

Eswatini: Twelfth Prime Minister since 1967

At the end of the two-week Isibaya meeting King Mswati III appointed Russell Mmemo Dlamini as the new Prime Minister of the last absolute monarchy in Africa. 08.11.2023

Morocco: findings from the second century

Moroccan archaeologists have discovered an archaeological site in Rabat dating back to the second century, the Roman period. The archaeological site is now the third largest in Morocco, with a port district, a bath and a cemetery. It provides insights into the life of the Roman settlers and the Romanised Moroccans or Mauro-Romans. A headless statue of a Roman deity from the second century was also found. When the ancient Moroccans adopted Christianity around the fifth century, it was customary to behead statues of Roman gods.

Madagascar: Presidential candidate arrested

Jean Jacques Ratsietison was taken away by the police. The opposition claims that this month's elections are being rigged in favour of the incumbent Andry Rajoelina. The electoral commission has not commented on this allegation. Recently, several attempts to organise demonstrations have been broken up by the police. Political tension is high in Madagascar. Last month, two candidates, including Marc Ravalomanana former President, were injured during opposition protests. The presidential election is scheduled to take place on 16 November and - if a run-off is required - on 20 Dec.2023.

Rwanda: Visa-free travel for all Africans

"Any African can get on a plane to Rwanda whenever they want and they will not pay anything to enter our country," said Kagame at the 23rd Global Summit of the World Travel and Tourism Council. This makes it the latest country in Africa to announce such a measure to promote free movement of people and trade. According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the country is still 60 % dependent on tourists from abroad. 06.11.23

AGOA - Exclusion and readmission

The AGOA programme (African Growth and Opportunity Act) allows African governments to export their goods to the USA duty-free. Access requires participating countries to fulfil certain criteria, including not working against American interests and complying with certain human rights standards. Gabon, Niger, the Central African Republic and Uganda are now excluded due to unconstitutional changes of government and human rights violations. Mauritania will be reinstated to the AGOA forum following its suspension in 2019. According to the US State Department, the five largest beneficiaries of the AGOA are Nigeria, Angola, South Africa, Chad and the Republic of Congo. 03.11.2023

New Silk Road (BRI) and Lobito Corridor

What the *Belt and Road Initiative* (BRI) is to China, the *Lobito Corridor, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment* (PGI) project, is to the G7 in Africa. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), together with the United States, the European Union, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, have signed a seven-page Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the Lobito Corridor. The corridor stretches from the Angolan port city of Lobito to the mining areas in the southern part

of the DR Congo and north-west Zambia. The project includes the construction of 260 km of main feeder roads and around 550 km of railway in Zambia, stretching from the border with Jimbe to Chingola in the country's copper region. The new railway line will then connect Zambia with the Angolan rail network. The Lobito Corridor and the Zambia-Lobito railway line will extend from southern Africa to central Africa, crossing Zambia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). 03.11.2023

South Africa: Parents pay for truant children

Under the new Education Act (Bela), parents can be jailed for up to 12 months if their children do not start school on time or skip school. Bela also introduces a ban on corporal punishment. The largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, condemns the law, saying it gives the state too much control over schools. The bill was passed by 223 votes to 83. A recent study found that 8 out of 10 South African schoolchildren have difficulties reading at the age of 10. 02.11.2023

Nigeria: Mass wedding in Kano

The wedding of 1,800 disadvantaged couples took place in Kano state in mid-October. Most of them would not have been able to afford the ceremony in the difficult economic situation. Now the state paid for the dowry, furniture, trousseau, a starting capital and the party. The condition for the brides was that they had to undergo professional training. With their professional skills, the women would help themselves, their families and society. The wedding of the 1,800 couples took place simultaneously at different locations and cost the government around one million dollars. 02.11.2023

Three Basin Summit - to protect the rainforests

In a final declaration, the participants of the "Three Basins Summit" reaffirmed their intention to curb deforestation, preserve biodiversity and combat climate change. Participants included the countries that make up the Amazon, Borneo-Mekong and Congo basins - including Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. More than 4,000 delegates took part in the meeting, which was held for the second time since 2011. The "3 basins" make up the majority of the world's remaining rainforest area; two thirds of terrestrial biodiversity life's there. It is also the basis of life for more than one billion people. 30.10.2023

Chad withdraws troops from Birnigoni

Cameroon calls on Chad to withdraw its troops from the fishing and agricultural island of Birnigoni. Cameroon wants to take control itself. The Chadian military has occupied the island since 2014 to fight Boko Haram fighters and protect civilians. Cameroon approved the occupation after at least 20 civilians were killed in a Boko Haram attack in July 2014. The situation has improved in most of the 2,000 square kilometre lake and its islands, including Birnigoni; the island was one of several safe havens for Boko Haram fighters when they were heavily attacked by forces in Chad, Cameroon or Nigeria. 30.10.

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

Rugby World Cup Winners' Tour

South Africa: All diplomats recalled from Israel

Kenya: Floods in East Africa