



The goal of the African Regional Media Hub is to increase official US voices and faces on African television, radio and other media, so that the US government message is visible, active and effective in advocating US policies, priorities, and actions with African audiences.

Conflict

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/Congo_Uganda_row_over_Mpondwe_border_market_92913.shtml

Congo, Uganda row over Mpondwe border market

Uganda could be bracing for a fresh border dispute with DR Congo after authorities in Kampala yesterday claimed the ownership of Mpondwe Market understood to be on the latter's terrain, Daily Monitor has learnt. The government move to interfere in the affairs of Mpondwe border, in Kasese District came after MPs on the Agriculture Committee heard that for Ugandans to access it, they go through border security checks and need travel permits. "Mpondwe Market was inappropriately constructed [by the government] outside the national border post. As a consequence of this, the market may not serve the purpose it was intended for because users (Ugandans) have to pass through customs and border security checks before getting to the market," a new special audit report on the Shs62.3 billion fisheries project reads in part.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-10-14-rights-groups-slam-disastrous-congo-army-campaign>

Rights groups slam 'disastrous' Congo army campaign

Rights groups on Tuesday blasted Kinshasa's "disastrous" military operation to neutralise Rwandan Hutu rebels in eastern Congo, and urged the international community to do more to protect civilians. More than 1 000 civilians have been killed and more than 7 000 women and girls raped since the Congolese army began the operation to clear FDLR rebels out of eastern Congo in January, the Congo Advocacy Coalition said. "The human rights and humanitarian consequences of the current military operation are simply disastrous," said Marcel Stoessel of Oxfam, one of the groups in the 84-member coalition.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8304721.stm>

UN criticized on Congo offensive

United Nations peacekeepers have been criticized for supporting a government military offensive in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A joint report by several international aid agencies said the mission had had "disastrous" humanitarian consequences. It said the offensive against ethnic Hutu rebels in eastern DR Congo had caused widespread killings and rape

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8303957.stm>

Spain charges Somalia 'pirates'

A Spanish judge has charged two Somalis with piracy-related offences as their colleagues refuse to release a Spanish boat hijacked in the Indian Ocean. The two men have been charged with illegal detention, criminal association and armed robbery, among other charges. The pair, named as Abdu Willy and Raageeseey, were arrested by Spain's navy as they left the Alakrana vessel.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE59D01120091014>

French troops on tuna ship fight Indian Ocean pirates

French marines deployed on a tuna fleet off the Seychelles fired at suspected Somali pirates on Tuesday, the second such clash in the space of a few days as France protects its highly lucrative tuna industry. While navies from around the world struggle to contain escalating pirate attacks in the Indian Ocean, some countries like France are opting to directly protect their vessels though others fear this could make things worse.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59D00J20091014>

At least eight Nigerians were killed when protests against the razing of their homes turned violent in the oil hub Port Harcourt, residents said on Tuesday, but the police denied any deaths. Hundreds of residents from the Bundu Ama community took to the streets early on Monday to stop government officials and security forces marking their waterfront homes and businesses for demolition.

Corruption

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=170250>

GT sold for only \$267M ...Official report reveals

Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, Communication Minister Contrary to reports that UK Company, Vodafone Plc bought 70% of Ghana Telecom (GT) for \$900 million; it has been revealed that the country received a paltry Two Hundred and Sixty-six Million, Five Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$266.57m) in payment. Former President John Agyekum Kufuor, whose government sold off the national telecommunications company, according to details in the report of the inter-Ministerial review committee on Vodafone, worked against the interest of Ghanaians.

"The Committee also finds that the quoted price, through a series of complicated financial arrangements, led to the Government of Ghana (GoG) eventually realizing only US\$266.57million from the Sales and Purchase Agreement.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/opinions/Citizens_must_be_protected_from_dubious_characters_92903.shtml

Citizens must be protected from dubious characters

There is a rural electrification project which goes along the Mbarara-Rubaare long route through Isingiro and Ruhaama. I am one of the beneficiaries of this project. However, an enterprising conman, called Kato, posing as an electrician has conned so many potential consumers of this electricity by taking money from them promising to wire their premises.

At my house no wiring took place and that is the same story in many places. He hired many boda bodas on credit and never paid them. He took money from a church and has done no work. Most likely this particular conman will eventually be caught but these type of activities are becoming so common that there should be a special police unit to protect the public.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-10-13-agliotti-i-do-lie-from-time-to>

Agliotti: 'I do lie from time to time'

Former top cop Jackie Selebi's defense fought a no-holds barred battle on Tuesday afternoon, accusing drug-lord Glenn Agliotti of not hesitating to lie or exploit Selebi when it suited him. "You lied when you regarded it in your benefit to lie," defense counsel Jaap Cilliers told Agliotti. "Actually, you lie whether you benefit or not. You tell lies." Agliotti replied: "We all do. I do lie from time to time." Cilliers used an affidavit signed by Agliotti in January 2008 to illustrate why he can't be trusted. The affidavit, Agliotti earlier testified, was typed on the computer of his friend and businesswoman Tanya Volschenk after he enjoyed a family lunch and "some good wine".

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/671882/-/135r0i8z/-/index.html>

Former IMF boss in Dakar under probe

Two investigation teams of the IMF are undertaking inquiries in Paris and Barcelona over an alleged bribery scandal concerning, the institution's former country representative in Senegal, sources confirmed here. Mr. Alistair Thomson, the spokesman of the IMF in Washington DC, confirmed the arrest at the Paris airport of the institution's former representative in Senegal after transiting in Barcelona, Spain with a safe containing 100,000 euros (Sh11 million).

Economy

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-10-10-rush-to-trade-in-zim>

Rush to trade in Zim

Amid growing debate over the role of foreign multinationals in Zimbabwe, none of the large South African corporations in the country is considering withdrawing. Old Mutual would not say whether it would hold on to a large investment in Zimpapers, the company that owns The Herald newspaper, a notoriously one-sided Zanu-PF mouthpiece. Old Mutual is the second-largest shareholder in the newspaper group, after a government-controlled trust. Old Mutual had not responded to questions sent by the Mail & Guardian at the time of going to press. South African banks have provided financial

support to Zimbabwean agriculture, most of which is now owned by Zanu-PF bigwigs and other beneficiaries of land grabs since 2000

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8304418.stm>

Guinea and China 'agree big deal'

Guinea's military rulers have agreed a huge mining and oil deal with China, officials have told the BBC, amid continuing criticism of the junta. Mines minister Mahmoud Thiam said a Chinese firm would invest more than \$7bn (£4.5bn) in infrastructure. In return, the company would be a "strategic partner" in all mining projects in the mineral-rich nation.

Guineans are currently on strike to remember dozens of protesters killed by soldiers during a rally two weeks ago.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34394>

SA's broadband market is at a watershed, says report

The South African broadband market has shown consistently significant growth rates of over 30 percent in the last two years, and according to Frost & Sullivan, this positive trend is expected to continue for the next two years.

Despite the expense of network infrastructure roll-out, the country's top operators are still engaged in the crucial activity of increasing broadband penetration in South Africa, the company has said in its latest study, adding that there are immense opportunities for Internet service providers (ISPs) and vendors because all electronic communications network services (ECNS) license holders are currently permitted to self-provision.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34395>

Africa needs strong creditworthiness to secure investments in energy sector

Africa's developing energy sector is at risk of deterring prospective foreign investment if no decisive steps are taken to demonstrate the financial and long-term returns of doing business on the continent.

"Africa needs to work towards developing strong credit worthiness and a viable track record of completed and successful projects to continue attracting investment and new initiatives in this vital sector," explains Dr Mohammed Abdel-Rahman, newly appointed energy advisor of the NEPAD Secretariat and steering committee member of the ENERGY INDABA 2010.

Governance

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59D03K20091014>

Ivory Coast poll plan faces 'serious delays': UN

A senior U.N. official said on Tuesday that planning for Ivory Coast's long-delayed presidential election was behind schedule, casting doubt on the government's ability to organize a poll this year. Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo said last week that the election in the world's top cocoa supplier must take place in 2009, a change of wording from previous statements insisting that the West African nation would meet a November 29 target date.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34397>

African governments urged to recommit to develop people

With the deadline of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) close at hand, African governments need to recommit to pushing forward policies that address population and other critical social development issues, especially the health and rights of African women, a review report from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) states.

The report, called International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)@15, reviews the progress achieved by African governments and the challenges they face in implementing population, gender, and other social development policies since a Plan of Action was first adopted 15 years ago in Cairo.

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=131009&ptitle=Protests%20oom%20over%20oil%20deregulation

Protests loom over oil deregulation

THE volatile issue of oil deregulation may again plunge the country into fresh crisis soon. Moves have begun by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and its allies in the civil society to mobilize its affiliates for a nationwide protest should the Federal Government go ahead with its deregulation policy. This follows a statement by the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Dr. Rilwan Lukman, last month,

corroborated by the Group Executive Director, Commercial and Investment of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Aminu Baba Kusa, at the weekend that the Federal Government is convinced that deregulation will make products both available and cheaper. Faulting the position and the optimism expressed by government functionaries over the benefits of the policy, the NLC in a statement assured Nigerians that its position on the matter has not changed and warned the Federal Government that it should expect the fiercest Labour unrest ever witnessed in the history of Nigeria. The statement, signed by its General Secretary, John Odah, said the Congress would not allow government to send more Nigerians into economic recession.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/671970/-/unyog9/-/index.html>

Ocampo coming next month

International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will arrive in Nairobi early next month to meet President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga over the planned trial of key post-election violence suspects. Mr. Moreno-Ocampo on Tuesday received a letter from the government, inviting him to discuss the details of the trials on November 3. His office immediately confirmed that he would personally make the trip. "The prosecutor has received a letter inviting him to meet with the President and the Prime Minister. He is planning to come in person," said Ms Beatrice Le Fraper Du Hellen, the international court's director in charge of the Cooperation Division in response to inquiries by the Daily Nation.

Climate

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34396>

Conservation expert calls for protection of Africa's forest gardeners

A United Nations conservation expert has called for the protection of gorillas and elephants to be included in global climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December as a major factor in sustaining healthy African forests, a central element in temperature control. "I would estimate that the apes and elephants of Africa disperse some 7 billion seeds every day," UN Ambassador for the Year of the Gorilla Ian Redmond said, noting that it took more than 1,000 times that period for a project backed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to plant 7 billion new trees.