

What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies
22th week of 2015 (25.5 – 01.6.2015)

Top story of the week

Ethiopia's ruling party sweeps elections 27 May 2015

Ethiopia's ruling party and its allies have won a landslide victory in the country's parliamentary elections, based on preliminary results from the weekend polls, the country's electoral board has said. In results announced by the board on Wednesday, the EPRDF and its allies have so far won all of 442 seats declared, leaving the opposition empty-handed. The results of voting in the remaining 105 seats are yet to be announced. The election was marred by allegations by the EPRDF's political opponents that their supporters were harassed. The charges of abuse were dismissed by Hailemariam Desalegn, the prime minister and leader of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which has been in power for almost 25 years. The party was widely expected to sweep the vote. The electoral board said turnout exceeded 90 percent.



Read more [here](#)

Other stories

Nigeria's fuel crisis: 'Deal reached with government'

25 May 2015

Nigeria's fuel wholesalers say they have reached a deal with the government that should soon see the end of the crippling fuel crisis. The agreement was reached after talks with the finance minister, Danladi Fasali from the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association. The wholesalers had stopped distributing fuel after alleging the government owed them \$1bn (£625m). The shortage has had an impact on the country's aviation and banking sectors. The party of President-elect Muhammadu Buhari, who is due to take office on Friday, had accused the outgoing government of "sabotage" for failing to deal with the crisis

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Kenya Denies Al-Shabab Police Killings Claim

26 May 2015

Kenya has denied claims by the Somalia-based al-Shabab group that it ambushed and killed more than 25 Kenyan police officers in the country's northeast. Al-Shabab has carried out several attacks in Kenya in retaliation over Kenya's military involvement in Somalia. Al-Shabab claimed through a military spokesperson on Tuesday that it killed the police officers in the village of Yumbis, 70km north of Garissa. Reuters news agency cited Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, the spokesperson, as saying that 20 officers were killed when al-Shabab fighters ambushed them on Monday night, while more officers were killed when a police vehicle hit a landmine planted by the fighters.

Read more [here](#)

Nigeria: Killed Boko Haram Commander Found With Thousands of Euro

26 May 2015

The Nigerian Army found thousands of Euro on the body of a killed terrorist commander, as the Defence Headquarters claimed the army recorded more gains in the ongoing onslaught to wipe out Boko Haram terrorists from Nigerian territory, when it repelled an attack on Dikwa, Borno State, in the North-East. The terrorist, who is also an Amir by status and believed to be of foreign descent, was among about 30 terrorist fighters who died in the encounter, while many others fled with wounds.

Read more [here](#)

Mozambique: Goodbye Guebuza, hello Nyusi **26 May 2015**

President Nyusi has more freedom to govern now he is head of the party, too. President Filipe Nyusi stamped his authority on the ruling party by finally removing his predecessor, Armando Guebuza, from the presidency of the Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (Frelimo) party. Guebuza was reluctant to hand over power after the party rebuffed his attempts to change the constitution to allow him a third term in 2014, and things came to a head at the Frelimo Central Committee meeting on 26-29 March. With a free hand to choose his policies, Nyusi is negotiating with the opposition and promising to manage natural resources professionally.

Read more [here](#)

Angola's Morais sentenced over diamond book **28 May 2015**

A renowned Angolan journalist has been given a six-month suspended jail sentence for falsely linking military generals to the "blood diamond" trade. A rights group said he had been sentenced after an "absurd process". Rafael Marques de Morais is a long-standing critic of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' 35-year rule. He spent 43 days in prison, including 11 in solitary confinement, in 1999 after he published the article, The Lipstick of the Dictatorship, in a private Angolan newspaper. The latest case against Mr Morais came after he wrote a book, Blood Diamonds: Torture and Corruption in Angola.

Read more [here](#)

Burundi: EU Suspends Mission to Burundi Elections Over Violence **28 May 2015**

The European Union suspended its observer mission in Burundi on Thursday because of the crackdown on the opposition and the media, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said on Thursday. The team, which the EU sent to Burundi over a month ago, can no longer fulfill its role of helping with "peaceful, credible and fair" elections, according to the EU's top diplomat. "The election process continues to be seriously marred by restrictions on independent media, excessive use of force against demonstrators, a climate of intimidation for opposition parties and civil society and lack of confidence in the election authorities," Mogherini said in a statement. Violence broke out in Burundi late in April, after president Pierre Nkurunziza announced he would seek a third term, in a move his critic claim violates the constitution. A failed military coup seeking to oust Nkurunziza soon after only exacerbated the conflict.

Read more [here](#)

Mali: Thousands Flee Violent Upsurge in Northern Mali 29 May 2015

A spike in violence in northern Mali has driven the number of people displaced in the country above 100,000, many of them urgently needing food, water and shelter as time runs out before the rainy season begins. The situation is worst in the northern Timbuktu region, where an estimated 23,000 people have been driven from their homes in only a few days, fleeing a marked upsurge in attacks by rebel coalitions and government-controlled militias. Many key players were absent from a peace signing ceremony in the capital Bamako on May 15 that had been trumpeted as a solution to years of conflict involving the Malian government, the militias, Islamist groups and Tuareg rebels.

Read more [here](#)

Did you know that?

Women's Empowerment At Top of Agenda As AfDB Launches Gender Equality Index for Africa 26 May 2015

Are women and men on a level playing field? That was the question of debate on Monday, May 25 as the African Development Bank (AfDB) unveiled its first-ever Gender Equality Index for Africa in Abidjan, on Day 1 of the Bank's 50th Annual Meetings. The index, which covers 52 of Africa's 54 countries, examines the role of women as producers, in human development, as active citizens and leaders and also provides maps for each area.



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