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**Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes in
Africa**



MEDIA MONITORING

1 September 2015

DRC

Six soldiers killed in DR Congo ambush

NEWS STORY

Source: AFP

Goma, 31 August 2015 - Six Congolese soldiers were killed on Monday in Democratic Republic of Congo's North Kivu province, a region where Rwandan Hutu rebels are known to operate, regional and military sources said.

The attack took place in Rugari, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Goma, the capital of North Kivu.

"A Republican Guard jeep was ambushed in Rugari," said Justin Mukanya, administrator of Rutshuru territory which lies on the border of Rwanda and Uganda.

"Six soldiers were killed by a rocket during in the ambush," he said, indicating that the attackers had not yet been identified but that an inquiry was under way.

An intelligence officer based at the military's regional headquarters in Goma confirmed that six soldiers had been killed in an incident which took place between 0700 and 0800 GMT.

Rutshuru is one of the main areas of operation for Hutu rebels from the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda).

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The DRC government of President Joseph Kabila has been under international pressure to tackle the FDLR, which is among the most intractable of many armed groups operating in the North and South Kivu provinces, displacing scores of thousands of villagers.

The Rwandan rebels, numbering between 1,500 and 2,000, are blamed for killings, rapes, lootings and the forced enlistment of children in the resource-rich Kivus, where they also traffic in timber and gold.

Sprawling DR Congo has been the scene of some of Africa's bloodiest wars.

Its mineral-rich North Kivu region has been torn apart by conflict for over two decades and the UN's Congo mission has stationed most if its 20,000 peacekeepers there.

RWANDA

Rwanda Organising Leadership Summit to Unlock Africans' Potential

NEWS STORY

Source: <http://ktpress.rw/rwanda-organising-leadership-summit-to-unlock-africans-potential-3016/>

31 August 2015 - Hundreds of African youths and corporate managers will next month gather in Rwanda's capital Kigali for a leadership summit aimed at unlocking leadership potentials.

"We strongly believe that it is time for Africa to rise and take our place in the world. It is time for the student to become the teacher and the borrower to become the lender," Emmanuel Ruvurajabo, a member of the organizing team told KT Press.

The summit will attract key speakers from Rwanda, United States, Canada, Kenya and South Africa.

Rwanda is seen as a living example of a country with good leadership that Africans can eagerly emulate and the right place to host the summit.

The summit is organized by Kingdom Builders association in collaboration with International Third World Leaders Association.

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“Some key discussions will focus on experience of Rwanda’s extraordinary leadership from the post genocide era, and success story of Rwanda as an example of good leadership in Africa,” Ruvurajabo said.

At the summit, young Rwandans and Africans will be equipped and boosted by fellow leaders who exemplify what visionary leadership can accomplish in changing the course of nations.

Rwanda’s renowned religious leader, Bishop John Rucyahana, will be among the guest speakers to share their experience of leadership. He will be joined by other renowned global leaders, inspired by Dr. Myles Munroe, founder of International Third World Leadership Association.

Dr. Munroe, a renowned speaker and writer, had a vision of transforming followers into leaders and leaders into agents of change.

“He believed that the third world should start raising to higher standards...we have human resources, we have infrastructure and natural resources better than any other place in the world,” Ruvurajabo told KT Press.

Ruvurajabo told KT Press that he believes Rwanda is an excellent example of what vision can do for an entire nation.

“This is why we believe it is time to export, not only the raw material, but also the knowledge and ingenuity of Africa.”

BURUNDI

Ruling party official among three killed in Burundi flare-up

NEWS STORY

Source: APA

31 August 2015 - Three people, including a senior member of the ruling party, were killed on Sunday night in the latest upsurge of violence in Bujumbura, eyewitnesses’ claimed. The ruling party official whose identity has not been revealed had recently moved to Ruyaga in Bujumbura Rural province after fleeing his Buzige village for security reasons.

His house was burned during protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza’s third term.

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Police surrounded the scene to try to round up the perpetrators, eyewitnesses said, confirming the death of two people in Musaga district, a student from Burundi University and a servant.

Three other people were injured, eyewitnesses added.

The assailants were wearing military uniform and disappeared soon after the attack.

Since the crisis in Burundi was triggered last April by Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third bid as president, no night passes without gunshots being heard in some neighbourhoods of the capital Bujumbura.

Burundi Accuses East African Neighbor of Sheltering Insurgents

NEWS STORY

Source: Bloomberg

By Desire Nimubona

31 August 2015 - The head of Burundi's parliament accused an unidentified East African nation of providing shelter for insurgents who have carried out attacks since President Pierre Nkurunziza declared his bid for a third term.

National Assembly Chairman Pascal Nyabenda said he'd expressed Burundi's deep concern over recent attacks during his visit to Uganda, which along with Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania comprises the East African Community, a regional bloc. Insurgents have been reported in Northern provinces, close to the Rwandan border, since Burundi's crisis erupted in April.

Such assaults "are not acceptable as there is a treaty in the bloc that suggests that no country of the bloc can be used as a rear base to attack another member state," Nyabenda told reporters Monday in Burundi's capital, Bujumbura.

Nkurunziza was sworn in for a disputed third term on Aug. 20, after violence that since April left at least 90 people dead and drove 180,000 others to seek refuge in countries in the region. Opponents say the 51-year-old's re-election in July violated a two-term limit set out in peace accords that ended a 12-year civil war in 2005.

Alleged Detainees

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The East African, a regional newspaper, this weekend reported that Burundi is holding more than 50 Rwandan citizens without trial for alleged espionage, amid tensions between the neighboring nations that could have regional repercussions.

Rwanda has communicated a list of the alleged detainees to the Burundian government, the publication cited a Rwandan envoy as saying. Burundi's ambassador to Rwanda wasn't available for comment, it said.

Civil wars in the early 1990s in the two nations, which have a similar ethnic mix, helped lay the ground for conflict in neighboring copper-producing Democratic Republic of Congo, the deadliest war in the continent's modern history.

UGANDA

Ugandan president Museveni meets Machar's delegation in Kampala

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

30 August 2015 - President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has held unexpected high profile meeting with a high level delegation from the South Sudan's armed opposition faction under the leadership of former vice president, Riek Machar, days after a peace deal was signed by two warring parties in South Sudan.

The SPLM-IO said the meeting took place in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, on Saturday following an invitation extended to the former rebel group after signing of a final peace agreement with President Salva Kiir, which was brokered by the East African regional bloc, IGAD, and its international partners.

"Our Chairman and Commander-in-Chief, Comrade Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, dispatched a high level delegation to Kampala and met with President Yoweri Museveni," Machar's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, told Sudan Tribune on Sunday.

"They met President Museveni on Saturday and the meeting was cordial," Dak said, but declined to provide details of the outcome of the meeting.

He however said the high profile interaction discussed a wide range of issues on implementation of the peace agreement and relations between Kampala and the opposition group.

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South Sudan's opposition has since last year opened an office in the Ugandan capital and dispatched a representative based in Kampala to deal with humanitarian issues and build on mending relations between the two.

The 10-member opposition delegation was led by the deputy chairman and deputy commander-in-chief of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army in opposition, General Alfred Ladu Gore.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Central African Republic council adopts new constitution

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

1 September 2015 - The transitional council in Central African Republic has adopted a constitution designed to form the base of a new government as the country attempts to turn a page on years of violence, government officials said on Monday.

Before it becomes law, the constitution agreed on Sunday must pass a referendum set for October 5 and followed by legislative and presidential elections on Oct. 18, with a second round slated for October 22.

"The sovereign people will say at the constitutional referendum whether the liberties and fundamental rights ... [in this document] permit the re-founding of the republic," said Alexandre-Ferdinand Nguendet, president of the National Transitional Council.

The country descended into chaos in March 2013 when predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power, triggering reprisals by "anti-balaka" Christian militias who drove tens of thousands of Muslims from the south in a de facto partition.

The transitional council, which passed the constitution on Sunday with a large majority, was established under interim President Catherine Samba-Panza to lead the country to fresh elections.

The constitution obliges ministers to sign off on decisions by the president and prime minister.

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"The government will also be under obligation to inform parliament each time it signs a contract concerning the country's mineral resources, said Bruno Gbiefba, vice president of the transitional council's legal commission.

It also includes a Senate, or second parliamentary chamber, and a National Election Authority, as well as a body dedicated to good governance, Gbiefba said.

Since independence from France in 1960, the country has six constitutions in line with the six presidents who have ruled.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Congo-Kinshasa: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

PRESS RELEASE

30 August 2015 - Martin Kobler, Head of MONUSCO and Jose Maria Aranaz, Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the DRC call for strengthened policies to address enforced disappearances.

"On the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, I encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to consider ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Indeed, reported cases of enforced disappearances especially of civil society, opposition leaders and media actors are a matter of concern for the United Nations. I therefore call on the authorities to strengthen administration of justice in an effort to effectively counter this phenomenon", declared Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC.

This celebration is a reminder that enforced disappearances remain a worldwide challenge to protection of fundamental rights and human security and are therefore not restricted to a specific region of the world. They have frequently been used as a strategy of intimidation". Several persons were abducted and taken to unknown destinations throughout the DRC, by security forces, notably during military operations, in addition to kidnappings by armed groups such as the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) or the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). These abductions followed by enforced disappearances are international crimes and must be taken into account during the rendition processes of these groups.

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Noting that numerous families are yet to receive news of their relatives arrested in the ambit of "Opération Likofi" carried out by the Congolese National Police, the Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the DRC, Jose Maria Aranaz calls on the national authorities "to publish the results of the investigations into Opération Likofi and encourages the Government to provide all necessary support to the families of the victims."

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan rebels say peace deal at risk from ceasefire breaches

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Aaron Maasho

31 August 2015 - South Sudan's rebel leader Riek Machar accused government forces on Monday of repeatedly breaking a ceasefire and putting at risk a peace deal just days after it was reached.

President Salva Kiir signed the peace pact on Wednesday, but even as he did so he accused rebels of attacking his forces. The U.N. Security Council has warned both sides that it could impose sanctions if the deal collapses.

"There is danger that is looming that could wreck this peace agreement now," Machar told Reuters in an interview in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

Accusing government forces of attacking rebel positions, he said: "We believe that this is an act that is a serious violation to the ceasefire because what it does is provoke our troops that are in control of these areas."

Machar is expected to become first vice president during a three-year transitional period envisaged by the peace deal that aims to end 20 months of conflict in the world's newest nation.

The conflict erupted in December 2013 after a power struggle between Kiir and Machar, his former deputy. Fighting has reopened ethnic fault lines between Kiir's Dinka and Machar's Nuer clan.

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Thousands of people have been killed and more than 2.2 million driven from their homes, many fleeing to neighbouring states. Many in the nation of 11 million people depend on food aid to survive.

Machar said government troops and their fleet of gunboats mounted with heavy artillery were encroaching further into rebel-held territory in oil-rich Unity state.

A government spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

On Saturday, the insurgents said their positions in Adok, a port in Unity state, and around Malakal, further east, came under assault by government troops, charges Juba denied.

South Sudan hints at keeping Ugandan troops despite peace deal

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

31 August 2015 - South Sudanese government said on Monday that Uganda will not withdraw all its troops from the country as stated in the recently signed peace agreement with armed opposition, claiming the former was in the country at the behest of the latter on bilateral arrangement between two sovereign states.

In some of the security provisions under transitional security arrangements of the new compromise peace deal signed between President Salva Kiir and armed opposition leader, Riek Machar, all foreign forces are required to leave the country within 45 days from signing of the agreement.

But Mawien Makol, South Sudanese spokesperson for the ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation confirmed reports attributed to senior officials in the Ugandan government as saying their government and the country will instead continue to support and maintain some of its troops in the country as part of a bilateral agreement between the two countries.

“Of course in the agreement Ugandan People Defence Forces (UPDF) are supposed to leave after 45 days but before that, there was a bilateral agreement between Uganda and South Sudan. This agreement allows UPDF to come here and do the other works which is to pursue and cut down the activities of Lord Resistance Army (LRA). That thing stands there. It is not going anywhere,” Makol told reporters on Monday reiterating earlier comments asking when the Ugandan troops would withdraw.

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The diplomat confirmed that reports quoting officials at the Ugandan ministry of foreign affairs were correct.

“If they leave within 45 days given in the agreement still we have to hold on [to] some of them. Not all of them will go. Some forces will have to remain in the country in accordance with the bilateral agreement. So the Ugandan officials are correct, their troops will be here to do the things that they have been doing before the war,” he said.

He explained Ugandan troops were in the country way back before the country descended into civil war, but many believe more troops were deployed in the country following the events of the December 2013 when political debates within the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) turned violent.

Ugandan senior officials made contradicting statements when their deputy foreign minister, Okello Oryem, reportedly said UPDF will not withdraw from South Sudan as it had no part in the agreement, but later on an explaining statement from the Ugandan ministry of defence said the deputy minister was misquoted and that UPDF will leave South Sudan within 45 days with exception AU contingent in Western Equatoria state.

The Ugandan contingent deployed to Western Equatoria state before the war broke out in December 2013 will remain per a previous arrangement under the African Union to hunt for the LRA.

UN Security Council to vote over South Sudan sanctions

NEWS STORY

Source: <http://www.dispatchtimes.com/un-security-council-to-vote-over-south-sudan-sanctions/71031/>

The draft also proposes further sanctions, but diplomats did not say who might be targeted.

31 August 2015 - A South Sudanese journalist was shot dead by unknown gunmen in the outskirts of the country’s capital, his father said Thursday, in an attack that came days after President Salva Kiir was reported to have threatened to kill reporters “working against the country”.

Dr Lomuro said the consultative meeting aimed reviewing the IGAD Compromise Peace Agreement as the deadline approached.

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That article cited unnamed sources who said that the State Department and U.S. mission to the United Nations had long been open to punitive measures, but that opposition from the National Security Council was responsible for blocking such action from coming sooner.

But powerful rebel general Peter Gadet and other key commanders last week accused Machar of seeking power for himself, and said they would not recognise any deal agreed.

Tens of thousands have been killed, millions more displaced internally and to the neighboring countries of Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

However, South Sudan's President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, refused to sign the deal.

Kiir had sought to scrap a provision that called for consultations with Machar on "powers, functions and responsibilities" he would exercise in any future administration, the official said.

For instance, if Sudan decides to ban the flow of South Sudan oil through its pipelines unless the later stops the bloody war, then South Sudan government will find no other way except stopping the killing because it will find any resource to replenish its treasury and buy more weapons.

The agreement was fully signed by the leader of the warring faction of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM), former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

"We can not sit by while leaders fight and their people s suffering grows".

Seyoum Mesfin, of the IGAD, an East African bloc involved in the talks, said that Kiir needed two weeks prior to signing this peace deal.

The UN Security Council blacklisted six generals – three from each side – in July, but member states were at the time unwilling to impose further sanctions.

Like a barometer of conflict, the UN said Monday that the number sheltering inside its peacekeeping bases had risen by a third in just over a month to nearly 200,000 civilians.

Marked by widespread atrocities on both sides, the war has been characterised by ethnic massacres and rape.

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The country, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, descended into chaos in December 2013 when a political row between Kiir and his deputy Riek Machar spiraled into armed conflict that reopened ethnic fault lines.

SUDAN

Sudan Decries ICC Warrant as President Bashir Visits China

NEWS STORY

Source: VOA

By James Butty

31 August 2015 - Sudan's foreign minister said the International Criminal Court's indictment of President Omar al-Bashir is merely a European accusation that has been rejected by the rest of the international community, including the African Union.

Speaking to VOA by telephone from Khartoum Sunday, Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour said President Bashir continues to travel the world whenever he is invited by other heads of state without fear of being arrested.

Bashir begins a four-day visit to China Monday at the invitation of the Chinese government to attend celebrations marking Japan's defeat in World War II. It is the Sudanese head of state's second visit to China.

Ghandour said Sudan and China enjoy excellent relations.

"Sudan is on the list of the top countries in Africa that are economically dealing with China. China supported Sudan in its very dark days when Sudan was let down by the U.S., including extracting Sudanese oil. China helps Sudan in oil refinery and other economic issues," Ghandour said. "Right now China and Sudan are actually having excellent relations, and this is how Sudan and President Bashir have been invited to China."

Foreign Minister Ghandour said Bashir's China visit will include talks on bilateral relations, meeting with Chinese businessmen who are investing in Sudan as well as Sudanese living in China.

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Bashir was indicted in 2010 for war crimes and crimes against humanity relating to the conflict in Darfur. China is not a signatory to the ICC but is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

A South African court this past June ordered South African authorities to stop Bashir from leaving the country while he was attending an African Union summit there.

Ghandour said not only Sudan but all of Africa believe the ICC indictment is politically motivated because it targets only Africans.

“We don’t say that we are not concerned, but we say that this is a political decision because it is being faced by political confrontation from the AU, from the international community, and from many countries and it remains only a European decision. So this is why President Bashir is executing his duties as state president whenever he’s invited,” Ghandour said.

On peace in southern neighbor South Sudan, Ghandour said Khartoum feels an obligation for peace to come to South Sudan because not only was South Sudan once a part of Sudan, but it feels Africa’s newly independent country is descending into chaos.

“Sudan has got a moral obligation towards peaceful ensuring peace in South Sudan. We played a great role in bringing the two sides fighting in South, particularly SPLM in government and SPLM in government to sign the agreement because we feel that South Sudan is heading toward chaos. And this is why we feel that this is a responsibility of Sudan to help our brothers and sisters in the South,” Ghandour said.

Sudanese president orders to investigate Darfur groups’ brawl

NEWS STORY

Source: Sudan Tribune

30 August 2015 - Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir on Sunday issued a decision to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the circumstances of a brawl between members of two factions of a former rebel group signatory of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

On Wednesday 26 August members of the Liberation and Justice Party (LJP), led by Bahar Idriss Abu Garda fought with members of National Liberation and Justice Movement (NLJP) led by Tijani al-Sissi during the launch ceremony for Phase II of development projects in Darfur in the Sudanese capital.

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The LJP supporters came to contest the legitimacy of the attribution of 640 development projects and reiterated accusations of corruption for the NLJP led Darfur Regional Authority (DRA).

The presidential decree provides that the committee should investigate with the official and non-official persons involved in the incident, the circumstances and motivations of this unprecedented development in the conflict between the two parties.

LJP and the Justice and Equality Movement -Dabajo (JEM-Dabajo) call on president Bashir to appoint a new chairman for the regional authority and to be equally represented in the DRA which controlled by al-Sissi's party.

The decree appointed the minister of Justice Hassan Awad, as chairman of the committee and the minister of the federal affairs Faisal Hassan Ibrahim, and the deputy chief justice Idris Awad al-Majid as members.

The three member investigation body had to submit its findings to the president within a week from the date of the presidential decision.

BOYCOTT OF RDA

In a related development, LJP and the JEM-Dabajo ministers in the DRA decided to boycott the meetings of the regional body till an expected reshuffle takes place.

The two political groups are expected to hold a press conference to explain their decision.

The DRA chairman Sissi on Sunday headed a meeting of the regional authority at its headquarters in Khartoum with the participation of the five governors of Darfur states.

DRA information minister Abdel Karim Musa told reporters that the meeting stressed the government's determination to enforce all the 1071 development projects in Darfur.

Musa disclosed that the federal finance ministry approved 900 million pounds for the implementation of the second phase of recovery and development projects.

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Sudan's new defense minister calls on rebels to join National Dialogue

NEWS STORY

Source: Radio Tamazuj

Khartoum, 31 August 2015 - Sudan's newly defense minister Gen Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibin Auf has called on armed movements to participate in the National Dialogue for the sake of stability in Sudan.

He vowed to ensure safety of armed movements during and after their participation in the national dialogue.

In a press statement to Ashrooq network, Ibin Auf said the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) will never give in an inch of the land and that they will work very hard to repulse any aggression that threatens the security and safety of Sudanese territory. He pledged to continue with all plans and programs for the development of the army.

Ibin Auf further said he accepted his appointment to serve as defense minister during what he termed as an important stage of the country's history.

The senior army officer praised President Omar al-Bashir for taking care of the army, saying he will build on the foundation laid down by his defense ministry predecessor Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein.

He noted the ministry of defense is a prestigious institution that cannot be affected by the appointment or dismissal of a person, indicating that he would seek to preserve the legacy of former ministers.

Last week, al-Bashir appointed the new defense minister three days after proposing a two-month ceasefire with rebels fighting to overthrow his government.

Ibn Auf is a retired army general who once served as the head of Sudan's military intelligence agency and later as ambassador to Oman.

He took his oath of office before al-Bashir in the presence of the Chief Justice and Minister of Presidential Affairs Salah al-Din Wansi.

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TANZANIA

Tanzania's opposition vows to review mining, gas contracts

NEWS STORY

Source: Reuters

By Fumbuka Ng'wanakilala

30 August 2015 - Tanzania's main opposition presidential candidate said he would review mining and gas contracts, and also scrap "unnecessary" tax exemptions for mining companies, if elected president of the east African nation in October.

Former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa, 62, snubbed as the ruling party's candidate last month, switched to become the opposition coalition's contender. He could pose a tough challenge for the CCM, which has ruled since 1961.

"My government will review all major energy and mining contracts and rectify shoddy deals," Lowassa said late on Saturday in a televised statement, without giving specifics.

Some in the opposition say contracts with foreign firms are too generous, although investors' terms are fair. Experts say last year's weak response to a licensing round indicates that Tanzania needs to tread carefully to avoid deterring investors.

Investors in Tanzania, Africa's fourth biggest gold miner with plans to develop huge new gas finds, have complained of shifting goal posts in contracts with the state.

"My government will also eliminate unnecessary tax exemptions in the mining sector ... and use part of its stake in gas reserves as collateral for loans to finance construction of natural gas infrastructure," Lowassa said.

Tanzania estimates it has more than 55 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of recoverable natural gas reserves off its south coast.

BG, Statoil, Exxon Mobil, Ophir and Petrobras are players in Tanzanian energy. Miners include Acacia Mining Plc, AngloGold Ashanti and Petra Diamonds Ltd.