

What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies
19th week of 2015 (4.5 – 11.5.2015)

Top story of the week

Protesters and police clash in Guinea over elections

5 May 2015

There have been anti-government protests in Conakry, the capital of Guinea. Protesters clashed with security forces after opposition leaders called for nationwide protests against the timing of local elections. Authorities say 14 people, including 12 security officers, were wounded, while opposition figures suggest as many as 30 people may have been hurt. The protests come as local elections, which were due in 2014, are now to be held in 2016, after October's presidential elections. Opposition leaders say the timetable breaks a 2013 agreement which would have allowed local elections to be held ahead of the presidential poll.



Read more [here](#)

Other stories

Tribal militia poses new security threat in northern Nigeria

05 May 2015

A new tribal militia has emerged in central Nigeria raising fears it could mutate into a terrorist group, similar to the Islamist group Boko Haram, the government has warned. According to reports, a routine weekend operation turned rough when an alleged daring and dangerous band of suspected tribal militia opened fire on members of the Nigerian Special Task Force in central Plateau state. Nigeria's Defense ministry said 32 suspected militants and soldiers sustained various injuries, and another 10 suspects were arrested after the exchange of fire.

Read more [here](#)

UN peacekeepers killed in DR Congo ambush

06 May 2015

Two United Nations peacekeepers from Tanzania have been killed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after their patrol was ambushed in an area where government forces are fighting Ugandan rebels, the country's UN mission said. The peacekeepers were attacked in the village of Kikiki, around 50km north of the town of Beni in North Kivu province, on Tuesday, Felix Basse, a spokesman for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), told Reuters. Eastern Congo, where a 1998-2003 conflict resulted in millions of deaths, remains plagued by dozens of armed groups that prey on the local population and exploit the region's vast reserves of gold, tin and diamonds.

Read more [here](#)

Nigeria borrows money to pay government salaries

06 May 2015

Africa's richest economy is borrowing money to pay salaries as it struggles through a "difficult cash crunch" brought on by halved oil prices, Nigeria's finance minister revealed. The news comes as Nigeria prepares to welcome a new government at the end of this month and the country's naira currency remains in a slump, hovering between 180 and 220 to the US dollar. It was trading at 160 a few months ago. Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala tried to be upbeat in a speech on Tuesday after lawmakers approved the 2015 budget.

Read more [here](#)

Low Ghana cocoa harvest drives global prices higher

06 May 2015

A poor cocoa harvest in Ghana has left the world's number two producer struggling to fulfil sales contracts and is driving up the price of the commodity on global markets. The unexpected fall in production, which farmers blame on a lack of pesticides and bad weather, could leave the world's leading chocolate makers short of beans and deal a fresh blow to the West African country's precarious finances. Senior government sources now estimate Ghana's 2014/15 crop will not exceed 700,000 tonnes, far below industry regulator Cocobod's initial forecast of more than one million tonnes.

Read more [here](#)

Zimbabwe, Southern Africa's worst country for investment

07 May 2015

Zimbabwe has the worst investment climate in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, with a ranking of 170 in terms of protecting investors. The World Bank has ranked the country 171 out of 189 countries on its 2014 ease of doing business index, something attributed to negative perceptions of Zimbabwe's policies, such as its land reform, as well as the current crusade to localise control of all foreign-owned enterprises. The Zimbabwe Investment Authority (ZIA) chief executive officer, Richard Mbaiwa told a Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Industry and Commerce that local investment laws remained a major impediment to foreign direct investment (FDI).

Read more [here](#)

World Bank gives Ethiopia \$350m for small holder farmers

08 May 2015

The World Bank has extended a \$350 million loan to Ethiopia to assist the Horn of Africa country's small holder farmers. The loan will go to the country's Second Agricultural Growth Project (AGP2). Finance and Economics minister Ahmed Shide, and World Bank country representative Guang Zhe Chen, signed the agreement on Thursday. The programme intends to increase agricultural productivity and enhance market access for smallholder farmers in more than 157 of Ethiopia's rural districts. Agricultural growth was a key driver of the impressive rate of poverty reduction over the past decade, according to the World Bank's 2014 Poverty Assessment for Ethiopia.

Read more [here](#)

Kenya: 16 Muslim Preachers Detained in Kenya 09 May 2015

Police in Kenya's Marsabit County have arrested 16 Muslim preachers which they suspected of recruiting for the Somali armed group al Shabaab. According to Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper, the arrests took place in the Karare area after police were tipped off by locals in the area. The preachers who arrived in the area days ago are said to be Islamic propagation famously known as Tabligh. Majority of them are from within the country mainly the Somali dominated areas. The suspects were handed over to the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit in Nairobi for investigation. Last month other Islamic preachers were arrested in Lamu but later released.

Read more [here](#)

Did you know that?

Nigeria: Arise News Wins an Emmy 03 May 2015

The emerging global News and Entertainment Channel, ARISE NEWS won the Emmy's in New York with the documentary: "Game Changers: How the Harlem Globetrotters Battled Racism" - produced by ARISE News - is recognized in the Nostalgia Program category - the first Emmy for ARISE News Channel. Congratulations to ALL founding members of the ARISE NEWS CHANNEL in NY, London and Africa who made this feat possible even before the formal launch of ARISE NEWS!

Read more [here](#)



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