

March 2017

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Africa Digest

Summary of Key Political & Economic
Developments

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Mozambique · Nigeria · Rwanda
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Political News Roundup

Angola

Isabel Dos Santos and the battle for Angola's oil

Ref: 24 March 2017

A On December 22, 2016, the Supreme Court of Angola ruled that Isabel dos Santos, the president's daughter, could stay on as Chief Executive Officer of Sonangol, the country's state-owned national oil company (NOC).

The ruling came in response to a suit seeking her removal on the grounds that her father, President José Eduardo dos Santos, engaged in nepotism and violated the country's probity law when he appointed her CEO in June.

[Read more](#)

President José Eduardo dos Santos, engaged in nepotism and violated the country's probity law when he appointed her CEO

Constitutional challenge to Angola's new media laws

Ref: 10 March 2017

The main Angolan opposition party, UNITA, is launching a legal challenge to the MPLA government's latest attempt to gag criticism of the regime.

In a petition to the Constitutional Court, UNITA argues that specific clauses of the MPLA media law are simply unconstitutional and calls on the Court to issue a ruling to that effect.

[Read more](#)

Bishops praise peaceful transition in Angola

Ref: 22 March 2017

The Episcopal Conference of Angola and Sao Tome (Ceast) praised the way in which President José Eduardo dos Santos leads the transition to the succession of political power in the country, highlighted the press today.

'We hope for a peaceful transition and that everyone can participate in the work for the development of our country,' the vice president and spokesperson of Ceast, Manuel Imbamba after a meeting of dos Santos with a delegation of the organization headed by its president Filomeno Vieira Dias do Nascimento.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Ethiopian opposition leaders face coup charges

Ref: 1 March 2017

Ethiopia's government has charged three prominent opposition activists with inciting riots, destroying property and plotting a coup, a government spokesman told AFP.

The allegations come after months of clashes between police and anti-government protesters that killed hundreds and were only quelled after authorities declared a nationwide state of emergency in October.

[Read more](#)

In-depth Analysis: Qoshe garbage dump collapse: a trail of corruption, criminal negligence and countless victims

Ref: 17 March 2017

For the second time in less than six months, the Ethiopian ruling party EPRDF-dominated parliament has declared a three-day nationwide mourning. This time it is for the victims of a devastating collapse of a mountain of solid waste located 13 km southwest of the capital Addis Abeba recently.

[Read more](#)

Addis stepping up GERD support

Ref: 28 March 2017

GERD torch will tour the country raising funds. Six solid years elapsed and on Sunday residents of Addis from walks of life were under the same roof, Millennium Hall, to mark the 6th GERD project commencement anniversary.

The project has already become the symbol national pride next to the Victory of Adwa, and heritages like Axum Obelisk and Lalibela rock-hewn churches.

[Read more](#)

Ghana

Energy sector debt: Government debt to banks, fuel suppliers hits \$1.2 b

Ref: 24 March 2017

Net debt owed banks and fuel suppliers alone under the energy sector debt hit 1.2 billion cedis at the end of 2016. According to documents cited by Citi Business News as at 31st December, 2016 Government's net debt in the Energy sector was 2.3 billion dollars.

A breakdown of the debt shows that the banks are owed 782 million dollars, while fuel suppliers are owed 440 million dollars.

[Read more](#)

Akufo-Addo's KMA nominee sails through

Ref: 17 March 2017

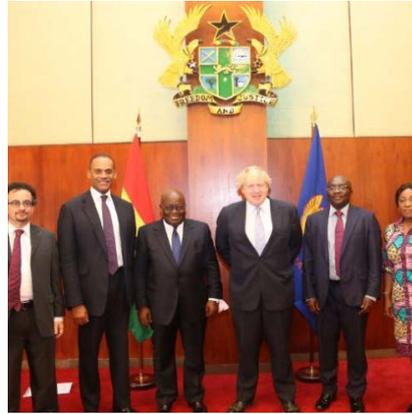
President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's nominee for the Chief Executive Officer of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA) has been approved recently.

Osei Assibey Antwi, a former deputy Ashanti Regional Minister, polled 132 out of the 133 ballots cast by assembly members. This represents 99.2 percent, although he was

predicted to poll 100 percent of valid votes cast.

[Read more](#)

Ghana, UK commit to deepening trade, relations



Ref: 15 March 2017

President Akufo-Addo and the United Kingdom foreign minister Boris Johnson have committed to deepening trade and improve the living conditions of its people.

The Foreign Minister on a day's visit to Ghana to consolidate United Kingdom's bilateral relations with Ghana agreed on special areas of cooperation especially trade.

[Read more](#)

Bribery scandal: Report won't be objective – ACEPA

Ref: 24 March 2017

The African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) has cast doubt over the objectivity of the outcome of the Joe Ghartey Committee on allegations of bribery in parliament.

According to a senior associate of ACEPA, Tuinese Amuzu, questions that were posed to witnesses who appeared before the committee were too skewed in a certain way that did not tell the entire story of what transpired.

[Read more](#)

Kenya

Wafula Chebukati gazettes official date for 2017 general election

Ref: 28 March 2017

It is now official - the General Election will take place on the second Tuesday of August as stipulated in the Constitution. This became clear after Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) chairman Wafula Chebukati gazetted the date.

The gazette notice indicates that political parties intending to present candidates for the presidential election shall, 21 days before the primaries, submit their names to IEBC, including the dates and venues of the primaries.

[Read more](#)

Political parties sign pact to enforce gender rule

Ref: 21 March 2017

Political parties and the Centre for Multi-party Democracy (CMD) recently resolved to implement the two thirds gender rule to promote representation of women in political leadership after attempts to enforce it in Parliament flopped.

CMD Chairman James Magara said the institution will monitor political parties to ensure they expose those who do not abide by the commitment they made.

[Read more](#)

Tension in Namanga as Kenyans protest harassment by Tanzanian authorities

Ref: 27 March 2017

Kenyans in Namanga engaged police in running battles as they protested alleged harassment by Tanzanian authorities, raising tension among residents at the border town.

They lit tyres on the roads paralyzing transport services and threatened to eject all Tanzanian nationals living and working at the border town if the harassment does not stop.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique

Nyusi in further phone contact with Dhlakama

Ref: 25 March 2017

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi told reporters recently that he has once again been in telephone contact with the leader of the Renamo rebels, Afonso Dhlakama, this time in order to clarify an incident which had supposedly taken place in Murrupula district, in the northern province of Nampula.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique truce extended by 2 months, talks to resume next week

Ref: 3 March 2017

Mozambican opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama on Friday extended a truce between his rebel Renamo group and the government and said peace talks would resume next week.

The move prolongs a truce that Renamo fighters announced unilaterally the day before Christmas last year. It has been observed with only minor breaches, according to Dhlakama.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria

Emphasis must shift from 'sharing' to generating more revenue internally – Osinbajo

Ref: 24 March 2017

The Vice-President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, has called on political leaders to commit themselves to act collectively and individually in ways that can alter the ways things are done in Nigeria for the common good.

Osinbajo gave the advice recently when he met with a delegation of the House of Representatives in his office to discuss the economy and, particularly, possible ways of taking Nigeria's economy out of recession.

[Read more](#)



Return home voluntarily, Presidential aide advises Nigerians facing deportation risk

Ref: 24 March 2017

Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, has urged all Nigerian irregular migrants facing deportation in Germany and other countries to return home voluntarily.

Dabiri-Erewa gave the advice when she spoke with newsmen in Abuja recently.

[Read more](#)



Osinbajo meets with lawmakers, calls for collective action against corruption

Ref: 23 March 2017

The Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, has called on political leaders in the country to commit themselves to doing something collectively and individually that can alter the ways things are done in Nigeria for good.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria, Morocco fertilizer deal creates 50, 000 jobs – NNPC MD

Ref: 24 March 2017

About 50, 000 jobs have been created in the country following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the supply of phosphate between the Nigerian and the Moroccan government.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda

EALA seeks to mend Rwanda, Burundi ties

Ref: 14 March 2017

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) says it will step in to mend the diplomatic tensions between Rwanda and Burundi. EALA Speaker Daniel Fred Kidega said that the recent refusal by five Burundian assembly members to sit in Kigali due to the current political tensions between the two countries signalled that the situation was "critical enough."

"I will meet the chair of the Summit about this matter and reach out to our senior leaders who are members of the Summit and who give political guidance to the integration cause," Mr Kidega said without setting timelines.

[Read more](#)

Uganda-Rwanda border demarcation resumes

Ref: 2 March 2017

Technocrats from Rwanda and Uganda have resumed the process of erecting boundary pillars on the border stretching from Katuna in Kabale to Mirama Hills in Ntungamo District.

The exercise is aimed at creating harmony among residents who have on several occasions been accused of encroaching on each other's land.

The technocrats held a meeting with Kabale leaders at the district headquarters and asked them to alert local leaders to cooperate for the smooth running of the activity expected to be completed soon.

[Read more](#)

Exiled Rwandan priest declares alternative cabinet

Ref: 27 February 2017

Exiled Catholic church prelate-turned-opposition politician Thomas Nahimana's political credentials were put to the test after some members of the "exiled alternative government" he formed pulled out.

[Read more](#)

South Africa

It's do or die as Zuma rolls the biggest dice of his political life

Ref: 29 March 2017

South African President Jacob Zuma is taking a gamble as he ups the ante in his battle with Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan for control of the nation's finances.

If he fires Gordhan, as he told Communist Party officials that he planned to do according to three people with knowledge of the matter, he risks a market meltdown and a revolt by opponents in the ruling African National Congress.

[Read more](#)

Zuma will not attend Kathrada funeral 'in compliance with the wishes of the family'

Ref: 29 March 2017

President Jacob Zuma's office has confirmed that he "will not attend the funeral and memorial service (of struggle veteran Ahmed Kathrada) in compliance with the wishes of the family.

"And, he has postponed the start of today's cabinet meeting "to enable members to attend the funeral".

[Read more](#)

Country enters crisis as Zuma prepares to fire Gordhan

Ref: 29 March 2017

An embattled but defiant Pravin Gordhan had a message for South Africa yesterday: "I am still finance minister." Gordhan, who returned from an international investors' roadshow in London after being recalled, made a public appearance at the Pretoria High Court, where he said he remained in charge of the country's coffers.

[Read more](#)

Court cuts to the chase in case between Gordhan and the Guptas

Ref: 29 March 2017

The Pretoria High Court in Pretoria moved quickly to deal with political arguments yesterday so it could focus on the narrow legal argument of why Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan could not intervene in the matter between the banks and Gupta-linked companies.

Parties in the matter were encouraged to reach a settlement — but this was unsuccessful.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania

Tanzanian minister sacked after condemning TV intrusion

Ref: 23 March 2017

Tanzania's information minister was fired recently after he criticised an ally of President John Magufuli who had stormed into a television station accompanied by armed men.

The sacking comes amid an uproar over the incident at one of Tanzania's main private broadcasters, seen as yet another example of the government riding roughshod over basic freedoms since Magufuli came to power in October last year.

[Read more](#)

Meeting seeks to tackle city challenges

Ref: 28 March 2017

About 250 innovators are meeting in Dar es Salaam to brainstorm technological ideas of 70 students on transforming cities and modernizing data collection.

The three-day event also seeks to connect and train students from various technological backgrounds on how they can come up with ideas that will transform cities and modernize data collection.

[Read more](#)

Now ICT brings dialogue with nation at fingertips

Ref: 28 March 2017

State investment in Information Communication Technology (ICT) has helped put the government online, making Tanzania the first country around Africa with wider digital tool coverage.

[Read more](#)

Uganda

Besigye plotting for 2021 elections

Ref: 6 March 2017

A year after he controversially lost his fourth presidential bid, Dr Kizza Besigye is laying ground for a fifth attempt in 2021. According to former FDC spokesman Phillip Wafula Oguttu, the team is laying strategies to win the 2021 election.

[Read more](#)

Uganda police spokesperson Kaweesi shot dead

Ref: 17 March 2017

Police spokesman Andrew Felix Kaweesi, his driver Godfrey Mambewa and the bodyguard Corporal Kenneth Erau have been shot dead in a Friday morning shooting near his home in Kulambiro in Kisaasi, a Kampala suburb.

The trio was shot dead by unknown assailants just about 100 metres away from Kaweesi's home.

[Read more](#)

Mbabazi denies meeting Museveni

Ref: 13 March, 2017

After his dismal third place finish in the 2016 presidential election, former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi retreated from the public spotlight but kept being confronted with reports of him meeting President Museveni, the man who defeated him, to agree a return to cabinet.

Asked to respond to the reports, Mbabazi roundly denied meeting President Museveni recently.

[Read more](#)



Angola

Angola achieved great economic growth with high oil prices

Ref: 27 March 2017

After the achievement of peace in 2002, Angola reached high economic growth thanks to the high oil price recorded in the International Markets, said on Sunday in Paris, Angola's ambassador-at-large, António Luvualu de Carvalho. The Angolan diplomat said so when addressing a lecture at Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle University, under the topic the "Future prospect of Angola".

[Read more](#)



IMF positive about restructuring of Angola's BPC bank

Ref: 29 March 2017

The restructuring and recapitalisation plan of Angolan bank Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC) has received a positive assessment by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to statements by the Head of Mission Ricardo Velloso, on Tuesday in Luanda.

[Read more](#)

Angola turns blind eye to Brazilian firm's confession that it paid bribes

Ref: 20 March 2017

Nairobi/Sao Paulo — Angola's authorities have ignored the admission by a Brazilian firm that it paid \$50m in bribes to secure contracts in the country, activists say, despite demands from watchdogs that it join international investigations into the corruption.

Brazilian engineering conglomerate Odebrecht admitted to the illegal payments in Angola as one part of a guilty plea in December in New York court, in which it confessed to paying \$788m in bribes, mostly across Latin America.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Ethiopian Airlines eyes Byo, Air Zim deal

Ref: 28 March 2017

Ethiopian Airlines is exploring plans to fly to Bulawayo, as Africa's largest carrier expands its footprint on the local market.

Ethiopian International Services managing director, Esayas Woldemariam told journalists the carrier had set its eyes on Bulawayo.

[Read more](#)

U.S. Government inaugurates new national Public Health Training Center

Ref: 28 March 2017

The first state-of-the-art National Public Health Training Center, constructed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), has been formally inaugurated and handed over to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI).

[Read more](#)

Chinese-built Industrial Park to boost Ethiopian economy, employment

Ref: 27 March 2017

Aboret Alemu is toiling in the Arerti Industrial Park, currently under construction and part of Ethiopian government's drive to build special economic zones where domestic and foreign companies can use local labor to manufacture and export goods.

The Industrial Park, located 140 kms east of the capital city Addis Ababa, is designed and being built by China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), one of several industrial parks the government is building across the country with a view to making the horn of Africa nation a manufacturing hub.

[Read more](#)

Ghana

BoG likely to reduce monetary policy rate by 100 basis points

Ref: 23 March 2017

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank is set to announce a new Monetary Policy Rate (MPR), with the prime objective of ensuring price stability and low inflation.

The new policy was announced recently, to ensure the stability of the cedi as well to support output and employment growth.

[Read more](#)

Ghana's power mix to have 10% renewable sources by 2020

Ref: 24 March 2017

Ghana's power generation mix is expected to include 10 percent of renewable energy sources by 2020.

At a SWITCH Africa green national networking forum in Accra, Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation minister, Professor Frimpong Boateng, pledged to introduce varied sources of renewable energy during his tenure.

[Read more](#)

Features of the new GHc5 note make it impossible to be counterfeited-BoG

Ref: 20 February 2017

The new note, bearing the image of Dr James Kwegyir Aggrey, was introduced to commemorate Bank of Ghana's 60th anniversary.

This note started circulating on 7th march as a legal tender as well as a collector's item.

[Read more](#)

The Ghana Cedi will continuously depreciate and this is why

Ref: 10 March 2017

The cedi is expected to depreciate further if the government fails to prevent the side effects of the numerous tax cuts it is implementing.

This is according to a research report published by GN Research.

[Read more](#)

Kenya

Kenyans making money abroad get one-year tax amnesty

Ref: 28 March 2017

From next year, Kenyans who work, do business or own property outside the country risk huge penalties for not disclosing their incomes for taxation back home.

[Read more](#)

CBK votes to keep policy lending rate unchanged at 10pc

Ref: 28 March 2017

The Central Bank of Kenya voted to keep the policy lending rate unchanged at 10 per cent on Monday, on worries of slowed growth in consumer spending and a surge in inflation beyond the 7.5 per cent upper limit of the government's target range.

[Read more](#)

Laikipia crisis slows efforts to reclaim European beef market

Ref: 25 March 2017

The land invasions experienced in Laikipia County could slow down Kenya's efforts to reclaim its beef export quota to the European Union, which it lost 25 years ago.

Failure to control livestock diseases, especially Foot and Mouth, led to loss of the 4,000 tonnes a year sale, the country's largest.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique

Mozambique sinks deeper into default after missing loan payment

Ref: 22 March 2017

Mozambique missed a \$119m payment due on Tuesday on a loan Credit Suisse Group arranged, the second debt repayment the government failed to make in as many months.

The \$622m facility was taken out by state-owned ProIndicus and was supposed to fund the purchase of boats and radar systems to protect the country's Indian Ocean coastline, where companies including Italy's Eni and US-based Anadarko Petroleum have large offshore gas reserves.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique and Germany sign cooperation agreements

Ref: 24 March 2017

Mozambique and Germany on Friday in Maputo signed technical and financial accords establishing support for the sectors of education, sustainable economic development, and public finances.

The accords were signed by Mozambican Foreign Minister Oldemiro Baloi and the German ambassador Detlev Wolter. This follows negotiations last year between the two governments, which resulted in pledges from the German side to grant 118.6 million euros for the three sectors.

[Read more](#)

Moza Banco shareholders fail to recapitalise bank

Ref: 24 March 2017

The shareholders of Moza Banco have failed to raise the funds necessary to recapitalise the bank. As a result, it is due to be put up for sale so that the government can recoup the money that it put into the bank last year to stop it from going into liquidation.

[Read more](#)

IMF supports fuel price increase

Ref: 24 March 2017

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has argued that the Mozambican government was correct to increase fuel prices. In a press release received by AIM on Thursday, the Bretton Woods institution stated, "the raising of fuel prices will eliminate an expensive and very inefficient subsidy".

[Read more](#)

Nigeria

Presidency, Reps parley to end recession

Ref: 23 February, 2017

The Presidency recently met with members of the House of Representatives on how to get Nigeria out of recession. The closed-door meeting was held in the office of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo in the State House, Abuja.

[Read more](#)

Merits, defects of Nigeria's economic recovery, growth plan – Experts

Ref: 23 March 2017

Civil society groups and economic experts have expressed different opinions on the National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, NERGP, unveiled a fortnight ago by the Federal Government.

[Read more](#)

CBN has capacity to stop Naira from falling out of control – Emeffele

Ref: 22 March 2017

Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emeffele, has said its intervention on the value of the Naira is to bring about a convergence of all the rates.

There have been many critics of CBN's ability to sustain its intervention, but Emeffele insists they have the capacity to stop the Naira from falling out of control

[Read more](#)

External reserves gain \$58m in 11-days – CBN

Ref: 16 March 2017

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said external reserves gained \$58 million to \$30.23 billion as at March 14, 2017.

The latest data by CBN disclosed that nation's foreign reserve has been hovering between \$29 billion and \$30 billion in March.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda

Rwanda course moves to boost trade volumes, infuse liquidity

Ref: 10 March 2017

The Rwanda Stock Exchange said it will introduce a market makers scheme in an effort to infuse liquidity in the bearish market and boost volumes traded.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda's inflation increases to 8.1% in February

Ref: 11 March, 2017

Rwanda's inflation rate increased to 8.1 per cent during the month of February year-on-year, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) consumer price index (CPI) monthly report indicates.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda seeks to control public and private forests

Ref: 13 March, 2017

Plans by the Rwandan government to bridge the widening supply-demand gap for wood have run into challenges due to scarcity of land and competing national priorities.

[Read more](#)

South Africa

Standard Bank to state its case in Gordhan court matter

Ref: 29 March 2017

Pretoria – Standard Bank on Wednesday kicked off the second day of arguments in the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, proceedings in which Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan is asking for a declaratory order that he cannot interfere with the decision of the country's four major banks not to do business with the Guptas and their companies.

[Read more](#)

Social grants: The Constitutional Court's impossible choice

Ref: 17 March 2017

Damned if they do and damned if they don't. This is the position many feel the Constitutional Court finds itself in after the social grants crisis was abandoned on its doorstep.

Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) has emerged as the only likely party that will be able to continue the payment of SA Social Security Agency (Sassa) grants after April 1.

[Read more](#)

Zuma's move against Gordhan adds R2.6bn to government debt

Ref: 29 March 2017

The rand was hovering around R13/\$ on Wednesday morning as the market waited to see how the drama between President Jacob Zuma and Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan would play out.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania

Tanzania mining firms oppose ban on mineral exports

Ref: 22 March 2017

Mining companies are facing vast capital outlays and potential losses as a result of a ban on exports of unprocessed minerals by Tanzania.

[Read more](#)

JPM orders special audit on mining industry

Ref: 28 March 2017

President John Magufuli has directed the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) to conduct a special audit on the mining industry to expose loopholes that have been causing the government to lose what it should be earning in revenue collection.

[Read more](#)

Carrier starts Dar-Dodoma daily flights

Ref: 28 March 2017

Flightlink will start daily scheduled flights between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma on April 1 as the general aviation firm seeks to capitalize on the government's decision to relocate its capital city.

[Read more](#)

Uganda

Stock of reserves up by U.S.\$139 Million

Ref: 3 March 2017

Uganda's foreign exchange reserves have risen by \$139.5 million, following improvements in the country's overall balance of payment.

[Read more](#)

Museveni's visit to Dar rescues oil pipeline deal, sets project timelines

Ref: 6 March 2017

President Yoweri Museveni's recent state visit to Tanzania was to rescue the crude oil pipeline project after Dar officials pushed to revise the low tariff that lured Uganda to prefer the southern route to the one through Kenya.

[Read more](#)

Troubled Isimba Dam will miss 2018 launch deadline

Ref: 13 March 2017

It will be a miracle if the 183MW Isimba hydropower dam is commissioned by the target year of 2018 unless government keeps a blind eye to the ongoing sloppy works at the site.

[Read more](#)