

July 2017

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Africa Digest

Summary of Key Political & Economic
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Angola

Angola at a crossroads

Ref: July

The announcement of Angolan longtime president José Eduardo dos Santos not to stand for re-election has shaken up the country's political scene. Research fellow Sylvia Croese looks at Angola ahead of the 2017 legislative elections and at the "president in waiting".

[Read more](#)

As Angola prepares for historic vote, experts look to nation's oil giant

Ref: 11 July 2017

Angola is preparing for a historic election that will see its longtime leader, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, step down after 38 years in power; but, as the southern African nation prepares to vote, analysts inside and outside the country say they are keeping a close watch not on the ballot — but on the balance sheet of the state-run oil company, Sonangol.

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Ethiopia

Kenya and Ethiopia join forces to advance peace, security, development and hope

Ref: 23 July 2017

The Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya have established a cross-border programme which straddles Marsabit County, Kenya and the Borana/Dawa Zones of Ethiopia known as the "Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation."

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New wave of South Sudan refugees coming to Ethiopia due to renewed conflicts

Ref: 13 July 2017

UN officials stated more than 5,000 South Sudanese have been forced to seek refuge in Ethiopia due to the renewed battle between the two warring sides.

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The elections in 2008 saw a weak political opposition which did not present a credible alternative to the ruling party

Ruling party considers reducing taxes to attract investment

Ref: 14 July 2017

The creation of more fiscal incentives, through the reduction of taxes to attract investments into the most needy regions of the country figures among the economic measures an MPLA election winning government is considering.

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Ethiopia to start new railway line

Ref: 07 July 2017

Ethiopian Railway Corporation announced plans that it will start test run of Awash – Woldiya/Hara Gebeya Railway line next month. The project, which is currently underway in the north-eastern part of Ethiopia, was started in June 2012.

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Ghana

Akufo-Addo 'stops' Ntim from contesting NPP Chair race in favour of Alhaji Short

Ref: 25 July 2017

Bent on getting his preferred candidate to become the next National Chairman of the New Patriotic Party, President Akufo-Addo has cannily baited former National Vice Chairman, Stephen Ayenso Ntim, with a lucrative post in his government to get him to back down on his ambition.

[Read more](#)

Minister dissuades assembly members from partisan politics

Ref: 23 July 2017

The Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, Bright Wireko Brobbey, who is also the Member of Parliament for Hemang Lower Denkyira Constituency in the Central Region has appealed to assembly members in the country to stay away from active politics to help bring development to their respective electoral areas.

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Ajumako Enyan Essiam chiefs happy with Dr Kofi Mensah's nomination as ADB MD

Ref: 24 July 2017

The chiefs and people of Ajumako Enyan Essiam Traditional Area in the Central Region have expressed appreciation to President Akufo-Addo, for nominating Dr John Kofi Mensah for appointment as Managing Director of the ADB Bank.

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'I'm thinking of running for president' - Amis-sah-Arthur

Ref: 24 July 2017

Former Vice President Paa Kwesi Amis-sah-Arthur has said he is thinking about contesting the 2020 presidential election on the ticket of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

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Kenya

Interior CS Joseph Nkaissey died of rare heart condition

Ref: 11 July 2017

A team of pathologists who conducted a postmortem examination revealed the late interior CS Joseph Nkaissey died of heart attack

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Kenyans of Indian descent become 44th tribe

Ref: 22 July 2017

President Uhuru Kenyatta has gazetted the recognition of the Kenyans of Indian descent as the 44th tribe in Kenya and invited them to participate in the political, economic, cultural and social development of the nation.

[Read more](#)

Young voters will perhaps trump political tribalism

Ref: 08 July 2017

Ethnicity is a world-wide social fact. But nations must rest on shared values, not shared ethnicity. The tragedy of Africa is that politics is not about a higher idea of the nation.

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Mozambique

Chinese Defense Minister visits Mozambique: President Nyusi reaffirms bilateral relationship

Ref: 11 July 2017

President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, said that he hopes to strengthen cooperation with China in various fields, including defense and security.

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Mozambique's debt scandal - impunity is the catch of the day

Ref: 19 July 2017

With crucial details about the \$2 billion loans still secret, the people are paying the price for decisions made by elites and international banks.

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No good neighbour: Mozambique still refuses to support Shire-Zambezi waterway project

Ref: 07 June 2017

The Mozambican government has again rejected calls by the Malawi government to use Zambezi and Shire rivers for commercial shipping.

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Nigeria

Nigeria needs political economic revolution not restructuring —Labour

Ref: 07 June 2017

The organized labour has declared that what the country needs urgently is political economic transformation and revolution rooted in value addition, massive industrialization, equal wealth distribution, poverty eradication, mass and full employment as well as productivity.

[Read more](#)

Senate lauds CBN's acquisition of scanners to check revenue leakages

Ref: 25 July 2017

The Senate on recently lauded the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for acquiring Hi-Definition scanners and platform to check foreign exchange leakages and other infractions in the import-export value chain.

[Read more](#)

Nigerian economy to grow faster than S-Africa's in 2018 — IMF

Ref: 25 July 2017

The International Monetary Fund, IMF, has projected that Nigeria's economy will grow at a faster pace than South Africa's in 2018.

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Nigerian government moves to regulate use of social media

Ref: 25 July 2017

The federal government is in a move to set up a council whose duty will be to regulate the use of social media in Nigeria.

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Rwanda



President Kagame kicks off campaigns, fires back at critics

Ref: 14 July 2017

President Paul Kagame fired back at his critics, saying railing against Rwanda's model of democracy "is a waste of time" as its citizens already know what they want. The leader, who is seeking a third seven-year term, said those who frown upon the country's unique context of doing things as undemocratic are "meaningless".

[Read more](#)

Rwanda to take up AU leadership next year

Ref: 08 July 2017

Rwanda has been elected to take over the African Union chairmanship next year. President Paul Kagame, who is currently leading AU institutional reforms, will take over the mantle from President Alpha Condé of Guinea.

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Rwanda's opposition 'lone ranger' cleared to face off with Kagame

Ref: 11 July 2017

Local Government Minister Francis Kaboneka has condemned bad politics which he said was the force behind the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

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South Africa

ANC's policy conference

Ref: 11 July 2017

Everything you need to know about the ANC's policy conference

In case you missed it, these are some of the recommendations that emerged from the commissions.

[Read more](#)

Challenges of working class, economy tops SACP congress agenda

Ref: 10 July 2017

As hundreds of South African Communist Party (SACP) leaders converge in Boksburg on Monday, 10 July for the party's national congress, the party says that the challenges facing the working class and the economy will dominate discussions

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Gupta money-laundering suspicions mount

Ref: 21 July 2017

Experts believe unconventional payments by Gupta-owned Sahara Computers into unknown offshore accounts could point to money-laundering. Information on the payments is contained in leaked e-mails linked to the Guptas, their associates and companies

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Tanzania

Relief as Kenya, Tanzania agree to lift trade restrictions

Ref: 24 July 2017

Kenya has lifted restrictions on wheat flour and cooking gas imports from Tanzania, which has in turn allowed milk and cigarettes from Kenya.

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Tanzania suspends granting of citizenship to Burundian refugees

Ref: 24 July 2017

Tanzanian President John Magufuli ordered relevant authorities in the East African nation to stop granting citizenship to Burundian refugees.

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Tanzania's president suspends granting of mining licenses

Ref: 05 July 2017

The Tanzanian president has ordered the mining ministry to suspend the granting of new licenses, a statement from State House said, the latest twist in an ongoing row between the government and mining companies.

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Uganda



Besigye refusal to recognise government not helpful - EU envoy

Ref: 09 July 2017

The outgoing head of the European Union (EU) Delegation in Uganda has said continued claims by former Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) presidential flag bearer Kizza Besigye, that the ruling party is in government "illegally" even after the Supreme Court upheld President Museveni's victory, is not adding anything positive to nation building.

[Read more](#)

Attorney general now confirms age limit bill

Ref: 14 July 2017

A move by the executive to table a piecemeal Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2017 on land acquisition triggered protests from parliament yesterday, with many MPs questioning why the omnibus amendment bill is not ready.

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Economic News Roundup

Angola

Farming: a cornerstone of Angola's economic diversification

Ref: 03 July 2017

In the Seventies, Angola was one of Africa's leading farming nations. But years of civil war took its toll on the sector which only represents 10% of the country's GDP today.

[Read more](#)

Angola promises to honour its N\$2.6 billion debt to Namibia

Ref: 24 July 2017

Windhoek-Angola has promised to honour its outstanding N\$2.6 billion financial obligations to Namibia in a 2015 currency conversion agreement that saw Angola unable to pay over on time the billions owed to Namibia.

[Read more](#)

Angola's GDP expected to grow over the next five years

Ref: 20 July 2017

Angola's economy will grow in between 2017 and 2021 after expanding by just 0.6% in 2016, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in its July report on the African country.

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Ethiopia

Ethiopia offers shares to private investors to build roads

Ref: 19 July 2017

Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Abraham Teksete (PhD), announced the country's plan to offer shares to private investors in its road-building and maintenance projects.

The move by the Ethiopian government has been considered by many as a latest step to open up and modernise the state-led economy.

[Read more](#)

Djibouti, Ethiopia cooperate in potash trade

Ref: 22 July 2017

In a bid to support Ethiopia's potash export, Djibouti announced plan to construct USD 98 million road project.

Djibouti's government has recently inked a construction agreement with Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi & Sons Co, a Kuwaiti based firm.

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Ethiopia coffee export hits record high

Ref: 11 July 2017

Ethiopia earned 866 million USD exporting 221,000 tons of coffee during its last fiscal year. According to Ethiopian Coffee & Tea Development and Marketing Authority, it has accomplished 92 per cent of its set goal to increase coffee exports.

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Ghana

Revise harmful tax treaties for companies

Ref: 25 July 2017

Action aid Ghana has asked the government to revise the tax treaties granted to multinational corporations operating in the country.

[Read more](#)

Reconsider 3% VAT Flat Rate Scheme - AmCham Ghana recommends to govt

Ref: 25 July 2017

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Ghana has added its voice to calls on the government to reconsider the introduction of the three per cent VAT flat rate on manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.

[Read more](#)

Government will revamp open data initiative to enhance economic growth

Ref: 25 July 2017

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has expressed his government's resolve to promote the availability of data and information to enhance opportunity for economic development and creation of jobs in the area of digital technology for the youth.

[Read more](#)

Bank of Ghana cuts policy rate to 21%

Ref: 24 July 2017

For the fourth time this year, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Ghana has reduced its policy by 150 basis points to 21% from 22.5%.

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Kenya

Millers oppose import of duty-free Dar wheat

Ref: 24 July 2017

Kenyan millers have strongly opposed the government's move to allow Tanzanian firms to bring in wheat flour duty-free, fearing they will be priced out of the market.

[Read more](#)

President Kenyatta commissions Kshs 2.5b Isiolo International Airport

Ref: 23 July 2017

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Sunday commissioned the Kshs 2.5 billion Isiolo International Airport, a key plank of the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor project.

[Read more](#)



Jack Ma's team of Chinese billionaires in Kenya to hunt for deals

Ref: 19 July 2017

Jack Ma, the founder and executive chairman of Chinese e-commerce behemoth Alibaba, jetted into Nairobi on a packed two-day visit that peaked with a public appearance at the University of Nairobi to offer Kenyan youth tips on how to build successful business empires.

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Mozambique

Japan freezes \$100M in grants and loans

Ref: 18 July 2017

Japan has frozen US\$100 million in donations and loans to Mozambique due to the scandal of undisclosed loans by two public companies, the head of Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced in Mozambique, sources say.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique's economy grows 2.9% in the first quarter

Ref: 27 June 2017

Mozambique grew 2.9% in the first quarter compared to the same quarter last year, according to the Mozambican National Statistics Institute (INE).

[Read more](#)

IMF concerned about growth prospects in Mozambique

Ref: 21 July 2017

The mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which visited Mozambique to assess the country's economic and financial situation, said it was concerned about the growth prospects of the Mozambican economy, which remain difficult, as in 2016 growth was only 3.8%, although it is expected to rise to 4.7% this year.

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Nigeria

CBN attributes economic crises to external factors

Ref: 23 July 2017

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has again attributed current economic crises to a mix of external factors like slide in crude oil prices, and internal factors such as under-investment in domestic productive sector.

[Read more](#)

CBN holds on to forex gains, growth expectations as MPC meets

Ref: 24 July 2017

As the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) begins, there are expectations that the policymakers will retain previous decisions to ensure deepening of effects.

[Read more](#)

Nigerian economy to grow faster than S-Africa's in 2018 — IMF

Ref: 25 July 2017

The International Monetary Fund, IMF, has projected that Nigeria's economy will grow at a faster pace than South Africa's in 2018. According to its World Economic Outlook, WEO, for July 2017, the IMF said Nigeria will grow at 1.9 per cent in 2018, while South Africa will only climb by 1.2 per cent.

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Nigeria to strengthen trade, economic cooperation with Tunisia —Minister

Ref: 26 June 2017

Minister of Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Onyeama, has expressed Nigeria's desire to further strengthen and expand cooperation with Tunisia especially in the area of trade and investment.

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Nigeria may hold rates even as inflation slow down

Ref: 25 July 2017

A weak naira and stubborn inflation may prevent Nigeria's central bank from following South Africa and Ghana in cutting interest rates.

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Rwanda

Volkswagen assembly plant in Kigali on course

Ref: 18 July 2017

Plans by Volkswagen to build Rwanda's first vehicle assembly plant moved a notch higher after the German carmaker completed a feasibility study of the project.

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Energy sector gets Rwf42 Billion to increase off-grid solutions

Ref: 08 July 2017

The Government and the World Bank Group have signed a financial agreement to enhance power connectivity through off-grid solutions.

[Read more](#)



Economy expands by Rwf224 Billion in Q1 of 2017

Ref: 06 July 2017

Rwanda's Economy grew by Rwf224 billion in the first quarter of 2017, thanks mainly to the service industry which outperformed other sectors.

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South Africa

Reserve Bank announces surprise interest rate cut

Ref: 20 July 2017

The South African Reserve Bank's surprise decision to cut interest rates by 0.25% offers some reprieve for financially strained South Africans.

[Read more](#)

Poor economy affecting South Africa's property market

Ref: 29 June 2017

While South Africa is currently in a recession, the property market has been on the decline for a number of years, say property economists.

[Read more](#)

Numsa strike will cause irreparable damage, says Afribusiness

Ref: 24 July 2017

Afribusiness said on Monday, 24 July that a strike by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa), if it went ahead, would cause irreparable damage to the economy.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania

Better zero fuel than operators evading tax - Tanzania president issues orders

Ref: 20 July 2017

President, John Pombe Magufuli, has launched a fresh operation to get taxes paid by major economic players in the country, fuel station operators.

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Tanzania's government shuts down sports council over corruption

Ref: 11 July 2017

The Tanzanian government dissolved the country's National Sports Council, accusing it of deep-seated corruption.

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Tokyo assures Dar of continued financial support

Ref: 24 July 2017

The embassy of Japan has assured Tanzania of its continued support on development projects in the Iringa region and other areas in its quest to support the Fifth Phase Government led by President John Magufuli.

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Uganda

Nakumatt evicted from three malls

Ref: 03 July 2017

Knight Frank, a real estate company and manager of several upscale buildings in Kampala, has announced the closure of three Nakumatt stores housed in major malls in Kampala and Entebbe.

[Read more](#)

Oil firms awarded exclusive right to produce gas power

Ref: 19 July 2017

Uganda has finally made its decision on who exactly will exploit the country's gas resources to generate power, more than two years after it stopped the Electricity Regulatory Authority from receiving any requests from investors.

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460 suppliers fail to meet oil standards

Ref: 06 July 2017

About 460 suppliers within the oil and gas sector are yet to submit all the necessary documents and requirements to meet the needed capacity to work in Uganda's oil and gas sector, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) said in Kampala.

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