

Liberia: 29 November National Holiday

His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. President of the Republic of Liberia, has issued a proclamation declaring Friday, 29 November 2024, as a bank holiday. The proclamation states that during the third session of the 42nd Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, an Act was passed declaring 29 November of each year as a National Holiday on the birthday of William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, the 18th President of the Republic of Liberia, in accordance with the will of the Liberian people. This act honours his productive, significant achievements and policies, including integration policies, the introduction of women's suffrage, as well as national policies relating to many other socio-economic developments and his contributions to the emancipation of African colonial territories into statehood. 28.11.2024

Mozambique: Bishops call for National Day of Prayer

In view of the continuing insecurity and violence in Mozambique, the country's bishops' conference has declared a National Day of Prayer. On 3 December, the feast of St Francis Xavier, church services and prayers are to be held throughout the country to pray for peace, reconciliation and stability. The parliamentary elections at the beginning of October sparked protests across the country as they were overshadowed by accusations of manipulation and the killing of opposition supporters. The Bishops' Conference also rejected the results of the parliamentary elections as falsified and manipulated. Bishop Osório emphasised that it was particularly important at this time to 'reaffirm the Church's commitment to peace, justice, human dignity and the building of a fraternal society.' In times of division, the Church must promote unity and be a space for reconciliation. 27.11.2024

Zimbabwe: Compensation for expropriation!?

Zimbabwe plans to pay 331 million dollars to former white farmers whose land was seized in 2000. This is a move to get creditors to agree to a restructuring of the country's mountain of debt, which has locked the country out of international capital markets for more than two decades. The government has identified at least 439 former landowners as 'beneficiaries for financial compensation totalling \$331 million', said African Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina. 27.11.2024

Kenya + Uganda: worrying trend

Amnesty International has condemned the abduction of prominent Ugandan opposition politician Kizza Besigye in Kenya and his subsequent hearing before a military court in Kampala. The human rights organisation said the action was 'part of a growing and worrying trend of cross-border repression by governments that violate human rights outside their borders'. Amnesty International accused Uganda of taking 'systematic' action against opposition political parties. 26.11.2024

Madagascar: Toilet Revolution

In the country, only one in three people has access to a proper toilet. In the fishing villages in the south of the country, however, a silent revolution is taking place. In the coastal commune of Saint-Augustin, dozens of

makeshift toilet blocks have sprung up near family homes, marking a significant change in local practices. One such building, shared by three households, has room for 17 people. 'We people here have always defecated outdoors. That is cultural. But we were told that it causes illness. So two months ago, we decided to change that. We pooled our money and built it,' says Linah, a mum from the area. 26.11.2024

Tanzania: Measures following fatal collapse

The four-storey building collapse in Kariakoo has left 20 dead and 86 rescued, but several people are still missing. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has ordered a comprehensive inspection of all buildings in Kariakoo. Kariakoo (Kata ya Kariakoo, in Swahili) is an administrative district of the Ilala Municipal Council in the Dar es Salaam region of Tanzania and a commercial centre. 25.11.2024

Zambia: Bishops raise the alarm

The Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops has published a pastoral letter stating that the Church is concerned about gross human rights violations and undemocratic tendencies on the part of the Zambian government. In the letter, which was signed by all 11 Catholic bishops in the country, they deplore the considerable restriction of democratic freedom. They sound the alarm about the increasing arrests and prolonged imprisonment of opposition leaders and journalists. Kasama's Archbishop Ignatius Chama, said: 'Even more alarming is the disturbing tendency of the police to keep suspects in custody longer than required by law.' Chama is also calling on the authorities to withdraw a draft bill to amend the penal code, which is being considered in parliament, to allow for further consultations. 25.11.2024

Kenya: Plastic-eating insect discovered

Scientists at the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi have discovered an insect that could help solve the problem of plastic waste. It is the first time that an insect species native to Africa has been able to break down polluting plastic. The scientists have discovered that the larvae of the small mealworm, a type of beetle called Alphitobius, are able to eat plastics. African countries face a particular ecological challenge due to the high import of plastic products, the low level of reuse and the lack of recycling of plastic products. 25.11.2024

Cape Verde: Transformation of agriculture

Just four years after a severe drought, Cape Verde is experiencing a remarkable change in agriculture. The archipelago once struggled to maintain its harvests but is now focussing on innovation. Cape Verde is mobilising considerable resources for the introduction of innovative crops and the expansion of seawater desalination. Complementing these efforts, an ambitious agricultural insurance scheme is being introduced to provide further stability for farmers. 25.11.2024

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Senegal: The end of an era

Nigeria: Environmental devastation - leaking oil pipeline