

## Senegal: Peace agreement with the separatists of Casamance

The government and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) have signed a peace agreement mediated by the President of Guinea-Bissau, ending four decades of conflict. 27.02.2025

## Heavy rainfall in southern Africa

Flash floods in Botswana have killed seven people, including three children, after days of heavy rainfall. Gaborone is one of the worst affected areas, with roads flooded, shopping centres damaged, and residential areas inundated. Across Zimbabwe, water levels in dams have risen due to the nationwide rainfall, with some reservoirs reaching full capacity. 26.02.2025

## Guinea-Bissau: Visit to Russia and unrest at home

President Vladimir Putin received President Umaro Sissoco Embaló for talks in the Kremlin. The Russian aluminium company Rusal is interested in building a railway and a port in the country as well as in the search for bauxite. According to the opposition, the country is to be paralysed on Thursday 27 February. Opposition leaders say Embaló's term expires on Thursday, while Guinea-Bissau's Supreme Court has ruled that it ends on 4 September. Embaló says there have been two attempts to oust him, the last in December 2023, after which he dissolved the opposition-controlled parliament, accusing it of passivity, in an incident that saw shootings and clashes in the capital. 27.02.2025

## Rwanda: 9 years of fresh air on Sundays

Every first and third Sunday of the month, the main roads in Kigali are closed to traffic between 7:00 and 10:00 am. More than 10,000 people then set off to walk, cycle, dance and skate. The initiative also includes free NCD (non-communicable diseases) screenings, including blood sugar, blood pressure and body mass index checks, as well as counselling to encourage participants to take preventative health measures. 25.02.2025

## Nigeria: Gene bank for of native livestock breeds

The government has announced the establishment of a gene bank to preserve the genetic diversity of indigenous livestock breeds and ensure their survival and integration into modern production systems. The government has also digitised livestock routes, grazing reserves and available water sources. This enables real-time monitoring and decision-making for efficient resource allocation. 25.02.2025

## Namibia: Climate change and food security

The prolonged drought in Namibia has brought agriculture to a standstill, leaving around 1.26 million people, or more than 40% of the population, at risk of food insecurity, according to the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture. The last rainy season started late, with below-average rainfall in October and November. 25.02.

## China and Korea help out

China and Korea have provided \$4 million to the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to meet urgent health funding needs. This support follows a cut in US aid, which has led to financial gaps at the pan-African health agency. 25.02.2025

## Egypt: Return of shipping traffic in the Suez Canal

The Suez Canal is open again. Since the beginning of February, 47 ships have been diverted from the Cape of

Good Hope to the canal. Since Nov. 2023, Iran-backed Houthi militias have been attacking ships in the Red Sea, forcing them to take longer and more expensive routes around Africa. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi estimates that the disruptions could have cost Egypt up to 7 billion dollars in lost revenue from the Suez Canal by 2024.

## Church leaders urge peace talks

'We, the two churches, Catholic and Protestant, are trying to bring the whole world to the table,' Monsignor Donatien Nshole, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference (CENCO), said in an interview in Nairobi, where he met with President William Ruto to discuss how to combine regional mediation efforts with national ones. The church-led diplomacy is the latest push for a solution, following the flare-up of the long-simmering conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. President Tshisekedi would have to abandon his refusal to sit down with the rebels, whom he describes as terrorists. As the M23 continues its advance after capturing the two largest cities in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, those involved in the effort are hopeful. 24.02.2025

## South Africa: Sometimes without electricity

The Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosisentso Ramokgopa, has assured South Africans that the country will overcome the current load shedding crisis by the end of the week. Eskom explained that several units had failed at the Camden, Majuba and Medupi power stations

## South Sudan: Heatwave closes schools

All schools in South Sudan will remain closed for a fortnight. The reason for this is the ongoing extreme heatwave - temperatures of up to 42° are expected. Public institutions will operate on a half-day basis for the next two weeks. This is the second time that the country has taken such measures. In March last year, schools were closed for a similar period when temperatures rose above 40°. South Sudan is one of the youngest countries in the world and is particularly vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis. 24.02.2025

## Sudan: Parallel government

After almost two years of civil war in Sudan, the RSF militia and its allied and armed groups have signed a charter in Nairobi to form a parallel 'government of peace and unity'. The RSF controls large parts of Darfur and Kordofan but is facing fierce resistance from the Sudanese army. The new charter calls for a secular, democratic state, although the armed groups are allowed to remain active. The RSF is accused of genocide and other atrocities. The parallel government is also striving for an end to the civil war and unhindered access to humanitarian aid. 24.02.2025

## Mali: Filmmaker Souleymane Cissé

The well-known Malian filmmaker and director Souleymane Cissé, considered one of the pillars of African cinema, died at the age of 84 in a clinic in Bamako. Cissé was the first black African director to win a feature film award at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival for Yeelen (Brightness), a film inspired by Bambara legends. In recognition of his bold and influential contributions to cinema, he was awarded the Carrosse d'Or in 2023. 21.02.

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

Congo DRC: Largest copper supplier for China