

What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies
24th week of 2015 (08.6 – 15.6.2015)

Top story of the week

Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta urges Africa to give up aid 12 June 2015

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has urged fellow African leaders to stop receiving foreign aid, saying it is not an acceptable basis for prosperity. "Dependency on giving that only appears to be charitable must end," he said in a tweet ahead of this weekend's African Union summit in South Africa. Mr Kenyatta said that foreign aid "often carries terms and conditions that preclude progress". While Kenya does receive a lot of aid, it did survive for four years without foreign assistance after western countries suspended their aid in 1991, to express their anger with then President Daniel arap Moi. The US, EU and the UK are the biggest donors to Kenya. Since Mr Kenyatta came to power in 2013, he has had an uneasy relationship with the West. He was accused by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of crimes against humanity for allegedly inciting post-election violence in 2008, in which more than 1,200 Kenyans were killed



Read more [here](#)

Other stories

Banking: Ecobank names Ayeyemi as new CEO

08 June 2015

Pan-African bank Ecobank Transnational Incorporated has named Ade Ayeyemi as its new group chief executive, it said on Monday. The 52-year-old, currently head of Citigroup's sub-Saharan Africa division, will replace Ecobank CEO Albert Essien who is retiring at the end of June after a tenure that began in March 2014 when the board fired his predecessor Thierry Tanoh. Ayeyemi, who is Nigerian, will lead a bank headquartered in Togo that has operations in 36 African countries and with assets of \$22.5 billion at the end of 2013, according to the bank's website. South Africa's Nedbank acquired a 20-percent stake in Ecobank last year and Qatar National Bank (QNB) also holds a similar stake in the company.

Read more [here](#)

Ghana Accused of Using Child Labour in Mines

10 June 2015

Ghana's mining industry has been benefiting from child labour in unlicensed mines, Human Rights Watch has said, after conducting field observations in the in the Western, Central and Ashanti Regions. It is estimated that thousands of children, mostly between the ages of 15 and 17, have been working in perilous conditions pulling ore out of shafts and processing it with toxic mercury violating Ghanaian and international law. With the lack of "due diligence" and many foreign companies buying gold from the country, which is one of the world's top gold producers, child rights and labour stand poorly regulated.

Read more [here](#)

Nigeria: African Nations Sign Agreement to Unify Main Trade Blocs

11 June 2015

Representatives from 25 African nations signed an initial agreement on Wednesday to create a free-trade zone linking three economic blocs that would unite 57 percent of the continent's population. The deal would combine the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the South African Development Community (SADC), and the East African Community (EAC). World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim told the conference that the agreement "could be an important milestone for the economic future for the continent", according to a prepared speech on the World Bank's website.

Read more [here](#)

Nigeria: Buhari Rejects Proposal for Chad, Niger, Others to Head Central Force Against Boko Haram

11 June 2015

President Muhammadu Buhari has rejected a proposal for an alternate leadership between Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Cameroun and Benin, of a joint military force against Boko Haram. At a meeting with leaders of the Lake Chad nations Thursday in Abuja, Mr. Buhari insisted Nigeria must be the sole leader of the joint military operation. He said a proposal that such leadership alternate amongst the participating nations after every six months, may ultimately undermine the joint operations. The president said his argument should be adopted since Nigeria remains at the centre of the Boko Haram crisis, and will provide the bulk of troops for the operation.

Read more [here](#)

Concerns with ICC must be tackled at AU Summit

11 June 2015

A leading rights group has urged African leaders to resolve the continent's uneasy relationship with the International Criminal Court (ICC) when they meet for the African Union (AU) summit this week. South Africa would host the summit and AU chairman President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has proposed that Africa must pull out of the ICC because of its alleged bias against leaders from the continent. The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), a rights body based in Cape Town said while the ICC issue was unlikely to feature at the summit, said it was time Africa reviewed its relationship with the Hague based court. IJR said ICC's recent decision to withdraw charges against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and to temporarily "hibernate" the case against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir.

Read more [here](#)

Burundi opposition leader Rwaso 'to participate in poll'

12 June 2015

Burundi's main opposition leader has said he will participate in next month's presidential election if certain conditions are met. "Armed youths must be disarmed and independent media be restored," Agathon Rwaso told BBC Great Lakes service. Mr Rwaso said the current crisis should be resolved first to avoid "an election that may not meet all the democratic credentials". The presidential election was postponed by the electoral commission by 18 days, which falls short of a call by regional leaders to delay the poll by at least six weeks.

Read more [here](#)

Omar al-Bashir: ICC urges S Africa to arrest Sudan leader 14 June 2015

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has called on South Africa to arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir who is in the country for an African Union (AU) summit. Mr Bashir is wanted for war crimes over the conflict in Darfur. An ICC statement said South Africa should "spare no effort" in detaining him. But instead he was welcomed by South African officials on his arrival in Johannesburg. Sudan's Suna news agency said he was accompanied by the foreign minister and other top Sudanese officials. There are tensions between the ICC and AU, with some on the continent accusing the court of unfairly targeting Africans.

Read more [here](#)

Did you know that?

Africa: Women At Centre of African Union Summit 12 June 2015

The African Union (AU) has stressed the importance of mainstreaming women in all development activities as Africa seeks to attain integration, prosperity and peace under its Agenda 2063 framework. AU Commission chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma in her statement to the opening session of the AU's Executive Council in Johannesburg spoke of the need to consign the handheld hoe to the museum and to help women with access to modern technology, land, credit, and extension services in order to empower them in agriculture and agro industries.



Read more [here](#)

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