

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN MINERALS AND ENERGY SUCCESS IN AFRICA



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Africa - General

Resurrecting the Pan-African parliament

Looking at the European leaders of the far-right populist parties on TV, the great winners of European elections, Mr Cherif the author of this article, remembered that Africa had a pan-African Parliament. He then questioned himself on what was the name of its President? Although being an informed observer of African politics, he was unable to cite the name of President Roger Nkodo Dang!

Why he asked himself? Because, ironically, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), appointed by the AU Assembly whose motto is: "One Africa, one voice", remains, since its inception in 2004, largely inaudible, merely acting as a legislative body, exercising advisory and consultative oversight of the AU's activities.

By energising the institution and recreating the Pan-African Parliament as a place of power, the question of its significance would be resolved. Giving a voice to the Pan-African Parliament would create a link between the African people and the AU, and generate a needed dynamic, continental-wide polity.

Report based on source: 'Ressuscitons notre parlement panafricain'. Jeune Afrique, 8 June 2019, by N'doli Jean-Hugues Cherif <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/782797/politique/tribune-ressuscitons-notre-parlement-panafricain/>

Recommendations for future EU-Africa relations, 20 years after the Cotonou Agreement,

While the 2000 Cotonou Agreements signed between 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the EU will expire on 29 February 2020, negotiations have begun to restructure the partnership.

On 12 June, the French trans-partisan think tank, 'Institut Montaigne', published a 72-page report detailing its proposals for the future partnership in order for it to "to be a rich, exemplary partnership, without the burden of the past that may prevent the construction of a solid and durable relationship". The context of the Africa-EU partnership has however changed in twenty years and the links between the two continents have very much altered. Africa's demographic challenges, global warming and migratory phenomena have complicated their relationships.

On both continents, it has become apparent that only the development of a strong private sector would bring the jobs that the African continent urgently needs for the 30 million young people who join its labour market each year.

With these challenges in mind, the Institut Montaigne formulated twelve recommendations to structure the joint African-European enterprise:

1. Set-up a partnership aligned with the UN's 17 sustainable development goals.
2. Set up a Euro-African Chamber of Arbitration.
3. Set-up a European PPP for infrastructure development in Africa.
4. Set-up links between like industries in Africa and Europe.
5. Optimise the fiscal base throughout Africa minimising the informal workforce.
6. Support agricultural development.
7. Share institutional expertise.
8. Build up training programs.
9. Promote joint EU-Africa teams for technical assistance .
10. Simplify SME access to European funding.
11. Develop PPP financing.
12. Support networking between economic actors.

In summary, the Institute recommends mapping, structuring and animating a network of new African economic, political and cultural actors and institutions, strengthening their organisation, competences and governance". A link to the report Institut Montaigne is attached below.

Maybe not just the Western Australian government, but the Australian federal government should make an effort to also engage in a more meaningful manner with the AU as well as with individual African countries. Understanding Australia is but a small country stuck at the bottom end of Asia (and for some people totally dependent and responsible to our US "Big Brother"), we should still try to develop our own durable partnerships with our Indian Ocean neighbours – not just temporary links in order to win a non-permanent seat on the UNSC?

Report based on source: 'Vingt ans après les Accords de Cotonou, 12 recommandations pour les futures relations UE-Afrique'. Jeune Afrique, 12 June 2019 by Alain Faujas

https://www.jeuneafrique.com/787290/economie/vingt-ans-apres-les-accords-de-cotonou-12-recommandations-pour-les-futures-relations-ue-afrique/?utm_source=newsletter-ja-eco&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-ja-eco-12-06-19 and <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/publications/europe-afrique-partenaires-particuliers>

Trump alters course to counter Russia and China

War of influence with Moscow and Beijing, budget cuts to diplomacy... on 13 December 2018, in a statement made before the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, unveiled the administration's American strategy in Africa for 2019.

Approved the day before by the US President, this new policy is aimed at countering the Russians and the Chinese, who are rapidly expanding their financial and political influence in Africa, said John Bolton. According to him, these geopolitic competitors deliberately and aggressively target their investments in the region in order to have a competitive advantage over the USA.

The results of this aggressive strategy is the mess that the world is rapidly sinking into!

In addition to John Bolton and Mike Pompeo, who advises Donald Trump on his African policy?

- Cyril Sartor: Former Deputy Director of the CIA, he is Special Adviser to Donald Trump and Africa Director of the National Security Council at the White House.
- J. Peter Pham : United States Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region. Pham directs the Africa Centre within the Atlantic Council, a pro-republican think tank. Trilingual, he speaks fluent French and had been approached to become Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
- Tibor Nagy : Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, he was also Ambassador to Guinea and Ethiopia.
- Donald Yamamoto : Ambassador to Somalia, and ex-"Mister Africa" to the President, in the recent past he has been Ambassador to Djibouti and Ethiopia.

Report based on source: 'Trump change de cap en Afrique pour contrer les pratiques prédatrices de la Russie et de la Chine'. Jeune Afrique, 13 December 2018 by JA and AFP

<https://www.jeuneafrique.com/685721/politique/etats-unis-trump-change-de-cap-en-afrique-pour-contrer-les-pratiques-predatrices-de-la-russie-et-de-la-chine/> and

<https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/782895/politique/qui-conseille-donald-trump-sur-sa-politique-africaine/>

BNP Paribas in retreat!

The French magazine Jeune Afrique reports that according to available information, the large French Bank (AUD 125 trillion on their 2018 balance sheet) is in the process of selling five of its African subsidiaries: Gabon, Tunisia, Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea.

Why? Allegedly because, after many years of tensions with local partners and the paucity of these markets, the bank is considerably reducing its activities in certain regions. Nevertheless, it is urging the general public and its investors not to see these moves as preparation of a complete exit from the continent.

Report based on source: 'BNP Paribas sonne la retraite'. Jeune Afrique, 2 June 2019 by Joël Té-Léssia

Assoko <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/782297/economie/banque-bnp-paribas-cede-cinq-de-ses-filiales-africaines/> and <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/dossiers/banque-bnp-paribas-sonne-la-retraite/>

Algeria

Algeria's economic crisis - A time bomb

As street demonstrations continue, paralysis in the economic sector further pushes the country into crisis. Economic activity was said to have stalled before the fall of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, but the estimated losses recorded in recent weeks stand at some US\$ 1 billion (AUD 1.4 billion).

The worse is yet to come and some believe that by September the situation will become explosive.

Report based on source: 'La bombe à retardement de la crise économique'. Jeune Afrique, 6 juin

2019 by Neila Latrous https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/782392/economie/algerie-la-bombe-a-retardement-de-la-crise-economique/?utm_source=newsletter-ja-eco&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-ja-eco-06-06-19

Angola

Eni and Sonangol agree on renewable energy initiatives in Angola

Eni and Sonangol signed a Heads of Agreement for the incorporation of Solenova Ltd, a joint controlled company set up to research and develop renewable energy opportunities in Angola. The creation of this new company is consistent with the country's energy strategy that establishes a target of 800 MW of installed renewable capacity by 2025, with a specific focus on utility scale solar projects.

This first jointly-identified business opportunity in the renewable energy sector consists in the phased development of a 50 MW photovoltaic plant in the Southern part of the country, which currently relies on diesel for electricity production.

This initiative, and others under evaluation, are in line with the Angolan global strategy of increasing renewable energy production of electricity while reducing dependence on diesel and lowering operating costs and carbon dioxide emissions.

Eni strategy in renewables business foresees the realisation of more than 60 worldwide brownfield and greenfield projects, for a total of over 1.6 GW of wind and solar capacity by 2022 and up to 5 GW by 2025, achieved through an investment of €1.4 billion in the 2019-2022 period.

Angola is regarded as a strategic country in Eni's organic growth scenario, a country in which Eni has been present since 1980. In Angola, the company currently accounts for some 150,000 BOEPD.

Report based on source: ENI company media announcement, 5 June 2019

https://www.eni.com/en_IT/media/2019/06/eni-and-sonangol-agree-on-renewable-energy-initiatives-in-angola

Burundi

Rainbow Rare Earths secures loan for Burundi REE project

The London-listed Rainbow Rare Earths, which owns the rare earth elements (REE) Gakara project, one of the few mining projects in Burundi, has secured a AUD 700,000 loan from its biggest shareholder, Pella Ventures, to support its RRE development and operation plans. The loan is to be applied towards general working capital purposes.

CEO Martin Eales stated that "The funding agreement provides working capital while the company finalises its short-term plans to finance the company's planned investment program. Our project is exceptional and is one of the highest-grade mines of its type in the world".

"We have been working hard at developing a short-term strategy to maximise concentrate production from the high-grade veins through the acquisition of new fit-for-purpose mining vehicles and the development of multiple mining areas; develop the upside potential of the large lower-grade resource at Kiyenzi for future mining; and progress our investigation into the feasibility of further processing our concentrate..." Eales added.

The company expects REE concentrate production for the year to June will be 800 t to 900 t.

Report based on source: 'Rainbow Rare Earths secures loan for Burundi REE project'. Creamer Media's Mining Weekly, 7 May 2019 by Tasneem Bulbulia
<https://www.miningweekly.com/article/rainbow-secures-700-000-loan-2019-05-07>

Cape Verde

Opening of a US security and law enforcement training centre

In 2018 and with the help of the USA, Cape Verde began the construction of a large training centre built at a cost of US\$ 125 million (AUD 180 million). The training center was planned to host approximately 150 trainees a year and integrate intelligence services, military telecommunications, anti-poaching and cybercrime. Nibor Enterprises, an American group led by a former head of the Israeli army, Eddie Zilberberg, was entrusted with the project of delivering the Centre by the Cape Verdean Government.

Note the unusual situation, with Huawei's cloud-based technology and platform architecture integral to the small nation's eGovernment project which includes a nationwide network and data centre 'designed to boost efficiency and enable resource sharing for education, healthcare, and other services'. This project is aimed at creating a springboard for digitalisation and transform the archipelago into an information hub for West Africa's coastal countries.

Talk about a dichotomous situation!

Report based on source: 'Ouverture d'un centre américain pour former les forces de sécurité'. Jeune Afrique, 19 February 2018 by JA <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/529510/politique/cap-vert-un-centre-americain-ouvrira-pour-former-les-forces-de-securite/> and 'Cape Verde goes digital'. Magazine Win-Win, 19 September 2018 by Chen Yingying <https://www.huawei.com/en/about-huawei/publications/winwin-magazine/31/bringing-the-digital-world-to-cape-verde-archipelago>

CAR

The rebel group 3R, accused of a massacre delivers three of its own to the authorities

Accused of being responsible for the massacre of more than 50 civilians in the northwest of the country, the Central African armed group 3R handed over three of its own to the authorities for prosecution. These groups and the government had come together in a peace agreement through the intervention of Russian negotiators, as reported in the past by the Africa-focused online magazine, www.jeuneafrique.com. The President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, has decreed on Thursday three days of national mourning in tribute to the victims of this deadly week.

Report based on source: 'Le groupe 3R, accusé d'un massacre, livre trois de ses éléments à la justice'. Jeune Afrique, 25 May 2019 by JA and AFP
<https://www.jeuneafrique.com/779886/societe/centrafrique-le-groupe-3r-accuse-dun-massacre-livre-trois-de-ses-elements-a-la-justice/>

DRC

IMF warns on overdependence on mining revenues

In view of an anticipated decline in mining revenues that may slow the growth of Congolese GDP, an IMF mission has recommended that Kinshasa consolidate its revenue base, including tax, while encouraging a diversification of the economy.

The IMF delivered a report on DRC on 5 June 2019, in which it advocates adjustments to economic and financial policies. The report stresses that "the macroeconomic stability [of the DRC] has continued to consolidate in 2018 thanks to the prudent macroeconomic policies taken since mid-2017" and that "growth of non-mining activities is expected to more than double in 2019". This is potentially due to an increase in public investment and post-election optimism. From 3.7% in 2017 to 5.8% in 2018, GDP growth is projected to be around 4.3% for 2019.

Finally, in view of the dependence on the American dollar in the international financial system and the vulnerability of the DRC to external economic shocks, the report encourages the Congolese authorities to "continue efforts to significantly increase [their] international reserves compared to their current low level – about three weeks of import coverage".

Would it be logical to also encourage the Congolese to also diversify their international reserves... by including a basket of currencies in addition to US dollars?

Report based on source: 'Le FMI met en garde contre la trop forte dépendance aux recettes minières'. Jeune Afrique, 6 June 2019 by Théau Monnet

https://www.jeuneafrique.com/785149/economie/rdc-le-fmi-met-en-garde-contre-la-trop-forte-dependance-aux-recettes-minieres/?utm_source=newsletter-ja-eco&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-ja-eco-06-06-19

Djibouti

Chinese engagement driving robust Ethiopia-Djibouti socioeconomic linkages

In February 2019, Government representatives from Ethiopia and Djibouti together with representatives of the Chinese petroleum giant Poly-GCL Petroleum Group (Poly-GCL), signed an agreement to construct the 767-km Ethiopia-Djibouti natural gas pipeline to transport natural gas from the landlocked eastern Ethiopia region of Somali, to the Djibouti Port along the Red Sea.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Mines and Petroleum said that the project will "immensely contribute" to the two countries' economy with much-needed foreign currency, as well as reticulate a portion of production to meet local needs.

Construction will be finalised in two years and will regenerate in excess of US\$ 1 billion a year from the exploitation of the 7 TCF natural gas Calub Hilala reservoir discovered in the 1980's by Russian explorers and recently re-evaluated by Poly-GCL.

Report based on source: 'Chinese engagement driving robust Ethiopia-Djibouti socioeconomic linkages'. Xinhua News Agency, 19 February 2019 http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/19/c_137834711.htm

Eritrea

Could a new potash project spur sustainable growth?

In December 2018, Danakali Limited (ASX: DNK) secured a US\$200 million syndicated loan facility towards the construction of its 50:50 JV Colluli sulphate of potash (SOP) mining project in Eritrea. The project has the potential to significantly improve economic benefits for the country.

Since exploration work began at the site in 2010, a billion tonnes of very shallow, high-grade potassium bearing salts suitable for the production of potash have been identified. It will be the only open-cut potash mine in the world, with advantages in CAPEX and OPEX and is also easily accessible, 230 km by road from the Port of Massawa.

Eritrea is located on the Horn of Africa, putting it within reach of several major markets including the Middle East, Africa, India, and the Mediterranean.

Report based on source: 'Could a new potash project spur sustainable growth?'. Mining Technology, 22 May 2019 By Molly Lempriere <https://www.mining-technology.com/features/mining-in-eritrea-potash-project/>

Gambia

Continuing dispute over Block A1

30 April 2019, BP signed a contractual agreement with the Gambian Government to explore for offshore oil and gas within the deepwater Petroleum Block, A1. The agreement was signed as majors from across the globe scramble for a greater acreage position in this region of African offshore and seek to emulate the significant oil and gas finds made in neighbouring Senegal and Mauritania.

The A1 block is one of two that the Gambian government stripped from Norwegian-listed African Petroleum Corporation in 2017, saying the licences had expired and that the company had failed to meet contractual obligations. African Petroleum disputed that claim and launched arbitration proceedings in October 2017 at the U.S.-based International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. No resolution has been announced on the case.

On the day of BP's signature with the government of The Gambia, African Petroleum stated that it continued to reserve its rights in relation to the A1 licence and would continue with its efforts to protect its interest through arbitration. A spokeswoman for BP declined to comment on the arbitration proceedings and said it had won the license in a bidding round.

Report based on source: 'African Petroleum responds to media articles re Block A1'. Energy-pedia, 1 May 2019 <https://www.energy-pedia.com/news/gambia/african-petroleum-respond-to-media-articles-re-gambia-block-a1-176544> and <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-bp-gambia/bp-enters-gambia-with-exploration-deal-in-disputed-a1-block-idUKKCN1S62OJ>

Guinea-Bissau

Australia's FAR and Svenska to drill Guinea Bissau's first deepwater petroleum well

The underlying exploration potential of offshore Guinea-Bissau has long been recognised given the

functioning hydrocarbon system, good potential reservoirs and multiple drillable prospects and leads. In April 2004, Premier Oil had announced the completion of the Sinapa-2 well located in the shallow offshore of Guinea Bissau in West Africa, plugged and abandoned as an oil, salt-diapir related discovery, but had not continued with the project.

In late April 2015, the Government of Guinea-Bissau approved a 2-year extension to the current exploration terms of the FAR-Svenska JV. A second extension was granted to November 2020, as in the wake of the discovery in the SNE-1 well in Senegal, the JV has acquired additional seismic data specifically designed to evaluate a SNE look-alike which was previously only partially covered by 3D data. In March 2019, the joint venturers were getting ready to drill the first well on the Atum prospect.

A discovery would dramatically change the economic future of this small, impoverished country and make some of its less well-intentioned elites not so dependent on illegal trafficking?

Report based on source: FAR's website accessed 7 June 2019 <https://www.far.com.au/africa/guinea-bissau/>, Premier's website accessed 7 June 2019 <http://www.premier-oil.com/premieroil/media/press/sinapa-well> and Svenska website accessed 7 June 2019 http://www.svenska.com/assets/exploration/west_africa/

Liberia

Dictatorship in Liberia?

Social media access was blocked in Liberia this past week just before massive protests rocked the West African nation on Friday 7 June. Over five thousand people in a nation of 4.8 million hit the streets of Monrovia, the capital city, to protest worsening economic conditions and state corruption.

Liberia's 'Save the state' protests are coming 18 months after football hero George Weah was voted in as president amid wild celebrations. The protests were organised by the Council of Patriots, a group comprising of opposition parties, civil society activists and ordinary citizens.

The protests show that the people will not stand for inefficient and corrupt leadership anymore. Liberians want President Weah to urgently implement economic policies that'll ease the burden of the country's poor and exploited; They want corrupt officials removed; and perpetrators of violence during the civil war must face justice.

Although cutting access to internet is a classic move by African dictators, it is worrying that the protests may have underlying political motives. Some of the opposition organisers were members of now-imprisoned former president Charles Taylor's government.

Report based on source: 'A 'creeping dictatorship' in Liberia?' Africa Insiders' Newsletter by African Arguments #64 by Scholltupe 11/6/19 <https://africanarguments.org/>

Lesotho

Lucapa Diamond Mining Company operating in a stable country?

The National Assembly speaker in Lesotho, Sephiri Motanyane, has averted a potential vote of no confidence against Prime Minister Tom Thabane by excluding the motion from the agenda.

Supporters of PM Thabane had filed a motion for the House to go on winter break, hoping the speaker would adjourn the house without a vote, but he didn't.

On Thursday 7 June, a sitting of the National Assembly could have descended into chaos, but Speaker Motanyane made rulings that neutralised the situation. The motion to adjourn the house for winter by supporters of the Prime Minister did not pass, while the Speaker pointed out that according to the Constitution, a nominated MP to replace Thabane would have to be leader of the opposition. As Sam Rapapa had not been named leader to date, he threw the motion out.

Thabane remains prime minister and the tiny country of Lesotho remains in suspense, with Lucapa Diamond Mining Company Ltd's prolific Mothae Mine possibly apprehensive of any potential negative development coming from this political confusion.

Report based on source: 'Failed motion of no confidence in Thabane'. Eyewitness News 7 June 2019 by Nthakoana Ngatane <https://ewn.co.za/2019/06/07/thabane-remains-prime-minister-in-lesotho-amid-political-tensions>

Mali

After the intercommunity "carnage" over the last few days, "survival" of the country is at stake

An attack on the night of Sunday to Monday 10 June that killed at least 95 people ravaged a Dogon village in central Mali (possibly revised down to 35).

According to President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (IBK) this series of the reprisals and counter reprisals that have recently occurred in that region of Mali threatens the very existence of the multi-ethnic country.

Report based on source: 'Mali : après le « carnage » dans un village du Centre, la « survie » du pays est en jeu, estime IBK'. Jeune Afrique, 11 June 2019 by JA and AFP
https://www.jeuneafrique.com/786879/politique/mali-apres-le-carnage-dans-un-village-du-centre-la-survie-du-pays-est-en-jeu-estime-ibk/?utm_source=newsletter-ja-actu-abonnes&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-ja-actu-abonnes-11-06-19

Mozambique

African brands are coming of age?

If the cigar has always had its share of amateurs on the continent, its consumption is becoming more widespread with the commercialisation of 100% African brands.

When he left London for Mozambique in 2013, Kamal Moukheiber, a former banker, was far from imagining that he was going to launch the very first African brand of cigars, emulating Robert Mondavi, the American winegrower who gave birth to the Napa Valley wine industry in California.

2016 saw the birth of Bongani cigars, 'Bongani' meaning "be thankful" in Zulu and Shangaan. "This translates the spirit of our brand. Our cigars are made in Africa by Africans for Africans...[and anyone else who wishes to smoke a good cigar!]." says Kamal Moukheiber.

Report based on source: 'Cigares : quand les marques 100 % africaines font un tabac'. Jeune Afrique 6 June 2019 by Katia Dansoko Touré https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/782302/culture/cigares-quand-les-marques-100-africaines-font-un-tabac/?utm_source=newsletter-ja-eco&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-ja-eco-06-06-19 =

Nigeria

Boko Haram rearming

For a while on the back foot in Nigeria, Boko Haram is back on the offensive as an outcome of the reinforcement of Islamic State fighters that have fled the Middle East for the 'safer' the Sahel of Africa.

The chaos created in Libya wasn't enough, and the Middle East had to be further destabilised to add to the mess that is growing in West Africa. Maybe Zbig Brzezinski is still whispering geopolitical objectives in the President's ear, or maybe his advisers'?

Report based on source: : 'Menace jihadiste : au Nigeria, Boko Haram se renforce'. Jeune Afrique, 20 May 2019 by Mathieu Olivier <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/776680/politique/menace-jihadiste-au-nigeria-boko-haram-se-renforce/>

Rwanda

Focusing on building up its mining potential

In an interview with Mining Review Africa, Honourable Francis Gatare, CEO of the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), spoke about the country's focus on rapidly building its mining sector and what it hopes to achieve. A new mining code and related regulatory framework are presently being further revised to create a most favourable investment environment for the industry.

Report based on source: : 'Focusing on building up its mining potential'. Mining Review Africa Mar 1, 2019 <https://www.miningreview.com/top-stories/rwanda-mining-potential/>

Somalia

UN reduces its peacekeeping force

Friday 31 June, the UN decided to reduce its peacekeeping forces in Somalia (AMISOM) by a thousand as part of a recent objective of disengagement in Somalia. This in despite an increase in attacks by Shabaab fighters including in the capital city, Mogadishu.

Report based on source: 'l'ONU réduit d'un millier d'hommes la mission militaire africaine'. Jeune Afrique 1 June 2019 by JA with AFP <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/779886/societe/centrafrique-le-groupe-3r-accuse-dun-massacre-livre-trois-de-ses-elements-a-la-justice/> and <http://africangeopolitics.com/en/somalia-al-shabaab/>

Petroleum law passed, paving way for exploration

Hydrocarbon discoveries in Uganda and Kenya and huge gas finds in Mozambique and Tanzania have fanned investor interest in east Africa's onshore and offshore hydrocarbons potential. However, until today Somalia has been mired in insecurity and lawlessness since the toppling of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in the early 1990s.

To counter this, Somalia passed an inaugural Petroleum Law on Monday 20 May 2019, paving the way for exploration in its waters that could transform the troubled country's economy if hydrocarbon reserves are discovered in viable quantity. Among other features, the new legislation allows for revenue sharing between the central government and federal states.

Early this year Somalia began preliminary preparations for a licensing round. With the establishment of the new Petroleum Law, it is anticipated that PSAs (production-sharing agreements) over 15 delineated exploration blocks covering some 75,000 square kilometres, these preparations will enable an early beginning to exploration activity.

Report based on source: 'Petroleum law passed, paving way for exploration'. Reuters. May 20, 2019 <https://www.reuters.com/article/somalia-oil/somalia-passes-petroleum-law-paving-way-for-exploration-idUSL5N22W3RR>

Uganda

Tensions after a border incident

Kampala has accused the Rwandan army of killing two people near a border post during an incursion that the authorities describe as a territorial violation. Kigali contests this version of the incident. After several months of crisis, the incident marked a new surge in tension between the two countries.

Report based on source: 'Rwanda – Ouganda : la tension monte après un nouvel incident à la frontière'. Jeune Afrique, 27 May 2019 By Roman Gras <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/780280/politique/rwanda-ouganda-la-tension-monte-apres-un-nouvel-incident-a-la-frontiere/>

Zambia

A Tax Crusade Worrying Miners

Zambia's government has long complained that it doesn't derive sufficient revenue from its copper industry, Africa's second-biggest and the world's seventh-largest. President Edgar Lungu, denounced by some as a dictatorial leader, upped the ante in May accusing the local unit of Vedanta Resources Ltd. of lying about its expansion plans and cheating on taxes. A state-owned company is now moving to liquidate Vedanta's assets. Lungu's heavy-handed embrace of resource nationalism, which could be directed at winning re-election in 2021, has the potential to upend copper markets.

There's a fundamental disagreement over how Zambia's copper spoils should be shared between the state and companies that mine them. Tensions have boiled to the surface whenever the government has sought to raise taxes and companies have responded with threats of shaft closures and job cuts. Other companies have also been targeted -- First Quantum Minerals Ltd. was

presented an almost \$8 billion tax bill last year, while Glencore Plc has been ordered to surrender shafts it had planned to mothball to local companies so they can continue operating.

Could more mines be seized? Possibly. Lungu has said Zambia's "divorce" with Vedanta was just a start

Report based on source: 'Why a Tax Crusade in Zambia Worries Copper Miners'. Bloomberg, 10 June 2019 By Matthew Hill <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-06-10/why-a-tax-crusade-in-zambia-worries-copper-miners-quicktake>

End report