

## 6 new Brics members

Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Egypt and Ethiopia will join the Brics on 1. January 2024.

## Nigeria: Food aid

The Nigerian government has approved the disbursement of 5 billion naira (\$6.5 million; £5.1 million) to each of the country's 36 states and the federal capital for the procurement of food for the poor. Bags of rice, maize and fertiliser will also be distributed. The move is part of measures to alleviate the rising cost of living following President Bola Tinubu's decision to remove fuel subsidies when he took office in May. Since then, fuel prices have risen by 200 % and food prices have more than doubled. 23.08.2023

## African countries struggle to control their "green minerals"

As global demand for green minerals such as lithium, copper and cobalt surges, African countries are developing policies to control the mining and export of these important minerals. Ghana is the latest country to announce the adoption of a green minerals policy to control the mining and production of lithium and help local companies tap into a multi-billion dollar industry. Namibia and Zimbabwe have banned the export of unprocessed lithium and other key minerals. 22.08.2023

## Congo DRC: Worst cholera crisis since 2017

A surge in conflict and displacement in eastern DRC is leading to the worst cholera crisis for children since 2017, with at least 31,342 suspected or confirmed cholera cases and 230 deaths nationwide in the first seven months of 2023, many of them children. In the hardest-hit province of North Kivu, there were more than 21,400 confirmed or suspected cases, including more than 8,000 children under the age of 5, according to the Ministry of Health. In 2022, there were a total of 5,120 cases, including 1,200 for children under 5.

## Hope against expectation

Heads of state attending the SADC summit in Luanda, Angola, said they hoped that the elections in Zimbabwe would be free and fair, as would the elections in Eswatini, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), all due in the last quarter of the year. Zimbabwe's elections will be held next week, on 23 August, followed by Eswatini, which will hold its Tinkhundla electoral system on 29 September, Madagascar on 9 November and the DRC on 20 December. Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa attended the summit, as did the King of Eswatini, Mswati III, and the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Felix Tshisekedi. 22.08.

## Chad: Urgent international aid needed

As people continue to flee the conflict in Sudan, more than 358,000 refugees have arrived in the border town of Adré in eastern Chad. Refugee camps are being set up, but the shelters and basic facilities in the camps are totally inadequate. The existing camps are already at full capacity, as are the temporary transit shelters. Therefore, people are being moved to other places far outside the city, where new camps are still being built. About 2,000 refugees arrive every day. 22.08.2023

## Niger: Disinformation an easy business

Following the coup d'état in July, Niger has become the latest theatre of disinformation. From false rumours and

misleading videos to manipulated audio clips, Agence France-Presse (AFP) has debunked more than a dozen claims on social media that either supported or discredited the coup plotters after the overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum on 26 July. 21.08.2023

## Burkina Faso: Law to depoliticise government

Poor management of public affairs is cited as one of the reasons for the two coups d'état in Burkina Faso last year and for the great insecurity that has gripped the country since 2015. The popular uprising of 2014, which ended the 27-year rule of Blaise Compaoré, expressed the desire of citizens to rebuild their country according to the principles of good governance and public administration free from political interference. This aspiration was taken up in 2015 by then President Michel Kafando, who laid the groundwork for a new law to depoliticise the government. The law could serve as an example for other countries in the region whose public administrations face similar problems. Governance reforms are crucial in most West African countries, where insecurity and increasing coups d'état are fuelled by exclusion, injustice and socio-economic inequality. Most of these problems stem from poor governance practices. The coup plotters in Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and recently in Niger justified their actions by referring to the governance deficit.

## "Love not hate": Inter-religious procession calls for tolerance

Hundreds of Tunisians took part in an interfaith ceremony where sermons called for tolerance in the face of rising anti-immigrant sentiment. At the Assumption ceremony in the Tunisian suburb of La Goulette, Catholic and Muslim participants marched behind a statue of the Madonna that was carried to the town hall. According to humanitarian sources, at least 2 000 Africans from sub-Saharan countries have been displaced by Tunisian security forces or forcibly relocated to desert regions on the border with Libya or Algeria.

## SADC Summit

The 43rd Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government will be held on 17 August 2023 in Luanda, Angola, under the theme: "Human and Financial Capital: The Key Drivers for Sustainable Industrialisation of the SADC Region". The SADC Summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and oversight of the functions of the Community, making it ultimately the policy-making institution of SADC. The ordinary SADC Summit is held annually and is attended by the Heads of State and Government of the 16 SADC member states Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the heads of the continental and regional bodies participate as observers. 19.08.2023

**More Info:** <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

South Africa: New coalition to replace ruling ANC in 2024