

Global Africa Day - 25 May

Africa Day is celebrated annually to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established on 25 May 1963. It is the forerunner of the African Union (AU). On 25 May 1963, the heads of state and government of 30 of Africa's 32 sovereign republics signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The OAU was founded to help numerous African countries realise transformation, freedom and independence. The African Economic Community was founded by the OAU in 1991, and the African Union was established by the OAU in 2002. World Africa Day celebrates the rich diversity and culture of the African continent.

Billions needed for climate-friendly cooking

Around 80% of African households, or about one billion people, still rely on smoky, polluting fuels such as wood, charcoal and dung for cooking. Efforts to promote modern, energy-efficient cookers face challenges such as affordability, as many families cannot afford the initial cost, and a lack of solid financing options and government initiatives. At an upcoming summit in Paris, the International Energy Agency aims to raise \$4bn a year to support green cooking projects across the continent. Experts emphasise the need for local solutions.

23.05.2024

Zimbabwe: Cattle policy

Ankole is probably the cattle breed with the most political connections; it was popularised by Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and made famous in South Africa by President Cyril Ramaphosa's Phala Phala Farm near Bela-Bela in Limpopo. Now the breed is also gaining importance in Zimbabwe, at the highest political level. At the weekend, Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa received the controversial businessman Wicknell Chivayo at his 405-hectare Precabe Farm in Kwekwe. Afterwards, Chivayo wrote on his Facebook page: "I was particularly impressed by the large herd of the beautiful Ankole breed". The presidential office did not respond to enquiries about how many Ankoles the head of state owns.

22.05.2024

Botswana: Diamond industry gets a boost

The diamond trade in Botswana is growing despite uncertainty in the industry over efforts to impose sanctions on Russian stones. De Beers has moved its auction headquarters from Singapore to Botswana, while the secretariat of the Kimberley Process, which certifies rough diamond exports to prevent trade in conflict stones, has also relocated to the African country. De Beers, which has a long-standing sales agreement with Botswana, sells 10 % of its diamonds through auctions.

Supreme Court excludes Zuma

The Supreme Court has disqualified former president Jacob Zuma from standing in next week's general elections. The Constitutional Court ruled that his 15-month jail sentence for contempt of court disqualifies him. Zuma was convicted in 2021 for refusing to testify in an investigation into corruption during his presidency, which ended in 2018. He campaigned under the banner of the newly founded uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party after falling out with the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

21.05.2024

Cameroon: 52nd National Day

Cameroon celebrated its 52nd National Day on 20 May with nationwide military and civilian parades. President Paul Biya presided over the celebrations in Yaounde, where hundreds of soldiers and civilians marched in front of national and international dignitaries. The marches took place in all 10 regions of the country, including the war-torn Anglophone areas where separatist fighters had imposed a cordon to disrupt the celebrations. In the troubled north-west region, gunmen killed a mayor and two other people on the bank holidays.

Zimbabwe: Police and secret services control ZiG

A month after the introduction of the gold-backed ZiG currency in Zimbabwe, the government has put in place Gestapo-like surveillance mechanisms to catch those who oppose the new money. Addressing the country's liberation veterans in Bulawayo on Saturday, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube urged them to declare war on those allegedly opposed to the currency. "You fought for the independence of this country, now you should fight for this new currency," he said. In recent years, war veterans have played a militant role in propping up the regime and enforcing its policies. The Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's Financial Intelligence Unit and the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zimbabwe are each conducting their own operations to enforce the adoption of ZiG.

20.05.2024

Nigeria: Mosque set on fire

A family dispute over inheritance rights in Kano State prompted a 38-year-old man to set fire to the mosque during morning prayers. According to reports, the accused sprayed the mosque with paraffin, locked the doors and set it ablaze, trapping about 40 worshippers. About a dozen people were killed while many others fought for their lives with various injuries at nearby health facilities. The incident has left the community in a state of shock.

20.05.2024

Congo DRC: Attempted coup foiled

The military of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has announced that its forces have prevented a violent attempt to overthrow the government. This follows an armed attack on the residence of Congolese Economy Minister Vital Kamerhe in which three people were killed. The United States embassy issued a security alert warning of "continued activity by Democratic Republic of Congo security forces" and reports of gunfire near the presidential palace. Videos on social media showed men in military uniform waving flags of the former Zaire in front of the palace.

20.05.2024

Nigeria: Mass wedding of orphans?!

The planned mass wedding of around 100 orphans has sparked outrage throughout Nigeria. The orphans, some of whom are feared to be underage girls, are to be married on 24 May in the north-western state of Niger. They have all lost their parents in attacks by armed bandits who regularly attack civilians in the state. The Nigerian Minister for Women's Affairs, Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye, said she had applied for a court injunction to prevent the ceremony.

20.05.2024

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