

Sudan: Russian naval base in the Red Sea

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Yusef Sharif announced at a televised press conference on 12 February that an agreement had been reached on the establishment of a Russian naval base in Sudan. Russia has maintained relations with both sides in the civil war in Sudan, which has lasted almost two years. Last year, a high-ranking Sudanese general said that Russia had asked for a refuelling station on the Red Sea in exchange for weapons and ammunition. Such a station would be beneficial for Russia, especially after the fall of the Assad regime in Syria has put important bases at risk. 13.02.2025

Gabon: Judges on strike

The courts have been effectively closed for almost a month because the judges are refusing to return to work to protest poor working conditions and inadequate salaries. Hundreds of court cases could not be heard because of the strike. The National Union of Judges and Public Prosecutors has accused the government of neglecting the understaffed courts, deteriorating the infrastructure and refusing to hold talks. The judges and prosecutors began their protests on 13 January, arguing that it is difficult to make fair decisions based on the law if adequate compensation is not paid, as required by the country's legal framework. The judges have called on Gabon's interim president, General Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, to respond to their demands immediately. 13.02

M23 fighters resume attacks

The M23 rebels have resumed their attacks on the armed forces in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo after a two-day break in fighting. The rebel fighters struck at dawn on 11 February near the village of Ihusi, 40 km from a strategic military airport in Kavumu and about 70km from Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province.

'Black economic empowerment' not valid for Musk?

South Africa is looking into a possible circumvention of its black economic empowerment regulations in order to attract investment from Elon Musk's companies. Under current regulations, companies wishing to operate in the country must allocate at least 30% of their operations to black locals. However, government officials are considering an 'equity equivalent' option - possibly in the form of social investments such as free internet for government schools and police stations - to pave the way for Musk's companies to enter the country. This proposal comes amid rising tensions with the US over South Africa's land expropriation policy. It is sure to be criticised by the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters party, which recently accused Musk of being an imperialist who wants to undermine South Africa's sovereignty. 12.02.2025

Kremlin prioritises Africa

Russia is increasingly prioritising Africa in the expansion of its global influence. Moscow's deepening relations with African states are based on the values of friendship, non-interference and co-operation for mutual benefit. Russia's prioritisation of Africa is reflected in its recent relations with the continent, including the numerous energy agreements that state energy company Rosatom has signed in the past year with countries such as Congo, Guinea and Algeria. Moscow has also recently added Nigeria, Tunisia and Ethiopia to its list of foreign exchange trading partners, strengthening its co-

operation with these countries. These initiatives emphasise Moscow's commitment to improving bilateral relations and strengthening systemic cooperation with Africa while challenging Western dominance on the continent. 11.02.2025

TikTok removes 11.9 million videos

Social media platform TikTok has removed nearly 11.9 million videos from nine African countries - Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria, Somalia, Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Morocco - for violations of integrity, advertising, privacy and security standards as part of its ongoing efforts to reaffirm its commitment to online safety. Egypt had the highest number of removals at 2.75 million, followed by Nigeria and Algeria. In South Africa, 143,998 accounts were suspended for violations, with 137,663 of these suspensions being due to users suspected of being under the age of 13. In Nigeria, TikTok removed over 2 million videos for policy violations. More than one billion people use TikTok, and millions of pieces of content are posted every day. 11.02.2025

Lesotho: Vital health services under threat

Around 1 500 health workers, including doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians and consultants working in US-funded programmes in Lesotho, have been directly affected by US President Donald Trump's unilateral suspension of USAID and PEPFAR (United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). Health Minister Selibe Mochoboroane says the government is working to defuse the crisis. A working group led by the Ministry of Finance is to raise 27 mill.Rand to pay the salaries of health workers who have been sent home. As a temporary solution, the ministry has instructed all district health offices to recall staff on leave and asked students and final-year graduates to volunteer at health centres. 11.02.2025

Central Africa: 'Meme coin experiment'

President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, has launched a meme coin to popularise the country, which is one of the poorest in the world. Meme coins are used to popularise a viral internet trend or movement, and fans are encouraged to collect them and give them value, but they are extremely volatile investments. Touadéra announced the launch of the coin, known as \$CAR, on his X account over the weekend and said on Monday it had been a 'success'. But the coin's value has plummeted by up to 90%, according to specialised websites. In 2022, CAR became the second country in the world after El Salvador to introduce the cryptocurrency Bitcoin as legal tender.

Sudan: Major successes of the rapid reaction forces

The Sudanese military announced that it had recaptured most of Khartoum North. The offensive to retake the capital from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has been intensified. The army, which has been at war with the RSF since April 2023, has recaptured large parts of the capital and its surroundings from the paramilitaries in recent weeks. Elsewhere, the military has intensified its operations against paramilitary groups in the western region of Darfur. 10.02.2025

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

Libya: Mass graves found

Namibia: Time of mourning for founding father