

## Rhema Bible Church Founder Ray McCauley

The widely admired but also controversial founder of the Rhema Bible Church South Africa, Ray McCauley, has died at the age of 75. The Rhema Bible Church has more than 45,000 members in South Africa and is considered one of the most influential churches in the country. The *South African National Christian Forum* (SANCF) honoured Mr McCauley as an 'outstanding ecumenical leader'. Mr McCauley played a key role in the late years of apartheid and spoke out against the racist apartheid regime. President Ramaphosa described Rhema as one of the 'largest multiracial churches during apartheid'. 10.10

## Zambia: Vaccine manufacturing plant

Zambia has signed a memorandum of understanding with China to establish the country's first cholera vaccine manufacturing facility. The first phase of the plant, which will cost USD 37 million, is being developed as part of a partnership between the *Zambian Industrial Development Corporation* (IDC) and the *Chinese Jijia International Medical Technology Corporation*. The plant is expected to produce around three million doses annually. Under the agreement, China will provide Zambia with three million doses of cholera vaccine before production begins. Zambia struggled with a severe cholera outbreak in 2024, which claimed over 400 lives and infected more than 10,000 people. 09.10.2024

## Earthquake in the Rift Valley

A magnitude 4.9 earthquake occurred in the Ethiopian Rift Valley, west of Lake Awash, in the area of Mount Fentale and in the city of Metehara, causing some residents to flee to safety. The shaking was felt in the capital Addis Ababa, in Metehara in the south-east and in Kombolcha (near Dessie) in the north. The ongoing seismic events are worrying. 9.10.2024

## Senegal: Declining fish stocks - Aquaculture

In a population of 18 million people, the fishing industry provides around 600,000 direct and indirect jobs. But a resource that once seemed inexhaustible is becoming increasingly scarce due to overfishing, illegal catches and global warming. For the Senegalese, who are faced with a high cost of living and widespread unemployment, prices are rising, and the staple food 'fish' is becoming increasingly unaffordable. The new government has now promised to promote fish farming. The national agency hopes to produce 65,000 tonnes of farmed fish by 2032 and create around 50,000 jobs. According to statistics from 2024, Africa accounts for only around 1.9% of global aquaculture production, while Asia accounts for 91.4%.

## Burundi: dollar shortage and avocado exports

Burundi 'cannot rely on coffee and tea alone', said Onesime Niyukuri about the country's limited exports. A shortage of dollars has led to sporadic shortages of sugar and other goods. Burundi wants to export more than 10 million tonnes of avocados a year by 2030. The government's goal is to plant 50,000 avocado trees in each of Burundi's 17 provinces. The local authorities in provinces such as Kayanza want every household to have at least 10 trees that produce exportable avocados. These include the Mexican variety Fuerte and above all the Hass avocado, the most commercially successful variety in the world. Farmers receive 70 cents for a kilogramme of avocados. On the international markets,

1kg is traded for between 3 and 5 dollars. 13 million people live in Burundi. The annual per capita income in 2023 was US\$ 199, making it one of the lowest in the world; according to the World Bank, almost 65% of the population live below the poverty line. 08.10.2024

## Ghana: Demonstrations against illegal mining

Thousands of protesters filled the streets of Accra demanding an end to illegal mining in the country, also known as '*galamsey*', (pidgin word 'gather them and sell'). Determined to get the government to act, the Catholic Church is preparing for a peaceful demonstration on Friday, while the country's labour unions plan to call a nationwide strike on Thursday. Gold is coveted worldwide. But the price people pay for the precious metal is not only high on the stock exchange. Rivers and water sources are contaminated with mercury and arsenic, as well as other heavy metals such as cadmium and manganese. Illegal mining, which pollutes rivers and groundwater, and plastic waste are the two main environmental problems in Ghana. 08.10.2024

## New cardinals - 2 from Africa

Archbishop Ignace Bessi Dogbo (Archdiocese of Abidjan, Ivory Coast) and the Dominican Archbishop Jean-Paul Vesco (Archdiocese of Algiers, Algeria) are among the 21 newly appointed cardinals. After the consistory on 8 December, there will be 141 cardinal electors (unless one of the cardinals dies unexpectedly), 111 of whom (79%) were appointed by Pope Francis. Africa is represented by 18 cardinals and Europe by 55. 07.10.2024

## Zambia: Mega dam and mega power crisis

Despite the mighty Zambezi River and the massive hydroelectric Kariba Dam, Zambia is currently struggling with the worst power cuts in living memory. Towns and communities across the country are sometimes without power for three days in a row. 43% of Zambians are connected to the grid and electricity was taken for granted. People sometimes go to bars and restaurants not to eat or drink, but to charge their mobile phones while the generators roar. One of the worst droughts in decades - caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon - has decimated Zambia's power generation capacity. Zambia draws up to 84% of its electricity from water reservoirs such as lakes and rivers, while only 13% comes from coal. The contribution from solar energy, diesel and heavy fuel oil is even lower at 3%. 07.10.2024

## Mozambique: 'No' to exploitative megaprojects

Anabela Lemos was awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize along with 3 others. She is the director of the environmental protection organisation '*Justica Ambiental*', which was founded in 2004. The environmental activist from Mozambique campaigns against construction projects by large fossil fuel companies, which she describes as harmful to the local population and the climate, including in particular the multi-billion euro 'Mozambique LNG' project in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. The Alternative Nobel Prize honours people who are committed to long-term change. 07.10.24

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

Tunisia: President Saied re-elected

Ethiopia: President Zewde replaced after falling out

Rwanda: Start vaccine trials

Mauritius: Great Britain's 'last African colony'