

## **Mpox cases - Sierra Leone hardest hit**

Dr Ngashi Ngongo, Head of the Incident Management Support Team at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), announced that there have been 141,000 suspected cases of Mpox in Africa, of which over 35,000 have been confirmed. 94% of all confirmed Mpox cases on the continent are concentrated in four countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Burundi. Sierra Leone has recorded 4,032 cases, including 15 deaths, representing 53% of all newly confirmed Mpox cases on the continent in the last three weeks. He also announced that 2.5 million doses of Mpox vaccine have been distributed to Africa, with 11 countries having received vaccines and 7 countries currently implementing vaccination programmes. 18.06.2025

## **Togo: Pan-African 'Great Green Wall'**

Togo is in the process of joining the pan-African 'Great Green Wall' initiative. The Great Green Wall, in which 20 countries are participating, aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land. It stretches from Senegal to Djibouti. According to Lomé, joining this initiative will help the country to better combat climate change and promote sustainable rural development. UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) has agreed to provide Togo with financial and technical support for the creation of a national programme. 17.06.2025

## **EACOP project 60 % complete**

Construction of the 1,443 km East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is 60% complete. It will transport Ugandan crude oil from Kabaale-Hoima in Uganda to the Chongoleani Peninsula near the port of Tanga. The controversial project has attracted widespread criticism through campaigns such as #StopEACOP. Environmentalists, human rights organisations and affected communities have rallied behind the protest because it threatens ecosystems such as wetlands, national parks and the Lake Victoria basin, endangering biodiversity and water sources for millions of people. In addition, more than 100,000 people have been displaced. 17.06.2025

## **Lesotho: Mass layoffs due to US tariffs**

Following the Trump administration's threat of 50% import tariffs on Lesotho, orders have declined, and production lines have been shut down. 80 % of garment exports go to the USA and 20 % to South Africa. Thousands of workers have been sent home, and the factory closures are expected to last at least three months. The government has yet to offer any concrete support, while unions warn that up to 20,000 jobs could be at risk. The garment industry has already reportedly shed 16,000 jobs between March 2018 and March 2024, but is still the second largest employer after the public sector with officially 34,151 jobs. The country is already struggling with extreme unemployment. In 2024, 39% of young people between the ages of 15 and 35 were found to be unemployed. 17.06.2025

## **Western Sahara's right to self-determination undermined**

In a controversial decision, the United Kingdom and Kenya recently endorsed Morocco's autonomy plan for Western Sahara. The announcement came after David Lammy (Minister for Commonwealth and Development) signed several investment agreements with Morocco's

Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita. The agreements not only strengthen bilateral economic relations but are also geopolitically motivated as Morocco prepares to host the 2030 FIFA Men's World Cup alongside Spain and Portugal. With its agreement, the United Kingdom is the third permanent member of the United Nations Security Council to support Morocco's 'autonomy plan', alongside the United States and France. 16.06.2025

## **Zimbabwe: 2027 export ban on lithium concentrate**

Zimbabwe, a major lithium producer in Africa, announced that it will ban the export of lithium concentrate from January 2027 to encourage local refining and generate more revenue from the valuable mineral. Winston Chitando (Minister of Mines) explained that Chinese-invested companies Bikita Minerals and Prospect Lithium are building capacity to produce battery-grade lithium. Lithium sulphate plants are being built. In 2022, the country banned the export of raw lithium ore and began exporting lithium concentrates. 16.06.2025

## **Burundi: ruling party wins all seats**

The ruling party, Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie - Forces de défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD), won all 100 seats in the parliamentary elections. The opposition party Uprona (Union pour le progrès national) came second with just over 1% of the vote. The party described the election as rigged. Its chairman Olivier Nkurunziza said: 'We have killed democracy.' The main opposition party, the Congrès national pour la liberté (CNL), fell back to third place and only received 0.6% of the vote. Freedom of expression is restricted in Burundi, and critics say these elections followed a long-running campaign of intimidation and harassment. Election observers from the Catholic Church were turned away from some polling stations, according to Human Rights Watch. 15.06.2025

## **'Soumoud' welcomed in Libya**

The Soumoud land convoy to lift the siege on the Gaza Strip has reached the Libyan town of Zaouïa, about 50 kilometres west of Tripoli, before entering the Gaza Strip via Egypt and the Rafah border crossing. Large crowds greeted the convoy as it reached Libyan territory. Almost a thousand Tunisians from all over the country are taking part in this solidarity action with the Gaza Strip, as well as over 140 Algerians and some Moroccan and Mauritanian nationals. 15.06.2025

## **No tariffs on African imports**

China has agreed to reduce tariffs on imports from all 53 African countries with which it has diplomatic relations. The move, announced at a China-Africa co-operation meeting, comes at a time when the continent is facing the possibility of higher tariffs on its products imported into the US. China is Africa's largest trading partner - a position it has held for the past 15 years - and Africa exports around \$170bn worth of goods in 2023. The introduction of the zero tariff extends an agreement reached last year. China had already waived tariffs on goods from 33 African countries categorised as 'least developed'. 13.06.2025

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

**Rwanda and DR Congo agree  
draft peace deal to end conflict**