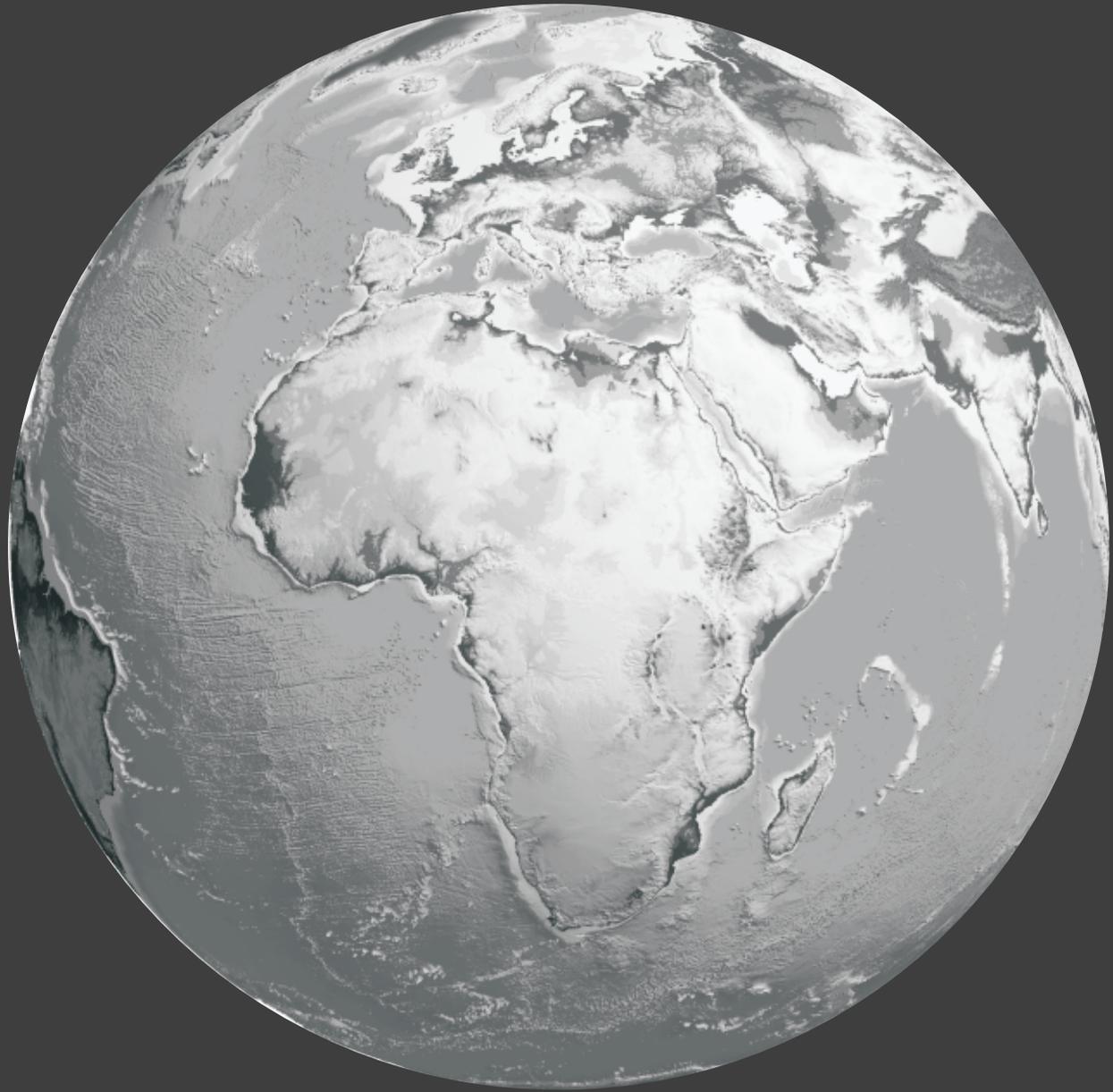


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Editor's Note

The third issue of Africa Trends for this year is here.

Much of West Africa over the past three months has been in the throes of the Ebola crisis. The Ebola Virus Disease is matter of concern for the global community not only because it can spread to any part of the world, but primarily because so much loss of life is a tragedy that could not be prevented despite the many advances in the field of medicine. In the cover story, Kuhoo Saksena reviews the outbreak of the disease, how some countries have dealt with it, international responses to it and what precautions India must take to prevent its onset and spread.

Egypt's transition from authoritarian rule remains unsettled. The commentary by Prasanta Kumar Pradhan forecasts the likely road ahead with the parliamentary elections announced by President Sisi. He conjectures that Egypt's turbulent transition will be marked by the Salafists taking the place of the banned Muslim Brotherhood.

We have the pleasure, for the first time, of presenting the views of a visiting scholar from Zimbabwe at the Institute. Frederick Chakupa Sadomba analyzes the politics of succession that has been playing out in the country. He highlights the tussle in the ZANU PF, the eminence of the ZANLA, and the rise of Grace Mugabe and hopes that the future leaders will address people's concerns earnestly.

China's forays in Africa have certainly been of interest to the international relations and strategic affairs community the world over. Smriti Rajan reviews a volume edited by Stephen Chan which brings together African and Chinese perspectives on the nature of Chinese engagement with Africa. The book focuses on 'morality' in Sino-Africa relations.

The tremors of the "Arab Spring" continued to be felt in Arab Africa. Libya as the country steps into the hands of Islamic militant groups. UN member states pledge to assist the government in dealing with the radicals. The Madrid conference on Libya in held in the month of September witnessed the regional neighbours hoping that the flow of arms into Libya will be curbed. In Egypt, members of the Muslim Brotherhood who had received shelter in Qatar have been asked to leave the country.

Often, there is a comparison of Indian and Chinese presence in Africa, much of which is characterized as a competition. For once, however, conflict has affected the two countries in a similar manner. Both China and India have had to evacuate their respective staff engaged in oil exploration in South Sudan. Meanwhile, regional efforts to broker a peace in South Sudan continue under the aegis of the IGAD. As Somalia continues to deal with the al-Shabaab, it has also taken up legal cudgels by approaching to the ICJ to resolve the territorial water issue with Kenya. The Boko Haram has increased its activities in Cameroon.

As China sets up a body to promote business ties with Seychelles India's relationship with the country is to be diversified and taken to a new high with the appointment of the new Indian High Commissioner in Seychelles.

We hope you will find this issue an interesting read.

Cover Story

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO EBOLA CRISIS

It is believed that the current situation in West Africa is a result of the delayed response and assistance from the international community to the Ebola outbreak. However, there is evidence that some international organisations have been constantly working to contain the spread of the disease since its outbreak in March 2014.

KUHOO SAXENA*

The international response to the deadly outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa has been described as slow and insufficient. Three countries most affected by this, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, have accused the international community for ignoring the severity of the situation on the ground and taking too long to mobilise aid to help contain the outbreak. However, unlike the previous Ebola outbreaks, one also has to consider the current geographical location and the social, political and economic constraints of the respective governments in West Africa as an important factor for the spread of the virus to such a large extent.

The present outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa has been the most deadly epidemic in the history of the disease since it was discovered in 1976. As of September 23, 2014 World Health Organisation (WHO) situation report, there have been 6553 confirmed cases and 3083 deaths caused by the EVD outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The virus has taken a global dimension as there is a confirmation of the first case of Ebola in Dallas, Texas, on September 30, 2014. Calculating the total number of deaths by Ebola over the last 40 years the figures come up to approximately 1500, which is almost one-third of the casualties caused by the virus in a span of a few months. This goes to show the severity of the crisis. Ebola is an infectious virus with a high rate of fatality if not detected between the 2 to 21 days of incubation period. The current outbreak occurred through contact with infected fruit bats or primates; and it is highly contagious if one comes in close contact with the bodily fluids (including and not limited to urine, saliva, faeces, vomit, breast milk and semen) of an infected person.

It is believed that the current situation in West Africa is a result of the delayed response and assistance from the international community to the Ebola outbreak. However, there is evidence that some international organisations have been constantly working to contain the spread of the disease since its outbreak in March 2014. The WHO's African Regional Office had reported the first outbreak of the virus in Guinea on March 23, 2014. Since then it has deployed 400 people from across the Organisation and from partners in Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) to help respond to the disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) had previously contained EVD outbreaks in Africa; and in March itself, they had immediately launched an emergency response in southern Guinea to set up isolation units and despatched a team of doctors and aid workers on the ground to contain the spread of the virus. Since March, the MSF has treated more than 250 confirmed cases of the deadly disease.

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Response of African Nations to the Ebola Crisis

Despite the early response from WHO and MSF to send teams on the ground to contain the spread of the virus, it is believed that the conditions in which the outbreak has occurred at present are much different when compared to the previous outbreaks. First, there is a lack of knowledge amongst the population in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone about the disease; because it is the first time EVD has hit in this part of the African continent. Second, there is a high rate of mobility of people in this region that has caused the virus to spread at a much faster rate than before. Third, the three African nations that are affected are economically poor, and have recently returned to political stability following years of civil war and conflict. This has left their health systems largely destroyed or severely damaged to respond to the outbreak in an efficient manner. Esther Sterk, MSF tropical medicine adviser, had stated in March 2014 that the disease is “highly contagious” and that there is a need for isolation units which are essential to prevent the spread of the disease. Unfortunately, the wide geographic spread of cases and all of the other factors combined together has made it difficult to control the spread of the current epidemic.

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In addition to the factors highlighted above, lack of financial aid and assistance from regional organisations has caused the outbreak to escalate. For example, the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF) which was established in 2010 by the Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation in 2012 - to mobilise, manage and disburse additional resources from the African Member States for effectively responding to public health emergencies - acknowledges that there has always been a gap in funding as most Member States allocate insufficient resources. The consequence of this is that in the current outbreak APHEF had inadequate funds to allocate resources to the regions in West Africa. This has led West African governments to depend on donor funding which are inadequate. The initial outbreak of the EVD was reported in Guinea by the WHO's African Regional Office on March 23, 2014. However, it was only 5 months later on August 13, 2014 that the African Union Commission (AUC) with the help of WHO urgently requested the Member States to replenish APHEF with \$US 1 million to the Ebola response in West Africa. In the press release AUC said that they are working closely to mobilise the international community to respond effectively to this public health emergency. But in reality the assistance came in too late and was too little.

Delay in Mobilisation of International Aid

Even if there was a lack of coordinated assistance by the African nations to contain the crisis situation in West Africa, aid organisations like WHO and GOARN were very well aware of the situation on the ground for a long time. Hence, WHO is blamed for being slow in their efforts to mobilise other states to provide financial aid and physical assistance in terms of medical staff and other essential medical equipment to contain the spread of the disease in West Africa, and for not sharing vital information of the worsening situation in region in the early periods of the outbreak. In an interview of July 2014, MSF Dr. Hilde de Clerck and epidemiologist Dr. Michel Van Herp, who have had experience dealing with previous Ebola outbreaks in Democratic Republic of the Congo, had clearly highlighted that the current outbreak is unique and has the potential to spread at a much faster pace if not contained quickly. MSF had pleaded to all actors that there is a need to increase human resources to deal with this emergency. But unfortunately, their plea remained unnoticed. WHO only declared Ebola as a public health emergency on August 8, 2014 stating that there could be possibility of further international spread of the virus. Also, WHO's

Director-General, Margaret Chan, briefed the United Nations about the outbreak on August 12, 2014. It was only after this public announcement that financial aid and response to the Ebola outbreak from the international community intensified.

As a result of WHO's demand for international help, United Nations' General Secretary Ban Ki-moon announced on September 19, 2014 to establish the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). He sent two letters with the same content a day before to all the members of the General Assembly and Security Council stating that "Ebola crisis is no longer just a public health crisis, but has become multidimensional, with significant political, social, economic, humanitarian, logistical and security dimensions". He also added that with the establishment of UNMEER "aid can be mobilised at the international, regional and national levels to ensure that resources are deployed and delivered to the places where they are most needed, in the shortest possible time frame". Since UNMEERs' establishment countries such as Chile and Colombia have donated \$US 100,000, Estonia \$US 40,000, India \$US 10 million and Ghana hosted the UNMEER effort in Accra and has become a regional logistics hub for the Ebola response. In addition to this, independently Cuba have sent 165 doctors and nurses to Sierra Leone and United States promised 3,000 military engineers and 500 health personnel to West Africa to build clinic and care for patients. China have also contributed a team of 115 health workers in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and dispatched a mobile laboratory team to Sierra Leone to enhance the laboratory testing capacity for Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the country. Had this mobilisation of aid happened earlier, in a month or two after the outbreak, the chances of it spreading to other regions would have been mitigated.

International response to SARS vs Ebola

In 1996 there was a revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR) to broaden disease coverage and incorporate the use of more up-to-date communication technologies to provide real-time information based on which to formulate measures to prevent international spread of diseases. Hence, in the case of 2002 SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in China, there was very strong international coordination and sharing of accurate information during the course of the outbreak. In this case the WHO was very active in collecting real-time information about the nature of the virus and monitoring its spread in Asia and henceforth, it was capable to

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acquire enough clinical and epidemiological information to alert the world to the occurrence of a newly identified atypical pneumonia. In addition to this during the outbreak containment effort GOARN linked some of the world's best laboratory scientists, clinicians and epidemiologists electronically, in virtual networks and provided rapid knowledge about the causative agent, mode of transmission and other epidemiological features of the virus. The real-time information made it possible for WHO to provide specific guidance to health workers on clinical management and protective measures to prevent further

spread. Hence, within four months all known chains of transmission of SARS had been interrupted the outbreak was declared contained.

The advancement in technology has been immense since 2003 but despite that WHO and GOARN failed to alert the international community about the severity of the Ebola outbreak. If they had followed their own model for the SARS epidemic, the spread of the virus could have been contained considerably. However, in the opinion of Dr. Peter Piot (the first microbiologist who was part of the team that identified the virus in 1976 outbreak in Zaire) WHO in the case of the Ebola outbreak was incapable to take a leadership role to manage the situation on the ground

because their African Regional Office was not staffed with capable people but with political appointees. Also, the headquarters in Geneva suffered massive budget cuts, and as a result the department for haemorrhagic fever and the one responsible for the management of epidemics was hit hard.

Unlike SARS, EVD has been in existence since 1976 and in the various sporadic outbreaks that have happened in the last 40 years, the death rate among the cases that were reported was between 35 to 60 percent. Also, Dr. Peter Piot has said that in 1976 itself it was clear to the scientists that they were dealing with one of the deadliest infectious diseases the world has ever seen and that the rate of contamination through close contact is very high. In spite of the virus being so deadly, there no initiative was taken to develop a cure to contain future outbreaks of the disease.

Success story of Nigeria

In contrast, the case of Nigeria is a good example of how local leadership, quick response mechanisms and collaboration of national and international organisations have helped to slowly contain the Ebola virus since its first case was announced on July 23, 2014. Nigeria is a very populated country and an escalation of the Ebola outbreak would have had a direct impact on the global community as there is a constant movement of people in and out of the country. Nigerian government ensured that there is temperature screening at all entry and exit points and extensive surveillance by public health workers. The governor of Lagos Babatunde Fashola has to be given credit to immediately take action after the first case was confirmed. Nearly, 500 contacts were traced, quarantined, checked for fever and other symptoms and their blood samples were taken and sent for testing. The number of boots on the ground helped to ensure that awareness of the virus is spread amongst the population to reduce any panic or fear. Also, Dr. Faisal Shuaib of Nigeria's Health Ministry (who before has been an incident manager of the National Polio Emergency Centre to eradicate polio I Nigeria) took the leadership role in the Ebola Command centre. He collaborated efficiently with the local response team which also included international agencies already present in Nigeria, for example WHO, MSF and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to monitor each and every aspect of the aid efforts to contain the spread of the virus. The UN and the WHO were slow in mobilising the international community and sharing critical information about the outbreak. However, on the ground local initiative and leadership are important to ensure the efficient use of the international aid that has been provided. One or the other cannot work in isolation to contain an epidemic; it has to be a collaborative effort.

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Is India Prepared to deal with an Ebola outbreak?

A press statement by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, was made on August 8, 2014 in the light of World Health Organisation announcement stating that there should be no cause of panic as India is at low risk of transmission of the virus from other countries. India has also pledged financial aid of \$US 12 million to the UNMEER to help the respective countries in West Africa to contain the outbreak. Dr. Harsh Vardhan also assured that preparedness measures are in place to deal with any case of virus imported to India. The Indian Medical Association was requested to inform all its members regarding the diagnostic and treatment protocol. The National Centre for Disease Control has issued an advisory to all State Surveillance officers to be vigilant about the virus and raise their awareness and knowledge regarding the virus. The government also advised against all non-essential travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra

Leone, adding that airport authorities will screen and quarantine the travellers who are coming from or transiting through the affected areas.

The Ministry of External Affairs didn't make any official statements regarding the outbreak in West Africa. But, is it assumed that it has postponed the India-Africa Forum Summit that was scheduled for December 2014 due to the scare of Ebola being imported to India. However, the Indian government should not be complacent and should be fully prepared to deal with any outbreak of the virus in the country. Monthly press releases by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare show figures of how many people have been checked on the airports and quarantined, but there are many factors that one has to consider if a single imported case of virus in any region as it can stifle the public health care system and severely damage India's economic, political and social fabric.

India is very densely populated; whether the urban or rural parts. This will make contact tracing very difficult. Also, many people do not have any form of identification or medium through which they can be traced. Therefore, tracking a potentially infected person and isolating them is going to be an impossible task for the public health workers. There is also a high rate of mobility of people within a state and between different states in India. Hence, the chances of the disease spreading quickly are very high. Sanitation in India is very poor. According to the UNICEF, 50 per cent of India's population defecates in the open and it is known that the Ebola virus can be transmitted through any bodily fluid including faeces. The slums in the urban areas and many parts of rural India that suffer from poor sanitation are at a high risk of being contaminated in the wake of any virus outbreak.

Many public hospitals are not equipped with basic facilities and many in the rural areas do not even have access to a good public hospital. Hence, it will take tremendous amount of man power and resources to ensure that hospitals are equipped and the aid workers are well trained to sophisticatedly manage any situations of an outbreak. There are only two labs in the whole of India that can test blood samples and diagnose the disease. One is the National Centre of Disease Control in New Delhi and the other is the National Institute of Virology in Pune. For a population of more than one billion, just two laboratories are insufficient. There is also a lack of awareness about the disease. There is hardly any mention or discussion of the Ebola crisis in West Africa on the major national Indian news networks and papers. There are no updates on any measure that the government has taken to ensure the public that they are prepared to deal with an outbreak of the virus in the country. Those who are illiterate and do not have access to any form of media will be oblivious about the existence of the disease. This lack of knowledge has the potential of creating fear and panic among the communities if an outbreak takes place.

Even though international aid has intensified for containing the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, it is important that authorities in India be vigilant. From the Nigerian example one has to learn that local leadership and proper preparedness of the public health system is very important for containing the spread of the virus.

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Viewpoint

TWISTS AND TURNS IN ZIMBABWE'S SUCCESSION DEBATE

The succession debate has haunted the ZANU PF right from its foundation in the 1950s. Given the fact that the leader of the party is well into his 90s, and old-age ailments are fast catching up with him, factionalism within the party has been the order of the day.

FREDERICK CHAKUPA SADOMBA*

Introduction

The entry of Grace Mugabe, the First Lady of Zimbabwe, into mainstream politics began in August 2014 when she was nominated to head Zimbabwe African Union- Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) Women's League- a position that she should be confirmed in at the December 2014 elective congress. If elected, she would also take up a seat in the party's politburo. Her husband, President Robert Mugabe is over 90 years. So there are strong signals from his camp of imminent departure, and a jostling for a space in the front row by his lieutenants Joyce Mujuru and Emmerson Munangagwa.

The Succession Debate

The succession debate has haunted the ZANU PF right from its foundation in the 1950s. Given the fact that the leader of the party is well into his 90s, and old-age ailments are fast catching up with him, factionalism within the party has been the order of the day.

The difficulties in succession owe less to idiosyncrasies of the incumbent who moved from being the leader of one of the guerrilla movements into office in 1980 and has retained party and state power ever since. When his party assumed power, it was quick to penetrate the state's institutions making sure that the party was indistinguishable from the state. The geopolitics of the region and local political environment dictated, necessitated and justified such a stance given the fact that apartheid South Africa was still alive and implementing its Total National Strategy policy of destabilizing the whole of Southern Africa in its attempts to cling to white minority rule. The party's politburo, central committee, and cabinet thus became instruments through which to pre-empt or manage dissent and the succession puzzle. In the meantime, patronage kept the state apparatus well-greased.

Every party congress since 1994 has held out the possibility of having a free discussion on who should occupy the post of the party's first secretary and the head of state.

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Every party congress since 1994 has held out the possibility of having a free discussion on who should occupy the post of the party's first secretary and the head of state. Decision and debate on a plan for succession were rife. This never materialised although most members of the party hierarchy have never been reconciled to the idea of a president-for-life. Many political elites in the party were understandably lukewarm to the incumbent's political bid in 2002.

The Tslolotsho Succession Bid

The issue of factionalism and succession came to a head in December 2004, the month leading to the party's congress. Two expectations were rife though unacceptable within the party. First that the incumbent would retire at the end of his term in 2008. Second, that whoever was elected by congress to the vacant post of the party vice presidency would be the incumbent's successor.

The contest for the vice president (who would also be the Second Secretary of the party) was between a decorated female former guerrilla commander and living heroine Joyce Mujuru and a party political elite formerly in-charge of the intelligence portfolio Emmerson Munangagwa. Munangagwa's campaign was heavily backed by the party's chief propagandist Professor Jonathan Moyo whilst Joyce's bid was led by her husband (now late) General Solomon Mujuru who had been the Deputy Commander of the Zimbabwe African Liberation Army (ZANLA) (the fighting wing of ZANU PF). Solomon had assisted the incumbent to be propelled into the party leadership in 1977 as there was still resistance from the rank-and-file in ZANLA who viewed the incumbent's accession to power as an imposition and a diversion of the protracted revolution which was progressing well, with marked achievements and in the right direction. The incumbent was then ushered into the hot seat amid acrimony and misgivings to Solomon by the rank-and-file in ZANLA.

By August 2004 Munangagwa had secured support from seven of the ZANU PF's electoral provinces. Joyce Mujuru was a surprise candidate supported by the Women's Congress on the basis of a resolution passed in 1999 requiring one of the two Vice Presidents to be a woman.

Faced by such a belated but stubborn challenge, Munangagwa's supporters led by Jonathan Moyo organised a meeting at Tslolotsho in western Zimbabwe. This botched plan which came to be known as the 'Tslolotsho Succession' was to oust the then Vice President Joseph Musika (late) and National Chairman John Nkomo (late) in order to prevent the election of Joseph Musika as second Vice President. The Vice President's position was to be contested between Munangagwa and Thejewe Lesabe with Patrick Chinamasa standing in as National Chairman and John Nkomo assuming the Secretary for Administration post.

The incumbent found himself in a limbo between the "Tslolotsho Gang" on the one hand, and Joyce and Solomon Mujuru on the other, as well as various political allies across the ten provinces and their loyalists in the military and security sectors. Most of the "Tslolotsho Gang" was exposed by December 2004; and their plan thus failed. However they were never dubbed as rebels or counter revolutionaries as other groups that had attempted to take power had been. Joseph Musika and John Nkomo retained their positions. Joyce emerged as the Vice President of both the party and state. The congratulatory and closing remarks at that 2004 Congress implied that Joyce would become his successor and should consider being the party leader.

A Balance of Force?

The big question which emerged out of the 2004 Congress however, was to what extent did the outcome of the party election represent the long term but ever unimagined victory of ZANLA

power within ZANU PF represented by Solomon and Joyce Mujuru? Had ZANLA overturned the 'ideal' civil military relations that had obtained since 1977? Never in its history had the military been given the chance to run the party and drive the revolution. Any such moves by the military were considered rebellious and tantamount to a counter revolution. Lethal killings/ eliminations were then instituted against the purported counter revolutionaries and the few who were lucky enough were excommunicated and disowned by the party.

In a wide ranging interview in 2007, the incumbent accused his detractors inside and outside the party of unbridled ambition and impatience. He said that he was not going to be 'pushed out' prematurely and expectations that Joyce would soon succeed him were mistaken. The incumbent was fully aware that a substantial section of the party leadership, senior military and security hierarchy wanted him to throw in the towel or hand over the baton stick to someone else at the end of 2008. Those who campaigned for his exit argued that:

Never in its history had the military been given the chance to run the party and drive the revolution.

- The incumbent had overstayed his usefulness at the helm of the party and the state.
- The incumbent lacks the tact to tackle the economic and political malaise.
- Zimbabwe's fortunes can be revived under a new chief executive.
- Change in leadership will save ZANU PF from almost certain doom
- His retirement would inspire the whole nation heralding a new era in Zimbabwe given that Zimbabwe is surrounded by countries which have had a smooth leadership transition ie Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and Namibia.

Enter the First Lady

The First Lady, Grace Mugabe openly entered into politics in October 2014 on the basis that she had been called on to do so by the outgoing Chairperson of the Women's League Oppah Muchinguri. The entry of the First Lady into the political fray has left many people baffled, but in a way, given clarity to the succession debate. Her entry has generated a lot of debate about the incumbent's succession plan at a time when the integrity of the party is at stake.

The First Lady believed that her entry into politics was God given, though many Zimbabweans have mixed feelings over her sudden and meteoric rise in the Zimbabwean political arena during the ongoing succession debate. The First Lady has never held a post in the party. Grace was 'called in' to rescue the estranged factions within the protracted succession matrix.

The entry of the First Lady into the political fray has left many people baffled, but in a way, given clarity to the succession debate.

Grace started her 'meet the people tours' in early October 2014. In her address during the meetings she touched on a variety of political issues that have left a big wedge within the party. Initially it seemed to many Zimbabweans that Grace wanted to take the opportunity to thank Oppah for endorsing her name for the top Women's League post come the impending congress in December 2014.

At the beginning of the much hyped tour, Grace spoke tongue-in cheek attacking Joyce but as she wrapped up her tour, it was clear she was on a mission to destroy Joyce's ambition to take over the leadership of ZANU PF from her ageing husband. Grace attacked the Vice President as being

corrupt, extortionist, incompetent, thus positioning herself to wrest power from the incumbent. Grace further cast aspersions on Joyce trashing not just her impeccable war credentials and contributions but also maliciously painting her as inept amongst other mendacious accusations. The Vice President was accused that she was working day and night with the Americans and the opposition parties to topple the president. Grace went on to allege that two opposition political parties had been formed in Joyce's house and threatened Joyce to resign from her post before the impending Congress or else be "baby dumped" by Grace.

Speaking at the annual luncheon for legislators on 29 October 2014, the incumbent was at pains to straddle the middle of the road path as he rallied the fighting factions to close ranks and to maintain the status quo in the presidium. This utterance by the incumbent appeared to fly straight in the face of the hostile drive and hype to oust Joyce and her close lieutenants.

In this succession wrangle, all players are using the ammunition in their quiver. However whoever will be enthroned as the leader of the Women's League at the impending December 2014 ZANU PF Congress will have to find way of working with the Vice President. Whatever happens in this succession wrangle, optimism is needed about the opportunities available to attend to the economic malaise and the need to look beyond politics so as to strategically plan to alleviate the conditions of the suffering citizens.

Commentary

EGYPT UNDER SISI: THE TROUBLED TRANSITION CONTINUES

The aspirations of the youth who protested at the Tahrir Square, the next course of action for the Muslim Brotherhood, the participation of other Islamists in the forthcoming elections and the role of military in the Sisi regime are some of the important issues which need to be resolved for the stability of the country.

PRASANTA KUMAR PRADHAN*

In June 2013, following severe protests by the people against him, President Mohamed Morsi was ousted by the military led by General Abdel Fateh El Sisi. This led to violent clashes between the supporters of Morsi and the security forces. Many people were killed and a large number injured. Hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood members and supporters were arrested and jailed. Sisi also dismissed the constitution drafted by the Morsi government. These events created further chaos and confusion in the country and regarding the future direction of the revolution. Many believed that the overthrow of an elected President by military is a set back to the revolution and it turns the clock back to the Mubarak-era military dictatorship. Sisi appointed Adly Mansour as the interim president and Hazem Beblawi as the prime minister. The interim government promised presidential elections in early 2014 and Sisi was elected president in May 2014 with a huge margin of 96.9 per cent of the vote.

After the overthrowing of Morsi, the crack down on the Muslim Brotherhood continued. In December 2013, Egypt declared Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation and froze its assets. Later in August 2014 the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), which is the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, was banned. The parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held by end of this year. It is clear that the FJP, which won majority of the seats in parliament in the last election, will not be able to participate in the coming elections. In the absence of the Muslim Brotherhood, the remnants of the Mubarak era are planning to make a come back into mainstream politics. Their coming back to power would be big set back to the idea of revolution in Egypt that had started in the Tahrir Square.

In the absence of the Muslim Brotherhood, the remnants of the Mubarak era are planning to make a come back into mainstream politics.

After the removal of Morsi, a number Islamist parties united under the banner of the National Coalition for Supporting Legitimacy (NCSL). The alliance labels the overthrow of Morsi by the military as a coup and demands that Morsi be reinstated as the president of Egypt. More recently, the group has been calling for intensifying protests against the government. Though their intention and ability to take part in the forthcoming elections is not clear yet, they will certainly be a major force in Egyptian politics.

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The rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to power in the previous parliamentary elections led to apprehensions about the rise of political Islam in the region. This came after the Islamist Ennahada party won a majority in Tunisia. But the overthrow of Morsi by the military has changed the political course of the country. As the Muslim Brotherhood is now banned, the Salafists will be the dominant Islamist elements in the parliamentary elections. During his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2014, Sisi stated that the parliamentary elections would be held this year and that he intends to build a new civil democratic state that would respect freedom of speech and religion. But on the ground, Egypt remains a polarised society and a weak economy whose political elite has failed to build any effective institutions. Though several elections have been held in the post-Mubarak Egypt, none of them have contributed to establishment of a stable democratic political order.

... Egypt remains a polarised society and a weak economy whose political elite has failed to build any effective institutions.

Egypt is one of the important countries in the Arab world and the faltering transition in the post-Mubarak era will have an impact on the regional geopolitics. Given Egypt's prominence in the region, the regime change, the coming to power of Muslim Brotherhood and the subsequent overthrow of the Mohamed Morsi by the military has had severe regional repercussions. The victory of the Muslim Brotherhood in the elections prompted the involvement of the regional powers in the developments in Egypt. Qatar, owing to its close ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, emerged as an important player in Egypt during the Morsi regime. But with the removal of Morsi, Qatar has lost that eminence, though it still has tremendous influence over the Muslim Brotherhood.

Saudi Arabia felt sidelined from Egyptian affairs with Qatar playing a larger role and the Morsi regime deciding to build ties with Iran afresh. Saudi Arabia also has substantial influence over the Salafists in Egypt. Though Saudi Arabia announced its readiness to work with Morsi, the past relationship and the ideological differences between them did not allow them to settle down. What irked the Saudis most was Morsi's move to start afresh a relationship with Iran. A strong relationship between the two important regional players such as Egypt and Iran would certainly not be in the interest of Saudi Arabia. After the removal of Morsi, Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE have pledged over billions of dollars in direct loans and subsidies. Turkey has denounced the overthrow of Morsi by the military. Egypt has accused Turkey of interfering in its internal affairs and both have withdrawn their envoys, thus cutting off regular diplomatic ties.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia have developed a spat over political changes in Egypt.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia have developed a spat over political changes in Egypt. Similarly, Saudi-Iran relationship has also worsened because of their involvement in Egypt's political transition. The uncertain political developments in Egypt, which among others, include two ousted presidents, numerous attempts to draft constitutions, experiments with democracy, strong influence of the military in the decision making and so on have been the hallmark of Egyptian transition in the post-Mubarak era and have impacted the regional security situation in the region.

The US is the most important player in the region and has expressed concerns over the developments in Egypt and the region. It has been an important military and economic aid supplier to Egypt. US was seemingly unhappy over the ousting of Morsi by the military as he was the democratically elected president. But there have been constant pressures from its regional allies such as the Gulf countries and Israel seeking support for Sisi as they were wary about the

future of Egypt under Morsi. Thus though the US continues its strong ties with Egypt, it presses for reforms, democracy and human rights which are being consistently demanded by the people.

Egypt continues to remain in a state of flux. The process of transition is proving difficult with a number of internal challenges remaining unresolved. With Sisi elected as the president, the military is back in the helm of affairs. In the changed circumstances, there are many questions that remain to be addressed before Egypt moves towards further stability. The aspirations of the youth who protested at the Tahrir Square, the next course of action for the Muslim Brotherhood, the participation of other Islamists in the forthcoming elections and the role of military in the Sisi regime are some of the important issues which need to be resolved for the stability of the country. Sisi believes that the parliamentary elections are the next big step to achieve political stability. It remains to be seen how efficiently he manages to conduct the elections taking all the stakeholders on board. Similarly the role of the regional powers and the US will also be another deciding factor for Egypt's foreign policy and its role in the region. Sisi needs to deal with a number of powerful regional countries for pursuing his foreign policy objectives and to restore the regional influence of his country. At present there is certainly a huge task ahead of Sisi to chart out the future roadmap and navigate through this difficult phase of Egypt's transition.

Book Review

Stephen Chan (ed.), *The Morality of China in Africa: The Middle Kingdom and the Dark Continent*

Zed Books, 2013, ISBN 978-1-78032-566-8

SMRITI RAJAN*

The Morality of China in Africa is a collection of essays on relations between Africa and China and their journey of engagement with each other. The book brings together different perspectives and opinions on Sino-African bilateral relations in terms of economic engagement, cultural infusion and the impact of Chinese presence in the African continent. Bringing together the writings of Chinese and African scholars and stalwarts on the subject matter, the book presents a review of the Chinese involvement with Africa, examining the moral aspect of the relationship. The book, as expressed by Chan, is the outcome of his expertise in observing the engagement closely and his interaction with a number of Chinese and African members of the Trilateral Dialogue which took place in Beijing in the year 2007. Among the members, were the contributors to this book, who gave insights on their understanding of the Sino-African relationship and China's expanding presence in the African continent.

In his preclusive essay titled *The Middle Kingdom and the Dark Continent*, Stephen Chan talks about how the Chinese involvement with Africa is viewed by the global community, particularly the Westerners. Stating that "Africa forms one part of a complex Chinese global strategy", Chan makes a strong point emphasizing on how the Western knowledge of China's African engagement is an outcome of views expressed by Sinologists and Africanists who have little or no expertise and understanding of international relations, particularly of Sino-African ties. He argues that despite the difference in geographical, political and cultural factors, China and Africa are on a common ground with regard to holding shared anger of historic injustices suffered by them as a result of colonialism and oppression. Strong bilateral ties in the form of meetings and discussions have been held time and again, wherein country leaders from both areas get together to engage in serving the common purpose of economic and political interests. Prevailing economic realities are such that many African countries hold abundant natural resources being energy and mineral rich and China, with its energy and resource-hungry manufacturing model, needs to maintain a strong hold in the African continent. China has therefore mobilised both diplomatic links and political channels, to widen its engagement with the continent. The Chinese have been increasing their presence throughout Africa, by way of providing financial aid, investment, technical assistance, infrastructural development, knowledge and training, and other developmental capsules by engaging with Africa through bilateral agreements and business projects.

The book sets a different tone, based on various viewpoints and moral observation of the Chinese engagement with Africa. The compilation integrates Chinese views by Jerry C.Y. Liu, who in his piece on "Sino-African cultural relations", emphasizes the fact that culture was an important catalyst

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in framing the Chinese statecraft and further developing the Sino-African linkage based on Confucian values such as brotherhood, benevolence, harmony, loyalty and reciprocation, as stated by the author. Another essay written by Qing Cao highlights China's changing patterns of its African engagement, from sharing a historical lineage of being colonial victims to becoming partners of economic and political collaborations. Xiaoming Huang, in his writing, explains that China has been involved with Africa for serving its own economic interests, either by adopting a 'grand strategy' in Africa or by developing a 'Confucius model', as being part of Beijing's policy framework.

Among the essays compiled by Stephen Chan, the African perspective by Patrick Mazimhaka, highlights the shared economic and political interests between Africa and China that make the engagement stronger, even though the African countries lack consensus in responding to the developments and challenges faced by them. Mazimhaka talks about how the collaboration of AU and China has been fruitful for formulating and implementing mutually beneficial policies and investments. The humanitarian element in carrying out various policies has been the moral aspect of Chinese engagement with Africa. He also emphasizes on the fact that the Chinese presence in Africa is expanding in terms of its increased efforts in UN peacekeeping operations, along with its major contribution in the investment sector. However, there is another side to the story as well. China has been seen as an exploiter of natural resources contained in Africa by the resource-rich African regions. Furthermore, the ordinary Africans are used by the Chinese to be part of their labour force, and there is lack of information about the Chinese investments in Africa. Given the dynamics of a new political and economic reality, there is need for greater involvement and participation from within the African continent in voicing their opinions and contributing to strengthen the Sino-African collaboration.

African viewpoints by Lopo Do Nascimento, William Lyakurwa, Patrick Mazimhaka, Greg Mills, Joe Mollo, Sydney Mufamadi and Michael Spicer highlight that China's interest in Africa has been triggered by economic factors, increasing the potential of economic cooperation that mutually beneficial for both the parties. The way China has been involved with Africa, whether by expanding its presence in the continent or by engaging in bilateral dialogues and agreements, no other country has participated. Furthermore, Chinese aid and investment should be aimed at strengthening the African institutions, developing infrastructure, fostering transparency, capacity-building and facilitating the growth of production across Africa.

A chapter by Sumit Roy brings in the dimension of Indian engagement with Africa, where he debates as to where India fits in and how far India has been able to develop ties with Africa along political and economic lines. The Indo-African engagement has witnessed a shift from political engagement to economic cooperation, with increasing trade exchanges and growing number of investments. This section of the book is an interesting read, giving a brief summary of India's African engagement with several interesting facts on the growing Indian presence in the continent.

Chan has critically opined that there is lack of academic and specialist knowledge on the subject matter, as the visiting officials and leaders belonging to different parts of the world, who visit Africa, rely mainly on the analysis and information from embassies based in African capitals, taking into account a small section of the populace. Making a strong statement that China's policy in Africa is only half constructed; Chan feels that the actual impact of the Chinese effort will be greater if the African partners are more reciprocal and cooperative in making equal efforts towards a unified association. The Chinese behavior and approach have also been under criticism for being limited and narrowly designed.

The nature of Chinese engagement with Africa has drawn attention of the community of scholars and experts. The dominant (read western) view on this is that China is mainly interested in material gains and it is economic interest that drives Chinese policy in Africa. Several of the views presented here compel a re-consideration of the 'economic' element in China's Africa policy and weigh on the 'moral' element. However, since such views are mainly proffered by Chinese scholars, and there is only one African perspective, which also is not entirely complimentary vis-a-vis China, the book does not to make a convincing argument. One would like to hear many more views from Africa and scholars from other parts of the world before coming to any final conclusion, one way or the other.

News Track

Northern Africa

Algeria

Deployment of more number of troops to secure oil and energy companies; Algeria's humanitarian aid to Palestinian victims in Gaza; Algeria's commitment to environmental protection; Algeria against military intervention in Libya

In the wake of incidents like kidnapping and assassination of a French tourist by an armed group linked to ISIS, Algeria decided to strengthen security of the foreign energy companies in its region. More than 3,000 troops were deployed, after the Ministry of Defence decided to establish military bases near the major oil fields in the Southern part of Algeria. The foreign energy companies are situated in six provinces, four being located in the oil rich desert, namely Adrar, Ouargla, Tamanrasset, Illizi, in addition to Laghouat and Skikda which are located in the north. The Libyan crisis and violence in Mali have made way for the terror groups and arms to enter Algerian territory. Due to this, Algeria had raised alert over the terror threat and deployed thousand troops at its southern and eastern borders with Libya and Mali respectively.¹

Humanitarian aid from Algeria was sent to the Palestinian people in Gaza. The aid was received in the airport of Ismailia, a city in north-eastern Egypt. Consisting of medical facilities and equipment for the people in Gaza, the convoy was supervised by the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA), collected by the CRA, the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), the General Union of Merchants and Craftsmen (UGCAA) and civil society groups. Algeria's Ambassador to Cairo, Nadhir Laarbaoui, stated that "the convoy represents donations from the Algerian people to their Palestinian brothers", providing financial assistance to the victims in Gaza. Furthermore, he stated that the support signifies Algeria's permanent solidarity and support to the Palestinian people in the fight for their legitimate rights, including the right to an independent state.²

The secretary general of the Foreign Affairs ministry, Abdelhamid Senouci Bereksi, stated that Algeria has "always" been "anxious to honour its international commitment in protecting and preserving environment". In this regard, Algeria is required to sign international agreements relating to environmental protection. He was of the view that there is a "very developed" legal arsenal on environment protection and an appropriate institutional and regulatory framework in Algeria. He emphasized Algeria's increasing efforts towards sustainable development and its commitment to fight against desertification and deterioration of soil through reforestation programmes and agricultural land upgrading schemes, promotion of renewable energy use and energy efficiency by 2030.³

¹ "Algeria deploys more troops to secure foreign oil companies", *shanghaidaily.com*, September 28, 2014, at http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=243622

² "Algeria: First Batch of Algerian Relief Aid to Gaza Arrives in Egyptian Ismailia's Airport", *Algerie Presse Service*, September 26, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409260798.html>

³ "Algeria: Environmental Protection - Algeria Anxious to Fulfil Its International Commitments", *Algerie Presse Service*, September 29, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409292388.html>

Speaking in the Madrid Conference on Libya on September 17, 2014, Algerian Foreign Minister Ramadan Lamamra said that international organisations should ‘help’ rather than ‘interfere’ in Libya. Algeria also reiterated that United Nations Resolution 2174 should be implemented to impose ban on supply of arms to Libya. The Algerian government has also called for a national dialogue between various conflicting parties in Libya in order to bring peace. According to the arrangement proposed by the Algerian government, the various militias and conflicting parties in Libya will sign security agreements with each other that will aid in securing people and property in Libya. This will leave enough room to focus on fighting terrorism. In recent times, Algeria has emerged as an important regional player in promoting peace in neighbouring countries with its involvement in dialogue in Mali and Libya. The United States government has appreciated Algeria’s efforts in encouraging peaceful solution in Libya. On September 22, 2014 a meeting was held in the United States on Libya. The meeting was attended by the United States, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Qatar, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union. The final report “praised the efforts of the countries neighboring Libya, especially the Algerian initiative”.⁴

Egypt

Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood members told to move out of Qatar; MoU for combating violence against women

Amr Darrag, a leader of Muslim Brotherhood’s political arm, the Freedom and Justice Party, said that the Qatari government has asked its members to relocate from Qatar. Darrag made this revelation in a statement posted on his Facebook page. AFP also got confirmation about this decision from two brotherhood officials based in Qatar and through an Egyptian newspaper. After the ouster of President Morsi in the July 2013 military coup, many Muslim Brotherhood members were allowed to move into Qatar by the Qatari government, where they had set up the office of the Freedom and Justice Party. The presence of Muslim Brotherhood members in Qatar had made it unpopular among other Gulf monarchies, particularly Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain which view the Brotherhood as a danger to the stability of their monarchies. In March 2014, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain recalled their ambassadors from Qatar. Increasing pressure by these Gulf monarchies has led to Qatar’s decision.⁵

The head of the National Council for Women (NCW) Mervat el-Tellawy has proposed a cooperative protocol with Tourism Minister Hesham Zazou on combating violence against women. The NCW has been making efforts towards protection of women, in collaboration with the ministries of interior, social solidarity, manpower, education, sport, Awqaf, health, Urban Development and justice, for formulating and implementing this strategy. Equal rights will be ensured to the Egyptian women by the constitution of Egypt.⁶

⁴ Ommar Shabbi, “Algeria pushes for national dialogue in Libya”, *Al-Monitor*, September 30, 2014, at <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/09/algeria-reject-foreign-intervention-libya.html#>

⁵ “Qatar expels Egypt’s exiled Muslim Brotherhood leaders”, *Deutsche Welle*, September 13, 2014, at <http://www.dw.de/qatar-expels-egypts-exiled-muslim-brotherhood-leaders/a-17919935>

⁶ “Egypt: NCW - Protocol With Tourism Ministry for Combating Violence Against Women”, *AllAfrica.com*, September 29, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409292347.html>

Libya

UN member states to help Libya in combating the spread of Islamic militants; Militias run amok in Tripoli as government loses control

For curbing the increasing threat of terrorism in Libya, a group of Western and Arab states expressed their willingness to help the Libyan government in combating the growing presence of Islamic militant groups in the region. During the UN General Assembly meeting, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon led a discussion on the ongoing conflict in Libya since the fall of Gaddafi in 2011. The growing presence of Ansar al-Sharia in the Libyan territory has been of major concern, which should be placed under UN sanction, as stated by the French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius. The group is classified as a terrorist organisation.⁷

The government of Libya lost control of the capital Tripoli to a coalition of militias called Libya Dawn. The Libyan government issued a statement warning that the government headquarters, offices and other public buildings “are not safe and inaccessible, because they are under the control of armed men”. The recently elected Parliament has now convened in the eastern city of Tobruk. Meanwhile, the coalition of militias controlling Tripoli are aligned with militias from the coastal city of Misurata and the Islamist factions. On the other side are the rival militias belonging to General Khalifa Haftar, militias belonging to Zintan province and also many former Qaddafi fighters have joined Zintani militias. Tobruk is the strong hold of General Haftar’s group. After a long battle, the Misurata militias captured the Tripoli airport by the end of August this year from the Zintan militias. The Islamists Libya Dawn has called the newly elected Parliament invalid since it has gathered in Tobruk in the territory in control of General Haftar. The militia has also called for reappointment of the previous General National Congress (GNC). On the other hand, Libya Dawn has been accused of usurping power by force as its political allies had got very small share of votes in the election.⁸

South Sudan

Financial assistance for the refugees and IDPs of South Sudan; The ongoing conflict in South Sudan may lead to a food crisis; IGAD’s representative warns the two sides in South Sudan conflict to stop blocking peace efforts; China to send 700 troops to South Sudan to protect civilians working in oil industry

Nearly \$83 million of assistance for the refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan was announced by Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard. The assistance will also be provided to the South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. The additional funding was announced at the annual meeting of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees’ governing Executive Committee in Geneva. The international and non-governmental organizations are to provide refugees and IDPs with basic life support such as access to clean

⁷ “States at U.N. say ready to help Libya combat Islamist militants”, *Reuters*, September 25, 2014, at <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/states-u-n-ready-help-libya-combat-islamist-223009523.html#fxRcWh9>

⁸ David D. Kirkpatrick, “Libyan Militias Seize Control of Capital as Chaos Rises”, *The New York Times*, September 1, 2014, at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/02/world/africa/militias-seize-control-of-libyan-capital.html?ref=africa&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=%2AMorning%20Brief&utm_campaign=2014_MorningBrief%2009%2002%2014

water and sanitation; food, health care, and essential household items; gender-based violence prevention and response; critical services to treat malnutrition; distribution of seeds, tools, and livelihood support kits; employment training; and programs to protect children, including education and efforts to reunite families torn apart by displacement. Moreover, the U.S. has been striving to end violence and allow immediate and unconditional access for humanitarian workers to reach the needy across all areas of South Sudan. Gains made through international assistance can only be sustained if leaders prioritize peace and invest in services for their own people.⁹

The conflict in South Sudan may lead to a famine next year according to Oxfam. Similar warnings have been sounded by President Kiir, other aid agencies and UN officials. However, at least for now the food situation has improved according to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) group, an expert group. According to IPC, normal rainfall, good crop planting and the start of a “green harvest” have improved food production. The food situation would continue to improve especially in areas not affected by conflict. Despite the improvement, around 1.5 million people will face food crisis by December this year. If the conflict continues and situation does not improve then around 2.5 million will face famine like situation next year. South Sudan has been in conflict ever since resident President Salva Kiir accused the Vice President Riek Machar of plotting a coup last year in December.¹⁰

Ethiopian Seyoum Mesfin, representing the East African regional group Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), has raised concern over the growing frustration among the regional and international diplomats over the inability of both sides in South Sudan conflict to end fighting. He reiterated that the conflict can only end peacefully and not by resorting to violence. Sudan has been in conflict ever since resident President Salva Kiir accused the Vice President Riek Machar for plotting a coup last year in December. The regional representative has tried to mount pressure in the light of the latest fighting between government forces and forces of rebels at the oil-rich Upper Nile region. Meanwhile, in the talks it has been proposed that a transitional government with a new post of prime minister, with powers to be determined, will run the nation for 30 months, with elections held two months before the end of the 30 month period. The Riek Machar faction has contested the proposal on the basis that Salva Kiir might be allowed to run for president in the new transition government while Machar will be barred from the post of prime minister. Since the conflict began, as many as 10,000 people have been killed, 1 million people have been displaced and the country has been pushed to the brink of a famine.¹¹

China has planned to deploy 700 troops in November to South Sudan in order to protect civilians working in the oil industry, according to the Foreign Ministry spokesman Mawien Makol Arik. Currently, the Chinese have 350 troops in South Sudan. These are mostly military engineers

⁹ “Press Releases: U.S. Pledges \$83 million Additional Emergency Assistance for the People of South Sudan”, *Official Wire*, September 29, 2014, at <http://www.officialwire.com/pr/press-releases-u-s-pledges-83-million-additional-emergency-assistance-for-the-people-of-south-sudan/>

¹⁰ “South Sudan hunger crisis ‘eases’”, *BBC*, September 24, 2014, at http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29344471?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=%2AMorning%20Brief&utm_campaign=2014_MorningBrief-%20LKY%20PROMO.9.24.14

¹¹ Aaron Maasho, “South Sudan’s warring sides told to stop stalling”, *Reuters Africa*, September 23, 2014, at http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKCN0HI0CO20140923?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=%2AMorning%20Brief&utm_campaign=2014_MorningBrief-%20LKY%20PROMO%2009%2023%2014%20D

deployed in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap and Lake states, according to UN mission's acting spokesman, Joseph Contreras. The Chinese troops will reinforce the UN peace keeping troops present in the country. The deployment of the Chinese troops will be part of the increase in UN troops authorized by the UN Security Council in December 2014. The troops mandate will be to protect civilians working in oil industry and not the protection of oil infrastructure. Since the civil war many oil companies have evacuated their staff from South Sudan. Around a third of the country's oil production has been closed down. China National Petroleum Corp., Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional Bhd. and India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have evacuated its staff due to violence.¹²

Morocco

Moroccan nationals arrested for being linked to Islamic state militancy

Nine people were arrested by the Spanish and Moroccan police officials, on suspicion of belonging to a militant cell linked to the Islamic State. The Ministry states that the leader of the group was of Spanish nationality, born in Morocco, and the remaining members were Moroccan nationals. According to the Ministry, the suspects had carried out training activities with groups linked to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in northern Mali and worked with the leader's brother, a former Spanish soldier and weapons and explosives specialist.¹³

Eastern Africa

Djibouti

Ethiopian Parliament ratifies agreement for giving Djibouti free underground water; Djibouti's president meets SPLM-In-Opposition leader from South Sudan; Arab League demands release of Djiboutian soldier in Eritrea

The Ethiopian parliament has ratified an agreement that allows Djibouti to draw underground water free of cost from its territory. Djibouti and Ethiopia had signed the agreement on January 20, 2013. The two countries arrived at a consensus to harness the underground water of the Ethiopian Somali region to deal with Djibouti's water needs. However, the entire episode of the approval of the agreement is being debated as Ethiopian people are quite confused about what their country will gain out of this. The agreement provides "full and exclusive rights" to Djibouti to draw 103,000 cubic meter of water daily for the next 30 years. However, along with the drilling and implementation of the complete project, Djibouti will compensate the residents of Shinile, Ali Sabih, Dilhil, Ara in Ethiopia and also the towns that are affected by the project within its own territory.¹⁴

¹² Mading Ngor and Ilya Gridneff, "China to Deploy Troops to Protect South Sudan Oil Facilities", *Bloomberg*, September 10, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-10/china-to-deploy-troops-to-protect-south-sudan-oil-installations.html>

¹³ "Spain and Morocco arrest militants 'linked to Islamic State'", *Reuters*, September 26, 2014, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/26/us-spain-security-arrests-idUSKCN0HLOP920140926>

¹⁴ "Ethiopia to give underground water to Djibouti for free", *The Africa Report*, July 4, 2014, at <http://www.theafricareport.com/East-Horn-Africa/ethiopian-to-give-djibouti-underground-water-for-free.html>

Riek Machar, the rebel leader of the SPLM-In-Opposition and former Vice-President of South Sudan, met the Djiboutian President, Ismail Omar Guelleh on July 13, 2014. They discussed a host of issues on the progress and predicaments of the ongoing peace process in Addis Ababa mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He was given a warm welcome by Guelleh. Their meeting also highlighted the importance of a political solution to the South Sudanese crisis to promote economic ties between the two countries in a peaceful environment. Machar's spokesperson revealed that South Sudan has plans for building a pipeline to Djibouti through Ethiopia. It also has plans for additional pipelines to Kenya and Djibouti.¹⁵

The Arab League criticised "the kidnapping of a Djiboutian soldier from the demilitarised zone" between Djibouti and Eritrea in a press release on September 7, 2014. A Djiboutian soldier accompanying Qatari officers was taken away by the Eritrean forces in the demilitarised zone on July 25, 2014. The Qatari officers were a part of the monitoring force in the demilitarised zone. Both Sudan and Qatar, the only Arab League countries with good relations with Eritrea, remained neutral on the condemnation proposal that was adopted by consensus. Djibouti is preparing to take the issue to the United Nations after ending the Qatari mediation. Qatar has been mediating the border conflict between Eritrea and Djibouti without any success since 2010.¹⁶

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has the potential to become China in term of labour-cost; Ethiopia surpasses Kenya to become host to the largest refugee population in Africa; Ethiopia and Sudan agree to set up joint border security force under single command; Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt set up a committee on the Renaissance dam

Ethiopia is emerging as a manufacturing centre for labour-intensive products like shoes and T-shirts. Manufacturers do not have to worry about labour in Ethiopia as about eighty per cent of the Ethiopian labour force is in agriculture and its population is about 96 million, the second largest in Africa. The combination of cheap labor, electricity and special efforts by the Ethiopian Government to attract foreign investment makes the country more attractive than many other African nations. Prof Deborah Brautigam, the author of "The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa" says that Ethiopia could become the China of Africa in terms of the labour-cost. Dongguan Huajian Shoes Industry Co. is a case study of Ethiopia's potential to set up labour-intensive industries. Huajian has 3,500 workers in Ethiopia who produced about 2 million pairs of shoes in 2013. The Huajian shoe factory started operating in January 2012, only after three months of the company's decision to invest in the country. After becoming profitable in the very first year, it is now earning between US\$100,000 to US\$200,000 per month. But the company feels that it can gain more if the workers are trained better.¹⁷

¹⁵ "South Sudan's rebel leader meets Djibouti president", *Sudan Tribune*, July 13, 2014, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51673>

¹⁶ "Arab League demanded Eritrea to release Djibouti soldier immediately", *Geeska Africa Online*, September 11, 2014, at <http://www.geeskaafrika.com/djibouti-arab-league-demanded-eritrea-to-release-djibouti-soldier-immediately/5482/>

¹⁷ "Ethiopia becomes China's China in global search for cheap labor", *Bloomberg News*, July 23, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-07-22/ethiopia-becomes-china-s-china-in-search-for-cheap-labor.html>

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on August 19, 2014, announced that Ethiopia has overtaken Kenya as the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. Ethiopia sheltered 629,718 refugees at the end of July while Kenya was sheltering 575,334 registered refugees and asylum-seekers at the same time. The conflict in South Sudan is the main source of refugees in Ethiopia and has pushed some 188,000 refugees into the country since January 2014. Meanwhile, nearly 15,000 Eritreans and more than 3,000 Somalis also arrived in Ethiopia.¹⁸

Ethiopia and Sudan have reached an agreement to establish joint military force under the same command. The Ethiopian Ministry of Defence announced that the agreement was reached during the Eleventh Ethiopia-Sudan joint defence ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa on August 12, 2014. The agreement intended the force to become operational by the end of September 2014. The aim of the move is to secure the two countries' 800 km long common border by deploying the force on eight fronts. This will help boost economic cooperation and joint development activities between the two countries. The Ethiopians see the joint military agreement as a key defence strategy to avert any possible sabotage of a controversial Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project it is building on the Nile, some 40 km from the Sudanese border.¹⁹

At the end of their fifth round of talks in Addis Ababa, the Water ministers of Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia have signed a pact to set up a committee of national experts on the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project on Nile. The pact is to set up a follow-up committee of water experts from the three countries who will discuss the impact of the project. Besides selecting an international consultation firm, the water ministers of three countries discussed the outcome of the meetings of national experts on future work. The national experts committee would be selecting the international experts to conduct studies regarding hydrological simulation model and assessment of the trans-boundary socio-economic, and environmental impact of the dam. The committee has been given a six-month period for submitting its report. To recall, the US\$6.4 billion dam being constructed in Ethiopia is feared to threaten water levels in the Nile River, Egypt's primary source of water; whereas Ethiopia claims that the dam is essential for its developmental aspirations.²⁰

Kenya

UK is the top FDI source for Kenya; First anniversary of the Westgate Terror Attack in Kenya; Majority of Kenya does not want KDF in Somalia any more, says opinion poll; Third witness declared hostile in the ICC case regarding Kenya; Kenya becomes Africa's 9th economy in GDP terms with a new base year of 2009

The United Kingdom (UK) is the largest cumulative investor in Kenya. It was also Kenya's largest export market outside the African Union in 2013. UK companies have a total of £1.3 billion trade with Kenya, making it the top Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) destination for UK in East Africa. UK nationals are also on the top of the list of people visiting Kenya. The first two largest private sector employers in the country are British companies. UK firms also have a long history of

¹⁸ "Ethiopia overtakes Kenya as Africa's biggest refugee-hosting country", *UNHCR*, August 19, 2014, at <http://www.unhcr.org/53f31ebd9.html>

¹⁹ "Ethiopia and Sudan set to launch joint military operation", *Sudan Tribune*, August 14, 2014, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52044>

²⁰ "Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia agree on committee for Nile dam", *Sudan Tribune*, September 23, 2014, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52509>

successful investment in sectors like agriculture, food, drink and telecom. The companies are currently leading a wave of investment in Kenya in these traditional areas as well as some other areas like energy, education and aviation. The British financial services are also helping Kenya on big infrastructure projects. The country's geothermal, solar, biogas and wind energy sectors are set to receive additional investments by UK companies. Kenya aspires to achieve a middle income country status and the Vision 2030 of the Government with the help of such investments.²¹

Kenya marked the first anniversary of the Westgate mall terror attack in Nairobi that took place on September 21, 2013. The attack had left 67 people dead. The al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda linked terrorist group, claimed the responsibility for the attack saying it was in retaliation against Kenyan forces staying in Somalia. The Kenyan forces are fighting against the al-Shabaab under a UN mandate in war-torn Somalia. Memorial services were held in various parts of the country to mark the incident. Families and friends of those who lost their lives in the attack congregated to remember and honour them as well as recall one of Kenya's darkest days. People gathered outside the Westgate shopping mall and prayed for the deceased. The Kenyan Government reiterated that it is determined to fight against the al-Shabaab.²²

IPSOS Kenya, an independent research company, in a recent study, found that most Kenyans want the Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF) to be pulled out from Somalia. The opinion poll explained that that most Kenyans now feel threatened by al-Shabaab. The Kenyans fear more Westgate mall-like attacks in Kenya due to the overstaying of the KDF in Somalia. Only 19 per cent of the Kenyans want the KDF to stay there. However, the Government of Kenya is not disturbed by the opinion poll and remains resolute to fight against the al-Shabaab. President Uhuru Kenyatta said that the defence forces will continue fighting in Somalia until peace and stability is restored there.²³

In the trial of Kenya's Deputy President William Samoei Ruto and former journalist Joshua Arap Sang at the International Criminal Court (ICC), the judges have declared another prosecution witness as hostile. The Trial Chamber V (a) said that the decision was taken as Witness 516 had diverged, during his testimony, "consistently and systematically" from the statement he had given to the prosecution in November 2012. However, a total of nine witnesses have been asked to appear before the Trial Chamber V (a). Witness 604 and Witness 495, who appeared before the chamber before Witness 516, have also been declared hostile. Both the accused, Ruto and Sang, are on trial before the ICC on three counts each of crimes against humanity for their alleged roles in the post-election violence of December 2007 and January 2008.²⁴

After the Kenyan Government changed the base calculation year from 2001 to 2009, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has risen by about 25 per cent. This puts Kenya into the list of the continent's top 10 economies. The economic output, after the shift in the base year, has risen from

²¹ "UK leading wave of investments to Kenya", *Capital FM*, September 12, 2014, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/eblog/2014/09/12/uk-firms-spearheading-new-wave-of-investment-in-kenya/>

²² "Kenya marks first anniversary of Westgate Terror Attack", *Capital FM*, September 21, 2014, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2014/09/kenya-marks-first-anniversary-of-westgate-terror-attack/>

²³ "Most Kenyans want KDF to be pulled out from Somalia", *Daslan Radio*, September 22, 2014, at <http://dalsanradio.com/articles/8473/Most-Kenyans-Want-KDF-to-Be-Pulled-Out-from-Somalia>

²⁴ "Witness 516 is declared third hostile ICC prosecution witness", *The Star*, September 26, 2014, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-191467/witness-516-declared-third-hostile-icc-prosecution-witness>

US\$42.6 billion to US\$53.4 billion for the year 2013. This pushes Kenya high up in the GDP rankings, to the 9th place from the 12th in Africa. The fall in debt levels after the rebasing exercise could give the government some leeway for borrowing more to help finance its transport and infrastructure plans. But, the revision neither changes Kenya's ability to repay additional loans, nor does it provide its government more income to spend on development. Kenya's calculated base revision follows the dramatic rebasing of the Nigerian economy in early 2014.²⁵

Madagascar

Madagascar's president lauds the role of SADC for stabilising his country

Hery Rajaonarimampianina, the president of Madagascar, praised the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for its intervention in brokering peace in his country. According to him, the community's efforts paved the way for the December 2013 elections that restored stability in Madagascar. Rajaonarimampianina, the former finance minister, became president in December 2013 after the first elections held in the country since a coup in 2009. Madagascar economy is now trying to recover from the sharp plunge it had taken after the coup. The country's president told the SADC heads of states at the 34th Summit held in Harare that the return of Madagascar to the Southern African regional body was a giant step towards restoring normalcy in the country. He further said that the 2009 suspension of his country from SADC was a big jolt and the country now has to catch up for the lost time. He also hoped to tap the opportunities available in the SADC forum for the development of his country.²⁶

Seychelles

Seychelles-China Trade and Business Promotion Association set up to strengthen ties; Seychelles ranks 71 in the UN human development report; Seychelles accredits the new high commissioner of India; Seychelles and Russia to strengthen bilateral ties;

The Chinese living in Seychelles have launched the Seychelles-China Trade and Business Promotion Association, a new voluntarily association. It consists of the local enterprises involved in various production and management activities in Seychelles. It is a comprehensive non-profit model with legal basis in which participants voluntarily provide self-service in membership, recruitment, selecting leaders, fund-raising, and dealing with business. It also has a mechanism of self-management, adjustment, discipline and self-education. The association has plans to spread Chinese culture, further strengthen communication and cooperation between Seychelles and China in economic activities, science and technology, education, hygiene, tourism and trade. It also intends to build closer connection between its members and the people from different areas of the Seychellois society.²⁷

²⁵ "Kenya's economy increases by a quarter to join Africa's top 10", *The Star*, September 30, 2014, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-192032/kenyas-economy-increases-quarter-join-africas-top-10>

²⁶ "Madagascar leader grateful", *The Herald*, August 19, 2014, at <http://www.herald.co.zw/madagascar-leader-grateful/>

²⁷ "New association to further boost Seychelles-China ties", *Seychelles Nation*, July 21, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242394>

The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2014 ranks Seychelles at the 71st position globally. The report entitled 'Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Enhancing Resilience' was released in Tokyo, Japan. The report highlights the need for the promotion of people's choices and preservation of the human development achievements. Although the parameters of evaluation in the report have been altered this year, Seychelles has been maintaining its "high level" of human development.²⁸

Sanjay Kumar Panda has been appointed as the new high commissioner of India to Seychelles. He presented his credentials to Seychelles' President James Michel in a ceremony on August 12, 2014. After the accreditation, he told the media that the President of Seychelles is in favour of new engagements with India aiming for the relationship to achieve "a new level". He also emphasised on good connectivity and people-to-people contact between the two countries to develop tourism and infrastructure. He informed the media that his country would continue organising training programmes in Seychelles for more maritime cooperation, trade and commerce. India wants to diversify the cooperative relationship with Seychelles.²⁹

On an official visit to Seychelles, Mikhail Bogdanov, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, stated that Russia wants to strengthen its bilateral ties with the country. He said that he has full support of the Russian government for further strengthening the friendly ties between the two countries. He stressed on the need to take the existing good relationship to a qualitatively new and higher level. In a meeting with the Designated Minister Vincent Meriton, who is also the Minister for Social Affairs, Community Development and Sports, Seychelles, Bogdanov identified potential areas like investment, trade, tourism, military and law enforcement training, blue economy, parliamentary exchanges, education, maritime security, fisheries and the fight against piracy for further cooperation. Russia has also offered scholarships to Seychellois students for education. Meriton also appreciated the Russian support for capacity building in Seychelles.³⁰

Somalia

Somalia knocks at the International Court of Justice regarding oil field row with Kenya; US conducts operation against al-Shabaab in Somalia; Forty-five days given to the al-Shabaab to surrender for amnesty; US\$5 million Australian aid pledge for Somalia; Somali President hopes to see a federal and united Somalia in 2016

Seeking a resolution of a long-running dispute over oil reserves in the Indian Ocean, Somalia has filed a suit against Kenya at the UN's International Court of Justice in Hague. Somalia has pleaded with the court to determine the maritime boundary between the two coastal nations. Somalia and Kenya have disagreement about the rights for exploration and collecting revenue from oil discoveries in the Indian Ocean. According to the Somali authorities, the country has reached out to the court as all other diplomatic means of negotiation and settlement have failed. The dispute risks deterring multinational oil companies from exploring offshore East Africa. Kenya

²⁸ "Seychelles maintains 'high level' of human development", *Seychelles Nation*, July 25, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242447>

²⁹ "New Indian high commissioner accredited", *Seychelles Nation*, August 13, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242661>

³⁰ "Russia and Seychelles agree to strengthen ties", *Seychelles Nation*, August 30, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242840>

had recently identified eight new offshore exploration blocks for licensing, and all except one are located in the disputed area.³¹

Rear Adm John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, informed the media that the US military forces had conducted an operation against the al-Shabaab on September 1, 2014. No other information was immediately available. He did not give any information about the target and the place in Somalia where the operation took place. But, according to the governor of the Lower Shabelle region in Somalia, the strike possibly hit a small rebel-held village between the towns of Dhaab Tubaako and Haaway. The attack was aimed to target an al-Shabaab camp where top leaders of the group were supposed to have been holding a meeting. It appears that Ahmad Godane, the leader of the al-Shabaab, was a target but it is not clear if he was injured.³²

Somalia's RBC Radio reported that the Government of Somalia announced a 45 day window for the al-Shabaab members to surrender to receive an amnesty. The government declared that any al-Shabaab member who does not use this opportunity to his benefit shall be seen as criminal. The government has collaborated with the Muslim clerics in a nationwide campaign to discourage youth from joining al-Shabaab. Also, during the Operation Indian Ocean launched from August 30, 2014, the Somali government forces have captured several towns and villages from the militant group with the help of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).³³

The Australian Foreign Ministry stated that the government has pledged a humanitarian aid of US\$5 million to Somalia. The money will add up to the United Nation's Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund that provides vulnerable Somalis with emergency food, water, sanitation, shelter and medical assistance. The aid will help reduce the risk of malnutrition in the draught and conflict affected Somalia. This monetary assistance is also in line with Australia's support to the fight against terrorism, piracy and human trafficking in the Horn of Africa. The aid has come at a time when the United Nations had warned that without a decisive response to its request for aid, Somalia faces a serious nutritional insecurity.³⁴

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, speaking at the 69th UN General Assembly Session, called for continued support to make and strengthen Somalia as a security and ideological "firewall". He said that Somalia is beginning to unite as a nation. The vision for the government is to see a federal and united Somalia in 2016. He told the General Assembly that his Federal Government is taking concrete steps for building and uniting the Somali nation. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, during the event, noted that the Somali peace process is "gathering momentum" but there remains a lot of work to be done. .³⁵

³¹ "Somalia files suit at UN court in oil row with Kenya", *ALMANAR News*, August 29, 2014, at <http://www.almanar.com.lb/english/adetails.php?eid=168155&cid=21&fromval=1>

³² "U.S. military conducts operation in Somalia, Pentagon says", *CNN*, September 2, 2014, at <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/09/01/world/africa/somalia-us-operation/>

³³ "Somali government gives al-Shabaab members 45 days to surrender", *Sabahi*, September 3, 2014, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2014/09/03/newsbrief-01

³⁴ "Australia to provide \$5 million in aid to Somalia", *Sabahi*, September 11, 2014, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2014/09/11/newsbrief-06

³⁵ "Somalia will be united by 2016, President tells UN General Assembly", *UN News Agency*, September 26, 2014, at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48888#.VHHBr2e0RLg>

Zambia

IMF praises the Zambian plan to cut increase in public expenditure

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised Zambia's plan for cutting its spending in the year 2015. The Zambian Government is trying to contain its budget deficit that will probably help stabilise its economy. The country's medium-term spending plan seeks to increase its budget expenditure in 2015 by 7 per cent in comparison to the year 2014. This is much below the planned hike of 30 per cent in the public expenditure of 2014. Alexander Chikwanda, the Finance Minister of Zambia, said that the government is all set for "serious structural reforms." According to him, the planned fiscal reforms will be positive for the economy, as it will reduce pressure on inflation, promote lending to the private sector, and also help anchor macroeconomic stability.³⁶

Zimbabwe

SADC praises the Zimbabwean land reform model; Zimbabwe hosts the 34th SADC summit of Heads of State and Government; Zimbabwe courts private capital markets; Zimbabwe and Iran sign technology transfer deal for mutual benefit; Zimbabwe's President calls for transformation of the NAM

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has endorsed the Zimbabwean land reform model. It has observed that the model implemented in the country is crucial because it seeks to do away with economic imbalances. The community called for support to all the countries that are in favour of such a programme. Answering a query on whether the Zimbabwean land reforms had negatively impacted on agricultural activities in the region, Margaret Nyirenda, SADC Director for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, revealed that Zimbabwe is one of the five cereal-surplus countries in the region in 2014. She alluded that similar land reforms policies should be implemented to correct the skewed balance in the distribution of the means of agricultural production; and land is one of the important factors. She also said that the regional countries are moving towards setting up a regional land reform facility with the aim of sharing best practices on the issue.³⁷

The 34th SADC Summit meeting was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from August 17-18, 2014. The theme for the summit was 'SADC Strategy for Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Region's Diverse Resources for Sustainable Economic and Social Development through Beneficiation and Value Addition'. The leaders of the region discussed how Africa can reach at the next level of development. They also supported a drive to transform their nations into industrialised economies. It was observed that the African economies will have to restrain and shift their economies from just exporting their raw material and receive manufactured goods from outside. Establishment of an expanded free trade area (FTA) was also envisaged at the summit.³⁸

³⁶ "IMF says Zambia plan to slow spending pace will support economy", *Bloomberg News*, August 27, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-27/imf-says-zambia-plan-to-slow-spending-pace-will-support-economy.html>

³⁷ "Zim land reform model gets SADC thumbs-up", *The Herald*, August 14, 2014, at <http://www.herald.co.zw/zim-land-reform-model-gets-sadc-thumbs-up/>

³⁸ "34th SADC summit of Heads of State and Government in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe", *Seychelles Nation*, August 21, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242738>

Patrick Chinamasa, the Finance and Economic Development Minister of Zimbabwe, said that the government has decided to develop relations with multilateral organisations in the interest of the nation. It will help Zimbabwe get funds essential for the development of the country. The relationship with the multilateral organisations will help Zimbabwe access capital markets critical for its economic revival. The minister further indicated that Zimbabwe, in order to move forward as a country, should look towards all, including the West, North, East and the South. Zimbabwe has enormous economic potential and it requires the help of the private sector to revive the economy.³⁹

With the aim of boosting the agriculture sector, Zimbabwe's ministries of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development; Higher and Tertiary Education; and Science and Technology Development have signed a technology transfer agreement with Iran. Iran has several technologies for higher production of potatoes, mushroom, cereals, manufacturing of farm implements, etc. Zimbabwe is focusing on learning from Iran about using science and technology to exploit its own resources for better production. Technology developed through utilising local resources is vital for Zimbabwe. Both Zimbabwe and Iran look forward to continue moving ahead in such technology transfer and mutual exchange programmes.⁴⁰

Delivering his keynote address at the 3rd International Workshop on Mineral Processing and Beneficiation in Harare, Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe, emphasised the need for a transformation in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and reviving its waning influence. According to him, the NAM can be transformed into an economic powerhouse where member countries trade their beneficiated products among themselves. Unity among the NAM members can contain the dominance by the European Union and the United States which, according to him, are bullying smaller nations. He also offered to host NAM's science and technology centre on mineral beneficiation.⁴¹ The outcome document of the workshop also endorses the proposal for Zimbabwe to host the Non-Aligned Movement Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Mineral Processing and Beneficiation.⁴²

Western Africa

Spread of Ebola in Western Africa; Ebola has been curbed in Nigeria and Senegal

As declared by the World Health Organisation, the spread of Ebola was controlled in Nigeria and Senegal. The regional office of WHO in Africa stated that there has been no new confirmed cases in both the regions since the last identified case in Nigeria on September 8 and in Senegal on August 29. The global health body issued a statement that the outbreak of Ebola in Nigeria

³⁹ "Govt courting capital markets – Chinamasa", *The Herald*, September 24, 2014, at <http://www.herald.co.zw/govt-courting-capital-markets-chinamasa/>

⁴⁰ "Zim strikes technology transfer deal with Iran", *The Herald*, August 25, 2014, at <http://www.herald.co.zw/zim-strikes-technology-transfer-deal-with-iran/>

⁴¹ "Transform NAM, says President", *The Herald*, September 12, 2014, at <http://www.herald.co.zw/transform-nam-says-president/>

⁴² "Zim to host Nam Technology Centre", *The Herald*, September 20, 2014, at <http://www.herald.co.zw/zim-to-host-nam-technology-centre/>

and Senegal is “pretty much contained”.⁴³ The case of Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian-American indicated the spread of Ebola in Nigeria in July. Totally, 19 cases of Ebola were confirmed in Nigeria, out of which 7 people died. In Lagos and Port Harcourt, the Ebola Virus Disease was fully contained. According to Dr. Chugwu, Nigeria’s strategy for curbing Ebola highlights a three-pronged approach, namely: surveillance, quarantine, and isolation.⁴⁴

There have been 5,833 cases reported in West Africa with 2,833 deaths according to the WHO. The International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Ebola has warned against flight and trade ban on the affected West African countries, during their meeting. It was stated that the economies of Ebola-touched countries have been affected due to cancellation of flights and other travel restrictions, also hampering relief and response efforts.⁴⁵

Guinea-Bissau

Ebola fear: Guinea closes borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia; Closing of borders between Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry

The World Health Organisation declared that the outbreak of Ebola in Western African region has been the worst epidemic faced by the world, resulting in a global health emergency which will continue for months. To stop Ebola from spreading further, Guinea decided to shut its borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia to prevent the influx of Ebola infected people into the country. The health minister Rémy Lamah said that due to the pressure on health systems, the frontier between Guinea and Sierra Leone has been closed after the closure of its border with Liberia. However, the closing of land frontiers will not be able to prevent people from rural areas to cross the border lines.⁴⁶

Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira announced that Guinea-Bissau has decided to close its frontier with its neighbouring country Huinea-Conakry, in order to prevent the spread of Ebola virus. As per the government order, there would be closure of official road border points.⁴⁷

Funding of \$750,000 for the prevention of Ebola in Guinea-Bissau

To prevent the spread of Ebola in Guinea-Bissau, the World Bank has agreed to finance a health contingency plan that would help in curbing the epidemic. The Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) has prepared an Ebola action plan of USD 750,000 in response to the urgent request that came from the government. According to Philippe Auffret, World Bank Task Team Leader of the project, “this support is to finance an

⁴³ “Nigeria, Senegal have contained Ebola – WHO”, *punchng.com*, September 23, 2014, at <http://www.punchng.com/news/nigeria-senegal-have-contained-ebola-who/>

⁴⁴ “Nigerian health minister declares Nigeria ‘Ebola-free’”, *BioPharma DIVE*, September 24, 2014, at <http://www.biopharmadive.com/news/nigerian-health-minister-declares-nigeria-ebola-free/312812/>

⁴⁵ “WHO declared Nigeria, Senegal Ebola Virus free”, *Osun Defender*, September 23, 2014, at <http://www.osundefender.org/?p=187988>

⁴⁶ “Ebola crisis: Guinea closes borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia”, *the guardian*, August 9, 2014, at <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/aug/09/ebola-guinea-sierra-leone-liberia>

⁴⁷ “Guinea-Bissau says closes border with Guinea over Ebola fears”, *REUTERS*, August 13, 2014, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-health-ebola-bissau-idUSKBN0GD0Y820140813>

information campaign through the Government's existing community-driven project and finance health measures including training of health staff on Ebola." Ms. Vera Songwe, World Bank Country Director for Guinea-Bissau said that the Ebola epidemic would jeopardize an already weakened health system and also the economy of the country. World Bank and WHO have decided to collaborate in providing support to Guinea-Bissau for meeting the objectives of the new financing project.⁴⁸

Ghana

Devaluation of the Ghanaian Cedi; Ghana seeks financial assistance from IMF; Ghana's largest cocoa buyer postpones borrowing \$30 million

This year, the value of Ghanaian currency has fallen by 40 per cent against the US dollar. Cedi has been seen as one of the worst-performing currencies in the world, affecting the economy of Ghana. Struggling with high inflation and economic slowdown, Ghana has sought financial assistance from the IMF, in order to escalate the value of its currency. The finance minister of Ghana said that the country has been trying to solve its issues internally, the IMF being the last resort.⁴⁹ IMF has agreed to provide aid to help Ghana by sending a team to initiate the process. The last time Ghana went to the IMF was five years ago in 2009, when it received a three-year aid package of \$600m. During the three-year programme, Ghana managed to raise its GDP growth rate from about 4.0 percent in 2009 to 7.9 percent in 2012, securing a high of 14.4 percent in 2011.⁵⁰

Produce Buying Co., Ghana's largest purchaser of cocoa, has delayed plans to borrow \$30 million from France's development agency. The devaluation of Cedi has caused rise in repayment costs. Joseph Osei Manu, deputy managing director of finance and administration, said in an interview that PBC will conclude the deal with France's development agency during the next harvest season. He also stated that PBC has increased its borrowing from industry regulator Ghana Cocoa Board from 400 million Cedis to 450 million Cedis due to delay in taking the loan.⁵¹

Central Africa

Cameroon

Cameroon fights against Boko Haram

Boko Haram's activities in Cameroon are on a rise. Boko Haram fighters are using two wheelers to travel into the northern region of Cameroon where they have attacked many border villages,

⁴⁸ "WBG Approves US\$750,000 to prevent Ebola in Guinea-Bissau", *The World Bank*, September 24, 2014, at <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/25/wbg-approves-us750000-to-prevent-ebola-in-guinea-bissau>

⁴⁹ "Ghana to seek help from International Monetary Fund", *BBC News*, August 4, 2014, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-28640560>

⁵⁰ "Ghana's Request for IMF Assistance", *Brookings*, August 15, 2014, at <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/08/15-ghana-imf-deficit-sy>

⁵¹ "Ghana's Biggest Cocoa Buyer Delays French Loan on Cedi Slide", *Bloomberg*, July 23, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-07-23/ghana-s-biggest-cocoa-buyer-delays-french-loan-as-cedi-plunges.html>

security outposts and kidnapped foreign tourists and missionaries. As a result of this, Cameroon's commando force the Rapid Response Battalion (BIR) has increased their military presence in the border regions. The security forces are now patrolling airports and streets in Maruoa. The villagers are also being involved gather important intelligence on the terrorist whereabouts. The fighting between the Cameroon forces and Boko Haram group has intensified in the last few months, and in recent clashes on September 6, 2014, 100 rebels were killed along the border. The current situation seems to suggest that this war against Boko Haram is not going to end soon. So France and the United States have issued travel advisories for northern Cameroon. This situation has had a severe socio-political impact on Cameroon. More than 1,500 people have been displaced from the northern region. Humanitarian work, social life and economy have been hit due to the activities of Boko Haram. The UN estimates that 1.8 million people risk food insecurity in Cameroon. Six million face epidemics while nearly 200,000 children already suffer from either severe acute malnutrition or milder forms. UN is unable to give medical aid and the price of basic goods has soared which will lead to more impoverishment in the region. Cameroon has good economic ties with Nigeria, but as result of this crisis there has been a decrease in the movement of people and good from both sides. For Cameroon, this phenomenon has serious economic costs, if it does not stop soon.⁵²

Democratic Republic of the Congo

UN recommits to address conflicts in DR Congo

The United Nations has been involved in keeping the security situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at bay through the commitments under the agreed-to Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region. On 24 February 2013, 11 African countries signed this Framework. However, at the Fourth meeting reviewing the progress of the Framework, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said that a re-commitment to this framework is required at all national and regional levels in order to address the root causes of the conflict in eastern DRC and to help foster trust between neighbours. There has been progress in impairing the capacity of the armed forces to attack civilians in the eastern region of DRC. The Secretary-General also stressed the need for donors, especially the African Development Bank, the European Union, the World Bank and bilateral partners, to remain committed to supporting initiatives for peace, security and cooperation in the country.⁵³

Southern Africa

South Africa

South Africa and Turkey strengthen their military ties; South Africa and Ukraine to Cooperate on Development; South Africa and UK military cooperation

South Africa and Turkey have enjoyed a relatively good military alliance since the signing of the Defence Industry Cooperation Agreement during the Africa Aerospace and Defence Fair in 2012.

⁵² "War on Boko Haram grips Cameroon in fear", *Al Jazeera*, September 25, 2014, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/09/war-boko-haram-grips-cameroon-fear-2014924204444464863.html>

⁵³ "DR Congo: Ban says recommitment to peace framework critical to addressing root cause of conflict", <http://www.un.org/>, September 22, 2014, http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48784#.VEtjY_mUdl

Both the countries have cooperated on working closely on defence and security matters. Africa Aerospace and Defence Fair (AAD), held at Waterkloof military base in the capital Pretoria from September 17-21, 2014, is again an indication of the two sides wanting to further strengthen their security and military cooperation. The fair is one of the most important military trade events on the African continent with over 300 stands exhibiting products and services. The Turkish Deputy Minister of National Defence Hasan Kemal Yardimci's reason to attend the fair was to simultaneously hold bilateral talks with government officials and senior executives of Denel, a South African armament company, one of the biggest of all the military industries in South Africa. These bilateral talks will ensure that South Africa opens its doors for Turkish firms. ASELSAN, a leading electronic systems company in Turkey that designs, develops and manufactures modern electronic systems for military and industrial customers in Turkey and abroad, intends to open a branch in South Africa. Such bilateral deals will give impetus to the expansion of industrial business in South Africa.⁵⁴

South Africa aims to maximize its economic relations with Belarus especially in the automotive, capital equipment, agriculture and agro-processing sectors. Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and her Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Make also stressed upon increased cooperation in education, agriculture and rural development as well. South Africa and Belarus trade has increased from R42 million to R253 million between 2009 and 2013. Agricultural cooperation which is currently under consideration has been expedited Minister Nkoana-Mashabane. Also, exchanges between business delegations will facilitate an improvement in economic and commercial ties. South Africa is also strengthening its cooperation with Ukraine in the areas of education and skill development, including facilitating strong institutional partnerships, academic exchanges, scholarships and apprenticeships in key priority areas of agricultural sciences and research, engineering, forestry, and vocational and technical training.⁵⁵

The Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition that took place in September 2014 in Pretoria has enabled the initiation of UK-South Africa bilateral defence relations. UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Defence and Security Organization (DSO) have come to Africa for the first time accompanied by twenty companies at the AAD. Other companies that came to AAD include Maybe Bridge (Bridge construction), Blue Bear (unmanned aerial vehicles, avionics, sensor payloads), Inmarsat (satellite communications), Gryphon Air (contract aviation services), and Griffon Hoverwork (hovercraft). A variety of capabilities are being offered by the companies at AAD, including logistics management, tactical unmanned aerial vehicles, satellite communications, hovercraft, bridges, aircraft and airport refurbishment etc. Sophia Lane, Regional Director of Gulf and Africa says that such interactions with South African companies will help meet UK's military procurement needs. UK also has a lot to offer South Africa in the areas of maritime, border and cyber security and also counter poaching, in which UK has unique capabilities. South African defence industry has matured in the last few years and is now capable not only of supplying to its own forces but other armed forces as well. Such interactions and fairs will help build understanding of the market and add to capability within South African industry.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ "Turkey, South Africa hold bilateral military talks", <http://www.worldbulletin.net/>, September 20, 2014, <http://www.worldbulletin.net/haber/144789/turkey-south-africa-hold-bilateral-military-talks>

⁵⁵ "South Africa: SA, Belarus Build Bilateral Ties", <http://www.sanews.gov.za/>, September 12, 2014, <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-belarus-build-bilateral-ties>

⁵⁶ UK companies looking for South African partnerships at AAD", <http://www.defenceweb.co.za/>, September 18, 2014, http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36321:uk-companies-looking-for-south-african-partnerships-at-aad&catid=122:aad-expo-2014&Itemid=277

Lesotho

Prime Minister Thabane returns to Lesotho after fleeing amidst a 'military coup'

Prime Minister Thabane returned to Lesotho on September 3, 2014 after South Africa's President Jacob Zuma, under the auspices of South Africa Development Community (SADC) stepped in to negotiate with the prime minister and his deputy prime minister Mothetjao Metsing. Mr. Thabane is heading a coalition government since May 2012. There has been growing rivalry between Mr. Thabane, supported by the police and Mr. Metsing, supported by the military. Mr. Thomas Thabane fled the country on August 30, 2014 fearing a military coup. He had charged the military of staging the coup after a clash between the police and the military on August 30, 2014. On that day, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) led by Deputy Prime Minister Mothetjoa Metsing had called for the protest against the decision taken by the prime minister to suspended parliament session in June this year to avoid a vote of no confidence amid feuding in his coalition. The military said that it had received intelligence that the police were going to arm factions ahead of a protest march. So, radio broadcasts and telephone lines were jammed. Mr. Thabane said that the actions of the military amounted to a coup and hence fled to South Africa. However, military has denied the charges.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ "Lesotho PM Thabane returns home after fleeing 'coup'", BBC, September 3, 2014, at, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29045113?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=%2AMorning%20Brief&utm_campaign=2014_MorningBrief090314

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Articles could be of approximately 2000 words. Commentaries can range between 1,000-1,500 words (excluding footnotes) and book reviews between 600-1,000 words. Guidelines for contributors may be found at: <http://www.idsa.in/africatrends>. Submissions may be emailed to the Editor at idsa.africatrends@gmail.com.

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