Twenty-nine members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a worldwide coalition of press freedom groups, they voiced their support for the open letter which fellow IFEX members Reporters without Borders and Journalist in Danger (JED), its partner organization in the Democratic Republic of Congo, sent to President Joseph Kabila on 30 August. Declare a moratorium on imprisoning journalists on charges of defamation or insulting the authorities, so that the media can play their role as a fourth estate in the run-up to the 2011 presidential election and can help combat corruption and any possible attempts at electoral fraud.

### 2. Security matters/ Peace Keeping / Conflict Resolution

#### **France Refuses Extradition for Rwandan Genocide Suspect**

A French court has rejected a Rwandan government request to extradite a doctor accused of taking part in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. A judge in Versailles ruled Wednesday Eugene Rwamucyo could not receive a fair trial in Rwanda. The judge decided to release him in France.

#### **Fight against Conflict Minerals Uncertain in Congo**

VOA

With violence and human-rights abuses on the rise in the Congo, the international community is stepping up efforts to prevent "conflict minerals" from fueling further bloodshed. For more than 10 years the Democratic Republic of the Congo has played

host to one of the deadliest and most disturbing conflicts on the planet. According to the New York-based International Rescue Committee, more than 5.4 million people have been killed in DRC fighting since 1998, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has vast resources of precious metals such as gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten. All four are critical to the manufacture of many electronics devices, including mobile phones and computers. According to the Washington-based Enough Project, the control of these materials has become the primary cause of violence in the region, with rebel groups now vying for control of the mines that produce the precious metals. Many analysts believe the government will have trouble enforcing the ban, and some even predict an increase in smuggling as a result. It remains to be seen what, if any, steps the Congolese authorities will take to separate government and rebel forces from the illicit trade. If international and local efforts prove unsuccessful, the Congolese people will likely continue to suffer.

### **Rwandan President Lashes Out at UN over Leaked Report**

Rwandan president Paul Kagame has again lashed out at the United Nations after a U.N. report suggested Rwandan soldiers were guilty of mass killings and rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Making a speech in London, Mr. Kagame suggested the report's authors had deliberately given a false account. As the dispute worsens, the Rwandan leader has threatened to withdraw Rwandan peacekeepers from Sudan.

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

### **Rwanda: Teachers to Be Registered**

The Teacher Service Commission (TSC) has come up with a plan to register all teachers in the country right from primary level to Teacher Training Colleges.

### **Rwanda: Nation Scales up Fight against Hunger - Report**

RWANDA has escalated the fight against hunger according to a report by Action aid called 'Who's really fighting hunger?' The report that was released early this week revealed that Rwanda among 28 developing nations surveyed has made substantial progress in the fight against hunger jumping six positions. According to the Actionaid Rwanda Country Director Irene Uwamariya, the achievement by Rwanda within a period of 16 years is tremendous and takes a strong political will and a determined population to attain.

## **4. Economy and Energy**

### **Rwanda: New Regulations to Stimulate Fishing**

The change in regulating and restricting on the use of fishing methods is expected to boost fishermen's incomes through more profitable catches and high quality products.

### **Rwanda: Companies to Form Sales Partnerships**

Rwandan and Ugandan manufacturers are set to meet in Kigali in a bid to bolster their business relations through a solid partnership and platform.

## **5. Health**

### **Monkeypox Strikes in Congo**

The eradication of smallpox is linked to an emerging related disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Scientists say the appearance of monkeypox could be a cause for concern. Monkeypox causes symptoms a lot like smallpox, but it's not nearly as fatal. The two viruses are so closely related that the only way to tell them apart is under a microscope. They're so similar that researchers didn't even know they were separate diseases until vaccination eliminated smallpox from African populations. But the political situation in Congo deteriorated into a decade-long civil war. The economy collapsed, and with it, the health care infrastructure. More people turned to bush meat for food, increasing their contact with animals harboring the monkeypox virus.

### **Equatorial Guinea Denies Lack of Healthcare Investment**

Equatorial Guinea's minister of health and social welfare has denied reports the government has failed to invest in the healthcare of its people despite the country's enormous oil wealth.

### **Aid Organizations Use Technology in Africa Development Work**

The U.N. World Food Program provides food to about 90 million people in 73 countries. In Burundi, the WFP is using a different technology to determine where exactly to focus their food assistance. The World Food Program provides food assistance to more than 600,000 "food-insecure" Burundians in a country of eight million people. Technological advances have improved the ability of aid organizations like the World Food Program to do their work effectively. The U.N. agency has put the wireless devices to use elsewhere in Africa, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique.

## **6. Elections & the Process of Democratization**

### **East Africa: EALA Adopts Democracy Day**

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) yesterday adopted a motion for special recognition of the International Day of Democracy.

## **7. Pan Africa**

### **Africa: Pass Radio Broadcasting in SA, Cameroon**

The Pan African Space Station (PASS) cyber-radio project, launched on Saturday, is now broadcasting live from Cape Town and Cameroon. PASS Radio is an online portal that streams unprogrammed content, interviews, music, live recordings, and musical debate.

## **8. Environment**

### **Rwanda: \$10 Million Earmarked to Protect Akagera Park**

\$10 million (approx. Rwf 5.5 billion) has been earmarked to protect Akagera National Park, located in the Eastern Province. The funds, which were contributed by African Parks Network (APN) and Rwanda Development Board (RDB) will be used to prevent encroachment, poaching and fire outbreaks among other dangers.

## **9. Refugees / Rebel groups / Militancy**

### **Congolese Refugees Demand More Food in Burundi**

Around the world, the UN's World Food Program, or WFP, provides food to about 90 million people per year, almost two thirds of whom are children. Working in 73 countries this year, the WFP plans to provide about 3.7 million tons of food to those unable to produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.

## **10. China-Africa**

### **Rwanda: China to Build \$10 Million Vocational Institute**

THE Chinese government will finance the construction of a vocational training institute in Muko Sector, Musanze District to the tune of \$10 million. He commended the good cooperation his country has with Rwanda, which has enabled the Chinese government to not only invest in the vocational school but also in infrastructure development. The envoy also visited the China Hinan construction company which is contracted to build the Ruhengeri-Kigali highway.

## Details

### 1. Politics

#### **Rwanda: Kagame Delivers the 2010 Oppenheimer Lecture in UK**

The New Times

Document

Kigali — President Paul Kagame yesterday delivered the 2010 Oppenheimer Lecture at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), in London.

#### **Contents of the Lecture**

Addressing over 200 participants, Kagame explained that for Rwanda to be where it is today, it has had to deal with parts of its history that led to the country being underdeveloped.

Speaking on the theme; "The Challenges of Nation Building in Africa - the Case of Rwanda", President Kagame pointed out that the period between Rwanda's independence in 1962 and 1994 was dominated by politics mainly based on ethnicity and exclusion, thereby destroying the identity and unity of the nation through conflict.

"The conditions of conflict and destruction were made possible by this type of leadership which championed divisionism and sectarianism," he said.

"Because of this fundamental deficiency, when faced with the challenges of legitimacy, this leadership fell back on the ideology they were familiar with; the so-called ethnic identities, which effectively fragmented Rwanda".

The President added that the politics of exclusion led to coercion and as a result, leaders diverted national resources, pouring them into their preferred regions, and leaving other areas in dire need.

Kagame explained to the audience that what followed was an impoverished disunited country with limited investments in technology, education and business that were required for socio-economic transformation.

"This state of affairs had two related consequences; first, the economy stagnated and levels of poverty remained high. Second, it led to heavy dependence on foreign aid that had devastating consequences on the development of the country," he said.

The President added that donor funds remained in the hands of a few people and were used to entrench the leaders in power. He noted that before 1994, the country's budget

was entirely financed by external funding, yet today donors contribute less than 50% of the national budget.

Kagame pointed out that the new government that came into power after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi developed a new approach that put forward unity, reconciliation and development.

"We have adopted and implemented policies that foster national unity, promote reconciliation, peace, security and development. We have set out to build a nation of laws and institutions," he said.

Noting that the country had learned from its difficult past, Kagame said that Rwanda today has adopted a model that builds on inclusive politics of power-sharing and consensus building.

Kagame also spoke about the role of the state in service delivery, decentralization and the establishment of an inclusive decision making process. He noted that transparency and accountability continue to be important aspects of development.

The President highlighted the important role Gacaca Courts had played in delivering justice after the Genocide and how the country has embarked on a long journey to invest in ICT and trade.

Kagame highlighted how Rwandans have the resolve and determination to build their country, restore dignity and work hard towards making the country self-sustaining.

After his lecture, President Kagame responded to questions from the audience, mainly about Rwanda's reconstruction process, from the devastating effects of the genocide to where it is today.

Previous high profile speakers at the IISS include President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President Ali Zardari of Pakistan, former President George W. Bush, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Gen. Stanley McChrystal from the United States.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Thirty-One Ifex Members Appeal to President Kabila for Improvement in Press Freedom**

Reporters sans Frontières

Twenty-nine members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a worldwide coalition of press freedom groups, yesterday voiced their support for the open letter which fellow IFEX members Reporters Without Borders and Journalist in Danger (JED), its partner organization in the Democratic Republic of Congo, sent to President Joseph Kabila on 30 August.

Voicing concern about the "constant decline in the climate for journalists and steadily shrinking space for free expression" in the Democratic Republic of Congo as next year's presidential election approaches, the 31 organisations jointly call on President Kabila to:

Declare a moratorium on imprisoning journalists on charges of defamation or insulting the authorities, so that the media can play their role as a fourth estate in the run-up to the 2011 presidential election and can help combat corruption and any possible attempts at electoral fraud.

Create the proposed Higher Council for Broadcasting and Communication (CSAC) as soon as possible. By having responsibility for regulating the media and by being empowered to ensure that all the candidates have equitable access to the state-owned media, this independent council will help to combat media abuses and the danger of excessive media politicisation during the coming election year.

The 31 organisations that have signed the appeal are: Adil Soz, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, Association of Caribbean Media Workers, Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, Cartoonists Rights Network International, Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building, The Committee to Protect Journalists, Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association, Exiled Journalists Network, Freedom House, Free Media Movement, Globe International, Human Rights Network for Journalists, Independent Journalism Centre, International PEN Writers in Prison Committee, International Press Institute, Journaliste en Danger, Maharat Foundation, Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Media Institute of Southern Africa, Media Rights Agenda, Media Watch, National Union of Somali Journalists, Observatoire pour la Liberté de Presse, d'Édition et de Création, Pacific Islands News Association, Pakistan Press Foundation, Public Association "Journalists", Reporters Without Borders, World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, and World Press Freedom Committee.

Communication minister and government spokesman Lambert Mendé Omalanga criticised the letter in a communiqué broadcast on Radio-Télévision Nationale Congolaise in which he insisted that "press freedom is improving in the DRC."

Reporters Without Borders and Journalist in Danger wrote to the minister today pointing out the spurious nature of the arguments he used and reiterating their concern about the dangers to which journalists are exposed in the DRC.

Among the requests made in the 30 August letter to Kabila was the release of Le Journal editor Jullson Eninga, who had been held for five months on a treason charges. He was finally tried and acquitted on 6 September and was released the next day.

## **2. Security matters/ Peace Keeping / Conflict Resolution**

### **France Refuses Extradition for Rwandan Genocide Suspect**

VOA

A French court has rejected a Rwandan government request to extradite a doctor accused of taking part in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

A judge in Versailles ruled Wednesday Eugene Rwamucyo could not receive a fair trial in Rwanda. The judge decided to release him in France.

Rwamucyo's lawyer, Philippe Meilhac, told reporters the court decision was a "relief" and called it a victory of law over politics.

Rwamucyo still faces a criminal investigation in Paris for genocide and crimes against humanity. The case against him was brought by a Rwandan victims group.

Wednesday's ruling comes as France and Rwanda are working to repair fragile relations. In March, French President Nicolas Sarkozy made a visit to Rwanda after a three-year break in diplomatic ties.

A team of French investigators is currently in Kigali looking into the assassination of Rwanda's and Burundi's presidents in a 1994 plane crash. The incident is widely considered the trigger for the genocide.

A French finding in 2006 accusing President Paul Kagame, a former Tutsi rebel leader, of ordering the assassination led Rwanda to break ties with France. Mr. Kagame strongly denied the charge.

Rwanda's own investigation blamed Hutu extremists for the assassinations saying they were trying to create an excuse for the genocide.

Another Rwandan doctor faces an extradition hearing in Bordeaux in October. During the genocide, Hutu extremists killed an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates in the span of 100 days.

### **Fight against Conflict Minerals Uncertain in Congo**

VOA

With violence and human-rights abuses on the rise in the Congo, the international community is stepping up efforts to prevent "conflict minerals" from fueling further bloodshed.

For more than 10 years the Democratic Republic of the Congo has played host to one of the deadliest and most disturbing conflicts on the planet. According to the New York-based International Rescue Committee, more than 5.4 million people have been killed in DRC fighting since 1998, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II.

Recently, it has been revealed that the war, raging primarily along the country's eastern borders has been aggravated by worldwide demand for the region's abundant resources, often referred to as "conflict minerals."

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has vast resources of precious metals such as gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten. All four are critical to the manufacture of many electronics devices, including mobile phones and computers. According to the Washington-based Enough Project, the control of these materials has become the primary cause of violence in the region, with rebel groups now vying for control of the mines that produce the precious metals.

According to the group, rape is the preferred method of intimidation, used by armed groups to subdue civilian populations and control smuggling routes to the outside world. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in the eastern Congo, MONUSCO, has been largely unable to stem the violence. It was recently revealed that more than 240 women and children were raped by rebel forces as they took control of Luvungi in the North Kivu province.

The United Nations estimates 500 people were raped in the North and South Kivu provinces during the months of July and August, with both rebels and government forces implicated in the violence. The organization has called the Democratic Republic of the Congo the "rape capital of the world" and the international community is beginning to take notice.

In July, the United States Senate included a provision in the Financial Reform Act that mandates U.S. companies who purchase tin ore, gold and other precious metals to prove their products are conflict-free. Companies who fail to meet this standard are subject to independent audit and heavy penalties. The move was praised by groups such as London-based watchdog Global Witness, which said the bill puts the responsibility on companies to avoid inadvertently financing the violence.

Global Witness also welcomed the recent ban, imposed by President Joseph Kabila, on mining activities in eastern Congo. Speaking Saturday, Mr. Kabila indefinitely suspended mining in the Maniema and North and South Kivu provinces, in order to eliminate what he called "mafia" control of the industry.

The head of Global Witness' Congo campaign, Daniel Balint-Kurti, expressed measured hope the move would prove successful.

"The mining sector is ridden with control by rebel groups and other armed groups," said Daniel Balint-Kurti. "We think that if this ban is taken in order to clean up the sector, get

things in order, and then restart mines production under a working system in which miners are not prey to armed men, then that could be a good thing. We do have to see how this happens in practice."

But not everybody is happy with the president's ban. Global tin industry group ITRI said the ban on mining in both Kivu provinces would essentially freeze their efforts to bring transparency to tin mining in the region.

Last July, the group launched the ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative to begin tracking and certifying tin exports at select mines in the provinces.

The process is funded almost exclusively by tin exporters and smelters who look to the group for certification of their minerals. Without tin exports, the group says it will be unable to ensure legitimate materials are being exported in the region.

There are also fears the ban could negatively impact civilian miners. ITRI spokesperson Kay Nimmo says that measures such as the ban and the U.S. restrictions promoted disengagement, rather than proactive solutions to mineral smuggling. Nimmo warned that such strict measures would hurt the market rather than promote reform.

"It is important for people to realize that staying in and trying to make improvement is perhaps the better way of doing it," said Kay Nimmo. "Because the proportion of Congolese tin is very low, only three percent of world production, it is very easy to get alternative supplies from other areas. So it is a very easy choice for people to say 'We will not follow the procedures required in the conflict minerals bill we will just buy from somewhere else.'"

Global Witness spokesman Balint-Kurti dismissed those arguments, saying the level of risk taken by tin producers to obtain Congolese minerals demonstrates the market's ability to withstand the ban.

Many analysts believe the government will have trouble enforcing the ban, and some even predict an increase in smuggling as a result. It remains to be seen what, if any, steps the Congolese authorities will take to separate government and rebel forces from the illicit trade. If international and local efforts prove unsuccessful, the Congolese people will likely continue to suffer.

## **Rwandan President Lashes Out at UN over Leaked Report**

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Rwandan president Paul Kagame has again lashed out at the United Nations after a U.N. report suggested Rwandan soldiers were guilty of mass killings and rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Making a speech in London, Mr. Kagame suggested the report's authors had deliberately given a false account. As the dispute worsens, the Rwandan leader has threatened to withdraw Rwandan peacekeepers from Sudan.

Hours before Paul Kagame was due to give his speech, his supporters had arrived outside the venue in central London to show their love for the president and celebrate his recent re-election with songs, dances and plenty of Rwandan flags.

The esteem in which they hold Mr. Kagame is matched in Britain where he was invited to give the prestigious Oppenheimer lecture at London analyst group, the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"It is a pleasure to be here at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and an honor to speak on the challenges of nation-building in Africa," he said.

President Kagame was re-elected in August with 94 percent of the vote, amid allegations that he'd intimidated and in some cases locked up political opponents.

But it's a simmering row between Rwanda and the United Nations that's now threatening to tarnish his image.

Paul Kagame's forces took power in 1994 after bringing an end to the genocide of his Tutsi people by Hutus.

A leaked U.N. report accuses his troops of carrying out mass killings and rape as they pursued the Hutus into the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1990s.

After his speech, the president rebutted the allegations.

"They are baseless and totally untrue and flawed in many ways. To accuse Rwandan forces of committing genocide in the Congo or wherever for that matter, other than what happened in our own country, is just absurd," he said.

As the row intensifies President Kagame has threatened to withdraw the 3,500 Rwandese peacekeepers from Darfur in Sudan. He says the UN's failure to stop the genocide against the Tutsis in 1994 invalidates any criticism of his forces.

Asked about the now improving relations between Rwanda and the DRC, Mr. Kagame said he believed that could be the motivation behind the U.N. report.

"While some people seem to acknowledge it is very good, other people feel threatened by it and want to undermine it. It's like 'Oh - if Rwanda and the Congo come together then what?'... there are people's jobs that are threatened by that," he said.

But Carina Tertsakian from Human Rights Watch says the Rwandan government should take the report seriously.

"The very serious abuses carried out by Rwandan troops as well as by Congolese groups in Congo in the '90s were well documented already at that time not only by U.N. teams

but by different Non-Governmental Organizations, so to deny the accusations in that way is simply not credible. The Rwandan government should treat these allegations with the seriousness that they deserve and at the very least commit to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes."

Back in central London, Paul Kagame's supporters aren't letting the U.N. report change the way they view their president.

"He's full of democracy, full of achievements, development and prosperity," says one supporter. "I appreciate everything he does and he's genuine. We've seen a lot of people going and coming, but he's a genuine," another supporter said.

The U.N. report into the alleged war crimes by Rwandan forces in the DRC is due to be officially published on 1 October. Parts of it have already been leaked - and provoked a fiery response. When the full details emerge, the growing tension between President Kagame and the United Nations is only likely to get worse.

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

#### **Rwanda: Teachers to Be Registered**

The New Times

Kigali — The Teacher Service Commission (TSC) has come up with a plan to register all teachers in the country right from primary level to Teacher Training Colleges.

The commission has operated without a clear Teacher Registration Policy and no clear database of teachers in the country apart from the records of teachers on the district level where they are normally recruited.

The purpose of the plan is to provide public and professional confidence in teachers' approval process so that it contributes to a quality learning environment and towards enhancing the reputation of the teaching profession.

It is underpinned by the principle of enhancing both the quality of teaching and learning and the status of the profession. It aims at ensuring that fully registered teachers are supported with appropriate resources to enable them to maintain full registration and meet the demands of teaching in the general education system of Rwanda.

According to the Director of TSC, Emmanuel Muvunyi, the collection of data on teachers countrywide is ongoing and over 70 percent of the work has been completed.

"The registration exercise will be followed by the establishment of an electronic National Teachers Registration System (NTRS)," says Muvunyi, adding that various other policies and rules and regulations are being drafted.

These include: Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS) for teachers, National Teacher Code of Conduct (NTCC), National Teacher Professional Standards (NTPS), Teacher Appraisal and Evaluation System (TAES), National Teacher Recruitment (NTR), National Teacher Placement (NTP) and National Teacher Transfer (NTT).

Muvunyi further said that a National Teacher Licensing System (NTLS) is being proposed, where teachers will be promoted according to qualification, experience and conduct.

The NTLS will be linked to the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) plan, the Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics. Teachers will be expected to rise in terms of status through this objective mechanism.

### **Rwanda: Nation Scales up Fight against Hunger - Report**

The New Times

Kigali — RWANDA has escalated the fight against hunger according to a report by Action aid called 'Who's really fighting hunger?'

The report that was released early this week revealed that Rwanda among 28 developing nations surveyed has made substantial progress in the fight against hunger jumping six positions. According to the Actionaid Rwanda Country Director Irene Uwamariya, the achievement by Rwanda within a period of 16 years is tremendous and takes a strong political will and a determined population to attain.

"Government's pro-poor policies that empower smallholder farmers like one cow per family, farmers' easy access to extension services and social protection schemes under vision 2020 Umurenge and shared lessons," said Uwamariya. Uwamariya, however, called for the need for a strong legal framework that provides constitutional and legislative guarantees of right to food in Rwanda if the country is to consolidate its achievements.

She also said that Rwanda is set to meet the MDG target number one of halving the child malnutrition just one year after the 2015 deadline - way ahead of many wealthier nations. The Minister of Agriculture, Agnes kalibata, who attended the report launching, pointed out that if all people invested their energy in helping one another to overcome poverty, Rwanda would beat the deadline by far.

The report, that is compiled annually, also shows that 20 out of 28 poor nations are off track to halving hunger by 2015 and 12 of these are going backwards.

## **4. Economy and Energy**

### **Rwanda: New Regulations to Stimulate Fishing**

The New Times

Kigali — The change in regulating and restricting on the use of fishing methods is expected to boost fishermen's incomes through more profitable catches and high quality products, a government official has said.

The government introduced the ban on small fishing nets last year to allow fish to grow and increase national fish production.

"Restriction and regulation of fishing methods will lead to larger catches of fish with a higher market value," Dr. Theogene Rutagwenda, the Director General of Rwanda Animal Resource Development Authority (RARDA) said.

He added that using proper methods of fishing will give the fish a chance to grow bigger and bear many offspring.

"The use of unauthorized fishing nets has threatened fish production, but we are on track to end purge these harmful activities, we see that the ban is a direct benefit to the fishermen," he added.

Parallel efforts to develop the fishing industry include the newly established law on fishing and fisheries (aquatic law) that will convert livestock sub-sector strategy into a viable sector by supervising and regulating fish farming.

The law is expected to play a crucial role in the transformation of the sector.

The one that has been in use became absolute in 1937 as it included some articles that could not be applied.

Rwanda wants to be self sufficient in fish production. Government imported fingerlings (small fish) and restocked 17 inland lakes.

"The fishing business is now organised and strong measures are in force to deter whoever does any crime affecting production from these waters," he said.

Recently, government through the Ministry of Agriculture handed over 25 boats worth Rwf 346 million to Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) to be used by marines of the two institutions to fight crimes that affect food production around the lakes.

## **Rwanda: Companies to Form Sales Partnerships**

The New Times

Kigali — Rwandan and Ugandan manufacturers are set to meet in Kigali in a bid to bolster their business relations through a solid partnership and platform.

The mission, which is arranged through MarketLinked program, will strengthen the corporation between businesses in the region and offer business opportunities between the two neighboring nations.

"The interaction between Ugandan and Rwandan companies will help them make profits and realize business opportunities for both countries," said Robert Moogie, the export development program manager of tradelink.

There are at least 60 Rwandan companies that have confirmed participation in the upcoming conference.

A team of 11 companies from Uganda will be in Rwanda from September 20 - 23, 2010 to bolster business relations with their counterparts.

"It is important for companies in all our member countries of the East African Community to appreciate that the EAC Common Market is a reality and hence make the most of it by building business relations through formal contact with their counterparts across the community for sustainable business partnerships," explained Moogie.

MarketLinked is a joint partnership initiative between Ugandan-based Irish company, Traidlinks, and the Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB).

"We have established the same business relations with Kenyan companies and we would encourage all businesses to take up this opportunity," added Moogie.

The initial research to explore business interests from Rwandan companies to meet with Ugandan companies was undertaken in June 2010.

"This is a unique approach as opposed to the conventional exhibition or group meetings," the release reads in part.

The mission will bring together companies involved in manufacturing activities. Appropriate technology agricultural equipment, amongst others, will also feature.

## 5. Health

### Monkeypox Strikes in Congo

VOA

The eradication of smallpox is linked to an emerging related disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Scientists say the appearance of monkeypox could be a cause for concern.

Monkeypox causes symptoms a lot like smallpox, but it's not nearly as fatal. The two viruses are so closely related that the only way to tell them apart is under a microscope. They're so similar that researchers didn't even know they were separate diseases until vaccination eliminated smallpox from African populations.

"Monkeypox probably existed out there for a really long time and it was just counted as a case of smallpox," says UCLA epidemiologist Anne Rimoin.

Rimoin has spent years studying infectious disease in African countries. She explains that monkeypox is a misnomer. The virus is actually carried by rodents which pass the disease along to humans.

"We believe exposure to these animals - whether it be playing with them, hunting them, butchering them, cooking them, any kind of very close interaction with these animals - could result in an infection," Rimoin says.

Rimoin says one of the biggest causes of exposure to monkeypox-carrying animals was when people ate bush meat, wild animals they had hunted.

When smallpox was being eliminated in the 1960s through the 1980s, scientists working in what was then called Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) first noticed monkeypox. They noticed that people vaccinated against smallpox also got protection against monkeypox and realized that ending smallpox vaccination would allow this related disease to emerge more strongly.

Scientists from Zaire and other countries studied monkeypox, to get an idea of how serious it was, and whether monkeypox transmission could be sustained, passing from human to human, rather than from animal to human.

At the time, the DRC was a very different place. It was more prosperous, with a functioning health care system. And researchers believed the market for bush meat would diminish as people moved into cities.

"With improved social and economic development, the opportunity for monkeypox to cross over into humans would become less and less because humans were going to be less and less dependent upon these animals for protein," Rimoin says.

But the political situation in Congo deteriorated into a decade-long civil war. The economy collapsed, and with it, the health care infrastructure. More people turned to bush meat for food, increasing their contact with animals harboring the monkeypox virus.

It's in this context that Rimoin and an international team recently studied the incidence of the disease.

"Our study indicated a major increase that was never anticipated from the projections of the 1980s," Rimoin says. "We found a twenty-fold rise in the incidence of monkeypox since the cessation of the smallpox vaccination program. We know that the vaccination provided protection against monkeypox and other similar viruses, so the irony is that our victory over smallpox allowed this new disease to flourish."

Rimoin says health officials need to watch monkeypox in Congo, to see if it's becoming more virulent, and to see if it's passing from human to human, not just from animal to human. And she says there's an urgent need to develop strategies to contain the spread of the disease.

### **Equatorial Guinea Denies Lack of Healthcare Investment**

VOA

Equatorial Guinea's minister of health and social welfare has denied reports the government has failed to invest in the healthcare of its people despite the country's enormous oil wealth.

Francisco Pascual Obama Asue said the government is working closely with the World Health Organization and putting up health infrastructure as well as implementing a host of health programs geared towards improving the health of Equatorial Guineans.

Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo

"The first investment began in 1996 and since then the government started investing in hospitals and other health centers. In Bata on (the coast), a very modern hospital was built called Lapaz and it's actually has all the modern technologies and is staffed by Israeli doctors. There also a number of health centers under construction," he said.

Critics say prevalent alcoholism among the country's youth as well as their preference for unproven traditional self-medication and the government's failure to invest in healthcare have contributed to the poor health of Equatorial Guineans.

But, Minister Obama Asue said the government has adopted the recent WHO resolutions as part of the administration's efforts to improve public health for its peoples.

"The government has been working hard to improve public health for its citizens in projects such as a malaria program, reproductive program with the UNFPA (United

Nations Population Fund), cholera and measles vaccination campaign, social development fund, and new hospitals”

Equatorial Guinea recently hosted WHO regional committee meeting in the capital, Malabo.

The meeting resolved, among others to 1) Establish an African Fund for Public Health Emergencies. 2) Address major determinants of health. 3. Reduce harmful use of alcohol, by which calls on member states to develop and strengthen national policies and international evidence-based to adopt and implement regulations and legislation to create public awareness damage from alcohol. 4) Use cyber health in the African region, which requires member states to promote political commitment and awareness in this area. 5) Strengthen routine immunization activities for polio eradication in the African region. Minister Obama Asue said the government has taken measures to curb the abuse of alcoholism among the youth.

“The government has issued a law forbidding the consumption or sale of alcohol to minors that is those under the age of 18 years old. The government has put in place an increase in the tax in the importation of alcohol into the country. And the government is working with the World Health Organization to receive technical assistance to develop and design new policies on the abuse of alcohol and how to prevent it.”

### **Aid Organizations Use Technology in Africa Development Work**

VOA

The U.N. World Food Program provides food to about 90 million people in 73 countries. In Burundi, the WFP is using a different technology to determine where exactly to focus their food assistance.

The World Food Program provides food assistance to more than 600,000 "food-insecure" Burundians in a country of eight million people.

WFP-Burundi Public Information Officer Marc Neilson says in order to gauge where there is need, WFP staff go out on fact-finding missions.

"So for example if you enter in a village that the government has recommended as at risk or if based on past studies you may think is at risk, you will do a study in there, and you will ask questions everything from, 'How many meals a day are you eating? How are you cooking? What do you use to cook? What kind of fuel do you have to cook? How many people are in the household?" said Neilson.

WFP program assistant Gerard Bisman is interviewing Elisabeth Tembaidai in Bihogo village in northern Burundi. He is asking her, in the Kurundi language, how much maize she eats each month and where she gets her food.

He is typing her answers directly into a handheld electronic device as part of a new initiative by WFP to use technology to help keep tabs on the country's food situation.

The information collected on a PDA is used to determine where to send food aid. The palmtop computer is a little larger than a normal cell phone. Since he started using the device in March, Bisman says the result is more accurate data, collected faster because there is no prep time and no paper shuffling.

He says it is very interesting to use the device because it is a lot faster. It is used to take him about an hour and a half to complete the entire interview with paper and now it takes only half an hour.

The WFP staffer says the survey takers appreciate the improved technology, too.

Bisman says they used to be very, very tired when we did the survey with pen and paper, but with the 30-minute digital survey, they do not get as tired. And so they provide more accurate data, he added.

Tembaidai, a 56-year-old primary school teacher, had never been interviewed by the WFP and said it is the first time for her to see such a device. She said it shows the country is making progress.

A few years ago, Tembaidai received food aid from the WFP because she said there was a food shortage in her village due to a drought. She hopes WFP will provide them with food this year, too.

"We will probably need some help in regards to food this year, because the water that used to come from up north does not come anymore," she said.. "It is the dry season and the village is short of food at the moment."

Neilson said interviewing people like Tembaidai with the electronic devices provides a more precise picture of the needs of the country.

"So you have the speed of gathering data, which means you can expand your survey area and that makes it more valid by interviewing more people," Neilson said.

Right now, WFP Burundi is in Phase One of the project with information collected on a memory card and sent to the main office in Bujumbura. But soon, WFP staff members in the field will begin transmitting their findings wirelessly.

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with average income per person at about \$300 per year. It only emerged from a 13-year civil war in 2006, with one rebel group finally laying down its arms just last year. But the country has a new hi-speed 3G wireless network.

Sending the data wirelessly to the central database to be analyzed will allow the WFP to plan more effectively and quickly where to send food around the country.

Each device costs about \$200, so with two devices in each of the 15 provinces, that comes out to about \$6,000, not including the cost of training personnel. Neilson said it is a "good investment."

"Anytime you can save doing that, it means those most at risk, the poor, are getting the assistance faster and more effectively, and you are not perhaps going in an area where you really should not be," he said. "WFP needs to be in the areas that are most at risk and that is the bottom line. And so anything that can help improve that process, reduce the time to get there, improve the data, improve the validity of the data, is to me definitely worth the investment."

Neilson said the technological advances have improved the ability of aid organizations like the World Food Program to do their work effectively. The U.N. agency has put the wireless devices to use elsewhere in Africa, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the U.N. Children's Fund uses hand-held devices to provide a rapid assessment during emergency situations, and in the West African countries of Togo and Niger, the U.S National Centers for Disease Control has got into the act too, using devices with global positioning system capabilities to help prevent malaria.

## **6. Elections & the Process of Democratization**

### **East Africa: EALA Adopts Democracy Day**

The New Times

Kigali — The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) yesterday adopted a motion for special recognition of the International Day of Democracy.

In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared September 15 as International Day of Democracy, and parliaments around the world have since been celebrating the day.

According to a statement sent to The New Times, the motion was moved by Dora Byamukama, an EALA member from Uganda, during the assembly's first meeting of the fourth session currently sitting in Bujumbura, Burundi.

"The adoption of the motion means the International Democracy Day now gets included in the yearly legislative calendar of the Assembly," the release reads in part.

Tanzania's Minister of EAC Affairs, Dr. Diodorus Kamala, who is also the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, affirmed that he would dispatch official statements to the five partner states to mark the day.

The International Day of Democracy is meant both to celebrate democracy and to serve as a reminder that the need to promote and protect democracy is as urgent now as ever.

In his remarks while marking this day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underscored the role of democracy, adding that it is an "indispensable" tool to better the lives of people around the world.

This year's day falls just days before the start of a three-day gathering at United Nations Headquarters in New York, where world leaders will measure progress with just five years to go before the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the eight globally-agreed targets against poverty, hunger, disease and other social and economic ills.

## **7. Pan Africa**

### **Africa: Pass Radio Broadcasting in SA, Cameroon**

Biz-Community (Cape Town)

The Pan African Space Station (PASS) cyber-radio project, launched on Saturday, 11 September 2010, is now broadcasting live from Cape Town and Cameroon.

PASS Radio is an online portal that streams unprogrammed content, interviews, music, live recordings, and musical debate.

For the first time in 2010 PASS has created a mirror studio in Limbe, Cameroon and will be including this content in the continuous live stream until the station closes on 12 October 2010.

To listen, go to <http://www.panafricanspacestation.org.za/wp-content/uploads/player/>

PASS also unveiled on Saturday night the "space queen Bianca, the Othaship Bianca" - a sound installation on St Georges Mall, Cape Town that reverberates and shares PASS Radio in real time with passerbys.

PASS Radio has featured the musical insights of DJ Andy Williams, Kolade, Boeta Gee, DJ Ntone Edjabe, Neo Muyanga, Plantation Miners, DJ Mighty, Audiodramatist, Xolisa-Soullife (with commentary from BokaniDyer and Sakhile Moleshe), and others.

PASS is an annual cross-genre music intervention, that is curated by Ntone Edjabe and Neo Muyanga, and presented by the Africa Centre. In addition to the cyber platform,

PASS also features a live music festival in Cape Town between 28 September - 2 October 2010.

## **8. Environment**

### **Rwanda: \$10 Million Earmarked to Protect Akagera Park**

The New times

Kigali — \$10 million (approx. Rwf 5.5 billion) has been earmarked to protect Akagera National Park, located in the Eastern Province.

The funds, which were contributed by African Parks Network (APN) and Rwanda Development Board (RDB) will be used to prevent encroachment, poaching and fire outbreaks among other dangers.

"We are now trying to fulfil the necessary requirements for protecting the park, fire management, etc. Soon, an electrified fence will be erected," said Charles Nsabimana, in charge of law enforcement in the park.

According to Sarah Hall, the Tourism Development and Marketing Manager of Akagera Management Company (AMC), a company in charge of the management of the park, RDB contributed \$ 2 million towards the construction of a 120 km electric fence along the western boundary, while \$ 8 million has been contributed by African Parks Network. AMC is a joint venture between APN and RDB.

APN will provide the management expertise in the conservation field, and along with its financial partners, will also provide capital investment and annual operating costs.

On its part, RDB will make an annual contribution of \$ 250,000 to the project and has seconded staff to the new company.

The agreement between the two institutions will last for 20 years but may be extended with the consent of both parties.

The African Parks Network is a private non-profit organization with experience in park management.

## **9. Refugees / Rebel groups / Militancy**

### **Congolese Refugees Demand More Food in Burundi**

VOA

Around the world, the UN's World Food Program, or WFP, provides food to about 90 million people per year, almost two thirds of whom are children. Working in 73 countries this year, the WFP plans to provide about 3.7 million tons of food to those unable to produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.

In his hometown in the South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mateso Kibinda was heading to work in the fields one morning when he saw several of his neighbors in front of him. They started running after him with machetes. When they caught him, they chopped off his arm. Kibinda says the attackers were jealous of his father's wealth.

He and his wife fled with their children to neighboring Burundi. That was in 1997.

He says his neighbors are still there. They haven't yet moved or gone anywhere. They are there and they are waiting for him. He says if he returns to his country, they will kill him.

Refugees walk down the main street in the Gasorwe Refugee Camp in northern Burundi. Today, Kibinda and his family live in the Gasorwe refugee camp in northern Burundi, home to about 10,000 refugees. The vast majority of the 2,000 families living here are from the same war-torn region of the Congo. Each month, the World Food Program in Burundi provides each refugee with a supply of food: a mix of cereals, beans, corn soya, oil and salt.

#### **Kibinda says the food is not enough**

Kibinda says the food is too little. "Because I'm a refugee," he says, "I don't have anywhere to go for more food. I live here and I don't have any other choice."

32-year-old Kibinda didn't have a job before he came to Burundi and like the other refugees, isn't allowed to work in the refugee camp.

"I don't have any work in the camp," he says. "I'm staying here just because I don't have any place to go and I don't have any abilities to go in another country."

Very little to do

Human Rights Watch reports that refugees are often frustrated by their long-term refugee status and unemployment, leading to high rates of alcoholism, anxiety and depression.

Some male refugees sell part of their food rations to buy locally-produced alcohol. The drinking does, on occasion, lead to domestic abuse of female refugees. With WFP support, the UN's Refugee Agency recently started an outreach program to identify those

being abused and protect them. They're also working to find the source of alcohol and shut it down.

The WFP says such a situation is a "recurring theme" in refugee camps where refugees typically have little to do.

War rages on

Like many residents in the camp, Kibinda's wife, Tabou Muamini, is frustrated with her life in limbo.

"The conditions are quite miserable," Muamini says. She says they have to sleep on the floor at night, and during the rainy season, everything is wet.

She said she wished WFP would provide non-food items like shoes, a mat to sleep on, or some clothing for their children.

Like her husband, she doesn't know if or when they will return to their homeland.

She says in the Congo there is a war and the war hasn't finished so they can't return yet. "I will stay here until the war is finished," she says.

Support needed for the youth

So, like the other 20,000 refugees from the Congo living in four refugee camps throughout Burundi, they wait.

And the WFP continues to provide food assistance, nearly 30,000 metric tons last year.

But Mitchell Sendheyabura echoes refugees' complaints that the food allotted for each person at the refugee camps is not enough. The 54-year-old representative of Burundi's National Office for Protection of Refugees and Stateless People says they simply need larger amounts.

He says the amount of food that they receive is not sufficient. All it does is basically help them sustain adults, he says, but they need to support the growth of the children and this is not enough. Some of them are malnourished and need more.

Refugee Concan Gadenato agrees: more food would be better. But, as the refugee representative for the Gasorwe camp, he also wants more variety.

He says they would like a source of protein like sardines and corn beef. "The other thing that we are missing is sugar, he says, "because we add that to the wheat."

Marc Neilson, WFP Burundi's public information officer, says he understands the refugees' concerns but believes the food is "adequate." Each refugee receives a daily ration that WFP says meets nutritional needs. Each person gets 2,100 kilo calories of energy a day, plus a set amount of fat and protein.

Neilson noted that the organization is 100 percent donor funded and that with more money, they can do more to help people in need.

"In the case of Burundi, when you have the majority of the nation who is at risk for under nutrition at any given time and an estimated 40 percent of children who are suffering from some form of malnutrition, there is a lot more we can do. And it all depends on how many resources we have to use for that.

In August, the Belgian government announced it would donate a million euros to WFP's Burundi program.

## **10. China-Africa**

### **Rwanda: China to Build \$10 Million Vocational Institute**

The New Times

Kigali — THE Chinese government will finance the construction of a vocational training institute in Muko Sector, Musanze District to the tune of \$10 million.

Speaking during a tour on Tuesday of the proposed seven hectare site of the institute, the Chinese Ambassador, Sun Shuzhong, said that his government decided to support human resource development by supporting the education sector in the country given that it is an important area for the future of the nation.

The Ambassador was accompanied by the State Minister for Education, Dr. Mathias Harebamungu, provincial Governor, Aime Bosenibamwe, and the local district authorities.

He commended the good cooperation his country has with Rwanda, which has enabled the Chinese government to not only invest in the vocational school but also in infrastructure development. The envoy also visited the China Hinan construction company which is contracted to build the Ruhengeri-Kigali highway.

Harebamungu revealed that the institute which is in line with government program of setting up Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centres, will include the departments of ICT, agriculture and food processing, construction and carpentry

"It's part of the good relations Rwanda has with the Chinese government. We have had students who have acquired education from China" Dr Harebamungu said, commending the Chinese government.

He added that students who complete lower secondary will have the opportunity of being admitted to the training centres that will be opened up in several regions

"We need trained middle class people with vocational skills. The 9-Year Basic Education (9-YBE) programme will produce many students who shall need to be accommodated," Harebamungu said.