

Summary of Africa

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Weekly Report 140

Prepared by Mustapha Shafi

POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

West Africa:

Nigeria: Ex-Mend leader implicates Nigeria; Henry Okah tells Al Jazeera presidential aide wanted him to tell armed group to withdraw claim for Abuja deadly blasts.

We're Not behind Blasts, Say Ex-MEND Leaders; President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday met with top ex-militants, former commanders and foot soldiers of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) numbering 100, who unanimously dissociated themselves from last Friday's twin bombings in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

We Rejected IBB Lobby to Bomb Abuja -Ex-Militants; The last has not been heard on the attacks in Abuja during as the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC), an umbrella of major militant groups in the Niger Delta yesterday said former military president, Ibrahim Babangida, contacted it to carry out the bomb attacks.

Arewa Youths Endorse Jonathan/Sambo Ticket; A coalition of 60 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based associations under the aegis of Arewa Youth Forum, has called for the total support of the Goodluck Jonathan and Namadi Sambo ticket in the forthcoming presidential election.

Nigeria Slips in 'Good Governance' ranking dropped further in the ranking on governance index among countries in Africa. The country ranks a distant 40th out of the 53 countries in the continent. She is also ranked 13th out of 16 countries in West Africa.

Nigeria bombs provoke north-south split; As Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has ruled out that rebel from his own Niger Delta region stood behind the car bombs on Independence Day, government directs suspicions towards the Muslim north. Even Islamist terrorists are suspected.

IBB - Why I Was Not at Eagle Square; Former military president General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida said yesterday that he did not attend the ill-fated Nigeria@50 celebrations at Eagle Square, Abuja last Friday because he did not believe in spending so much money for an event that should instead have elicited sober reflection on the heroes and heroines that laid down their lives for the country.

Ghana: New Political party to bail Ghanaians out of poverty, the TRADES CONGRESS PARTY (TCP) formed by astute technocrats who understand the multifaceted problems of the country, would be launched in Ghana in October this year and contest in future elections to be able to direct national development with a new political system, Socio-Capitalism, to give Ghanaians every opportunity to create and accumulate wealth (capital).

While the Alliance for Responsible Opposition (AFRO), on Wednesday said it would create a positive and progressive atmosphere that would transform opposition political parties and movements into constructive tools for national development.

Ghana is ranked 7th out of 53 African Countries in the latest MO Ibrahim assessment of governance on the continent. These were revealed at the launch of the 2010 Ibrahim Index of African Governance in Accra.

Liberia: Liberia has registered the biggest improvement in governance on the African continent, jumping from 32 to 44 points in 4 years, according to the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

Cape Verde: Good Governance and Good Food become **the Cape Verde Success Story**; In Cape Verde popular wisdom has it that "empty sacks have no strength to transport flour" hungry people cannot work, hungry children do not learn. With this in mind the small African nation has been diligently working to eliminate malnutrition and hunger.

Gambia: Detention without Trial or Disappearance without Trace have now entered the tenth month of the year 2010 and some Gambian families still continue to puzzle over their family heads and love ones who were picked up by State Security Agents years ago on board numberless vehicles.

East Africa/Horn of Africa:

Sudan: There are some pending key challenges like Voters registration, Fears of fraud, Deployment of observers, North-South tensions, possible delays and demarcation problems Ahead of Voting Sudan's landmark referenda in 3 months time.

However **Sudan's foreign minister** told the U.N. Security Council Saturday his government is "fully committed" to holding a referendum that could result in the south of the country seceding from the north and he warned against interference in the January 9 vote.

And Sudan's president has warned of a return to civil war unless the country's north and south resolve key issues involving water, debt, wealth-sharing, citizenship and the north-south border before the plebiscite ahead of a referendum on southern independence.

A former **south Sudanese** envoy has rejected Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi suggestions over the weekend that south Sudan's secession will be a disease that will

spread throughout Africa. Gaddafi's claim that Africa will disintegrate if south becomes independent.

Sudanese officials rejected the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers on the border between the northern and southern Sudan saying such request is unacceptable and contrary to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Central Africa:

Congo: The International Criminal Court on reversed an order to release alleged Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga, the trial now resume.

Congolese forces have moved into the southern Pool region, which witnessed several civil wars between 1998 and 2003, in a move aimed at helping to restore state control ahead of plans to rehabilitate basic infrastructure, say officials.

South Africa:

A group of respected **South Africans** from across the spectrum have formed a group aimed at making the constitution more relevant for the country's citizens because to them, the Constitution Not Helping the Poor.

Zimbabwe: Residents of the Zimbabwean capital of Harare are expressing anger at the postponement of constitutional revision outreach meetings canceled last month and continued confusion as to when they will be rescheduled.

And Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said his MDC party refused to recognize a string of senior appointments made by President Robert Mugabe, in a fresh row set to strain their fragile coalition.

Botswana President Ian Khama, one of Africa's most outspoken leaders critical of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, called for a lifting of sanctions to help prod the country to greater openness.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa:

Nigeria:

Mali: Drought is recurrent in northern Mali and many pastoralists will inevitably find themselves in crisis mode in the future, say aid agencies.

Central African Republic:

The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has made significant progress in education and child survival in recent years, but much more needs to be done to achieve the anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to a new United Nations-backed study.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa:

Nigeria: Cholera Outbreak Claims 122 Lives; Gombe State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Mohammed Isa Umar, has declared that no fewer than 122 people have been killed by cholera out of the over 1,700 cases recorded since the outbreak of the disease few months ago.

Aid groups say lead poisoning has killed 400 children in Nigeria; As many as 400 children have died of lead poisoning-related illnesses in Nigeria since March, two international aid groups say, and as many as 30,000 people could be affected by lead contamination.

Central Africa:

Rwanda: A group of 14 medical doctors from the U.S. are in the country for a one-week Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme have commended the progress the country has registered in improving the health sector.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

West Africa:

Nigeria: Former Nigeria bank CEO Cecilia Ibru jailed for fraud; A former Nigerian bank chief has been sentenced to six months in prison for fraud and ordered to hand over \$1.2bn (£786m) in cash and assets.

Senior workers in **Nigeria's oil industry**, under the aegis of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), have accused the International Oil Companies (IOCs) of deliberately engaging in practices to ambush and sabotage the newly-enacted Nigerian Content Act.

Ghana: Russia's No. 2 oil producer, LUKOIL said its offshore oil exploration project in Ghana will almost certainly lead to commercial exploitation, the vice president of LUKOIL Overseas said Thursday.

And Services sector displaces agric as biggest contributor to GDP that's according to the first ever half-year national income estimates released by the **Ghana Statistical Service**.

The Managing Editor of the Insight Newspaper, has warned the ruling NDC that should they impose further taxes on petroleum products in order to generate more revenue to complete their projects and programs by IMF advise, they will have to bring in IMF officials to vote for them in the 2012 elections, since Ghanaians will never forgive the NDC.

Liberia: The World Bank has announced additional development funding of US\$39 million for Liberia in the coming year and the Ministry of Finance said 30.8 million US Dollars of the amount will go towards the Monrovia–Ganta road project. The remainder of the amount will be applied to the power and other key economic sectors.

While **Burkina Faso** expects its Essakane gold mine opened this week to boost its public finances and so enable it to seek more borrowing for development projects, the poor West African country's premier said.

East Africa/Horn of Africa:

Kenya's economy grew at the rate of 5.4 per cent in the second quarter of the year powered by improved productivity in the key agriculture, construction and financial services sectors.

Central African Republic:

The soundness of **Rwanda's financial** sector has significantly improved from the tight credit conditions experienced in 2009, enhancing stability within the sector, the Central Bank has said.

South Africa:

Zimbabwe: The World Bank says it is not yet ready to fully re-engage Zimbabwe though it may provide nearly US\$3 million to help rehabilitate the Southern African country's failing water and sanitation infrastructure.

Zimbabwean Finance Minister Tendai Biti and Economic Planning Minister Tapiwa Mashakada were set to meet with US and top international financial officials in Washington Thursday seeking development aid and debt relief.

China Africa Relations:

China trade with Africa heads for \$100bn mark: Since the launch of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation in 2000, bilateral trade has grown at an annual average rate of 33.5%, from \$10bn in 2000.

Nigeria embarks on vast free trade zone with China; Nigeria is building a multi-billion dollar free trade zone with Chinese investors on the edge of its commercial capital

Lagos to try to develop a local manufacturing base and help reduce its import dependence.

Pan-African/AU issues:

Arab and African leaders are meeting in the Libyan town of Syrte for an Afro-Arab summit to discuss increasing mutual cooperation in various domains on the heels of an Arab League summit just one day earlier.

Youth council seeks closer, effective Afro-Arab cooperation aim at ensuring justice and equality in both social and geographical distribution of resources, with the principal goal of reducing widespread poverty.

Also Afro-Arab Summit hails AMISOM and affirmed the need to support its efforts reiterating the call for the international community and the UN Security Council to assume its role in war-torn Somalia.

African Union sources said the continental organization has chosen former Ghanaian president Jerry Rawlings as its new envoy for Somalia. The reports said Mr. Rawlings will help promote peace and reconciliation, as well as focus more international attention on the war-ravaged country.

World divided over new scramble for African land two-thirds of these controversial “land grabs” in Africa where critics say public and governmental institutions offer weak defenses against western multinationals and Far Eastern state companies seeking farm land for food and Biofuel.

Elections:

West Africa:

Ivory Coast: Ivory Coast said it would distribute electoral identity and cards on Wednesday in the main commercial city of Abidjan, the electoral commission said, before its Oct. 31 presidential poll.

In Guinea: Guinea will hold the delayed second round of its presidential election on Oct. 24, the presidency of the military-ruled West African minerals producer said on Tuesday. Diallo, a former prime minister, won the first round with 43.69 percent of the vote. Conde placed second with 18.25 percent.