

# What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies  
30th week of 2015 (20.7 – 27.7.2015)

## Top story of the week

### Obama to meet East African leaders 24 July 2015

United States President Barack Obama is set to meet East African leaders during his historical visit to the continent, making him the first sitting US president to visit Ethiopia and the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa. Obama's security advisor said the president in his first visit to Ethiopia would speak with regional leaders, including President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, about shared priorities. Susan Rice, the US president's national security advisor, said "the president will take part in a summit meeting with a handful of regional leaders on shared priorities, particularly the crisis in South Sudan and regional counterterrorism issues". The same issues would also be discussed at the bilateral meeting between Ethiopian and US officials. Obama's visit is his fourth trip to Africa -- the most of any sitting American president.



Read more [here](#)

## Other stories

### Obama pledges support for Nigeria's fight against militants 20 July 2015

US President Barack Obama has pledged to support his Nigerian counterpart Muhammadu Buhari in the fight against Islamist militant group Boko Haram. In the first meeting between the two since Mr Buhari's election, Mr Obama said the Nigerian leader had a "very clear agenda" for defeating extremism. The US has committed \$5 million (£3.2m; €4.6m) to the fight against Boko Haram since Mr Buhari came to power. Speaking after the two met at the White House, Mr Obama called Nigeria one of the most important countries on the African continent and praised Mr Buhari for tackling corruption, an issue which compromised Washington's relationship with the Nigerian leader's predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan.

Read more [here](#)

### Oil and Gas: Angola requests bids for 10 onshore oil blocks 20 July 2015

Angola's state oil firm Sonangol on Monday requested prequalified bidders to submit bids for ten onshore oil blocks as Africa's second largest crude exporter aims to open up new exploration opportunities. U.S. oil major Chevron, Italy's ENI, commodities trader Glencore and Portugal's GALP were among the prequalified companies who could operate the blocks, Sonangol said in a press release. Bid proposals must be submitted by 18 September. Angola currently produces around 1.7 million barrels per day of crude oil from large offshore fields developed by oil majors, including Chevron, Total, Exxon and BP.

Read more [here](#)

### Telecoms: Bharti Airtel has no plans to exit Africa 21 July 2015

Bharti Airtel Ltd, the biggest Indian cellphone carrier, has no plans to exit Africa, it said on Tuesday, despite announcing exclusive talks with France's Orange to sell four of its units on the continent. Orange said on Monday it was in discussions to buy Bharti subsidiaries in Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo Brazzaville and Sierra Leone, triggering market speculation that this might be a first step towards a complete Bharti exit.

Read more [here](#)

## **Nigeria's Chibok abductions: Buhari 'ready to negotiate'**

**22 July 2015**

Nigeria's new president has said he is willing to negotiate with Boko Haram leaders for the release of more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped last year. Muhammadu Buhari told CNN it would depend on the credibility of those saying they represented the Islamist militant group. "Our main objective as a government is to secure these girls safe and safe," he said during a visit to the US. The kidnap of the girls from a boarding school in the north-eastern town of Chibok in April 2014 sparked global outrage. The mass abduction sparked one of the biggest social media campaigns last year, with the Twitter #BringBackOurGirls being used more than five million times.

Read more [here](#)

## **Nigeria: World Bank to spend up to \$2.1 bn to rebuild northeast**

**22 July 2015**

Nigeria's presidency said on Tuesday the World Bank had pledged to spend up to \$2.1 billion to rebuild the northeast of the country that has been devastated by Boko Haram militants. President Muhammadu Buhari met with representatives of the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Health Organization during a trip to Washington.. The loan would be spent through the World Bank's International Development Agency and would be interest-free for the first 10 years. The loan would be spent through the World Bank's International Development Agency and would be interest-free for the first 10 years.

Read more [here](#)

## **The Tanzanian election race is on**

**23 July 2015**

The scramble to replace Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete seemed like a simple punch-up between two long-standing politicians: foreign minister Bernard Membe and former prime minister and Kikwete ally Edward Lowassa. Until Charles Nyerere joined the throng wanting to be the CCM's flag bearer in October. The CCM has faced no real opposition since its creation in 1977, winning the presidency most recently in 2010 with 63% of the vote. And so, the energies of ambitious ruling party members turn inwards rather than against external foes.

Read more [here](#)

## Fresh attack in north Cameroon town of Maroua 'kills 19' 25 July 2015

A suicide attack in the northern Cameroon town of Maroua is reported to have left at least 19 people dead, including the bomber. Many others are thought to have been injured in the blast near a popular bar late on Saturday. It comes three days after a double suicide blast in Maroua that killed at least 13 people. Officials suspect that the militant Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram is behind the attacks. Military sources said the latest attack took place in the Pont Vert district of Maroua. The Cameroonian army uses the town of Maroua as the headquarters for its operations against the group, as part of a multinational force battling the militants in neighbouring parts of Nigeria.

Read more [here](#)

## Did you know that?

### Kenya: A Kenyan Mother's Fight to Save Her Community from Lead Poisoning 23 July 2015

As environmental activist Phyllis Omido ascended the stage at the San Francisco Opera House to accept a 2015 Goldman Environmental prize for her efforts to close down a dangerous lead smelter. Her journey started back in 2007, when she was a young mother working in the community relations department of a lead smelter plant in the Owino Uhuru district of Mombasa.

Read more [here](#)



The weekly newsletter "What's new in Africa?" is published by the Polish Centre for African Studies, address: ul. Latawcowy 8/23, 54-130 Wrocław, Poland; e-mail: [pcsa@pcsa.org.pl](mailto:pcsa@pcsa.org.pl)

Author: Mária Kučerová

Analyst and Research Fellow in the Polish Centre for African Studies

E-mail: [maria.kucerova@pcsa.org.pl](mailto:maria.kucerova@pcsa.org.pl)