

Literary giant Ngugi wa Thiong'o is no longer

East African literary icon and celebrated author Ngugi wa Thiong'o has died in the United States at the age of 87. He was a passionate advocate of writing in indigenous African languages, particularly Gikuyu, to resist the colonial legacy and strengthen African identity through his groundbreaking novels such as *The River Between*, *A Grain of Wheat* and *Petals of Blood*. His works, including *The Upright Revolution*, which has been translated into over 100 languages, and the radical theatre piece *Ngaahika Ndeenda*, led to his imprisonment by the Kenyan government in 1977. His work spanned around six decades and primarily documented the transformation of his country - Kenya - from a colonial subject to a democracy. 29.05.2025

AI Hub for sustainable development

The Italian government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with African countries including Kenya, have designed the Centre for Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development to be inaugurated in Rome on 20 June 2025. The Rome-based centre will coordinate private sector investment, technical capacity building and data sharing across the continent. It will also strengthen local ecosystems through hubs and partnerships with universities, governments and start-ups. With the AI hub, Italy and its G7 and G20 partners aim to position Africa not only as a beneficiary but also as a co-creator of the global AI landscape - transforming industrial value chains and enabling sustainable, inclusive development across the continent. 28.05.2025

Kenya: Embassy opening in Rabat

After 60 years of bilateral diplomatic relations with Morocco, Kenya opened an embassy in Rabat. Morocco, a leading producer of phosphates and fertilisers, has agreed to expedite exports of soil nutrients to Kenya immediately as the two countries plan to cooperate in renewable energy, tourism, fisheries, security, cultural and religious affairs, the joint statement said. Kenya is keen to export more tea, coffee and fresh produce to Morocco to balance its trade, Kenyan Foreign Minister Musalia Mudavadi said. Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita said that Kenya's position on Western Sahara, which he described as a 'national issue', had given new impetus to bilateral relations. 28.05.2025

Nigeria: AI system and spam messages

Airtel Nigeria says its new AI-powered spam alert service has identified more than 9.6 million potential spam messages since its launch on 13 March. The spam alert service is part of Airtel Nigeria's ongoing efforts to protect its customers through the use of artificial intelligence.

Support for Western Sahara's autonomy plan

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Zimbabwe: Radio licence fee for car drivers

President Mnangagwa has signed a controversial law that stipulates that all drivers must obtain a radio licence before they can take out vehicle insurance. They will have to pay US\$ 92 a year to be allowed to listen to the radio in their vehicles. The loss-making Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) draws its income from the licence fee and government grants and is looking for sources of revenue. There are about 1.2 million registered cars in the country, but only 800,000 of them pay insurance, according to local media reports. 28.05.25

Uganda: Accusations against German ambassador

The Ugandan army has announced the suspension of all military cooperation with Germany after accusing the Ugandan ambassador Matthias Schauer of being involved in 'subversive activities' and of being 'completely unqualified' to be in the East African state. The German government has rejected the accusations of subversion levelled by the government in Uganda against the German ambassador there as 'absurd'. 'We reject this in the strongest possible terms,' said a spokeswoman for the Federal Foreign Office. 'The accusations that we have taken note of ... are absurd and lack any basis.' Furthermore, there is no formalised military cooperation with Uganda and so there is nothing to terminate. The background to this could be that European diplomats had criticised the army chief and son of Museveni, Muhoozi Kainerugaba. 28.05.2025

Nigeria: Ethnic balancing act endangered?

There has long been an informal understanding in Nigerian politics that the country's many ethnic and religious differences should be carefully balanced when appointing presidents. Today, there is growing concern that this is being ignored. While the constitution mandates regional representation in cabinet positions, the wider distribution of other prominent roles has traditionally followed a convention designed to promote national cohesion. President Bola Tinubu, a Muslim from the south, is now accused of favouring people from his own Yoruba ethnic group. There are over 250 ethnic groups in the country, of which Hausa-Fulanis, Igbo and Yoruba - who come from the north, south-east and south-west respectively - are the three largest. 27.05.2025

Climate threat - Food exports

Climate change and biodiversity loss are affecting agricultural production in Africa, a major exporter of staple foods such as cocoa, coffee and maize, jeopardising Europe's food supply. According to a report by Foresight Transitions, more than half of EU food imports, including cocoa and coffee, come from countries that do not have the resources to adapt to climate change. Many of the crops concerned cannot easily be grown in the EU. The EU is the world's largest consumer, producer and exporter of chocolate, but the majority of its cocoa imports come from five countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria, as well as Ecuador.

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

Somalia: Over 100 militants killed since Trump took office
African Development Bank Group convenes