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



MEDIA MONITORING

11 December 2014

Tarir les sources de financement des groupes terroristes (représentant ONU)

Source: Le Temps d'Algérie (Quotidien National d'Information)

10 décembre 2014 - Le représentant spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations unies pour la région des Grands Lacs, Saïd Djinnit a insisté, mercredi à Oran, sur l'impératif de "tarir les sources de financement des groupes terroristes".

"On ne peut traiter de façon efficace la question du terrorisme tant qu'on ne s'est pas attaqué aux sources de son financement et en particulier le paiement des rançons", a-t-il souligné lors d'un point de presse en marge du séminaire de haut niveau sur la paix et la sécurité, organisé à Oran du 9 et le 11 décembre.

M. Djinnit a déclaré "il ne faut pas permettre aux groupes terroristes de détenir des moyens de financement. J'encourage donc l'initiative algérienne au niveau de l'ONU sur la criminalisation du paiement des rançons", appelant à adopter une position commune au sein de l'Union africaine.

Saluant l'initiative de ce séminaire de haut niveau sur les questions de paix et de sécurité en Afrique, le représentant de l'ONU a affirmé que l'Algérie a "la capacité d'assumer pleinement le rôle de leadership continental pour la paix et la sécurité, en partenariat avec les Nations unies les organisations régionales.

M. Djinnit a ajouté, dans le même ordre d'idées, que "l'Algérie manifeste tous les jours son attachement à la paix et à la sécurité à travers des initiatives, en particulier avec les pays voisins et du Sahel, de façon plus globale", citant les pourparlers engagés pour la paix en Libye.

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Parlant de la situation dans les Grands Lacs, il a souligné que c'est une région charnière qui traverse l'Afrique de l'Angola au Soudan et qui recèle le plus de ressources naturelles, donc le plus de potentiel, rappelant que l'Angola sort d'un grand conflit, la RD Congo n'est pas encore sortie de sa crise, le Soudan n'a pas fini de régler ses problèmes d'unité nationale et de sécurité.

"Si on stabilise la région des Grands Lacs on aura fait un grand pas dans la stabilité du continent", a déclaré M. Djinnit, affirmant être "optimiste" quant à l'avenir de cette région.

Rwanda protests DRC rocket fire on its territory

Source: Xinhua

Kigali, 10 December 2014 - Rwanda Wednesday asked the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM), a mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to investigate the alleged violation of its territorial integrity.

The request came following an incident on Tuesday in which Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) reportedly fired a rocket projectile on the territory of Rwanda.

The incident took place in Rubavu in western Rwanda along the border with DRC. In a statement Wednesday night, Rwanda's Defense and Military Spokesperson, Brig Gen Joseph Nzabamwita, said the firing took place at around 19:15 local time.

"The FARDC forces deployed at Buhumba Groupement, Bukumu Chefferie, Nyiragongo Zone, fired a launcher 7 rocket projectile on Rwandan territory, at Bereshi village, Hehu cell, Bugeshi Sector in Rubavu District," the statement said.

It said the rocket did not cause any casualties, but added that a formal request had been submitted to the EJVM.

Rwanda has made a formal request to the EJVM to investigate the violation of Rwanda's territorial integrity, and a threat to the safety of the population, Brig Gen Nzabamwita said.

In 2013, FARDC fired over 60 bombs and rockets on Rwanda territory, killing innocent civilians and injuring a dozen others including women and children.

"We call upon the population to remain calm as we establish the motive, in conjunction with EJVM," said Nzabamwita.

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Government to repatriate hundreds of M23 rebels in Uganda

Source: Daily Monitor (Uganda)

Kampala, 10 December 2014 - A team of Congolese government officials is in Kampala and has inspected weapons formerly belonging to the M23 rebels but now under Ugandan army custody after the rebels fled the UN-backed Congolese offensive to Uganda. The inspection of the weaponry kicked off the process that will see Uganda handover the military hardware and also repatriate hundreds of rebels back to Congo. "The team is led by the State minister for External Relations and the main reason is to handover the weapons and repatriate the M23 fighters," the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson, Fred Opolot said. There has been fear that hundreds of the M23 rebels currently camped at Bihanga military training school in Ibanda district could resume fighting because of the slow process to repatriate them. The M23 Chairman, Mr Bertrand Bisimwa said in a statement that they are not convinced that the Congolese government is ready to take them back home. Mr Bisimwa also accuses Congolese government of renegading on the Nairobi Agreement signed in December last year, which provides for return of Congolese refugees in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. "The M23 Movement denounces and strongly condemns the approach, in violation of the letter and the spirit of the Nairobi's Declarations, undertaken by the DRC's Government since the aftermath of the signing of the Nairobi's Declarations, Mr Bisimwa, said, "If, as a result, the Government persists in such deception, it must assume publicly the disavowal of the Declarations of Nairobi," The rebels also want all the fighters to be granted amnesty but Kinshasa government insists that those who committed crimes should be prosecuted. "[We] dispel the DRC's Government deliberately maintained misunderstanding on the application of the amnesty law, in which the eligibility criteria are rendered opaque, that relating to the Provisions Transitional Security to solve the issue of the M23's combatants, as well as the label "M23 Movement" in which we are recognized by in the Declarations of Nairobi" Mr Bisimwa said.

Congo's fractious opposition struggles to mobilize against Kabila

Source: Reuters World Service

By Aaron Ross

Editing by Daniel Flynn, Bate Felix and Giles Elgood

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Kinshasa, 10 December 2014 - Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition parties are united in their demands that President Joseph Kabila should not stay in power when his term ends in 2016 but personal rivalries and infighting are hobbling efforts to mount an effective campaign.

The opposition has accused Kabila -- who has ruled the mineral-rich central African nation since 2001 -- of plotting to scrap a constitutional two-term limit and seek reelection, despite warnings not to do so from the United States and France.

After decades of one-man rule culminated in a war that killed millions between 1998 and 2003, many in Congo fear an attempt by Kabila to cling onto power could tip the nation into chaos.

Kabila has remained silent and his spokesman has said there is no reason to believe the 43-year-old plans to modify the constitution, although some supporters have asked him to do so.

But delays in organizing local elections and the announcement of a population census, which would likely delay the 2016 vote, have fueled concerns that Kabila is looking for ways to stay on in Africa's largest copper producer.

The Congolese opposition has stepped up its campaign, galvanized by protests in Burkina Faso in October that ousted president Blaise Compaore when he tried to extend his rule. Opposition leaders have organized demonstrations and taken to the airwaves to denounce what they see as a power grab.

"They're going to use the army and police for repression," said Vital Kamerhe, a former Kabila loyalist who heads the opposition Union for the Congolese Nation (UNC).

"They're going to use money to buy the consciences of the people."

But internal rifts and personal ambition are eroding the opposition's unity, undermining its ability to mobilize a credible response to the president, analysts say.

On Sunday, Kabila unveiled a long-awaited national unity government including three senior figures from the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC), the second-largest opposition party.

Alongside a cabinet packed with loyalists, the defections were hailed as a sign Kabila was shoring up his position ahead of 2016. Though the three men were subsequently expelled by the MLC, it weakened the party's leadership and could diminish the impact of a possible return to politics by its founder, Jean Pierre Bemba.

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Bemba, who was runner-up to Kabila in the 2006 election, is on trial at The Hague for war crimes in neighboring Central African Republic but will be released if he receives a not-guilty verdict.

"It's a sort of pre-emptive strike ... to reduce Bemba's capacity to do harm if he's ever released," said Philippe Biyoya, a politics professor at Kinshasa University.

The opposition has been prone to squabbling and being co-opted by the ruling elite. In the 2011 presidential election, its failure to rally around veteran Etienne Tshisekedi was crucial to Kabila's re-election, amid widespread allegations of fraud.

"There are problems of internal cohesion within the opposition, whether it's between the various opposition groups or within the main opposition parties," said Jason Stearns, a Congo analyst.

Internal Rifts

In the absence of the 81-year-old Tshisekedi -- who has been in Belgium since August for medical treatment -- others have vied to lead the opposition.

Kamerhe has joined forces with Bruno Mavungu, the secretary general of Tshisekedi's Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), to lead a series of marches in Kinshasa. Their collaboration has provoked bitter recriminations in the UDPS, with Mavungu disavowed by senior party officials.

Meanwhile, Kamerhe's former ally Martin Fayulu, a parliamentarian and coordinator of the "Let's Save DRC" platform, accused him of trying to monopolize the leadership and split with him.

Amid the internal wrangling, the opposition has yet to prove it can mobilize people. Its largest demonstrations in recent months have attracted a few thousand people in Kinshasa, a city of more than 10 million.

While there is discontent with Kabila, his security forces' reputation for brutality deters many people from taking to the streets. "People are afraid of the police," said Fidel Landu, a security guard. "You march, they shoot."

Opposition leaders insist the underlying discontent with Kabila, in power since the assassination of his father Laurent-Desiré in 2001, could be tapped at the right moment.

But given the opposition's weaknesses, analysts expect the Catholic Church and civil society to play a significant role in blocking any bid by Kabila to hang on. Congo's bishops have spoken out against an extension of Kabila's mandate in a country where 40 percent of its 65 million people are Catholic.

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Pascal Kambale, former Congo director for the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, said it was too soon to judge the opposition's clout until the government made a move.

"When something happens, we will see ... whether they mobilize and how they mobilize public opinion," he said. "It's a multi-front war they are launching. It's a war against the government. It's a war against themselves."

RDC : le combat contre les ADF sera long, selon la Monusco

Source: Jeune Afrique

10 décembre 2014 - Lors de son point de presse hebdomadaire, Martin Kobler, le patron de la Mission de l'ONU en RDC (Monusco) a averti, mercredi, que le combat contre les auteurs des massacres ayant coûté la vie à plus de 250 personnes depuis le début du mois d'octobre à Beni, dans l'est du pays, nécessite le soutien des populations locales.

Les massacres des civils à Beni, dans l'est de la RDC, se poursuivent. Depuis début octobre, plus de 250 personnes ont été tuées par des hommes armés soupçonnés d'appartenir aux Forces démocratiques alliées (ADF, groupe rebelle ougandais basé au Nord-Kivu). Et ce, malgré la présence sur place de l'armée congolaise et des troupes onusiennes. "On ne peut pas gagner ce combat rapidement", a reconnu, le 10 décembre, Martin Kobler, chef de la Mission de l'ONU au Congo (Monusco), lors de son point de presse hebdomadaire à Kinshasa.

"Ce sont des terroristes, des criminels [et] c'est un combat asymétrique, qui est très, très difficile à gérer", a ajouté Martin Kobler. Mais à aucun moment le patron de la Monusco n'a prononcé le nom du groupe armé ougandais au cours de sa courte intervention devant les journalistes.

C'est le porte-parole militaire de la Monusco, le lieutenant-colonel Félix-Prosper Basse, qui s'en est chargé, en indiquant clairement quelques minutes plus tôt que c'était contre ces rebelles de l'ADF que le combat devait s'engager.

"Il faut rétablir la confiance"

De son côté, Martin Kobler a laissé également entendre que l'armée, la Monusco et les habitants ne coopéraient pas suffisamment les uns avec les autres. Et pour cause : depuis le début de la série des massacres, la population de Beni et de ses environs

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récrimine contre les Forces armées de la RDC (FARDC) et les Casques bleus, qu'elle accuse de passivité ou d'incompétence.

Le numéro un de la Monusco a notamment déploré qu'à la suite d'une récente tuerie, des habitants aient jeté des pierres sur un hélicoptère de l'ONU, l'empêchant de se poser alors qu'il s'apprêtait à transférer des blessés devant recevoir des soins appropriés. Résultat : deux garçons sont morts.

"Il faut rétablir [...] la confiance entre la Monusco, les FARDC et la population", a appelé Martin Kobler, tout en réaffirmant la détermination de l'ONU à protéger la population. "Il faut nous soutenir, il faut coopérer, a-t-il lancé à l'attention de la population, nous sommes [du] même côté, nous voulons combattre ensemble : les FARDC, la Monusco et la population [...], [c'est] seulement ensemble [que] ces trois éléments pourront être victorieux."

Ugandans won't let me retire, President Museveni says

Source: Agence France Presse

Kampala, 7 December 2014 - Uganda's veteran President Yoweri Museveni has said the people don't want him to retire but that he doesn't "need power", ahead of a highly anticipated ruling party conference next week.

Museveni, aged 70 and Uganda's leader since 1986, has already been chosen as the ruling National Resistance Movement's (NRM) candidate for presidential elections due in 2016, but there have been increasing murmurs of discontent within some sections of the party.

While appearing on a radio talk show during the weekend, the leader was challenged by MP Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda to announce his retirement date.

"I don't think the Ugandans are as obsessed with my retirement, because whenever I go for elections, five million tell me not to go, but stay," Museveni was quoted as saying by Ugandan newspapers.

"I do not lack where to retire to, but I am also a member of a party and I do what it tells me."

In September, Museveni sacked the country's Prime Minister, Amama Mbabazi, a former ally who has emerged as a potential challenger. Mbabazi, the NRM secretary general currently on forced leave, has confirmed he will attend the party delegates' conference due to begin on December 15 in Kampala.

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It adds to speculation that his supporters may try to disrupt the event.

“I don’t need power. For what? I don’t need power as a person,” Museveni said.

“I have my home, I have my house. I need nothing from anybody as long as there is peace in Uganda.”

The ageing leader also said he didn’t think there was “any country in the world that is more democratic than Uganda,” claiming that the uprisings in countries like Egypt and Libya could not happen in Uganda.

Libya’s toppled dictator Muammar Gaddafi, the longest-serving leader in both Africa and the Arab world until his ousting in 2011, had allowed “no competitive politics,” Museveni said.

Uganda confirms its contribution to East Africa standby force

Source: APA

8 December 2014 - Uganda’s personnel and other equipment pledged to the East Africa Standby Force (EASF) are ready for deployment, APA learns here Monday.

This was confirmed during a tour of Uganda by EASF officials who were in the country over the weekend to assess the availability of the personnel and the equipment.

The EASF delegation toured the Uganda army’s armored warfare training school, the peace support operation centre as well as the police training school where the equipment and personnel were stationed for validation.

During the 17th extra-ordinary session of EASF Council of Ministers in August, EASF member states of Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Comoros, Djibouti, Uganda, Somalia, Seychelles and Kenya promised to contribute personnel to standby forces.

Uganda had pledged to contribute 869 troops, 10 infantry vehicles, 10 tanks, air defence assets, a fully-fledged military hospital and engineering component, among others.

Commander of the Ugandan contingent to EASF Colonel Peter Omolo said Ugandan forces have gone through all pre-deployment processes and are ready to take on any task.

The representative of the director of EASF Colonel James Kalimba confirmed that Uganda has fulfilled all its pledges.

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The validation of the forces has already been done in Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Djibouti and Comoros.

Seychelles, Somalia and Burundi are expected to confirm before the scheduled deployment of EASF which is expected before 31st December 2014.

Once operational, EASF is expected to provide the East African region with capacity to respond to emerging crises within 14 days.

Burundi opposition urges UN help to ensure fair polls

Source: Anadolu Agency via Turkishpress.com

Bujumbura, 9 December 2014 - Over 10 opposition political parties in Burundi have teamed up in a petition to the United Nations to extend assistance to ensure the holding of free and fair elections in the country next year, three days before the end of a voter registration process in the Central African nation.

"We, the undersigned parties and political organizations, send this memorandum to the UN to vigorously denounce the conduct of the preparations for the 2015 polls, which are held in a way that threatens democracy, peace and stability of our country," a memorandum sent to the UN chief Ban Ki-moon read.

According to the petition, the parties seek the involvement of the United Nations to "ensure credible, honest, fair, transparent, impartial and inclusive polls in Burundi."

In the petition, the opposition parties accused the ruling National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party of dominating preparations of the polls.

It also said that the Independent National Electoral Commission and its branches are biased and warned of "massive fraud in the decisive stages of the process such as voter registration."

The parties also decried "constant harassment that targeted the leaders of opposition parties, civil society and the media."

The memorandum was signed by several opposition leaders, including Agathon Rwasa, leader of the National Liberation Front party, MP Charles Nditije from the Union for National Progress, and former minister Dismas Nditabiye of the Rally for Democracy and Economic and Social Development.

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Five elections, including parliamentary and presidential polls, are due to be held in Burundi between May 26 and August 24 next year.

A voter registration process opened on November 24 and is due to come to an end on Friday after a five-day extension decided by the country's electoral commission.

UN Office in Burundi to be closed: spokesman

Source: Xinhua

United Nations, 9 December 2014 - The UN Office in Burundi will be closed on Friday and the United Nations will, starting next year, play a role in observing presidential, legislative and local elections in the African country in 2015, a UN spokesman said here Tuesday.

"The (UN) under-secretary-general for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, is leaving for Burundi today for a three-day visit during which he will take part in a ceremony on 12 December to mark the closing of the UN Office in Burundi," Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here.

The United Nations Office in Burundi was established by the UN Security Council in December 2010 as a scaled-down operation to replace the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi from Jan. 1, 2011.

During his visit, Feltman will also meet with Burundian authorities and take part in a roundtable meeting entitled "Progress, Challenges and Prospects," organized by the Burundian government and its main regional and international partners," the spokesman said.

"As of 1 January, the Mission will morph into a UN Electoral Mission in Burundi (MENUB) to observe presidential, legislative and local polls in 2015," he said.

In 2015, Burundi will organize five polls in a four-month period between May and September, with the presidential election taking place on June 26.

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Tanzanie: Le président autorise la diffusion d'un rapport impliquant des ministres dans un scandale de corruption

Source: Agence Panafricaine de Presse via Koaci.com

10 Décembre 2014 - Le président Jakaya Kikwete Search Jakaya Kikwete a autorisé la diffusion sur les réseaux sociaux et dans les médias d' un rapport d'audit mettant en cause de hauts responsables ainsi que deux ministres dans une affaire de corruption, apprend-on de sources officielle.

Dans un communiqué publié en swahili, le président Kikwete a ordonné la publication du rapport de l'Auditeur des finances publique dans les journaux locaux et sur les réseaux sociaux afin de permettre à un grand nombre de Tanzaniens d' y accéder .

Le rapport révèle « le paiement frauduleux de quelque 120 millions de dollars d'argent public » à une société privée du secteur de l'énergie visant plusieurs hauts responsables.

Le parlement avait demandé lors d'un vote général en Novembre. le limogeage du procureur général Frederick Werema, du ministre de l'Energie, Sospeter Muhongo, de son homologue chargée des affaires foncières, Anna Tibaijuka, et du secrétaire permanent du ministère de l'Energie, Eliakim Maswi.

Rwanda: plainte contre l'Etat pour avoir mis à l'écart le français

Par RFI

10 décembre 2014 - Le Parti démocratique vert rwandais, un parti d'opposition, a intenté une action contre l'Etat auprès de la Cour suprême pour non respect de la Constitution, et notamment de l'article 5 concernant les langues officielles du pays. Pour la formation politique, une mise de côté du français au profit de l'anglais pénaliserait une partie de la population.

Nouveaux billets de banque exclusivement en kinyarwanda et en anglais, documents administratifs non traduits en français. Selon Frank Habineza, le président du Parti démocratique vert rwandais, la langue de Molière tend à disparaître du quotidien des Rwandais, et est de moins en moins utilisée par les institutions étatiques, qui lui préfèrent souvent l'anglais.

Pour lui, cela est inconstitutionnel : « La Constitution dit que le Rwanda a trois langues officielles : le kinyarwanda, le français et l'anglais. Mais actuellement, la langue

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française est mise de côté. Nous avons beaucoup de gens au Rwanda qui ont eu une éducation en français, et donc ils ne peuvent pas jouir des mêmes droits que les autres citoyens. Donc, nous avons déposé un dossier à la Cour suprême pour qu'elle demande aux institutions de l'Etat de respecter la Constitution. »

Plus globalement, Frank Habineza estime que de nombreux Rwandais sont exclus du marché du travail à cause de leur mauvaise maîtrise de l'anglais. Et pour lui, ce problème linguistique a un impact sur le processus de réconciliation : « Lorsque les gens se plaignent et ne peuvent pas avoir du travail, ils se sentent comme des citoyens de seconde zone. Et donc, on ne peut pas se réconcilier correctement. Une fois que ce problème sera résolu, nous pourrons vraiment achever notre processus de réconciliation. »

Tribunal pénal pour le Rwanda : un bon bilan

Source: La Libre.be

11 décembre 2014 - Créé il y a 20 ans, le Tribunal pénal international pour le Rwanda ferme ses portes. Il était chargé de juger les principaux responsables du génocide des Tutsis. L'avocat Eric Gillet en dresse pour nous le bilan.

Quelles sont les réussites du TPIR ?

Pour les comprendre, il faut se replacer au lendemain du génocide. A cette époque, il semblait inconcevable que des gens soient poursuivis et éventuellement condamnés pour ces crimes : depuis le tribunal de Nuremberg, l'impunité régnait en matière de crimes contre l'humanité. Nous avons déposé plainte en Belgique en juillet 1994 (1), sans illusion. D'abord, rien ne s'est produit. Il a fallu accuser le ministre de la Justice de l'époque d'être complice des Interahamwe (2) pour que ça bouge : il a alors fait usage de son droit d'injonction positive, ce qui a abouti au procès des quatre de Butare en 2001 à Bruxelles.

En novembre 1994, le Conseil de sécurité de l'Onu crée le Tribunal pénal international pour le Rwanda (TPIR). Mais la mise en place fut très lente. En 1997, tout d'un coup, plusieurs arrestations de présumés génocidaires ont eu lieu dans divers pays d'Afrique. C'était un premier acquis, qui semblait extraordinaire à l'époque. Par la suite, les "premières" se sont multipliées.

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Rwanda opposition sues over exclusion of French language

Source: AFP

9 December 2014 - A Rwandan opposition party has filed a lawsuit with the central African nation's Supreme Court accusing the government of deliberately sidelining the French language in violation of the constitution.

The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) argued that French should hold equal status to Kinyarwanda and English, and that increased marginalisation of the language was "a hindrance to the national unity and reconciliation process" in Rwanda.

The former Belgian colony has been shifting away from the use of French since the 1994 genocide, after which the Rwandan Patriotic Front of Paul Kagame -- now president -- took power along with his rebels who were trained in English-speaking Uganda.

President Kagame, an English speaker who has steered the country into Commonwealth membership, accuses France of complicity in the genocide because of its support of the Hutu nationalist government that carried out the killings of at least 800,000 people, mainly ethnic Tutsis.

However the DGPR, in a statement released late Monday, said "Article five of the constitution stipulates that Rwanda uses three official languages: Kinyarwanda, French and English."

"Many government institutions such as the National Bank of Rwanda, Rwanda Revenue Authority, National ID Project and many others have opted to either use English alone or with Kinyarwanda, and deliberately left out French," the party said, arguing this isolates a large section of the country's population.

Despite the increasing dominance of English -- which brings Rwanda closer to many east African partners and is seen as an aid to drawing foreign investment -- many Rwandans remain attached to French and are struggling with the change.

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Kenya to sell electricity to Rwanda by next year

Source: Standard Digital

By Jackson Okoth

10 December 2014 - Kenya Power has entered into an agreement to sell 30 megawatt (MW) of electricity to Rwanda. Kenya Power, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd and Rwanda Energy Group Ltd, completed negotiations to facilitate the trade. The sale, expected to commence by July 2015, will be done through an interconnected transmission grid running and connecting Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The agreement provides for the conveying of power through another entity's transmission line network to another customer. "These agreements follow a Memorandum of Understanding that Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda entered into on October 27, 2013 for promotion and sustainable development of power generation and interconnection of transmission and distribution systems and power projects within the three states," said Kenya Power Chief Executive Dr Ben Chumo. He made these remarks during the signing ceremony for the two agreements. Under the deal, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda have agreed to share cheaper generation capacity as it becomes available. Kenya and Uganda also agreed to reinforce their respective transmission grids to facilitate the initial power sale of 30MW by Kenya to Rwanda, through Uganda transmission infrastructure by July 2015.