



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.

Governance

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=157219>

Nigeria Wins UN Security Council Seat

Nigeria has won election for a non-permanent seat at the United Nations (UN) Security Council alongside Gabon and Brazil. Bosnia and Lebanon won but will be in the rare position of being subject to scrutiny by the UN's most powerful body while serving their two-year terms because the former has never served on the council and the latter has not been a member since 1953-54. Unlike previous Security Council elections, there were no contested seats this year. As a result, the five countries nominated by regional groups won an easy election yesterday, following voting by the 192-member General Assembly.

<http://www.postzambia.com/content/view/14775/>

Tsvangirai protests Bennett's detention

PRIME Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has boycotted all his prime-ministerial work in protest against the detention of Roy Bennett, his nominee for the position of deputy agriculture minister in the inclusive government. Bennett was on Wednesday committed to prison by Mutare provincial magistrate Lucy Mungwari pending his trial in the High Court, which starts on Monday. He is accused of possessing weapons for the purposes of committing banditry, insurgency and terrorism, charges he denies and which his MDC party has said are politically motivated. Bennett's swearing-in as agriculture deputy minister has been pending since the formation of the inclusive government in February. He has been on a US \$5,000 bail since March. Prime Minister Tsvangirai's spokesperson James Maridadi told The Post yesterday that the Prime Minister had suspended all his prime ministerial work pending the resolution of Bennett's case.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59F02N20091016>

Voting starts in Botswana's election

Voting started on Friday in Botswana's election which is expected to see President Ian Khama remain in power despite rising discontent over the economic state of the world's biggest diamond producer. The southern African nation has been hit by recession as a global slowdown cuts demand for diamonds, which account for close to 40 percent of the economy. The crisis has forced Botswana, seen as one of Africa's best-run countries with a history of budget surpluses and the region's strongest currency, to plunge itself into debt.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34424>

Kibaki appeals for unity ahead of global summit

Kenyan President, Mwai Kibaki, has appealed for Africa's common stance in pushing Africa's agenda in the upcoming global Climate Change conference scheduled for Copenhagen later this year. Receiving a copy of the declaration of the just concluded 2nd African Parliamentarians' Summit on Climate Change, President Kibaki emphasized the need for Africa to speak with one voice on Climate Change issues. He further said Africa should come out strongly in ensuring that its concerns on Climate Change are addressed as its negative effects impact heavily on Africa's poor economies.

Corruption

<http://www.postzambia.com/content/view/14777/>

Rupiah is the most corrupt – Hichilema

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has charged that President Rupiah Banda is the worst, most corrupt and dangerous President Zambia has ever had. And Lusaka lawyer Wynter Kabimba yesterday challenged the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) to make its position clear on former president Frederick Chiluba's acquittal following President Rupiah Banda's revelation on the matter. Reacting to President Banda's remarks on Chiluba's acquittal during a closed-door meeting in Kasama last Sunday, Hichilema said President Banda had come out in defense of Chiluba's acquittal because he wanted to protect himself from the corruption he is currently involved in. "He wants to shield himself away from the current corruption so that nobody asks him how he ran his government when he leaves," Hichilema said. "He is basically exonerating himself from the current corruption he is involved in like the RP Capital and Zamtel deal. That's why he is coming out this way on the acquittal." He said the biggest problem Zambia was faced with was President Banda.

Conflict

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59F01K20091016>

Congo army "killed 50 civilians in UN-backed ops"

Congolese government soldiers killed at least 50 Rwandan civilian refugees during United Nations-backed operations against rebels in the east earlier this year, a U.N. investigator said on Thursday. The report is likely to intensify pressure on the U.N.'s Congo peacekeeping force, which is already under fire for backing the army in operations against Rwandan rebels despite complaints about abuse by soldiers and the high number of civilians being caught up in the violence.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59F01420091016>

Nigerian militants end ceasefire, threaten attacks

Nigeria's main militant group ended its three-month old ceasefire on Friday and threatened to resume attacks against Africa's biggest oil and gas industry.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) halted its attacks in Nigeria's oil-producing southern region in July. It has since been severely weakened after top leaders and thousands of militants accepted an amnesty and disarmed.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34421>

ICC prosecutor to investigate Guinea's killings

The International Criminal Court's Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has confirmed the preliminary examination by the international court in Guinea following the September clashes in the capital Conakry. According to the communiqué issued by the ICC, a preliminary examination of the situation has been immediately initiated in order to determine whether crimes falling under the Court's jurisdiction have been perpetrated.

http://www.nguardiannews.com/africa/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=151009&ptitle=Eritrea%20rejects%20sanctions%20call%20over%20Somalia

Eritrea rejects sanctions call over Somalia

ASMARA has dismissed a renewed threat of sanctions over charges it is arming insurgents in Mogadishu. Britain was the latest country to join the condemnation, telling the United Nations (UN) Security Council last week it was ready to punish Eritrea for its alleged role in Somalia. Asmara rejected the move and said any evidence brought against it had been fabricated. "The accusations have no bearing whatsoever with the facts. They are completely baseless," Information Minister Ali Abdu told Reuters. "If it (Britain's move) is underpinned by the ulterior political motivations of that country, then it is unacceptable and illegal by all standards."

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-10-16-ancs-civil-war-with-the-left-hots-up>

ANC's civil war with the left hots up

The battle lines have been drawn between moderates and leftists in the ANC following a stern warning by ANC president Jacob Zuma that the left should not flex its muscles over deployments in government. Tensions in the tripartite alliance surfaced after ANC national executive committee (NEC) member Billy Masetlha warned in an interview with the *Mail & Guardian* last week that the South African Communist Party and Cosatu should not try to impose their socialist views on the ANC.

Economic

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59E0JS20091015>

Britain to give Zimbabwe \$100 mln in aid

Britain said on Thursday it was providing \$100 million in aid to Zimbabwe this year, its largest ever donation to the country, to help the new unity government and ease a grim humanitarian crisis. "We thought the formation of the inclusive government was a significant step. The UK wants it to succeed. We are not holding back and will be supporting it to the tune of \$100 million this year," said British ambassador to Zimbabwe Mike Canning.

Food Crisis

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJQE59F00E20091016>

Egyptian companies seek African land deals: Abaza

Farmland deals in Africa inked by private Egyptian firms could help the import-dependent nation get access to grain when markets spike, Egypt's agriculture minister said in an interview on Thursday. Amin Abaza said he does not believe it's the proper role for government to invest in farms abroad but it can help private companies secure fair deals.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/34419>

Zambia becomes agric support hub for Southern Africa

Zambia is set to become the regional focal point for agricultural research support in southern Africa as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) picked the country to host its Southern Africa Administrative Hub to assist its R4D activities in the region.

According to Dr Bryan Harvey, Chair of IITA's Board of Trustees, the institute has, since 2004, been working on how to more effectively and efficiently establish itself in sub-Saharan Africa. To achieve this, IITA decided to focus its administrative support systems at three focal points: the West, East, and South.

Climate

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/672900/-/uo0dl8/-/index.html>

Ravages of climate change will catch Africa napping

One thing that came out clearly at the conclusion of the parliamentary summit on Climate Change on Thursday was that the continent needs to speak with one voice on the issue. Participants agreed that Africa is least prepared in terms of resources and technology, to deal with the negative consequences of climate change yet it contributed very little towards it. If they pushed their agenda collectively, the delegates resolved, they would be taken more seriously than if they did it individually.