

August 2017

H+K

# Africa Digest

Summary of Key Political & Economic  
Developments

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## Angola

Polls close in Angolan election that ends Dos Santos's rule

Ref: 23 August 2017

Voting ended in a landmark Angolan election that will bring about the first leadership change in almost four decades for Africa's second-biggest oil producer.

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Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Africa's second-longest serving ruler who led Angola through a civil war, an oil-fueled boom and a bust, steps down after 38 years in power

1,440 election observers in Angola despite geographical restrictions

Ref: 23 August 2017

Angola is hosting 1,440 election observers in parts of the country to monitor the August 23 general elections.

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The MPLA's grip on Angola is weakening

Ref: 17 August 2017

The ruling party will probably win the coming election, but corruption is weakening it. It is fitting that the black-and-red flag of Angola is hardly distinguishable from that of its ruling party.

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## Ethiopia

Ethiopian PM, others summoned by court as witnesses in terrorism trial

Ref: 19 August 2017

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemeriam Desalegn and two other government officials have been summoned by a federal high court to serve as witnesses in the ongoing terrorism and criminal trials of two Oromo opposition leaders and 15 others.

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Canada issues Ethiopia security alert citing road clashes in four cities

Ref: 24 August 2017

The Canadian government issued a safety and security alert for Ethiopia, citing clashes in parts of the country. They subsequently cautioned citizens to exercise caution.

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Ethiopia lifts state of emergency imposed in October

Ref: 05 August 2017

Ethiopia's government has lifted a state of emergency imposed in October after hundreds of people were killed in anti-government protests demanding wider political freedoms.

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## Ghana

President Akufo-Ado to run in 2020; Abu Jinapor confirms

Ref: 28 August 2017

Deputy Chief of Staff, Abu Jinapor, says he is eagerly anticipating a victory for the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in 2020, with President Nana Akufo-Addo declared the winner of the presidential polls.

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## Northern youth want Deputy Agric Minister sacked

Ref: 28 August 2017

President Nana Akufo-Addo is under pressure to sack 'loose-talking' Deputy Agric Minister, Mr William Quaitoo, who referred to people of the north as "difficult people".

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## NPP considers expansion of Electoral College

Ref: 27 August 2017

There are calls for the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) to increase its electoral college to include more delegates who will elect the party's national executives.

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## Bring gas agreement with Equatorial Guinea to Parliament - Minority tells gov't

Ref: 25 August 2017

The Minority in Parliament is demanding Energy Minister, Boakye Agyarko submits to the House details of a possible 15-year Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) agreement yet to be signed with Equatorial Guinea.

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## Kenya

### Jubilee digs in as Nasa rejects repeat presidential poll date

Ref: 05 September 2017

A war of words has erupted between the government and the Opposition after the electoral commission picked October 17 as the date for repeat presidential poll.

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### Kenya Supreme Court annuls result of presidential polls

Ref: 01 September 2017

Kenya's Supreme Court has nullified the result of the August 8 presidential election won by President Uhuru Kenyatta.

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### Vote ruling by chief justice surprises Kenyans, but not his colleagues

Ref: 03 September 2017

Kenya's Supreme Court ruling to scrap last month's presidential election was shaped by a new chief justice who proved a staunch defender of judicial independence on a continent where judges are often seen as being under the thumb of executive powers.

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### Supreme Court decision leaves observers with an egg on their face

Ref: 03 September 2017

The Supreme Court decision nullifying the August 8 presidential elections has turned the tables on domestic and international observers who gave the poll a clean bill of health.

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### Supreme Court ruling blow to 1.6m exam candidates

Ref: 02 September 2017

The Supreme Court ruling has dealt a major blow to more than 1.6 million candidates preparing to sit this year's national examinations.

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### Supreme Court verdict 'may have little effect on other cases'

Ref: 04 September 2017

Legal experts have warned candidates planning to file election petitions not to use the Supreme Court verdict on presidential results as reference.

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## Mozambique

### Amurane confirms he will run in 2018 elections

Ref: 23 August 2017

The Mayor of the northern Mozambican city of Nampula, Mahamudo Amurane, publicly announced on that he intends to run for a second term of office in the 2018 municipal elections, as the candidate of a political party - but he did not reveal which one.

[Read more](#)

## Mozambique President, opposition chief hold first meet since 2015

Ref: 07 August 2017

Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi and the nation's opposition chief Afonso Dhlakama met for the first time since 2015, a step toward peace after years of instability.

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## Political parties and election officers must change their behaviour

Ref: 19 July 2017

Abdul Carimo, the chairperson of Mozambique's National Elections Commission (CNE), said that a change in behaviour, both by political parties and by election officials, would be a means of enhancing the credibility of the country's elections, and overcoming the bitter disputes between political forces during electoral periods.

[Read more](#)

## Nigeria

### Court orders permanent forfeiture of N7.6 billion linked to Diezani Alison-Madueke

Ref: 28 August 2017

A Lagos Division of the Federal High Court on Monday ordered the permanent forfeiture of N7.6 billion to the Nigerian government, money suspected to belong to former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke.

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## Boko Haram: Two factions ready for talks with Nigerian govt – Ex-commander

Ref: 27 August 2017

Two factions of the Boko Haram insurgency group may be ready for talks with the Federal Government, a former commander of the group, Abdulkadir Abubakar, has claimed.

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## Minimum wage: NLC submits list of its nominees to FG

Ref: 24 August 2017

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) says it has submitted the names of its nominees for the 29 man-committee for the negotiation of the new National Minimum Wage.

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## Work from Home: How Rats chased Buhari out of his Office

Ref: 22 August 2017

According to BBC Pidgin, a rat infestation was behind the President's decision to work from home. President Buhari, who recently returned from a medical vacation in the UK, surprised the Nigerian populace recently when his aides announced that he would be working from home.

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## Rwanda



### Kagame sworn in

Ref: 18 August 2017

President Paul Kagame took oath of office as President of Rwanda. Kagame was sworn in by the Chief Justice Prof. Sam Rugege with the First Lady Mrs Jeanette Kagame by his side and applause from the crowd.

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## What next for Rwanda's opposition politics after poor showing in polls?

Ref: 13 August 2017

The Rwandan opposition was dealt a heavy blow in the August 4 election, with a poor showing which painted a dull picture of opposition politics in the country and cemented the dominance of the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front-Inkotanyi.

[Read more](#)

## CNLG lauds Germany for extraditing genocide suspect

Ref: 22 August 2017

The National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG) has commended Germany for extraditing Jean Twagiramungu to stand trial for his alleged role in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

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## South Africa

### Jacob Zuma narrowly survives no-confidence vote in South African parliament

Ref: August 2017

South African president, Jacob Zuma, has narrowly survived a motion of no confidence against him in parliament, the most serious attempt yet to unseat him after months of growing anger over allegations of corruption and a sinking economy.

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## MPs fear Guptas are selling assets as part of plan to skip country

Ref: 23 August 2017

The Gupta family could be disposing of their assets in order to skip the country as an attempt to avoid being grilled by parliament for their alleged capture of state-owned companies.

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## Cosatu's meeting next week will focus on Ramaphosa strategy

Ref: 21 August 2017

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) will hold a critical leadership meeting next week to decide its course of action should its preferred candidate, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, fail to emerge on top at the ANC's national elective conference in December.

[Read more](#)

## Moody's says South Africa's political tensions constraining growth

Ref: 16 August 2017

Political tensions in the ruling African National Congress (ANC) will weigh on South Africa's growth, ratings agency Moody's said on Wednesday, a week after President Jacob Zuma survived a no-confidence vote in parliament.

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## Tanzania

### Tanzania suspends NGOs registration

Ref: 22 August 2017

Tanzania has suspended the registration of new non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as it embarks on verifying the existing ones

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## Sisi calls for closer trade, economic cooperation between Egypt and Tanzania

Ref: 14 August 2017

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi praised bilateral relations between Egypt and Tanzania in Dar El-Salam and called for closer economic and trade cooperation.

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## Tanzania rights body slams 'harassment' of opposition

Ref: 24 August 2017

Tanzania's main human rights group on Thursday criticised the government for its "harassment" of opposition lawmakers, three of whom have been arrested over the past week.

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## Uganda



### New Museveni age-limit plan

Ref: 09 August 2017

No bill seeking to remove 75-year age limit on the presidency has been tabled in parliament but the head butting around the issue is intense. When, on August 07, President Museveni's staff posted a photo on his Facebook page mentioning him and a date in 1947, opponents to lifting the age-limit sprung into Twitter frenzy.

[Read more](#)

## MPs push for transparency in the decisions of the Appointments Committee

Ref: 03 August 2017

Members of Parliament from across the political divide are pushing for an amendment in the parliament rules of procedure to allow transparency and involvement of the entire parliament in the decisions made by the Appointments Committee.

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## Why Museveni fired energy PS Isabalija after only 10 months

Ref: 25 August 2017

Dr Stephen Isabalija has been fired as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, only after ten months in the job. Isabalija, who was appointed in November 2016, was shown the exit on Wednesday and he didn't up to office yesterday.

[Read more](#)



## Economic News Roundup

### Angola

Angola enters a new political era with its economy struggling

Ref: 22 August 2017

Around the horseshoe-shaped bay of Luanda, Angola's capital, unfinished skyscrapers stand as a testament to the challenges facing Africa's second-biggest oil producer as it prepares for its first leadership change in almost four decades.

[Read more](#)

Angola seeks to roll back oil dependency to diversify economy through agriculture

Ref: 22 August 2017

After suffering a huge blow following the fall in prices of petroleum products, Angola has turned to the agro-industry to recover from the current economic crisis.

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Angola's investment in non-oil sectors starts to pay off

Ref: 22 August 2017

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2017, energy and non-energy commodity prices are likely to continue to rise.

[Read more](#)

### Ethiopia

Massive assets freeze in Ethiopia high-level anti-corruption crackdown

Ref: 11 August 2017

A court in Ethiopia has ordered the freezing of assets belonging to individuals and entities listed in a recent anti-corruption crackdown.

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Ethiopia benefiting from economic diplomacy, says Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ref: 18 August 2017

The government of Ethiopia has announced that the country is working on economic diplomacy through its foreign missions to attract foreign investment, as part of the government's overall effort to boost sustainable economic growth.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia unveils plan to lift 7.9 million people from poverty

Ref: 18 August 2017

Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Damene Darota, said the ministry planned to lift close to 7.9 million rural Ethiopians from "absolute" poverty.

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### Ghana

Customs wraps up preparations towards paperless port

Ref: 28 August 2017

The customs division of the Ghana Revenue Authority is wrapping up preparations towards the take-off of the paperless system at the ports.

[Read more](#)

Ghana Stock Exchange suspends 5 companies

Ref: 28 August 2017

The Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) has suspended five companies from trading on the GSE recently for failing to meet "continuing listing obligations, in spite of several prompts to do so."

[Read more](#)

IES opposes move to sell VRA thermal plants

Ref: 28 August 2017

The Institute of Energy Security (IES) has kicked against a potential sale of thermal plants belonging to the Volta River Authority (VRA) to private entities by government.

[Read more](#)

## Gov't challenged to make funding accessible to SME's

Ref: 24 August 2017

Government is being challenged to make funding more accessible for SME's to enable small businesses make substantial contributions to development.

[Read more](#)

## Kenya

### Kampala traders ease Mombasa port use on election jitters

Ref: 08 August 2017

Uganda traders have gone slow on importing goods via Mombasa port due to election-related uncertainty in Kenya, reports show.

[Read more](#)

### US trade official urges Kenya to rethink ban on second-hand clothes

Ref: 06 August 2017

A senior US trade official urged three East African Community countries to "revisit" their collective ban on used-clothing imports.

[Read more](#)

### Russia's 10th largest bank eyes Kenya market

Ref: 17 August 2017

One of Russia's largest privately owned banks, Promsvyazbank, says it mulling over expanding operations into Kenya as it seeks to tap new East Africa deals.

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## Mozambique



### Mozambique to set up independent fund to invest mineral sales income

Ref: 27 August 2017

Mozambique's government plans to set up a sovereign investment fund where taxes paid on sales of the country's minerals will be used to finance development projects, state-run AIM news agency said on Monday quoting the finance minister.

[Read more](#)

### Mozambique's economic growth drops 1% against last year – Govt

Ref: 16 August 2017

The Council of Ministers announced yesterday that Mozambique's economy grew one percentage point less in the first six months of this year than in the same period of 2016.

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## Nigeria

### Economic recovery: Food processing to the rescue

Ref: 28 August 2017

Nigeria's food processing industry is valued at \$10 billion. It also provides an estimated 10 million direct jobs.

[Read more](#)

### CBN Pumps \$9.96bn into FX Market in Six Months, Attains Stability

Ref: 28 August 2017

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has injected \$9.964 billion into the interbank segment of the foreign exchange (forex) market since it commenced its aggressive interventions in February this year.

[Read more](#)

### Hard times not over as recession ends in Q3

Ref: 27 August 2017

Although the grueling economic recession is expected to end by the end of this quarter, better life may not be at the corner for Nigerians, according to economic and financial experts.

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### Direct forex remittances to CBN hit N12trn

Ref: 28 August 2017

Total direct remittances monitored by Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) between 2010 to 2016 rose to estimated N12.05 trillion (\$39.5 billion), a data obtained by LEADERSHIP has revealed.

[Read more](#)

## Rwanda

### RwandAir to open more routes in West Africa next month - CEO

Ref: 24 August 2017

RwandAir, the national carrier, will start plying new routes to three West African cities at the end of September, officials have said.

[Read more](#)

## Equity market records Rwf1.9m total turnover

Ref: 23 August 2017

Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE) benchmark All Share Index was unchanged yesterday, closing at 124.45 points, while the index for local counters closed at 116.78 points.

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## Govt moves to attract more cement makers to boost local production

Ref: 29 August 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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## South Africa

### Oil and Gas should be priority for SADC

Ref: 20 August 2017

The discovery and use of natural gas should form the backbone of regional economic integration among the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries, said President Jacob Zuma.

**Read more** [▶](#)

### Is South Africa heading for a debt crisis?

Ref: 18 August 2017

The mounting financial burden South Africa is facing cannot be dismissed as unworthy of serious consideration, nor reduced to a simple solution, such as printing more money.

**Read more** [▶](#)

## Stats SA Poverty Report 2017: Policies fail the people of South Africa

Ref: 23 August 2017

More South Africans are slumping back into poverty as previous gains have been being reversed since 2011.

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## Tanzania



### Economy expands by Rwf224 Billion in Q1 of 2017

Ref: 02 August 2017

Tanzania's economic and investment performance has remained strong among African nations, emerging top in eastern African countries, the government has affirmed.

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### Works on Uganda-Tanzania crude oil pipeline begin

Ref: 05 August 2017

Work on the pipeline that will take Uganda's crude oil to export markets begins after Tanzanian President John Magufuli and his Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni laid the foundation stone at Chongoleani, in the port city of Tanga.

**Read more** [▶](#)

## World Bank cash boost for industrial economy

Ref: 24 August 2017

Tanzania has acquired two strategic projects and four centres of excellence that would be major drives in the envisaged industrial economy and would see the World Bank (WB) pump in 144 million US dollars.

**Read more** [▶](#)

## Uganda

### Museveni, Magufuli reaffirm political will for oil pipeline

Ref: 04 August 2017

President Museveni and his Tanzanian counterpart John Pombe Magufuli, last Saturday laid the first foundation stone for construction of the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), as a gesture for joint political will, for the development of the multi-billion-dollar project within the stated time frame.

**Read more** [▶](#)

### Oil industry in Uganda: Why our slow pace is good

Ref: 15 August 2017

It has often been spoken by some commentators and politicians that the pace of development and particularly the start of oil production in Uganda is dragging and very slow.

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