### Burundi

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### Africa

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### Success

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**Finally, the DR Congo Government established after 7 months of absence**

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### Cover Story

**Burundi and Tanzania agree on the repatriation of all Burundian refugees**

After the last week visit by the Minister of Home Affairs of Burundi, pascal Barandagiye and the Minister of Home Affairs, Kangi Lugola, of Tanzania, it was agreed between the two states that all refugees ‘are to repatriate beginning this October 2019.

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Burundi and Tanzania agree on the repatriation of all Burundian refugees

After the last week visit by the Minister of Home Affairs of Burundi, Pascal Barandagiye and the Minister of Home Affairs, Kangi Lugola, of Tanzania, it was agreed between the two states that all refugees are to repatriate beginning this October 2019.

"Burundian refugees living in Tanzania have to repatriate because what they fled is no more... now Burundi is calm...", Lugola told reporters.

It appears that the repatriation will primarily concern the Burundian refugees camp of Mtendeli and Nduta. Other Burundian refugees are living in Nyarugusu, a camp mixed with Congolese refugees.

Related: Burundi – Repatriation: Refugees voluntary repatriation from Tanzania is well underway.

Barandagiye called on Burundian refugees to be back, promising that they ‘are welcome back’.

“We sincerely thank Tanzania, which has just agreed to help us to ensure that this activity is carried out properly,” Pascal Barandagiye said from Tanzania, adding that the refugees “will receive a warm welcome from the part of the Burundian government “.

According to reports, Burundian refugees have until October 1, 2019, to “register voluntarily”, otherwise “adequate measures will be taken” under the terms of this agreement.

According to Pascal Barandagiye, some 78,000 Burundian refugees have already returned home. According to UNHCR data, the number of Burundian refugees in neighboring countries was 342,867 as of 31 July 2019. But this figure is not agreed upon with by the government of Burundi, saying that these figures are ‘ballooned up’ by the UNHCR staff.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Burundian refugees living in Tanzania fled the country in 2015 when the demonstrations erupted against the re-election of the incumbent president of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza. Some refugees have voluntarily repatriated, others are still wondering if they will be back to Burundi.

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I. Presidential Election

The filing and verification of nomination files of candidates are expected to take place from February 25 to March 05, 2020.

The filing of lists of political party agents, political party coalitions and independent candidates is expected to take place from March 23 to 27, 2020.

The electoral campaign will start from April 27 to May 17, 2020. Voting day is slated on May 20, 2020.

The consolidation and proclamation of provisional results: May 25 and 26, 2020. The final results are expected to be proclaimed on June 4, 2020.

The swearing-in ceremonies of the newly elected president of Burundi is expected to take place on August 20, 2020.

II. Election of Deputies

The filing or deposit and verification of nomination files of candidates will take place from February 25 to March 10, 2020.

Filing of lists of political party agents, political party coalitions and independent candidates are expected to take place from March 23 to 27, 2020.

Electoral campaign: from April 27 to May 17, 2020. Polling day: May 20, 2020


IV. Election of Senators

Filing and verification of nomination files of candidates: May 27 to June 10, 2020

Filing of lists of political party agents, political party coalitions and independent candidates: June 21 to June 30, 2020.


V. Election of Councils and Heads of Zones/quarters

Filing and verification of applications: from June 15, 2020, to June 24, 2020.

Filing of lists and accreditation of agents of independent candidates: from July 26 to August 4, 2020.


Kenya joins ranks of oil-exporting countries as President Kenyatta flags off the first consignment

Kenya head of state Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday, 26th August 2019, flagged off the first consignment of 200,000 barrels for export as the East African nation joins the ranks of petroleum exporting countries in the world.

While in the sendoff ceremony in the coastal city, Kenya head of state Uhuru Kenyatta said the first consignment of Kenyan crude oil which left the Port of Mombasa for Britain, makes Kenya the first eastern Africa country to become an oil-exporting nation.

"I am proud to say Kenya’s grand march to oil and gas production and export has begun. The flagging-off of this maiden consignment represents a new dawn for Kenya; and the beginning of an era of greater prosperity for all Kenyans," he said.

Kenyatta said the consignment of 200,000 barrels of low sulfur crude from oil fields in Turkana County in northwest Kenya destined for Britain is worth 1.2 billion shillings (12 million U.S. dollars), a price much higher than what was initially projected.

Energy officials said the exports are aimed at gauging the international markets’ reception to Kenya’s lowsulfur oil ahead of commercial production that is now estimated to start in the second half of 2023. The Celsius Riga, the ship carrying the Kenyan crude oil left the Mombasa Port shortly after midday. He said the government is committed to achieving sustainable development through prudent use of the country’s resources.

"We will ensure that Kenya’s natural resources are utilized in a manner that yields maximum dividends today but without compromising the interests of future generations," he said.

Kenya’s Early Oil Pilot Scheme (EOPS) commenced in June marking the beginning of the journey towards a full development of Kenya’s oil and gas resources.

Kenyatta said EOPS has shown global markets that Kenya possesses the know-how and infrastructure required to facilitate full production of commercial quantities of its oil resource.

He said that the next phase following the success of the pilot project will include full-field development that will be characterized by production and pipeline transportation of crude from Lokichar to the new Port of Lamu.

The Kenyan leader said the oil project has already brought benefits for the people of Turkana County, with the local communities directly benefiting from employment opportunities in production and logistics, in addition to the provision of ancillary and support services.

"As we proceed to full-field development, we will ensure that local communities are major beneficiaries of these resources," Kenyatta assured, noting that the government has put in place measures to ensure that the fruits of prosperity are shared with devolved units in an equitable and sustainable manner.

British firm Tullow Oil, which has exploration and oil fields in Turkana, said in July that the EOPS production was increased from 600 barrels of oil per day (bopd) to 2,000 bopd and, to date, more than 200,000 barrels of oil have been delivered to the port of Mombasa.

Kenya’s journey to becoming an oil exporter began in 2012 when Tullow Oil discovered commercial oil deposits in the East African nation that are currently estimated at 750 million barrels.

The EOPS is being undertaken by the Kenya joint venture partners comprising of Tullow Oil, Africa Oil and Total Oil and the Kenyan government who own the Blocks 10BB and 13T in northwest Kenya.
UNHCR says Burundi conditions ‘not conducive’ to refugees repatriation

Just days after Home Affairs Minister Kangi Lugola and his Burundian counterpart Pascal Barandagiye inked an agreement for the repatriation of refugees; the UN refugees agency has said conditions are not yet conducive for repatriation.

UNHCR notes that although security generally has improved in Burundi since violence erupted after the 2015 presidential polls, “conditions in Burundi are not currently conducive to promote returns,” UNHCR said in an e-mailed statement.

The ministers signed the pact in Kigoma at the weekend for the repatriation of 2000 refugees every week beginning October 1. The refugees to be returned home are those who are currently hosted at the Nduta and Mtendeli camps.

But the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday released a statement urging authorities in Tanzania and Burundi to ensure that international laws safeguarding the rights of refugees are not violated in the process.

The agency noted that it is assisting refugees who indicate they have made a free and informed choice to voluntarily return, pointing out that nearly 75,000 refugees have returned to Burundi since September 2017.

“Those who decided to leave cited the wish to return to their houses and farms, and to reunite with family,” it said.

“We call upon the commitment of the governments of Tanzania and Burundi to uphold international obligations and ensure that any returns are voluntary in line with the tripartite agreement signed in March of 2018. UNHCR urges States to ensure that no refugee is returned to Burundi against their will and that measures are taken to make conditions in Burundi more conducive for refugee returns, including confidence-building efforts and incentives for those who have chosen to go home.”

Related: Burundi and Tanzania agree on the repatriation of all Burundian refugees

Speaking during the signing of the pact, Lugola accused unnamed international organizations of frustrating the voluntary repatriation program.

“We have information that there are individuals and international organizations telling refugees that there is no peace in Burundi. This is not true; the country is peaceful and the refugees should return back there,” he said.

He then went ahead to order an immediate investigation to identify, arrest and prosecute all those who sabotage the exercise.

The minister said the refugees are wanted back home by their government and the government of Tanzania has the obligation to ensure that they return home to build their country.
What you need to know about Cesária Évora, Africa’s “Barefoot Diva” honored by Google

BORN ON 27TH AUGUST 1941, ÉVORA BEGAN SINGING WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG. UPON BECOMING AN ADULT, SHE BEGAN PURSUING MUSIC AS A CAREER BY PERFORMING AT BARS IN HER HOMETOWN OF MINDÉLO.

After several years of singing without financial success, she was eventually spotted by former musician and record producer José da Silva, who urged her to record her music in France.

She was known for her exceptionally beautiful voice and managed to rock anyone who listened to her music despite the language barrier.

She has an Airport named in her honor

São Pedro Airport, which operated since 1960, was renamed Cesária Évora Airport on March 8, 2012, in honor of the singer.

The airport, which is located on the island of São Vicente, is the third busiest in the tiny island country.

A statue of the singer also stands at the terminal entrance.

She is featured on the new 2000 Escudos banknote

Evora’s face is featured in the new 2000 Escudos banknote which was introduced in December 22, 2014.
Uganda launches national airline with flights to Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya

After two decades of not operating, Uganda has re-launched the maiden flight to regional areas of East Africa. The first flight was bound to Nairobi, Kenya.

WHY IT MATTERS: Uganda Airlines will connect the east African countries such as Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and more.

The fees have been released to indicate the ticket fare for every destination. Destinations for the Uganda Airlines will be Kampala to Bujumbura, Kampala to Nairobi, Kampala to Dar Es Salaam, Kampala to Kigali.

The Uganda Minister Ruhakana Rugunda has represented the president of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as he is away in Japan to attend the seventh Tokyo International Conference for Africa Development, TICAD, to launch the Uganda Airlines first inaugural flight.

"The airline will first fly to seven destinations. Starting with Nairobi, Mogadishu, Juba, and Dar es Salaam. And then to Mombasa, Kilimanjaro and Bujumbura," said Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda at Entebbe International Airport.

Uganda Airlines is launching into increasingly crowded East African skies, where both Rwanda and Tanzania have in recent years revived their national airlines in a bid to capture a slice of the booming market.

They are taking on regional giants Kenya Airways — which continues to expand despite struggling with years of losses and management woes — and Ethiopian Airlines, which largely dominates the skies.

"Uganda Airlines is coming to compete in the market alongside other airlines”, said Transport Minister Monica Azuba. "Uganda Airlines will have direct flights from Uganda to China plus other countries, and it will be very important in hitting the four million tourist goal the government has set,” said Tourism Minister Ephraim Kamuntu.

The East African countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania are massively investing in national Airlines carriers in order to boost trade.
The Burundian drummers performed Saturday, August 24, 2019, in Bujumbura, a demonstration to condemn the use of Burundian drummers abusively by Burundian refugees living in Rwanda.

The demonstrations which began with a prayer and the singing of the national anthem led the demonstrators to the Rwandan embassy in Burundi with, Ms. Godefride Hakizimana, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Culture and Sports, thanked the Burundian drummers who fight to keep the culture and customs of the country.

"Drums are the heritage of Burundians only and not other countries," she said.

Abed Duniya, who spoke on behalf of the Burundian drummers, said they were surprised by the way Rwanda violated international standards by using Burundi drums in an abusive manner.

Normally, he explained, in a procession of drummers, the color of the outfit is relative to the color of the national flag.

In addition, the visionary of the drummers must have a spear and a shield. However, during the competition, there was no national flag of the Republic of Burundi.

In addition, the visionary was a woman who did not wear a spear and a shield, said Mr. Duniya who, on this occasion, asked the government of Burundi to file a complaint against the Rwandan government for abusing the culture of Burundi.

It should be noted that East Africa Got Talent body issued a statement saying that there were no violations of any kinds by the drummers living in Rwanda to perform in the East Africa Got Talent.

Related: East Africa Got Talent: Rwanda railed over the misuse of Burundi drums.
French President Emmanuel Macron and G7 leaders on Sunday approved a donation of $251 million in support of the African Development Bank’s AFAWA initiative to support women Entrepreneurs in Africa.

The AFAWA initiative comes from an African organization, the African Development Bank, which works with African guarantee funds and a network of African banks,” he added.

The risk-sharing mechanism used by AFAWA (Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa) is a practical approach to international commitments.

Angelique Kidjo spoke at the summit in her capacity as the ambassador for a women’s finance project at the African Development Bank, called Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa. This fund is designed to help women get into business and help them grow their businesses.

The priority for small entrepreneurs to have access to credit.

“My main focus is on rural women, women of the market, and hard-to-reach women … Women of the market do not trust banks because they are not welcome,” Kidjo said.

Africa has the highest percentage of female entrepreneurs in the world, meaning one in four women start or manage their own business, according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2016/17 Women’s Report.

It should be noted that the leaders of the G7 worked much on the solution of the Brazilian fires in the Amazon Rainforests.

The G7 leaders promised to give Brazil 22 million dollars to help tackle the Amazon fires crisis.

But the leader of Brazil, Mr. Bolsonaro rejected the offer of the G7 leaders amid the fallout with the French president, Emmanuel Macron.

The two were involved in a spat, leading to the president of Brazil to ridicule Macron’s wife of her age (65) compared to her husband’s, Macron (the 40s).
Museveni met the UN Special Envoy for Burundi

The president of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, met the United Nations Special Envoy for Burundi, Michel Kafando, on Friday, August 23, 2019, in Kampala.

WHY IT MATTERS: The UN Special Envoy for Burundi, Michel Kafando, has been tasked by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to spearhead the peace talks between Burundians after the 2015 crisis erupted and saw hundreds of thousands (UNHCR data) of refugees flee Burundi to neighboring countries.

As local media reported, President Museveni met Michel Kafando with the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda, Rosa Malango, in Kampala.

President Yoweri Museveni has held a meeting with the United Nations Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Burundi, Michael Kafando and his delegation with whom the President discussed issues pertaining to the mediation peace process and security of Burundi.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Rosa Malango, also attended the meeting that took place on Friday at State House, Entebbe.

Michel Kafando was also seen recently visiting Rwanda amid the ongoing frosty ties between Gitega and Kigali.

It should be remembered that Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has been tasked to mediate on the peace process of Burundians.

Burundi reacted to this leaking and blamed Uganda for doing it deliberately. Since then, relations between Kampala and Gitega have been a bit low.

It is expected that Yoweri Museveni will go on and broker a peace deal between Burundians.

The letter contained the harshest answer ever from Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to his counterpart of Burundi.

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Finally, the DR Congo Government established after 7 months of absence

At last, the Democratic Republic of Congo’s government has been established after the seven months of absence since the last January 2019

The DR Congo president, Felix Tshisekedi announced the establishment of the DR Congo government via an issued communiqué signed by him on Monday, August 26, 2019.

The Prime Minister, Ilunga Sylvestre has announced yesterday on Sunday that the composite government has been set up and ready to run the country.

Related: Will DRC’s new Prime Minister be able to tackle the challenges the country is facing?

THE BIG PICTURE: Since the swearing-in of the DR Congo president, Felix Tshisekedi, there has been no established government of DR Congo. Negotiations between Joseph Kabila camp and Felix Tshisekedi camp have been dragging on in order to reach the consensus on the composite government.

As shown on the president’s decrees signed by him, the DR Congo government will be made up of 31 ministers, four women included.

Political analysts say that the newly established DR Congo government is mainly pro-Kabila, meaning that Joseph Kabila, although he has willingly accepted to quit and hand the government to Felix counterpart, he still has a ‘strong hand’ in the DR Congo government.

The Prime Minister, Sylvestre Ilunga said of the new DR Congo government as the ‘fresh and new blood’ as it is composed by 3/4 representatives who are ‘new debutants’ in the politics of the country. This has come as a relief to government companies which have been going running without paying its employees for several months.
DR Congo opposition accuses the newly set Gov’t to be under Kabila’s clout

Although the Democratic Republic of Congo has set up a new government after 7 months of absence, the opposition members are still criticizing it of its impartiality and working under Joseph Kabila’s political clout or influence.

**THE BIG PICTURE:** The newly set government, called a ‘coalition government’, is made up of almost 80% percent of Kabila’s camp, the fact which angers the opposition members, slamming the Tshisekedi government of leaving them out in favor of Joseph Kabila, the former president.

As the Voice of America reported, the 65-member cabinet includes 23 appointees from Tshisekedi’s Direction for Change Party and 42 from former President Joseph Kabila’s Common Front for Congo coalition. But members of the DRC’s numerous other political parties are warning that the cabinet gives too much power to allies of the former president and not enough to opposition voices.

The leading opposition member, Jean Pierre Bemba, took to Twitter to slam the newly set government over its inadequacies.

Un gouvernement pléthorique, un budget de l’Etat qui va en s’amenuisant. Comment répondre aux besoins impérieux du peuple Congolais ? Comment faire face aux enjeux sanitaires, sécuritaires, économiques et sociaux de la #RDC ?

— Jean Pierre Bemba (@bembajp) August 26, 2019

**Related:** Finally, the DR Congo Government established after 7 months of absence

Emery Kalwira, president of the opposition group Congolese Coalition, told VOA that Tshisekedi’s predecessor, Kabila, maintains the majority of the seats in the government and doesn’t want to leave power.

“He is [Kabila] still the main leader of the DRC and Tshisekedi isn’t the real president...that is why we want to call all the people to get up and to put them out and to begin a good transition with our popular salvation authority.”

Although Felix Tshisekedi won the much-contested DR Congo elections, it appears now that the opposition members are voicing their concerns and accusing the new president of being a puppet, VOA added.

“’You know that Kabila is controlling the two parliamentary senates and the parliament and the biggest majority from the government composition is from him. That shows that... Congolese people will still be suffering, and that’s why we say Mr. Kabila must go out. Because Tshisekedi is not the real president,” Kalwira added.

But Tshisekedi camp told VOA and rejected these accusations from the opposition members, saying that the newly set government is diversely composed and that it did not leave out anyone meeting the requirements.