

Kenya: Digitalisation and cyberattack

The Kenyan Ministry of Information has stated that about 50% of government services have been fully digitised to improve service delivery and reduce corruption. The priority areas for digitisation are health, land, revenue, transport, education, border control and citizen services. The information comes amid hacking attacks on the government's online services by hackers known as "Anonymous Sudan". The attack temporarily affected public access to over 5,000 government. On 27 July 2023, in response to the hacking attack, the government decided to issue visas to foreign travellers on arrival in the country. All airlines allowed foreign travellers to fly without prior visa requirements. 02.08.2023

Western Sahara: Attacks against occupation forces

Units of the Sahrawi People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have launched new attacks against the positions of the Moroccan occupation forces. SPLA fighters attacked the Moroccan occupation soldiers in the Astila Ould Boukrine region in the Awsard sector, in the Akrara al-Farsik region in the Mahbes sector, as well as in the Ahricht Dirt region and in the north of the Aklib Dirt. 02.08.2023

Morocco: Air Show for "Throne Day"

Parachutists and aeroplanes performed in the capital Rabat and the cities of Tangier and M'diq as part of an aerobatic show to mark the 24th anniversary of King Mohammed VI. The 58-year-old Moroccan, Mohammed VI, has ruled the kingdom since July 1999, when he succeeded his father Hassan II. He used the anniversary to reaffirm his willingness to resume relations with Algeria and supported Morocco's steadfast position in favour of the just Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Al-Quds as its capital. 02.08.

Zimbabwe: Introduction of "Patriotic Act"

President Mnangagwa signed the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Amendment Bill, referred to as the "Patriotic Bill". It undermines political and civil liberties, in a country that has been in the hands of a single party since independence (1980). His government said the law was essential to hold accountable those who threatened the national interest. It allows for the surveillance and repression of political organisations and journalists critical of the government. It also provides for harsh penalties, up to and including the death penalty, for actions that the government considers "unpatriotic".

Mali: French abolished as official language

Under the new constitution, which was approved in a referendum on 18 June with majority of 96.91%. French is no longer an official language, although it is still a working language. 13 other national languages, have official language status. Around 70 local languages are spoken in Mali. Bambara is the most widely spoken, out of 40% of the total population.

Ghana: Hundreds mark PANAFEST

Africans from the continent and in the diaspora have come together at historic site, Elmina Castle, to celebrate history and overcome the cultural traumas that led to the Atlantic slave trade. The event, from 23 July to 2 August, is themed: 'Reclaiming the African family: confronting the past to meet the challenges of the 21st century'. The

inspiration came from playwright and Pan-Africanist Dr Efua Sutherland, who published a paper in 1980 entitled "Proposal for a Historical Drama Festival in Cape Coast". This paper gave birth to PANAFEST, which has evolved into a multi-faceted artistic project since its inception in 1991. The event includes Emancipation Day celebrations, academic lectures, music and dance events, and memorial visits to sites that shaped slavery in the 15th century. 31.07.2023

Kenya: Willingness to send 1,000 police to Haiti

Kenya is ready to lead a multinational force in Haiti and will deploy 1,000 police officers to the troubled Caribbean country once the offer is accepted. About 80% of Haiti's capital is controlled by gangs, and violent crime such as kidnappings for ransom, armed robberies and carjackings are common. The Security Council unanimously passed a resolution in July calling on member states to support the Haitian National Police, including by sending a special unit. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry have been seeking international intervention to support the police for almost a year. 31.07.2023

Somalia: Offer of mediation rejected

Somalia has said it will decline mediation in the maritime boundary dispute with Kenya in the Indian Ocean, which was decided by the International Court of Justice. The court awarded Somalia most of the territory, while moving the border slightly north to accommodate Kenya's security and economic interests. The area has large oil and gas reserves and is also a livelihood for Kenyan fishermen. Kenya claims that some world powers with interests in large mineral deposits in the disputed area have intervened in the case to ensure that Somalia - which has been trying to sell some oil blocks at an international auction in London - takes over the area.

"Zero tolerance" for coups

West African leaders have threatened military action against the junta in Niger, which seized power in a coup last week. The leaders gave the junta seven days to reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum, who is being held captive. Ecowas leaders held crisis talks in Nigeria's capital Abuja on Sunday to discuss the latest coup, which followed coups in neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso. A statement read after the summit said Ecowas had "zero tolerance" for coups.

Putin gives helicopter as present

"His Excellency President Putin has presented a presidential helicopter to His Excellency President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa," the Zimbabwean Ministry of Information wrote on social media. It posted photos of Mnangagwa walking down the steps of the blue aircraft and sitting in the cabin in front of a table with glasses of white wine and a bowl of fruit. "This bird will soon grace our skies," added government spokesperson Nick Mangwana. 29.07.2023

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

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