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



MEDIA MONITORING

11 March 2015

Angola: ICGLR Ministers in Luanda for 10th Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting

Source: Angola Press via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 March 2015 - The Foreign ministers of Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan and Zambia, respectively Kavakure Laurent, Assumani Kiyigi, Barnaba Marial Benjamim and Rayford Mbulu, are since Sunday in Luanda to attend the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Regional Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

At Luanda's "4 de Fevereiro International Airport, the diplomats were welcomed by senior officials of the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is also scheduled the arrival of the Tanzania minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mahadhi Juma Maalim and the special envoy of the UN secretary general to the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit.

The Ordinary Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Regional Committee of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region is going to discuss, among others, the reinforcement of the regional and international cooperation, as well as the humanitarian and security situation.

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an inter-governmental organization of the countries in the African Great Lakes Region. Its establishment was based on the recognition that political instability and conflicts in these countries have a considerable regional dimension and thus require a concerted effort in order to promote sustainable peace and development. Most notable among the conflicts that have had cross-border impacts or origins are the 1994 Rwandan genocide

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that led to the loss of more than 800,000 lives, and the political instability in DRC. These conflicts constituted a major threat to international peace and security.

The organization is composed of twelve member states, namely: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

Angola: Defence Minister, British Diplomat Discuss Great Lakes Peace

Source: Angola Press via AllAfrica.com

Luanda, 10 March 2015 - Matters concerning peace and security in the Great Lakes Region, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were discussed Tuesday in Luanda at a meeting between the Defence minister, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, and the UK diplomat, Paul Arkwright.

Speaking to the press at the end of the meeting, the British diplomat mentioned the need for an exchange of views for the settlement of the DRC's and other latent conflicts in Africa, given the fact that his country is a UN Security Council permanent member and Angola a non-permanent member of the world body.

He said that as a UNSC permanent member, his country is committed to helping seek solutions to peace and security in the DRC and in the Central Africa Republic, adding there is hope that a political consensus will be reached to settle the differences in the above mentioned countries.

Asked to comment on the role being played by Angola as a UNSC non-permanent member, the British diplomat said that despite being a recent seat, the Angolan representative to the UN headquarters and his team have been very efficient and actively participating in all crises settlement effort within the world organisation.

The Republic of Angola is since January 1 this year a UNSC non-permanent member for the second time, for which it was elected with 190 of 193 valid votes on 16 October 2014, in New York, during a UN General Assembly Session.

Angola joined the United Nations Organisation as its 148th member 38 years ago.

Meanwhile, regarding bilateral cooperation in the training of Angolan soldiers, Paul Arkwright said his country has submitted proposals for the purpose.

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DR Congo captures 180 Rwandese rebels

Source: Xinhua

Kinshasa, 10 March 2015 - About 180 fighters of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) have been captured in an operation launched by the DR Congo Armed Forces (FARDC) in North Kivu province, a spokesman for the Congolese army General Leon Kasongo said on Monday.

"All objectives we set out to achieve have been accomplished. We managed to arrest 180 FDLR members although about 66 of them were their dependants and a number of them have been repatriated to Rwanda," he said.

The spokesman said they have recovered at least 60 weapons that were left behind by the enemy. There were also two generators, a huge cache of munitions and machetes that demonstrated the terrorist nature of the group's actions against the population.

"To date, we have been carrying out the operations exclusively as FARDC, and in the operations we are using our own manpower and weapons provided by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo)," he added.

RDC : 180 rebelles rwandais capturés dans l'est du pays

Source: Xinhua

Kinshasa, 9 mars 2015 - Environ 180 rebelles des Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR) ont été capturés dans les opérations des Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) dans la province du Nord-Kivu (est), a indiqué lundi le général Léon Kasongo, porte-parole des FARDC sur la télévision nationale rd-congolaise RTNC.

"Tous les objectifs qui avaient été déterminés (...) ont été conquis. Au plan humain, nous pouvons affirmer que les forces armées ont capturé 180 FDLR. Il y a 66 qui sont des dépendants et une partie ont été rapatriés au Rwanda", a-t-il précisé.

"Au plan matériel, nous avons à ce jour plus au moins 60 armes collectives et individuelles que l'ennemi a abandonnés que nous avons aisément récupéré. Il y a deux groupes électrogènes, une importante quantité de munitions et d'armes, des machettes évidemment pour montrer le caractère terroriste des actions que ces gens mènent contre notre population", a poursuivi le général Kasonga.

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"Jusqu'à ce jour, nous menons et nous avons toujours mené des opérations, exclusivement FARDC, et dans ces opérations, nous utilisons nos moyens propres, humains, matériels et logistiques fournis par la République", a-t-il conclu.

Burundi's electoral stakeholders sign non- violence charter ahead of elections

Source: Xinhua

Under the auspices of the UN Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi (MENUB), Burundian electoral stakeholders Monday evening signed a non-violence charter for fair, inclusive and peaceful upcoming general elections.

10 March 2015 - Signatories of the non-violence charter included the Burundian government represented by Home Affairs Minister Edouard Nduwimana, political parties and coalitions of political parties, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), the civil society and church organizations.

Through the non-violence charter, signatories committed to "promote national unity, peace consolidation and social cohesion" before, during and after the east African country's general elections.

They also committed to abstain from "any sort of violence and provocation" in order to contribute to a favorable environment for the country's electoral process.

Signatories also committed to abstain from disturbing activities of parties with which they do not share the same political views.

Burundi is to hold this year general elections between May and September, with the presidential election to be held on June 26. Enditem

UN Said to Give Boko Haram Post to Onanga-Anyanga, Burundi Trip Controlled

Source: Inner City Press

By Matthew Russell Lee, Exclusive

United Nations, 9 March 2015 - When the UN gives out high positions it announces them -- usually.

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Sometimes Inner City Press is contacted by whistleblowing UN staff or diplomats who say they cannot believe that the UN gave a job without disclosing it. So it was with Augustine Mahiga being quietly named an adviser to the UN Department of Political Affairs, here. Now this:

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga of Gabon, out of a UN job since December when the UN's Mission in Burundi shut down -- and a nice guy, by the way -- has been made the UN's coordinator on Boko Haram, sources exclusively tell Inner City Press, with the UN having made no public announcement.

Inner City Press learned this two weeks ago, and waited at each day's noon briefing for the announcement to be made. On March 9, the announcement was of a new head of OCHA, Stephen O'Brien of the UK, analyzed here. With the Security Council now on its way to the Central African Republic, Addis Ababa and then Burundi, Inner City Press runs this story.

As noted, the Security Council's French-drafted "Terms of Reference" for the trip to Burundi -- which Inner City Press put online here -- didn't even mention the extrajudicial killings in Cibitoke.

For all previous Security Council trips, UN resident correspondent were told if they were interested in covering the trip to contact the UN Spokesperson's Office (although as reported, the French mission then exercised a veto on which journalists could go).

This time it was said journalists had to directly contact the French Mission to the UN, and only that mission. There seemed to be no point. Now after that, it is said that Angola is a co-sponsor, with the US tri-sponsoring the Burundi leg. Inner City Press was asked, "Have you seen the US embassy in Bujumbura?" We'll have more on all this.

Cadavres du lac Rweru: l'UA envoie enfin une mission au Burundi

Source: RFI

10 mars 2015 - C'est une information RFI : la présidente de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, a répondu le 23 février dernier au président burundais, Pierre Nkurunziza, qui lui avait écrit quatre mois plus tôt, presque jour pour jour (le 22 octobre 2014), pour demander une aide dans l'enquête en cours sur le mystère des corps retrouvés flottants sur le lac Rweru. Ce lac est situé entre le Burundi et le Rwanda, et les deux pays se rejettent la responsabilité. L'UA a finalement dit oui à la demande du Burundi, selon nos sources au sein de l'organisation, mais il reste beaucoup de détails à fixer.

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Bujumbura commençait à montrer des signes d'impatience mais tout cela est oublié. L'ambassadeur du Burundi auprès de l'organisation africaine, Alain Nyamitwe, de passage à Bujumbura ce lundi 9 mars au soir, a confirmé l'information.

« Il y avait motif d'inquiétude », a commenté le diplomate burundais. Mais aujourd'hui, l'heure est à la satisfaction : « On n'a pas reçu de calendrier, mais on a une promesse ferme, écrite que la mission sera là bientôt », s'est réjoui l'ambassadeur Nyamitwe. Et d'ajouter : « Nous espérons que ça sera dans des délais raisonnables. »

En réalité, l'Union africaine a longtemps hésité sur la démarche à suivre car deux pays sont concernés. Le Burundi, qui a toujours assuré que les cadavres venaient du Rwanda, et le Rwanda, qui considère que c'est une affaire qui ne le concerne pas car les cadavres ont été retrouvés chez les voisins burundais.

L'Union africaine a songé à envoyer une mission dans les deux pays pour tenter de convaincre de la nécessité de coordonner les deux volets de l'enquête, toujours selon nos sources. Trop compliqué, elle y a renoncé et s'est donc focalisée sur le Burundi, qui a demandé son expertise. Les Etats-Unis, la Suisse et les Pays-Bas se sont engagés à financer le projet, qui verra notamment l'intervention de la plate-forme Justice Rapid Response, basée en Suisse.

Burundi dissident Radjabu on 'easy prison break'

Source: BBC News Africa

10 March 2015 - Leading Burundian dissident Hussein Radjabu has told the BBC that he escaped from prison last week by walking "upright... under the beam of floodlights without any problem".

Burundian police have said prison officials aided the escape.

Radjabu said he was now with his supporters - but did not specify where.

The governing party's ex-chief was seen as Burundi's most powerful man until his arrest in 2007, amid a rumored rift with President Pierre Nkurunziza.

In his interview with the BBC, Radjabu accused the president of having orchestrated his dismissal as party chief, as well as a subsequent trial on charges of plotting against the state.

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Radjabu's escape came eight years into his 13-year prison sentence. He said plans had been afoot to harm him since he was sent to prison. He escaped because it was "the right time for us to do so".

Tension has been growing in Burundi over the president's apparent plans to seek a third term. The move is barred by the constitution and by the Arusha peace deal of 2000, which ended a seven-year civil war.

The governing CNDD-FDD party is said to be split between those who support Mr Nkurunziza's intention to stay in office, and those who oppose it.

Radjabu rejected the coming elections as a sham. He told the BBC he was still the chair of the governing party and that President Nkurunziza should recognise this.

A Burundi police spokesman told the AFP news agency last week that Radjabu's escape had been aided by at least three guards, including the chief warden in charge of the prison's security.

At least two other inmates escaped with him into vehicles that had been waiting outside the prison, the spokesman said.

The escape reportedly took place before midnight on Sunday evening, at a time when many guards were asleep.

Opposition complaints

In 2005, Mr Nkurunziza, a former Hutu rebel leader, became the first president to be chosen in democratic elections since the start of Burundi's civil war in 1994.

Radjabu, who was also a rebel leader, became the head of the CNDD-FDD at the same time. He was regarded as the real power in the country.

Many Burundians saw his arrest in April 2007 as politically motivated.

Mr Nkurunziza was re-elected in June 2010. The vote was boycotted by the opposition, which complained of fraud in the earlier local elections.

Opposition leaders and international observers have since complained of a growing crackdown on opposition parties and the media.

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Burundi: Hussein Radjabu parle

Source: BBC Afrique

9 mars 2015 - Le gouvernement burundais avait affirmé la semaine dernière que Hussein Radjabu s'était évadé de la prison où il était détenu depuis huit ans.

Mais dans une interview à la BBC, M. Radjabu soutient qu'il est sorti sans violence de la prison et a été embarqué à bord de véhicules qui l'attendaient.

Il n'a pas révélé où il se trouvait, mais a déclaré qu'il était avec ses partisans burundais.

Il estime que le président Pierre Nkurunziza doit le respecter en sa qualité de chef du parti au pouvoir, le CNDD-FDD, poste qu'il occupait avant son emprisonnement.

Hussein Radjabu accuse le président d'avoir orchestrer son limogeage et le procès qui l'a condamné à 13 ans de prison en 2008.

Burundi Ambassador says President's Candidacy a Constitutional Question

Source: VOA

9 mars 2015 - Preparations are underway for the June presidential elections in Burundi amid questions whether President Pierre Nkurunziza should run for a third term. While the Burundi leader has not declared his candidacy, the United States and others say he should not do so because it would violate the 2000 Arusha Peace Accords that helped end the country's civil war. But Burundi's ambassador to the United States tells VOA the election question should be decided by the constitution.

Thousands took part recently in a government-backed rally in the Burundian capital, Bujumbura, as the country prepares to hold presidential elections later this year.

Whether President Pierre Nkurunziza is going seek re-election or not, some ordinary citizens are already expressing concern, like this street vendor.

"We do not want to run anymore. We are tired of war. We want somewhere to sell our produce in peace so we can feed our families," she said.

Although President Nkurunziza has not declared his candidacy, some civil society groups say if he wins this would be an illegal third term. The confusion lies in whether his first term should count, because he was elected then by parliament, instead of by direct election under the constitution.

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But U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Gilmour says regardless of what the constitution says the Arusha Peace Accords remain a vital component of the country's continued stability. The accords only allow two terms for a president.

"We hope that the presidential elections will be consistent with the Arusha Accords, including its unambiguous provision regarding executive term limits. And we believe that in the spirit of compromise, balance and power sharing that are inherent in the Arusha Accords, that that has been fundamental to Burundi's laudable progress," said Gilmour.

However, Burundi's ambassador in Washington, Ernest Ndashinze, says the presidential election should be held according to Burundi's constitution.

"The Arusha Accords were a step in the process of resolving our problems. Today we have a constitution approved by Burundians themselves, so everything related to elections, we have all that is needed in the constitution. So a reference to the Arusha agreement is a mistake, because the Arusha agreement is not the constitution of Burundi," said Ndashinze.

A Burundian living in the U.S., Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, says the issue is neither the constitution nor the Arusha Accords.

"We need to give power to the people so that they can be the ones to vote. The concern again here is how they will be influenced, called by the media or the ruling party or the opposition to act in a way that they may not have done," said Nimuraba.

At a recent talk on election preparations, Gilmour said Washington is committed to a stable and democratic society in Burundi. He says \$13 million has been committed in that effort, but there remains cause for concern because of the arrests of journalists, some opposition party members and others who speak out against the government position.

Burundi-Elections 2015: Des rumeurs persistantes sur la création d'un autre CNDD-FDD ...

Source: AGnews

A l'approche du Congrès du CNDD-FDD, la campagne bat son plein au niveau des intrigues au sein du CNDD-FDD et une rumeur de « nyakurisation (*) » du CNDD-FDD se propage ...

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9 mars 2015 - A la commune Kibago, en Province Makamba, ce Samedi 07 Mars 2015, M. Pascal NYABENDA, président du parti CNDD-FDD, était venu inaugurer une nouvelle permanence de son Parti, mais en même temps informer les Bagumyabanga (nom des militants du CNDD-FDD) ...

M. Pascal NYABENDA a informé les Bagumyabanga que des bruits courent concernant la création d'un parti autre que le CNDD-FDD-ABAGUMYABANGA, avec le mot CNDD-FDD. Il a demandé aux Bagumyabanga de ne pas y prêter oreille et de se concentrer sur la campagne pour les élections qui arrivent.

Le Président NYABENDA a aussi demandé aux Bagumyabanga non encore inscrits sur la liste électorale de se préparer à la réouverture de l'enrôlement partiel des électeurs projetée par la Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante CENI du mardi 17 au jeudi 19 mars 2015.

Le Président du CNDD-FDD a redit la position du CNDD-FDD dans le débat imposé par certains média privés et journalistes, certaines associations de la société civile, proches de l'Uprona (ex-parti unique sous la Dictature des Bahima burundais) et certains de leurs alliés étrangers, concernant le fameux 3ème mandat du très populaire président africain du Burundi, S.E. Nkurunziza Pierre [<http://burundi-agnews.org/sports-and-games/?p=15828>].

La position du CNDD-FDD est celle de tous les experts Constitutionnalistes du monde [Éligibilité de l'actuel Président de la République du Burundi aux élections présidentielles de 2015: une analyse juridique. Stef Vandeginste – <http://buja.mondoblog.org/files/2014/11/Eligibilite-President-Burundi.pdf>]. Le Parti CNDD-FDD respecte la Constitution du Burundi et considère que S.E. Pierre NKURUNZIZA n'a fait qu'1 seul mandat présidentiel car il n'a été élu -directement par la population burundaise- qu'une seule fois. Cela signifie que – si le parti CNDD-FDD propose S.E. Nkurunziza Pierre comme son candidat – lors du prochain Congrès qui se profile et que l'assemblée générale des Bagumyabanga CNDD-FDD le propose. Le Parti l'acceptera, car S.E. Pierre NKURUNZIZA sera dans son droit.

Aux Bagumyabanga de Makamba, M. NYABENDA leur a demandé de collaborer avec la Commission Nationale Terre et autres Biens CNTB qui fait du très bon travail en matière de justice transitionnelle au Burundi.

Le parti CNDD-FDD est la première formation politique du Burundi, avec un poids électoral [pe] aux Communales de 2010 de 64%. Historiquement, le CNDD-FDD est héritier du mouvement des Barundi du Burundi qui ont libéré leur pays face à la Dictature des Bahima burundais [http://burundi-agnews.org/guerre_civile_burundaise_1993_2003.htm]. On dit souvent du CNDD-FDD

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qu'il est le parti au Pouvoir. Ce qui est faux car au Burundi, le mode scrutin lors des élections est proportionnel et non majoritaire, comme en France ou en Angleterre (ou aux USA). Ainsi, ce sont des coalitions de partis qui gouvernent et non un seul parti. C'est ici que se situe l'enjeu politique du moment au Burundi autour du 3ème mandat du très populaire président du Burundi, S.E. Nkurunziza Pierre. L'UPRONA, ex parti UNIQUE, espère, avec ses alliés Français et Belges (les anciens Colons et impérialistes) surtout, imposer aux Burundi un autre candidat au CNDD-FDD moins populaire... Cela permettra à ce que les résultats du CNDD-FDD aux élections de 2015 soient moindres que ceux attendus. Et ainsi, lors de la formation des prochaines institutions après les élections de 2015, une coalition d'autres partis politiques autres que le CNDD-FDD pourront prendre la main du pouvoir malgré un CNDD-FDD qui aura gagné en termes de pourcentage. Les enjeux des élections de 2015 sont les enjeux économiques du Burundi, en termes industriel surtout (la distribution du marché des matières premières), qui se joueront entre 2017 et 2025 avec l'équilibre énergétique trouvé dans le pays. Ce sont des contrats qui pourront rapporter plusieurs Milliards d'USD. Avec le Pouvoir CNDD-FDD, ce sont les SUD-AFRICAINS, les CHINOIS, les ANGLO-SAXONS (Américains, Anglais, Australiens etc.), les PAYS-BAS, l'ALLEMAGNE, les PAYS SCANDINAVES, et la SUISSE qui en seront les premiers bénéficiaires avec les BURUNDI. La FRANCE et la BELGIQUE semblent avoir été oubliées...

Le Burundi est un ex – vieux Royaume millénaire africain qui se nommait autrefois - Ingoma Y'Uburundi- [http://www.burundi-agnews.org/histoire_du_burundi.htm]. Terrassé en 1966 par les Bahima burundais (soutenus par la France) et devenu République, pendant plus de 40 ans, le Burundi vivra sous le règne féroce et sanguinaire de la DICTATURE DES BAHIMA Burundais (Micombero, Bagaza, Buyoya) qui a fait, en plus de 40 ans, plus de 4,5 Millions de victimes parmi les Burundi: le fameux génocide régicide contre les Bahutu Burundi – <http://www.burundi-agnews.org/genocide.htm>. Aujourd'hui, ce pays s'apprête à organiser ses 3èmes élections démocratiques consécutives en mai 2015.

(*) Nyakurisation : Syndrome burundais de morcellement d'une formation politique, causé par le tiraillement des élites de ce même parti politique. Ex. SAHWANYA-FRODEBU, FRODEBU NYAKURI, etc.

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BURUNDI PROFILE

Source: BBC News Africa

Burundi, one of the world's poorest nations, is struggling to emerge from a 12-year, ethnic-based civil war.

Since independence in 1962 it has been plagued by tension between the usually-dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority.

The ethnic violence sparked off in 1994 made Burundi the scene of one of Africa's most intractable conflicts.

It began to reap the dividends of a peace process, but faces the formidable tasks of reviving a shattered economy and forging national unity.

In 1993 Burundi seemed poised to enter a new era when, in their first democratic elections, Burundians chose their first Hutu head of state, Melchior Ndadaye, and a parliament dominated by the Hutu Front for Democracy in Burundi (Frodebu) party.

But within months Ndadaye had been assassinated, setting the scene for years of Hutu-Tutsi violence in which an estimated 300,000 people, most of them civilians, were killed.

In early 1994 parliament elected another Hutu, Cyprien Ntaryamira, as president. But he was killed in April alongside the president of neighbouring Rwanda when the plane they were travelling in was shot down over Kigali.

Power sharing

Another Hutu, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, was appointed president in October 1994. But within months, the mainly Tutsi Union for National Progress (Uprona) party withdrew from the government and parliament, sparking a new wave of ethnic violence.

Following long-running talks, mediated by South Africa, a power-sharing government was set up in 2001 and most of the rebel groups agreed to a ceasefire. Four years later Burundians voted in the first parliamentary elections since the start of the civil war.

The main Hutu former rebel group won the vote and nominated its leader Pierre Nkurunziza as president.

The government and the United Nations embarked on the lengthy process of disarming thousands of soldiers and former rebels, as well as forming a new national army, but the authoritarian behaviour of the government following disputed elections in 2010 has cast a shadow over the reconciliation process.

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With the opposition accusing President Nkurunziza of seeking to rewrite the constitution for his party's own gain and of behaving increasingly like a dictator, there were fears of a new wave of unrest ahead of a presidential election scheduled for 2015.

President Kagame Expected in Paris for Major UN Conferences, Reports KT Press

Source: KT Press via PR Newswire

Paris, 10 March 2015 - President Paul Kagame is expected in Paris, France on Thursday where he will attend a closed door Broadband Commission meeting.

The Broadband Commission, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's baby project to drive the Millennium Development Goal for Digital Development, is co-chaired by Kagame and Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim.

During the meet in Paris, organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and UNESCO; policy makers, industry leaders and government representatives, will discuss affordable and universal access to broadband.

UNESCO says it's important to build inclusive knowledge societies putting mankind's concerns, interests and needs at the center of the debate.

Rwanda is heavily investing in infrastructure and policies that intend to transform the society into a knowledge based economy.

This, the government says, will require citizens to have access to accurate and real time information, all of which are provided by ICT tools such as broadband connectivity.

In November 2014, Rwanda launched the fourth Generation Long-Term Evolution (4G-LTE), high speed internet that supports over five times data capacity of up to 100Mbps speeds.

Rwanda says with the launch of 4GLTE, it projects to increase ICT's contribution to GDP by 4% this year, up from 3% last year. ICT also facilitates other sectors including banking, tourism, and hospitality.

Patrick Nyirishema the Director General of Rwanda's Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) says, "Whatever benefits citizens were receiving due to ICT development in the country, will now increase in terms of speed and efficiency."

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With 3,000 kilometres of fibre optic cable connecting more than 317 institutions in all 30 districts, the country intends to increase internet usage to 95% by 2017 from the current 25%, boosting Rwanda's GDP by 13%.

Rwanda's mobile penetration, provided by MTN, Tigo, Airtel, is estimated to be over 71.6%.

Supported by Broadband Systems Corporation, New Artel, Altech Stream and Rwandatel, the telecom companies are under pressure to roll out connectivity as the country experiences a growing demand in e-commerce and e-services, and mobile technologies.

President Kagame is pushing for a global deeper financial inclusion, innovation, ensuring food security, job creation for the youth as well as empowerment for women.

In October 2014, he told the ITU Plenipotentiary Meeting in Busan, S. Korea that this is because, "the world is heading into a future where ICTs fuel economic growth."

Congo Republic coalition seeks to end presidential term limits

Source: Reuters

Reporting by Philon Bondenga, Writing by Daniel Flynn, Editing by Angus MacSwan

Brazzaville, 10 March 2015 - Congo Republic's ruling coalition is seeking a change in the constitution before elections next year that would lift restrictions on veteran President Denis Sassou Nguesso seeking a new term, a senior member said.

The constitution of 2002 limits the number of presidential terms to two and excludes candidates of more than 70 years of age in the oil-producing nation.

That would rule out Sassou-Nguesso, a 71-year-old former military commander, who took power in 1997 at the end of a civil war before winning disputed elections in 2002 and 2009. He had previously ruled the former French colony from 1979 to 1992.

Jean Medard Mapika, president of the Congolese Health Front (FCS) that forms part of the ruling coalition, said the constitutional reform did not directly concern Sassou-Nguesso, who has not officially declared his candidacy for 2016.

"Changing the constitution would simply mean allowing our country to move toward development in peace. But, let's say it frankly, it would allow the statesman Denis

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Sassou N'Guesso to continue the great projects that he began many years ago to develop Congo," Mapika told Reuters.

Sassou Nguesso's ruling Congolese Workers Party (PCT) reportedly called last week for constitutional change to lift the age and term restrictions for the presidency.

The FCS is calling on Sassou-Nguesso to convene a constitutional assembly grouping all the political parties to amend the 2002 charter.

With several veteran African leaders approaching term limits in Africa in the coming years, including in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, the push to drop term limits in Congo Republic is being closely watched.

Burkina Faso's former president Blaise Compaore was toppled by street protests in October when he attempted to change the constitution to remove a term limit for the presidency.

RCA : Sylvain Patassé annonce sa candidature à la Présidence de la République

Source: Alwihda Info

Rédigé par M. PATASSE - 9 Mars 2015

DISCOURS DE SYLVAIN PATASSE LORS DE LA CEREMONIE DU 8 MARS 2015 À BERBERATI, ANNONÇANT OFFICIELLEMENT SA CANDIDATURE À LA PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

- Centrafricaines, Centrafricains, Chers Compatriotes,
- Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles, Messieurs,
- Mes chères mamans et sœurs,

Avant d'entamer mes propos, permettez qu'on observe une minute de silence en mémoire de toutes les victimes des crises successives et multiformes qu'a connues notre pays.

Je vous remercie.

Je tiens particulièrement à vous témoigner ma gratitude pour cette invitation et vous dire à quel point, je suis honoré d'être parmi vous, en cette Journée Internationale de la Femme.

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J'ai accepté d'être ici aujourd'hui afin de rendre un hommage appuyé aux femmes du monde en général et plus particulièrement à la Femme Centrafricaine qui continue de payer un lourd tribut des conséquences de la violence et la barbarie, fruit de l'inconscience des hommes.

Depuis plusieurs années, la République Centrafricaine va mal. Je ne vous apprend rien.

Le pays est confronté à de nombreuses crises multiformes récurrentes.

Ces crises ont engendré des fractures qui opposent les centrafricains les uns aux autres, des divisions et conflits qui font le lit des replis identitaires et religieux.

Ce triste constat m'avait poussé à prendre mes responsabilités de citoyen en présentant ma candidature à l'élection à la présidence de la transition en janvier 2014.

Vos cris de détresse et vos incessants appels ont plus que jamais renforcé ma conviction et ma foi en un avenir meilleur pour notre pays.

Vous êtes le socle de notre société, les gardiennes de notre héritage culturel, la force et l'énergie sans lesquelles aucune action salutaire ne saurait être réalisée dans notre pays.

Chères concitoyennes, chers concitoyens, j'ai mûrement réfléchi depuis notre dernière rencontre ici même à Berbérati.

Personne ne peut demeurer insensible face à la spirale de violence barbare qui secoue notre pays.

Le destin d'une nation est l'affaire de ses Fils et Filles.

Voici donc venu le temps pour la République Centrafricaine de se forger un nouveau destin à travers les consultations à venir.

A votre principale interrogation je réponds sans détour OUI je suis prêt à suivre les pas de notre Président Ange Félix PATASSE.

En tant que Centrafricain, j'ai l'impérieux devoir de réagir et d'agir.

Un adage populaire dit que « ce que femme veut, Dieu veut ».

Si le peuple, surtout les femmes et les jeunes me font confiance pour sauver notre pays de ce naufrage, assurer la cohésion sociale, ramener la paix et la sécurité en vue du bien-être de mes compatriotes, je vous dis OUI je suis votre candidat.

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Nous sommes très en retard sur le reste du monde et sans même aller loin, regardons tout autour de nous.

Désormais, nous avons tous et toutes, l'impérieuse obligation d'entamer une course effrénée vers plus de démocratie, de progrès social, économique, de dialogue interculturel, de justice, de liberté et d'amour du prochain car nous sommes tous et toutes frères et sœurs, mes chers compatriotes.

Vivre ensemble dans la diversité dans un État uni, laïc, paisible, un État de droit où doivent régner l'ordre, la justice et la liberté, est notre objectif.

Un État digne de ce nom qui doit retrouver son autorité pleine et entière.

Un État avec des institutions démocratiques fortes où force reste à la loi.

Ce n'est qu'à cette condition que la RCA rebondira. Nous n'avons pas le droit de nous décourager.

Montrons à la face du monde que tous ces événements malheureux et douloureux ne sont que des faux pas, conséquences de la bêtise humaine.

Nous avons la possibilité de renverser la situation en notre faveur.

L'une des exigences fondamentales pour y arriver est l'exercice d'un leadership politique éclairé, inclusif et respectueux de tous les citoyens dans leurs diversités ethniques, confessionnelles, idéologiques et politiques.

Ce qui nous unit, chers compatriotes, à savoir l'amour de la Patrie, notre volonté de la sauver du déclin, de la propulser dans la voie de l'émergence économique et sociale doit être beaucoup plus fort que ce qui nous divise. C'est en travaillant ensemble en toute fraternité, que l'on peut bâtir durablement et efficacement notre pays.

C'est donc à un tel sursaut patriotique que je vous convie, que je vous engage.

Laissons nos querelles belliqueuses derrière nous et avançons vers un avenir meilleur pour nous-mêmes et surtout pour nos enfants.

Notre pays a beaucoup d'atouts : une terre fertile, des ressources naturelles considérables, le Sango notre langue nationale et officielle, en partage avec le Français, est parlée sur toute l'étendue du territoire.

Notre Sango national est, et doit être un facteur d'unité nationale.

Nous devons rectifier le tir en changeant de comportement et nous engager résolument pour l'émergence de notre pays. Cette responsabilité nous incombe tous.

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Pour paraphraser le Président Américain OBAMA, je dirai, « nous aussi, nous pouvons» .

Depuis les premiers instants où vous avez manifesté votre ardent désir de me voir jouer un rôle de tout premier plan sur l'échiquier national, je n'ai cessé de murir ma réflexion sur la vision que je projette de la Nouvelle Centrafrique Unie, prospère, où tout un chacun a sa place.

C'est pourquoi, aujourd'hui 08 Mars 2015, je déclare solennellement et officiellement m'engager dans la course à l'Election Présidentielle Centrafricaine de 2015 et vous demande de me soutenir pour la conquête du Pouvoir en vue du bien-être de la Centrafricaine et du Centrafricain.

Je souhaite être celui qui apportera un souffle nouveau à notre chère patrie.

Je suis celui qui sera capable de rétablir le vivre ensemble entre les différentes communautés.

Mon programme d'actions dont les détails seront rendus publics prochainement, repose sur quatre grands axes à savoir :

I/ SECURITE ET GOUVERNANCE

II/ DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE

III/ INVESTIR DANS LES RESSOURCES HUMAINES IV/- ENVIRONNEMENT ET DESENCLAVEMENT

Je voudrais avec votre permission, profiter de cette occasion pour remercier les Forces Internationales ainsi que leurs peuples et gouvernements respectifs venus nous aider et nous rappeler à la raison.

Vive la Centrafrique Unie, Libre et Solidaire. Que Dieu bénisse la Centrafrique.

Je vous remercie.

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Centrafrique : un ancien ministre de la Séléka arrêté à Bangui

Source: Agence d'Information d'Afrique centrale

Par Fiacre Kombo

Le général Mahamat Ousman Mahamat, ancien ministre de l'Urbanisme sous la présidence de Michel Djotodia, a été arrêté lundi par la gendarmerie et la Brigade d'intervention rapide(BIR) pour possession illégale d'armes et constitution de bande armée.

10 mars 2015 - « Cet officier ex-séléka était recherché depuis quelque temps par les services de sécurité. Il se promenait toujours avec des armes dans son véhicule ainsi que des aides de camp en dépit de la levée des mesures de confiance obtenue depuis le 20 février », selon une source proche du dossier citée par la presse locale. D'après la même source, l'ex-ministre a été appréhendé alors qu'il se rendait à l'aéroport pour accueillir son épouse qui rentrait de voyage.

Le général est soupçonné depuis un certain moment par les autorités et les forces internationales surplace, comme un véritable faiseur de loi dans la dernière enclave musulmane de PK5 dans le troisième arrondissement de Bangui. « Il détiendrait à son domicile de nombreux véhicules et une grande quantité d'armes. Ses hommes en majorité des ex-Séléka, ont le contrôle du quartier Camerounais, un autre quartier très populaire de PK5 », s'exclame un habitant de la localité. Et d'ajouter que l'arrestation de ce chef rebelle permettrait enfin aux habitants de PK5 de retrouver la tranquillité tant recherchée.

Le célèbre général Mahamat Ousman a eu sa notoriété grâce à sa proximité avec le numéro deux de la Séléka, le général Nourredine Adam. Ce dernier lui a même confié le poste de conseiller au sein du mouvement Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC), qui est d'ailleurs présidé par l'ancien président Djotodia.

D'origine tchadienne, Mahamat Ousman était le sous-préfet de Moundou, une commune du sud du Tchad, avant de rejoindre l'ex-rébellion séléka. À en croire certaines sources, l'homme serait recherché par N'Djamena qui le suspecte de « conspiration » contre le régime d'Idriss Deby.

Cette arrestation est un coup dur infligé à l'ex-coalition séléka pourchassée ponctuellement par les forces internationales. Elle risque, attendant de voir, de replonger la capitale Bangui dans une spirale de violences. Justement lors de son arrestation, le chef de guerre laissait entendre qu' « il n'excluait pas de mettre Bangui à feu et à sang s'il n'était pas libéré dans les minutes qui suivaient ».