

Niger junta takes control of uranium mine

According to the French nuclear company Orano, the military authorities in Niger have taken control of its uranium mining activities. After taking power in a coup d'état in July last year, Niger's military rulers announced that they would revise the regulations governing the mining of raw materials by foreign companies. In June, they withdrew Orano's licence to exploit one of the world's largest uranium deposits. Orano then stopped production. The country accounts for around 5% of global uranium production, making it one of the ten largest producers that is important for the generation of nuclear power. It is possible that Russian and Turkish companies will now be given an opportunity to invest. 05.06.2024

Congo DRC: Unknown flu-like disease

At least 79 people have died in the south-west of the Democratic Republic of Congo from an unknown disease that causes flu-like symptoms, most of the fatalities between 15 and 18 years old. More than 300 people have been infected, with patients showing symptoms such as fever, headache, runny nose and cough, breathing difficulties and anaemia. The WHO for the African region has sent a team to Kwango province to treat the cases and investigate the nature of the disease. 05.12.2024

Namibia: First female president

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah from the ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) has been elected Namibia's first female president following last week's controversial elections. According to the electoral commission, she received more than 57% of the votes cast, while her closest rival, Panduleni Itula, received 26%. He declared that his party would not recognise the results as they were fraudulent. Most opposition parties boycotted the announcement of the results in Windhoek. Swapo has been in power since independence in 1990. Nandi-Ndaitwah, the party's current vice president, is a proven leader who has served in senior government positions for a quarter of a century. When she is sworn in, she will be the only female president in Africa, along with Samia Suluhu Hassan from Tanzania. 04.12.2024

Nigeria: Malaria vaccine for children

Nigeria, where more people die from malaria than in any other country in the world, has begun introducing a vaccine against the disease for the first time. The vaccine introduced, called R21/Matrix-M, is the second vaccine approved by the WHO and is administered to children aged five to 15 months. According to researchers, the vaccine is 75% effective, but health experts recommend using it in conjunction with other malaria prevention tools such as mosquito nets and insecticides. The roll-out began in two of the most affected states - Bayelsa and Kebbi - and is to be extended to the rest of the country by next year. 03.12.2024

Conviction for colonial crimes

The Belgian Court of Appeal has ordered the government to pay compensation to five mixed-race women who were forcibly separated from their families in the Belgian Congo during the colonial era. The women, who are now 70 years old, were taken from their mothers as infants and placed in orphanages as part of a state policy. The court said the government had a 'plan to systematically seek out and abduct children born to a black mother and

a white father'. The judges said these were crimes against humanity. In 2019, the Belgian government officially apologised to the estimated 20,000 victims of forced family separations in the DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda 03.12.2024

Kenya: HIV remains a challenge

The fight against HIV/AIDS remains an urgent public health challenge, especially for women. According to the Ministry of Health, about 1,377,784 Kenyans are living with HIV, with women making up the majority with 880,000 cases. Until recently, women were taking daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) tablets to protect themselves from HIV infection, but are now switching to the dapivirine vaginal ring (DPV-VR) after the Kenyan Ministry of Health approved its use. The dapivirine vaginal ring releases the anti-HIV drug dapivirine over a period of one month. The dapivirine vaginal ring will be introduced in Kenya in 2025 and will be available to women free of charge. The dapivirine vaginal ring was approved by the WHO in January 2021 as an additional prevention option for women at high risk of HIV infection.

Mozambique: Talks failed - protests continue

President Filipe Nyusi invited all four candidates to a meeting in his office - but one of the key figures, the independent candidate Venancio Mondlane, was not present. Mondlane is believed to be in exile, as several arrest warrants have been issued against him. The protests and violence against demonstrators continue, with the latest video showing an army vehicle driving into the demonstrators and then driving on. This contradicts the Mozambican Ministry of Defence's statement that a military vehicle 'accidentally ran over' a demonstrator in the middle of Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. 02.10.2024

South Africa: Last-minute postponement

Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber has extended the validity of the Zimbabwean Exemption Permits (ZEP) until 28 November 2025. Zimbabwean nationals who had not applied for a waiver to transition from a ZEP to a general work visa in South Africa should apply for a new waiver by 29 November 2024, which will be valid until 29 November 2025. Schreiber assured that holders of such a permit would not face deportation or legal action in relation to their ZEP status and would be able to enter and leave South Africa if they met other entry requirements. Last year, in June, the court found that the termination of the ZEP was unlawful. 02.12.2024

Guinea: Mass panic and fatalities

Dozens of people have died following clashes at a football match in N'zérékoré, Guinea's second largest city. According to local media, the police used tear gas after supporters of the visiting team Labé threw stones onto the pitch in anger at the referee. Sunday's match took place as part of a tournament in honour of President Mamadi Doumbouya, who came to power in a coup d'état in September 2021. 02.12.2024

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

Nigeria: Hundreds of houses confiscated
UN summit on desertification

Protests that have led to weeks of clashes with Mozambique's security forces need to continue for "maybe two to three months", says the country's opposition leader