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# The ASEA Daily News & Resources

## Africa Southeast Area



### Wednesday 1 July 2015

The Daily News is now archived at U:Public

## Africa Southeast Area Websites

The Church has: [37 General Authority Facebook Pages & 27 Church Organizations Pages](#)

### Africa Southeast Area (ASEA)

Countries	Mormon Newsroom Site. Link from these sites to Facebook!	 LIKE US ON facebook	Mormon Newsroom Facebook sites.
Church HQ	<a href="#">Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Mormon Newsroom Facebook page</a>
Angola	<a href="#">Angola Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Angola Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Botswana	none		<a href="#">Botswana Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
DR Congo	<a href="#">DR Congo Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">DR Congo Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Indian Ocean	<a href="#">Indian Ocean Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Indian Ocean Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Kenya	<a href="#">Kenya Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Kenya Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Madagascar	<a href="#">Indian Ocean Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Madagascar Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Malawi	None		<a href="#">Malawi Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Mozambique	None		<a href="#">Mozambique Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
Namibia	None		<a href="#">Namibia Mormon Newsroom Facebook</a>
South Africa	<a href="#">South Africa Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">South Africa Facebook page</a>
Uganda	<a href="#">Uganda Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Uganda Facebook page</a>
Zambia	none		<a href="#">Zambia Mormon Newsroom</a>
Zimbabwe	<a href="#">Zimbabwe Mormon Newsroom</a>		<a href="#">Zimbabwe Facebook page</a>
Totals for ASEA	7 Country Mormon Newsrooms!		13 Country Newsroom Facebook pages!
ASEA YouTube	 <a href="#">ASEA (Africa Southeast Area) Public Affairs YouTube Channel</a>		
AFRICASE	<a href="#">Africa Southeast Area Facebook page</a> We are in great need of "Faith Promoting" stories. Submit at this <a href="#">link</a> :		
Helping Hands	<a href="#">Mormon Helping Hands - Africa Southeast Facebook page</a>		
Public Affairs	All Public Affairs individuals are able to access the Public Affairs Network (Secure Site) at this link: <a href="#">Public Affairs Network</a>		
Online Resources	<a href="#">Use of Online Resources in Church Callings</a> When carefully used, the Internet can help coordinate the work of the Church, strengthen faith, and minister to the needs of others. The Internet can also help with missionary work as people connect with friends and family and share Church content. However, electronic communication should not replace face-to-face contact.		
Emergency Preparedness:	<a href="#">Emergency Preparedness and Response</a>		

## Africa Southeast Area (ASEA)



# Calendar

	July 2015	Central African Republic Presidential and Parliamentary elections
Thursday	9 July 2015	South Sudanese General Election
Thursday	16 July 2015	Burundi Presidential Election
Saturday	18 July 2015	South Africa, Nelson Mandela Day
Sunday	9 August 2015	South African, National Women's Day
Saturday	15 August 2015	ASEA Mormon Helping Hands handover/culmination of projects
	18 October 2015	Presidential and Parliamentary elections
	25 October 2015	DR Congo Provincial elections
	25 October 2015	Tanzania Parliamentary and Presidential elections
Tuesday	16 December 2015	South Africa, Day of Reconciliation
	October 2015	Tanzanian General Elections
	27 November 2015	DR Congo Presidential Election
	2016 (first half)	Niger Parliamentary and Presidential elections.

## Keyword News Topics below in Tan

## Country Specific News Topics in Light Blue

## Church Miscellaneous

(Articles of Interest to Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

[First Presidency sends letter with counsel for members after Supreme Court's same-sex marriage decision](#) (letter at this link: [Mormonnewsroom.org](http://Mormonnewsroom.org))

SALT LAKE CITY — In response to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage, the First Presidency and Quorum of Twelve Apostles of the LDS Church have sent out a letter asking local leaders to hold a meeting with adult and youth members in the coming weeks to read a statement.

The letter is accompanied by background information available to assist leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in answering questions from members.

The letter, statement and background materials — posted Tuesday afternoon on [Mormonnewsroom.org](http://Mormonnewsroom.org) — come in response to the court decision legalizing same-sex marriage in the United States, the letter acknowledged.

"Local leaders are asked to meet with all adults, young men, and young women on either July 5 or July 12 in a setting other than sacrament meeting and read to them the entire statement," the letter said.

In the two-and-a-half-page statement, LDS Church leadership reaffirms its doctrinal positions on morality, marriage between a man and woman, and the family unit being central in the God's divine designs.

## Interesting Stuff about Africa & ASEA area

Found in the news stream.

[Baboon's Best Friend-Are Ethiopia's gelada monkeys really domesticating local wolves?](#) (2:28 vid)

## Medical News

Found in the news stream.

[Officials Confirm Ebola's Return to Liberia](#)

Liberian officials confirmed that Ebola has returned to the country after the death of a teenager.

The 17-year-old boy tested positive for the virus 48 days after the World Health Organization declared Liberia free of Ebola on May 9. More than 8,000 people died from the disease after the virus spread across the country in 2014.

## Social Media

Found in the news stream.

## Religious Freedom

Found in the news stream.

[Dissenting Obergefell Justices Sound Alarm On Religious Freedom](#)

(A very revealing article-rb)

Within moments of the Supreme Court handing down its Obergefell decision, the media and other progressives celebrated the news that Anthony Kennedy had redefined marriage to include same-sex couples. He and four other justices on the Supreme Court discovered — Kennedy struggled mightily to explain where or how, precisely — a new fundamental right to same-sex marriage. That meant, as Justice Antonin Scalia put it, that "every State violated the Constitution for all of the 135 years between the Fourteenth Amendment's ratification and Massachusetts' permitting of same-sex marriages in 2003."

Lost in the celebration was even a slight journalistic comprehension of what the Court had done, much less a critical analysis of same. There is much to be written about the effect of this Roe V. Wade-style decision that bans any further discussion of changing marriage law voluntarily. I imagine there will be much focus on the alarms sounded by the four dissenting justices about the grave threat to self-

government, rule of law and the unintended consequences of redefining the pre-governmental institution that forms the basis of society. For now, let's look at what the justices had to say about the clash between sexual liberty and religious freedom.

[Ken Paxton: Texas' Gay Marriage Licenses Can Be Denied Over Religious Freedom Laws](#)

According to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Texas' gay marriage licenses can be refused by county clerks on the basis of religious beliefs. A county in Texas has already denied a gay marriage license even after SCOTUS announced its decision, and it is possible that many government employees in Texas may follow suit following the announcement of the Texas AG.

In a related report by the Inquisitr, both Allen West and Austin City Council Member Don Zimmerman claim that the legal logic defined by the Supreme Court could lead to pedophile rights becoming the next big equality issue after homosexuality.

Reports claim that Denton County denied the marriage applications of two gay couples because the county clerk needed to receive legal guidance from the district attorney's office in Texas before issuing any marriage licenses. Dianne Edmondson, Denton County Republican Party chairwoman, claimed earlier in the week that the fight over gay marriage has become a fight over states rights.

"[Just Roberts] warns that the Court goes beyond its role as a neutral arbiter and that we have lost the right to govern ourselves," said Edmondson. "After all, only 11 states actually voted by the people or their elected officials to allow gay marriages and the other two dozen have had gay marriage forced upon them by judicial fiat."

['I don't stand alone': County clerks invoke religious freedom to ignore law on same-sex marriage](#)

Religious conservatives, including Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, have been calling for civil disobedience to challenge a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized same-sex marriage.

Their calls lacked specifics ahead of the ruling – which most observers expected to favor the plaintiffs seeking marriage equality – but it appears county clerks will be the first to mount a legal challenge to the high court's decision.

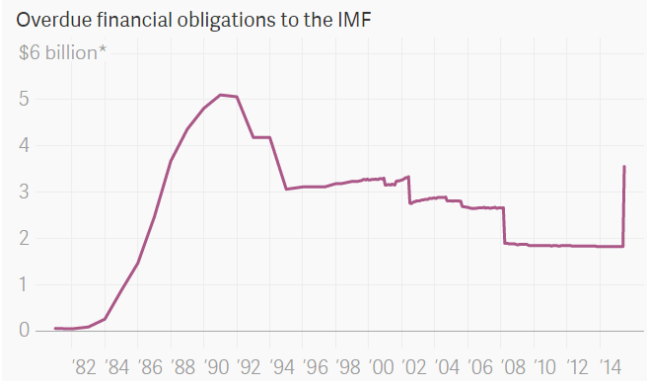
Several county clerks in Kentucky have decided to stop issuing marriage licenses altogether, citing religious objections to the ruling – although they have been directed by the state's Democratic governor and attorney general to follow the law or face potential Class A misdemeanor charges for official misconduct.

**Misc.** Found in the news stream.

[Greece just joined Somalia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe in defaulting on the IMF](#)

It's official: Greece has defaulted on a \$1.7 billion loan repayment to the IMF, earning it the dubious honor of being the first advanced country to stiff the international financial institution, and setting a new record for the size of a missed payment. (Step aside, Sudan.)

At a stroke, the IMF's "overdue financial obligations" have nearly doubled:



**Animal Conservation** and related articles

**Multiple African Countries in articles**

[10 numbers that show how a few African nations are winning - or can top - the race to be very rich](#)

(Very good information to know. This article should be read in entirety, it is too long to cite-rb)

[The ICC is a bully, and other popular myths](#)

(an excellent opinion article-rb)

The International Criminal Court grew out of the international justice movement that flourished after the ending of apartheid in South Africa and the fall of dictatorships in South America.

South Africa joined the ICC soon after its inception in 1998, and the country was one of the early supporters for setting up the court. In this, it was joined by other developing countries that wanted an international mechanism to try the gravest of human rights abuses. By April 1 2015 a total 123 countries had joined ICC.

The court remains one of the few avenues of justice for the citizens of a number of countries. Shortly after Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir fled his ICC arrest warrant in South Africa on June 15, the Palestinian Authority handed over documentation to the court's prosecutor, detailing alleged Israeli crimes in the occupied West Bank and during the war on Gaza in 2014.

[French soldiers accused of sexual abuse of minors in Africa](#)

PARIS (AP) — Two French soldiers serving in the African country of Burkina Faso are being suspended over accusations of sexual abuse of minors, authorities said Tuesday.

It is the second case of alleged sexual abuse of minors by French soldiers in Africa to surface in recent months. French officials insisted Tuesday that the Burkina Faso case was unrelated to the earlier one, in Central African Republic, involving different soldiers.

<b>Angola</b>		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	64% / 26%	Population: 22,116,360
		Penetration of population w/ internet	19.4%	Labor Force: 9,298,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	8,100	Life Expectancy: 52
		Unemployment / year est.	26% / 2014	Church Members: 1,436
		Population below poverty line:	40.5%	Congregations: 8

[Bank of Angola Raises Interest Rate After Currency Devalued](#)

[Angola To Receive Four Modernized Su-30MK Fighters From Russia This Year](#)

# Botswana



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	164% / 26%	Population: 2,115,710
Penetration of population w/ internet	13.2%	Labor Force: 1,017,000
GDP per capita USD\$	16,000/2014	Life Expectancy: 47
Unemployment / year est.	17.8% / 2009	Church Members: 3,104
Population below poverty line:	30.3%	Congregations: 12

## [Botswana implicated in FIFA corruption](#)

Kushatha Ndibi, an investigative journalist with e-Botswana was tasked with unearthing corruption around the two bids, which have seen the arrest of high profile former and sitting FIFA members. She was contracted over a three-year period, from 2010 to 2013.

Her brief was to travel throughout Africa in a bid to uncover corrupt CAF activities linked to the awarding of the two bids.

"We don't have exact amount but the monies, including gifts, were received at different times," Ndibi told Mmegi this week.

She alleges that in one instance, unnamed Botswana Football Association (BFA) officials received Rolex watches worth P80,000 each.

## [Botswana: Former Ministers Pass On](#)

Gaborone — Botswana is mourning the demise of two former members of cabinet, Messrs Pelokgale Seloma and Bahiti Temane. The duo passed away over the weekend (June 27-28).

A press release from Permanent Secretary to the President, Mr Carter Morupisi, stated that government learnt with a "deep sense of loss" about the passing away of Messrs Seloma and Temane. He described them as "two of our nation's senior statesmen."

"During their long and distinguished careers, both gentlemen served the nation in various protfolious and capacities. Mr Temane will be especially remembered for his leadership of the ministries of health and labour and home affairs. He further served as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly," the press release stated.

# Burundi

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	25% / 2%	Population: 11,010,900
Penetration of population w/ internet	1.4%	Labor Force: 4,806,000
GDP per capita USD\$	900	Life Expectancy: 54
Unemployment / year est.	35% / 2009	Church Members: 526
Population below poverty line:	68%	Congregations: 3

## [Burundi votes in boycott-hit poll; blasts, gunfire heard](#)

BUJUMBURA (Reuters) - Burundians voted for a new parliament on Monday after a night of sporadic blasts and gunshots and weeks of violent protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's attempt to win a third term in office.

Voting appeared slow in several districts for an election boycotted by the opposition and condemned by the international community as lacking the conditions to ensure it was fair.

"We don't see many people," one diplomat said.

The European Union, a major donor to the aid-reliant country, threatened on Monday to withhold more funds after Burundi ignored U.N. and African calls for a postponement of the parliamentary vote and a presidential election on July 15.

## [Violence And Confusion Disrupt Burundi's Parliamentary Elections](#)

Three polling stations in the capital were attacked the night before the elections. The government has withheld comments on the perpetrators of the attacks and the number of casualties.

Gunfire and grenade explosions have rocked Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, every evening for nearly one week leading to the Parliamentary elections held today.

Early reports claim that only small crowds of people went to the polling stations, despite there being about 3.8 million voters nationwide.

The Deputy Police Chief, Godefroid Bizimanam, told Agence France-Presse (AFP) that "armed groups tried to attack polling centers... they were shooting and threw grenades."

## [Amid election-related tensions, thousands flee Burundi for neighbouring countries – UN](#)

30 June 2015 – Some ten thousand refugees fled Burundi over the weekend before authorities managed to close the borders ahead of yesterday's parliamentary elections, the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) reported today.

Briefing the press earlier this morning at UN headquarters in Geneva, UNHCR spokesperson Melissa Fleming explained that the Burundian border would now be closed for 48 hours as per usual practice during elections, forcing refugees to use informal border crossing through the forest instead.

So far, nearly 144,000 Burundians have registered as refugees in neighbouring countries since the country's political turmoil started in early April. However, many more are believed to have fled the country, but not registered. Latest official figures show 66,000 in Tanzania, 56,000 in Rwanda, 9,038 in Uganda, 11,500 in Democratic Republic of the Congo, and even 400 in faraway Zambia.

## [Burundi Votes, and Violence Looms](#)

Residents are scrambling to leave Burundi as voting in parliamentary and local elections threatens to turn ugly fast.

# Cameroon

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	71% / -%	Population: 23,248,261
Penetration of population w/ internet		Labor Force: 9,105,000
GDP per capita USD\$	3,000	Life Expectancy: 55
Unemployment / year est.	30% / 2001	Church Members: 1,498
Population below poverty line:	48% / 2000	Congregations: 7

# Central African Republic (CAR)

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	33% / 1%	Population: 4,851,884
Penetration of population w/ internet	3.4%	Labor Force: 2,217,000
GDP per capita USD\$	600	Life Expectancy: 50
Unemployment / year est.	8% / 2001	Church Members: 216
Population below poverty line:	na	Congregations: 1

# Chad

(This country borders ASEA)

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	47% / -%
Penetration of population w/ internet	2.4%
GDP per capita USD\$	2,600
Unemployment / year est.	22% / 2009
Population below poverty line:	80% / 2001

Population:	13,288,797
Labor Force:	4,919,000
Life Expectancy:	51
Church Members:	
Congregations:	

## [Boko Haram suicide blasts during police raid in Chad capital kills 11](#)

N'DJAMENA – Suspected Boko Haram fighters blew themselves up during a police raid in Chad's capital early on Monday, killing five officers and six militants, police and government officials said.

The raid of an illegal arms cache was part of a security operation aimed at dismantling a network of Boko Haram militants blamed for twin suicide bombings in N'Djamena on June 15.

The apparently synchronized attacks were the most deadly that Western ally Chad has known and killed 34 people.

# Congo Rep.

(Brazzaville)

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	100% / 7%
Penetration of population w/ internet	2.0%
GDP per capita USD\$	6,600
Unemployment / year est.	53% / 2012
Population below poverty line:	46.5% / 2011

Population:	4,753,445
Labor Force:	2,890,000
Life Expectancy:	59
Church Members:	6,053
Congregations:	17

# DR Congo

(Kinshasa)



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	59% / 8%
Penetration of population w/ internet	2.0%
GDP per capita USD\$	700 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	46% / 2009
Population below poverty line:	63%

Population:	71,509,992
Labor Force:	27,590,000
Life Expectancy:	50
Church Members:	42,689
Congregations:	145

# Equatorial Guinea

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	87% / -%
Penetration of population w/ internet	16.0%
GDP per capita USD\$	32,600
Unemployment / year est.	22.3% / 2009
Population below poverty line:	na

Population:	802,008
Labor Force:	195,200
Life Expectancy:	53
Church Members:	
Congregations:	

# Ethiopia

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	26% / 49%
Penetration of population w/ internet	1.7%
GDP per capita USD\$	1,500
Unemployment / year est.	17.5% / 2012
Population below poverty line:	39% / 2012

Population:	101,683,016
Labor Force:	47,320,000
Life Expectancy:	64
Church Members:	1,854
Congregations:	64

## [Ethiopia mulls tough trafficking law, including death penalty](#)

Human traffickers in Ethiopia could face life in jail or the death penalty under a bill presented to parliament on Tuesday aimed at curbing the illegal flow of people in and out of the Horn of Africa country.

The move comes two months after at least 30 Ethiopian migrants were shot and killed by Islamic State militants in Libya and after others have died while heading to Europe on rickety boats across the Mediterranean.

The legislation, proposed by the Ministry of Justice, contains a range of penalties for trafficking and smuggling including fines of up to 500,000 birr (\$7,500) and the death penalty in cases where victims suffer severe injury or death.

# Gabon

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	175% / -%
Penetration of population w/ internet	9.9%
GDP per capita USD\$	21,600
Unemployment / year est.	21% / 2006
Population below poverty line:	na

Population:	1,742,265
Labor Force:	636,000
Life Expectancy:	63
Church Members:	
Congregations:	

# Kenya



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	83% / 67%
Penetration of population w/ internet	36.7%
GDP per capita USD\$	3,100
Unemployment / year est.	40% / 2008
Population below poverty line:	43.4 / 2012

Population:	46,764,772
Labor Force:	17,700,000
Life Expectancy:	62
Church Members:	12,471
Congregations:	62

## [Kenya's running champions walk 800km to break 'cycle of violence'](#)

A dozen world-famous Kenyan athletes, including Ezekiel Kemboi, Paul Tergat and Tegla Loroupe, will lead a 22-day "walk for peace" across northern Kenya aimed at curbing rising inter-ethnic violence.

The 836 km walk is being organised by Commonwealth Gold medallist John Kelai who decided to take action after three of his uncles were shot dead in a cattle rustling raid, where rival pastoralist groups steal livestock from each other.

## [Flagship Westgate Mall reopens in Kenya](#)

The upscale Nairobi mall attacked by terrorists in 2013 plans a partial reopening on Wednesday. At least 67 people died when Al Shabaab, an African offshoot of Al Qaeda, attacked the Westgate Shopping Mall.

The siege was a blow to the heart of Nairobi's prosperity, where malls serve espresso and hummus. New roads, and ever-present construction cranes show Kenya's continued rise. It's become an economic hub of East Africa, but fears of terrorism have hurt business and scared away some foreign tourists.

The reopening of Westgate, many say, is a conscious decision to defy the terrorists. Others see it as callous.

# Lesotho

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	95% / 24%
Penetration of population w/ internet	5.3%
GDP per capita USD\$	2,900 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	25% / 2008
Population below poverty line:	49 / 1999

Population:	2,074,095
Labor Force:	894,400
Life Expectancy:	49
Church Members:	867
Congregations:	2

## [US 'Deeply Concerned' After Former Lesotho Army Chief Killed](#)

The United States said on Monday it was "deeply concerned" after Lesotho's former army chief was shot dead last week, an incident that risks sparking instability in a small mountainous kingdom of strategic importance to South Africa.

Former Lesotho Defense Force commander Maaparankoe Mahao was shot dead by soldiers in his village home on June 25, according to local media reports. Lesotho's government and military spokesmen did not respond to requests for comment.

## Madagascar



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	40% / ?	Population: 24,540,641
Penetration of population w/ internet	73.5%	Labor Force: 12,150,000
GDP per capita USD\$	1,400 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 65
Unemployment / year est.	3.6% / 2013	Church Members: 10,322
Population below poverty line:	50%	Congregations: 38

## Malawi



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	37% / 10%	Population: 17,393,962
Penetration of population w/ internet	72.2%	Labor Force: 5,747,000
GDP per capita USD\$	800 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 55
Unemployment / year est.	6.6% / 2013	Church Members: 1,931
Population below poverty line:	53% / 2004	Congregations: 8

## Mauritius



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	128% / 40%	Population: 1,322,860
Penetration of population w/ internet	6.2%	Labor Force: 600,200
GDP per capita USD\$	17,900 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 74
Unemployment / year est.	8.3% / 2013	Church Members: 458
Population below poverty line:	8% / 2006	Congregations: 2

### [Mauritius: The great clean-up](#)

The new government elected in December enjoyed a short honeymoon. It is now engaged in dealing with corruption cases, problems in the banking sector and growth levels that are too low to make Mauritius a high-income country by 2020.

## Mozambique



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	58% / 22%	Population: 27,282,161
Penetration of population w/ internet	5.6%	Labor Force: 12,250,000
GDP per capita USD\$	1,100	Life Expectancy: 50
Unemployment / year est.	17% / 2007	Church Members: 7,943
Population below poverty line:	52% / 2009	Congregations: 26

## Namibia



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	137% / 32%	Population: 2,325,019
Penetration of population w/ internet	14.8%	Labor Force: 1,168,000
GDP per capita USD\$	10,800 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 6
Unemployment / year est.	27.4% / 2012	Church Members: 793
Population below poverty line:	28.7% / 2010	Congregations: 2

## Niger



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	25% / 2%	Population: 19,289,323
Penetration of population w/ internet	1.6%	Labor Force: 5,800,000
GDP per capita USD\$	1,000 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 58
Unemployment / year est.	2.25% / 2009	Church Members: 793
Population below poverty line:	63%	Congregations: 2

### [Niger – Africa's Rising Uranium Hotspot](#)

[40 reported killed in Boko Haram attack on Niger towns](#)

## Nigeria

(This country borders ASEAN)



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	97% / 15%	Population: 179,825,664
Penetration of population w/ internet	37.6%	Labor Force: 54,970,000
GDP per capita USD\$	6,100 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 52
Unemployment / year est.	23.9% / 2011	Church Members: 129,989
Population below poverty line:	70%	Congregations: 416

### [Nigeria poll suggests 87% oppose gay rights](#)

A new opinion poll suggests that 87% of people in Nigeria support the legal ban on same-sex relations.

That number is lower than five years ago, when 96% of Nigerians opposed relationships between same-sex couples.

Gay rights activists, who commissioned the poll, said this showed attitudes towards gay people were changing, albeit slowly.

Nigeria is a deeply conservative country and religion plays a major role in society.

## Reunion Island



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	105% / 48%	Population: 874,345
Penetration of population w/ internet		Labor Force:
GDP per capita USD\$		Life Expectancy:
Unemployment / year est.	40% / ?	Church Members:
Population below poverty line:		Congregations:

## Rwanda



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	61% / 28%	Population: 12,540,798
Penetration of population w/ internet	9.2%	Labor Force: 6,061,000
GDP per capita USD\$	1,700 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 64
Unemployment / year est.	3.4% / 2012	Church Members: 281
Population below poverty line:	44.9 / 2011	Congregations: 3

### [Rwanda: Peaceful Protests End As Rwandans Demand the Release of Gen Karake](#)

After six days of peaceful demonstrations against the arrest of Lt Gen Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, protestors yesterday reluctantly agreed to appeals by City of Kigali mayor to end protests.

For nearly a week, the protestors had blocked the KBC-Kacyiru road, saying that they would only leave the embassy after Gen Karake returns.

### [Rwanda: Gen KK's Arrest - Contest of Spirit and Might](#)

The arrest of Lt General Karenzi Karake in London just over a week ago caused outrage and drew sharp condemnation not only in Rwanda but across Africa. Indeed decent and fair-minded people around the world felt the same outrage.

The anger was expected. Rwanda has a history of reacting swiftly and decisively to this sort of treatment of its citizens. But regardless, the UK authorities went ahead and arrested General Karake

anyway. Why did they do this well knowing what the reaction would be?

The principal reason, as nearly every commentator has noted, is politics and demonstration of power over a country that dares not behave according to type. The official explanation given of respect for legal obligations and serving the interests of justice are only pretexts. Put bluntly, the position most Western countries have taken regarding Rwanda and other countries with similar tendencies is this: don't raise your head; stay where we have decided you belong. Shut up and don't ask awkward questions that put us in a moral quandary. Stop talking about agaciro, self reliance, a united and reconciled nation and such nonsense.

[Rwanda President Kagame Blasts UK](#)

KIGALI – Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame has launched a scathing verbal attack on the UK government after the arrest of his intelligence chief.

In his first comments since the arrest, Mr Kagame said it was a continuation of “colonialism” and accused the British of “arrogance and contempt”.

Karenzi Karake was detained at London’s Heathrow Airport on Saturday, in response to a European Arrest Warrant.

He is accused of ordering massacres in the wake of the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

The president said that the British authorities “must have mistaken [Gen Karake] for an illegal immigrant. The way they treat illegal immigrants is the way they treat all of us”.

He added that the British had been patronising, “wagging a finger at the African and telling him this is where you belong. We are no longer the African that belongs there”.

Gen Karake has appeared in a London court.

<b>Somalia</b>	Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	50% / 2%	Population: 10,742,489
	Penetration of population w/ internet	1.5%	Labor Force: 3,011,000
	GDP per capita USD\$	600 / 2010	Life Expectancy: 55
	Unemployment / year est.	25.4% / 2012	Church Members:
	Population below poverty line:	na	Congregations:

[Somalia Islamist Attacks Test Goal of Al-Shabaab Defeat by 2016](#)

A wave of attacks by al-Shabaab militants in Somalia, including on an African Union base last week, shows the threat still posed by the al-Qaeda-linked group that the government has vowed to defeat by 2016.

Al-Shabaab said it killed at least 30 soldiers in the June 26 raid on Leego base in southern Somalia. The AU confirmed the assault, without giving a death toll. The violence, which came the same day as attacks by other extremists on a French factory, a Tunisian beach and a mosque in Kuwait, underscores the limited success of Somalia’s army and African troops in checking al-Shabaab’s seven-year-old insurgency.

While they’ve lost control of key towns, “al-Shabaab has consistently shown its ability to strike in urban areas and regroup in rural bases,” Ahmed Soliman, Horn of Africa analyst at Chatham House, the London-based research group, said by e-mail. “It will take much longer to defeat the group and require Somalia’s security services to be significantly improved.”

[Somalia: Soldiers beheaded as al-Shabaab Islamists attack another army base](#)

<b>South Africa</b>	Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	154% / 35%	Population: 51,621,506
	Penetration of population w/ internet	46.8%	Labor Force: 20,230,000
	GDP per capita USD\$	12,700	Life Expectancy: 57
	Unemployment / year est.	24.9% / 2013	Church Members: 61,221
	Population below poverty line:	31.3%	Congregations: 159

[What Zuma said and what the Marikana Commission wrote](#)

(Excellent article-rb)

[South Africa says it will appeal high court ruling on Bashir](#)

June 29, 2015 (WASHINGTON) –South Africa will file an appeal to a ruling handed down by a local court this month that accused the government of violating the constitution by not arresting Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir during his presence at the 2-day African Union (AU) summit in Johannesburg this month.

[South Africa Xenophobia 2015: Last Refugee Camp For Displaced Foreigners To Close](#)

The last refugee shelter in South Africa for those displaced by a recent spate of xenophobic attacks was scheduled to close Tuesday, which would leave scores of Burundians and Congolese unwilling or unable to return to their war-torn countries. Local officials have decided to close the Chatsworth camp, which at one point hosted more than 5,000 people displaced by the violence, after concluding the situation had stabilized, according to media reports.

[South Africa’s gold workers 'unimpressed' with 13% pay rise offer](#)

South African gold companies tabled Monday a five-year wage increase offer of as much as 13% to the industry’s unions, which said the proposed pay rise falls “way too short” of their demands.

Unions representing 93,000 gold miners want between 100% and 80% salary hike from employers including AngloGold Ashanti (NYSE:AU), (JSE:ANG), Harmony Gold (NYSE:HMY), (JSE:HAR) and Sibanye Gold (NYSE:SBGL), (JSE:SGL).

[A presidency of calamity: Jacob Zuma's doomed legacy](#)

President Jacob Zuma was never anointed by the liberation greats to rise to the top. Neither did he become leader through automatic succession. Zuma fought hard. He climbed his way to the top through a phenomenal fight-back campaign, during which he undertook to correct the mistakes of his predecessors and become a president more in touch with the people of South Africa. How did he go from that vision to a man derided as the country’s worst leader, with multiple scandals and failures haunting his legacy? From Nkandla to Marikana, Al-Bashir to Operation Fiela, it is astounding how Zuma’s presidency hurtled from crisis to crisis. But one thing going for him is that he remains securely in power.

[President Zuma gets Special Energy Advisor](#)

CAPE TOWN - President Jacob Zuma has appointed a Special Advisor on Energy, the presidency announced Sunday in a statement.

The new appointee, Mr Silas Mzingeli Zimu is an "electrical engineer by qualifications and training," the media release stated.

"Mr Zimu joins the Presidency from the private sector and brings extensive experience in both business and strategic management in energy. He has previously served at, among other institutions, Eskom as an engineer and different management positions; and Johannesburg City Power as Managing Director," the statement read.

Director-General in the Presidency, Dr Cassius Lubisi, has extended a welcome to Zimu on behalf of the presidency, saying they are "certain that his considerable experience and expertise in matters of energy will greatly contribute to the work being done to mitigate and resolve the energy challenge."

[What's killing so many young people in South Africa?](#)

<b>Sudan</b>	Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	70% / 31%	Population: 40,313,269
	Penetration of population w/ internet	24.0%	Labor Force: 11,920,000
	GDP per capita USD\$	4,500 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 62
	Unemployment / year est.	20% / 2012	Church Members:
	Population below poverty line:	46.5 / 2005	Congregations:

<b>South Sudan</b>	Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	28% / 12%	Population: 11,749,434
	Penetration of population w/ internet	unkn	Labor Force:
	GDP per capita USD\$	2,000 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 62
	Unemployment / year est.	12% / 2008	Church Members:
	Population below poverty line:	50.6% / 2009	Congregations:

[South Sudan army raped and then burned girls alive, says UN](#)

South Sudan's army raped then burned girls alive inside their homes during a recent campaign notable for its "new brutality and intensity", a UN rights report said on Tuesday.

Rights investigators from the UN mission in the Republic of South Sudan (Unmiss) warned of "widespread human rights abuses", including gang-rape and torture in a report based on 115 victims and eyewitnesses from the northern state of Unity, scene of some of the heaviest recent fighting in the 18-month-long civil war.

The military, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), launched a major offensive against rebel forces in April, with fierce fighting in Unity state's northern Mayom district, once a key oil-producing area.

<b>Swaziland</b>	Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	70% / 11%	Population: 1,280,595
	Penetration of population w/ internet	23.8%	Labor Force: 435,000
	GDP per capita USD\$	7,800 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 49
	Unemployment / year est.	28.5% / 2010	Church Members: 1,768
	Population below poverty line:	69%	Congregations: 4

[SWAZILAND COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, EDITOR](#)

JOHANNESBURG – The Southern Africa Litigation Centre has confirmed that a Swaziland court has ordered the immediate release of human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko and magazine editor Bheki Makhubu.

The pair were sentenced last year to serve two years in prison for contempt of court.

The sentence related to critical articles they had written about the country's Chief Justice.

All along questions were raised about whether they had received a fair trial.



The centre's Caroline James was at the Supreme Court in Swaziland when Maseko and Makhubu were set free.

[Swaziland: Swazi Supreme Court Nepotism Fear](#)

A raft of appointments of judges to Swaziland's Supreme Court has raised questions about nepotism in the kingdom ruled by absolute monarch, King Mswati III.

Even one of the newspapers in Swaziland that he in effect owns has raised doubts about the wisdom of appointing judges who are related to one another.

<b>Tanzania</b>	Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	62% / 24%	Population: 50,998,619
	Penetration of population w/ internet	15%	Labor Force: 25,000,000
	GDP per capita USD\$	1,900 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 61
	Unemployment / year est.	10.7% / 2011	Church Members: 1,336
	Population below poverty line:	36% / 2002	Congregations: 6

<b>Uganda</b>		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	64% / 11%	Population: 40,777,196
		Penetration of population w/ internet	16.8	Labor Force: 18,000,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	1,800	Life Expectancy: 59
		Unemployment / year est.	4.2% / 2010	Church Members: 13,248
		Population below poverty line:	25.5%	Congregations: 26

[Can Social Media Create a Lasting Impact in Uganda?](#)

Just as it has for many people across the world, social media has become a lifestyle for many Ugandans. The Uganda Communications Commission in 2014 estimated that there were 8.5 million Internet users in the country of over 37 million people by June 2014. Most of these Internet users use one or two social media platforms and mostly access Internet from their mobile devices. There are almost 20 million telecom subscribers.

[Uganda: Fertilizer Deficit Mars Uganda Farming](#)

Kampala — The government has been asked to attract more investors in the manufacture of fertilizers if Ugandans are to embrace the basics of modern farming and develop commercial agriculture.

"Access to fertilizers in Uganda by farmers is still a big challenge. The government should come up with strategies to see that the local manufacture and distribution chain are improved. That is when access to fertilizers in Uganda will be improved as its in other regional countries such as Tanzania and Kenya," Joseph Asimwe, the Executive Director of Farm Solution Africa said in an interview with East African Business Week.



# Zambia



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	73% / 10%
Penetration of population w/ internet	15.4%
GDP per capita USD\$	4,100
Unemployment / year est.	15% / 2008
Population below poverty line:	60.5%

Population:	15,549,296
Labor Force:	6,338,000
Life Expectancy:	58
Church Members:	3,359
Congregations:	

# Zimbabwe



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	102% / 85%
Penetration of population w/ internet	19.5%
GDP per capita USD\$	2,000 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	95% / 2009
Population below poverty line:	68% / 2004

Population:	15,762,551
Labor Force:	5,063,000
Life Expectancy:	60
Church Members:	26,156
Congregations:	64

## [Robert Mugabe: Don't try to choose my successor Zimbabwe's president, 91, warns Zanu-PF members](#)

Mugabe is not thought to be ready to hand over power. And if he does, the power may eventually lie with his wife, not the vice-presidents

But Mr Mugabe, who will be 94 when the country next goes to the polls in 2018, has not ruled himself out of the running yet. Addressing youth members of his Zanu-PF party at the weekend, he was reported to have warned that anyone thinking of choosing between his two current vice-presidents – Emmerson Mnangagwa and Phelekezela Mphoko – would be inviting a similar fate to that of Ms Mujuru, who was sacked last year, reportedly on the orders of Mr Mugabe’s wife, Grace.

“If you are choosing between my two vice-presidents, you are beginning your own [sacking],” Mr Mugabe is reported to have said.

## [Why Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe is making homophobic jokes about Obama](#)

In case you don't speak Mugabese, he's saying that President Obama's support for same-sex marriage means he is probably gay. And by joking that he'd like to propose marriage to Obama, Mugabe believes he is calling attention to how ridiculous even the idea of same-sex marriage is. A man proposing to another man! How silly!

Mugabe has been stirring up homophobia for years. It's a play for populism and a way to divert attention from tougher issues. He's also used homophobia as a way to attack President Obama, who is popular in much of sub-Saharan Africa, and thus deflect American criticism of Zimbabwe's dictatorial regime.

"Then we have this American president, Obama, born of an African father, who is saying we will not give you aid if you don't embrace homosexuality," Mugabe said in July 2013. "We ask, was he born out of homosexuality? We need continuity in our race, and that comes from the woman, and no to homosexuality. John and John, no; Maria and Maria, no."

## [Moyo 'expulsion' exposes Mugabe](#)

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe’s allocation of dual roles to Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa is a violation of the Constitution, a constitutional lawyer disclosed yesterday, poking holes into legal reasons given for the withdrawal of Information minister Jonathan Moyo from Cabinet last week.

Moyo was removed from government last week amid reports that Attorney-General Prince Machaya had advised Mugabe that Moyo had lost his post after he stood in the June 10 Tsholotsho North by-election.

Machaya reportedly said Moyo had to retake a new oath of office if Mugabe still wanted to keep him in Cabinet.

However, constitutional law expert Derek Matyszak said Moyo’s case and Mnangagwa’s dual roles had exposed Mugabe and his advisers’ lack of understanding of the Constitution.

“The man (Mugabe) clearly has no idea what is in the Constitution, and his advisers seem to treat the supreme law of the land as a mere guideline rather than as legally binding,” Matyszak said in a post on the Research Advocacy Unit website.

# United States

Data Provided for comparison



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	102% / 85%
Penetration of population w/ internet	86.8%
GDP per capita USD\$	54,800 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	5.5% / 2015
Population below poverty line:	15.1% / 2010

Population:	324,343,287
Labor Force:	156,000,000
Life Expectancy:	79
Church Members:	6,466,267
Congregations:	14,018

# Travel Advisories/Warnings

## [LIBERIA MAKES TRAVEL ALERT 16 June 2015](#)

Liberia’s Health Ministry authorities are making travel alerts in the wake of sharp rise in Ebola infection in neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea, warning travellers “to be very much careful” not to come in contact with infected persons.

Liberia and its two neighboring countries Sierra Leone and Guinea which are still battling the Ebola outbreak, share scores of porous borders which marketers and inter-marriage families across either side commute almost daily.

## [U.S. State Dept. Updates Sudan Travel Warning, June 15, 2015](#)

Washington, DC--(ENEWSPF)--June 15, 2015. The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to Sudan. We urge U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to the Darfur region of Sudan, and to Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states, and advise U.S. citizens to consider carefully the risks of travel in other areas of Sudan. This supersedes the Travel Warning issued on October 30, 2014

## [US issues travel advisory for Burundi \(17 May 2015\)](#)

Washington - The United States issued a travel warning on Thursday for strife-torn Burundi, telling its citizens not to go there and urging those in the country to get out as soon as possible.

Burundi's government survived a coup attempt this week that saw fierce fighting between rival army factions.

It was the culmination of weeks of violent street protests against the president's bid to seek a third term in the poor east African country.

In a statement, the US state department said Burundi was faced a "deteriorating security situation".

It said it had ordered all non-emergency US government personnel and dependents of American staff

to leave Burundi on Thursday.

[US warns airlines against flying over Somalia](#) (17 May 2015)

A United States aviation safety agency has listed the Somali airspace as too dangerous to fly over, citing the threat posed by the armed group Al Shabab following the downing of MH17 by Ukrainian rebels fighting the government forces in Ukraine.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has banned all US airlines from flying over Somalia deeming it too dangerous, an advisory rejected by many countries, among them Australia airlines.

[Central African Republic Travel Warning](#) 2 May 2015

Washington DC - infoZine - The Government of Chad closed its border with CAR May 12, 2014. Only citizens of Chad returning home will be able to cross the Chad-CAR border. U.S. citizens who have decided to stay in CAR despite this warning should review their personal security situation and seriously consider departing. This replaces the Travel Warning of November 5, 2014, to reflect the risk of remaining in CAR and continued lack of security.

#### Sources of information:

All **church membership** information is provided by [Mormon Newsroom](#) by clicking on the 'Africa' continent on the map (at the right) and then finding the desired country on the list. The information is reviewed from the list each month for correctness.

All **keywords** and **country** information is collected from an Internet scan of about 60 specific keywords that is supplied to me at 0300 each morning via [Google alerts](#). This keyword list is reviewed and updated daily.

All **Population data** are from [Country Meters](#) and is updated each month for correctness.

All **Cellphone** and **smartphone** data are from [GMSA Intelligence](#) and is updated each month for correctness.

All **Internet users by country** data are from [Internet Live Stats](#) and [Internet World Stats](#) is reviewed each month for correctness.

**GNI** (*Gross National Income per capita*) and **Life Expectancy** data is from [The World Bank](#)

**Unemployment and other** data are from [Photius](#), [IECONOMICS](#), [Quandl](#), [Wikipedia](#), [Theodora](#) & [The World Factbook](#).

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