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The ASEA Daily News & Resources

Africa Southeast Area



Wednesday 15 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	Mormon Newsroom		Mormon Newsroom Facebook page
Angola	Angola Mormon Newsroom		Angola Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Botswana	none		Botswana Mormon Newsroom Facebook
DR Congo	DR Congo Mormon Newsroom		DR Congo Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Indian Ocean	Indian Ocean Newsroom		Indian Ocean Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Kenya	Kenya Mormon Newsroom		Kenya Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Madagascar	Indian Ocean Newsroom		Madagascar Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Malawi	None		Malawi Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Mozambique	None		Mozambique Mormon Newsroom Facebook
Namibia	None		Namibia Mormon Newsroom Facebook
South Africa	South Africa Mormon Newsroom		South Africa Facebook page
Uganda	Uganda Mormon Newsroom		Uganda Facebook page
Zambia	none		Zambia Mormon Newsroom
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Mormon Newsroom		Zimbabwe Facebook page
Totals for ASEA	7 Country Mormon Newsrooms!		13 Country Newsroom Facebook pages!
ASEA YouTube	 ASEA (Africa Southeast Area) Public Affairs YouTube Channel		
AFRICASE	Africa Southeast Area Facebook page We are in great need of "Faith Promoting" stories. Submit at this link :		
Helping Hands	Mormon Helping Hands - Africa Southeast Facebook page		
Public Affairs	All Public Affairs individuals are able to access the Public Affairs Network (Secure Site) at this link: Public Affairs Network		
Online Resources	Use of Online Resources in Church Callings 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:	Emergency Preparedness and Response		

Africa Southeast Area (ASEA)



Calendar

	July 2015	Central African Republic Presidential and Parliamentary elections
Saturday	18 July 2015	South Africa, Nelson Mandela Day
Thursday	16 July 2015 21 July 2015	Burundi Presidential Election
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

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

[Get a rare look inside a Mormon temple](#)

After three years of construction on a 34,000-square-foot building, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is ready to be viewed by the public.

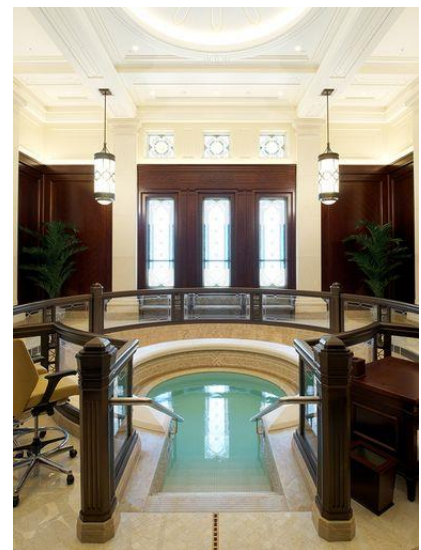


It's a one-time opportunity for those not of the Mormon faith. The Indianapolis Indiana Temple in Carmel will be dedicated Aug. 23, and from then on only Mormons will be allowed to enter.

Church elder Kent Richards said the temple brings about a sense of peace.

"I think it's something that's hard to describe," he said. "It's a beautiful spirit that's there."

The temple is the most sacred space of the Mormon faith. It's used for ordinances, or events, for Mormon families who wish to become closer to God. The small rooms cater to baptisms, weddings, meditation and sealings, a ceremony in which a husband, wife and sometimes children commit to one another even after death.



[BSA set to lift ban on gay leaders; LDS Church responds](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — The nation's largest faith-based sponsor of Scouting and local Utah councils expect to keep the ability to choose their own leaders as the Boy Scouts of America appears poised to end its ban on gay adult leaders.

The BSA executive committee has unanimously approved a resolution that would allow gay adult leaders and let individual Scout units set their own leadership policy.

In a statement Monday, the BSA said the resolution was approved by the committee on Friday, and would become official policy if ratified by its larger National Executive Board at a meeting on July 27.

John Gailey, Utah National Parks Council spokesman, said BSA chartered members have been able to pick leaders based on their own criteria for more than 100 years.

[LDS Church announces new resource for returning missionaries](#)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a new resource for missionaries: [My Plan](#), an online course designed to help missionaries develop post-mission goals.

The resource was announced in the July 2015 issue of the Ensign magazine and on LDS.org. Beginning in August 2015, LDS missionaries can participate in the online course, which includes eight learning experiences that are designed to be completed before, during and after missionary service.

According to LDS.org, the course is "designed to strengthen returning full-time missionaries" and involves creating post-mission plans to be discussed with the mission president.

Interesting Stuff about Africa & ASEA area

Found in the news stream.

Medical News

Found in the news stream.

[Liberia confirms new Ebola case as outbreak spreads](#)

A Liberian woman has died of Ebola in a hospital in Monrovia shortly after being admitted, becoming the sixth confirmed case of the virus since it resurfaced last month after a seven-week lull, a senior

medical official said on Tuesday.

The victim from Montserrado County, which contains Monrovia, is thought to be linked to the other five cases from neighboring Margibi County, where the disease reemerged.

Social Media Found in the news stream.



Are you aware that Facebook organic reach has declined to 6%??

When you make a post to Facebook only 6% of those that have 'Liked' your page will see your posts.

You need to go to the page of your friends to see all of their posts!

Use this information to develop strategies to increase your post reach.

Religious Freedom Found in the news stream.

[LDS Church releases video urging preservation of religious freedom](#)

PROVO — To LDS faithful, the ability to worship their faith is as important as life itself.

That is why the topic of religious freedom is on the minds and lips of LDS church members from the highest leaders in the church to the general membership.

Legislation on religious freedom and non-discrimination has been supported by the church and encouraged by the church to be introduced at all levels of government.

On Friday, the LDS Church re-released a portion of a video, "Preserving Religious Freedom." The video features members of all faiths talking about the importance of religious freedom. It is bolstered by commentary from Elders Dallin H. Oaks, Jeffrey R. Holland and Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve.

[Whatever Happened to Religious Freedom?](#)

(An interesting article by WSJ-rb)

When cake bakers and others are fined for adhering to their beliefs about same-sex marriage, a new kind of discrimination is upon us.

[Anti-conversion laws threaten religious freedom in Nepal](#)

Proposed anti-conversion laws could threaten religious freedom in Nepal, country experts have warned.

A new Nepalese constitution is being drafted, and the proposed legislation currently includes a clause that states: "No one shall behave, act or undertake activities that breach public order or break public peace/peace in the community; and **no one shall attempt to change or convert someone from one religion to another, or disturb/jeopardise the religion of others, and such acts/activities shall be punishable by law.**"

Misc. Found in the news stream.

Animal Conservation and related articles

Angola



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	64% / 26%
Penetration of population w/ internet	19.4%
GDP per capita USD\$	8,100
Unemployment / year est.	26% / 2014
Population below poverty line:	40.5%

Population:	22,116,360
Labor Force:	9,298,000
Life Expectancy:	52
Church Members:	1,436
Congregations:	8

[Angola: Fear and Loathing in Luanda](#)

(An interesting article-rb)

[Angola: Defence Minister Announces Navy Upgrading](#)

Luanda — The Angola Navy (MGA) will be equipped with maritime security means for surveillance of the territorial waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone, said Friday in Luanda the National Defence minister, João Lourenço.

Botswana



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	164% / 26%
Penetration of population w/ internet	13.2%
GDP per capita USD\$	16,000/2014
Unemployment / year est.	17.8% / 2009
Population below poverty line:	30.3%

Population:	2,115,710
Labor Force:	1,017,000
Life Expectancy:	47
Church Members:	3,104
Congregations:	12

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

[Ugandan President Begins Mediation in Burundi](#)

NAIROBI, KENYA—Uganda's president has begun mediating talks between Burundi's government and opposition groups that are opposed to President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial bid for a third term.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met with representatives of the Burundi government and opposition leaders in Bujumbura late Tuesday. In remarks before talks began, Museveni urged Burundi's leaders to strive for unity and said sectarianism was a threat to development. He also said he was happy that the government had disarmed a pro-government youth militia accused of committing serious crimes, including the killing of perceived opponents.

The East African Community, a regional bloc, appointed Museveni to facilitate a political dialogue in Burundi ahead of presidential elections scheduled for July 21.

[Burundi Civil Society Sues President Over Vote Bid, Nation Says](#)

The East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum and a group of Burundian lawyers filed a lawsuit challenging President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid to seek re-election for a third term.

The president's attempt to remain in office would be unconstitutional and violate the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in 2000, the Nairobi-based newspaper reported Tuesday, citing lawyer Donald Omondi Deya.

The lawsuit was filed Monday at the East Africa Court of Justice and will be heard Wednesday in Arusha, Tanzania, according to the newspaper.

The East African nation is scheduled to hold presidential elections July 21.

[East African regional court begins hearing case on Burundi crisis](#)

The East African Court of Justice has on Tuesday held the first public hearing on the Burundi crisis in Arusha, Tanzania.

The case filed on July 6th involves the Pan-African Lawyers Union together with the East African Civil Society Forum versus the Attorney General of Burundi.

It seeks among other things an interim order staying the elections in Burundi.

They also want the regional court to determine the decision of the constitutional court of Burundi on the list of presidential candidates, breaches of the rule of law and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi 2000.

The group argues that the current political environment in Burundi is not conducive for a free and fair election, and President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a 3rd term is unconstitutional.

The Pan-African Lawyers Union is a continental membership forum for African lawyers and lawyers' associations.

[Armed attack on Burundi army by militant group indicates increased civil war risk](#)

An unidentified armed group of 300-400 fighters in military uniforms attacked Burundian security positions in Kayanza province in the country's northwest on 10 July, before subsequently withdrawing back into the nearby Kibira National Park.

A military spokesperson has claimed that 31 assailants were killed and up to 170 captured. General Leonard Ngendakumana, one of the backers of the failed 13 May coup attempt against President Pierre Nkurunziza, has claimed that forces loyal to him and General Godefroid Niyombare were involved in the attack. Local media sources have reported that fighters who had crossed into Burundi from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were also involved, probably members of a splinter faction of the Burundian Hutu-dominated National Liberation Forces (Forces nationales de liberation: FNL).

[Burundi Claims Rwanda Aiding Rebels](#)

The head of a Washington lobbying firm representing Burundi's government said on Saturday that Rwanda is providing arms and logistical support to opponents of Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza.

The allegations by Joseph Szlavik, head of Scribe Strategies & Advisors, followed reports of fighting between government troops and an unidentified armed group near Burundi's border with Rwanda.

Rwanda has denied involvement in the growing rebellion inside Burundi.

Scribe is being retained by Burundi's government to argue in the US in support of Mr Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term as president in a vote now set for July 21.

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

[Explosions kill 14 in north Cameroon town near border with Nigeria, Boko Haram suspected](#)

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — Two bombs planted by suspected Boko Haram fighters went off at a bar in a northern town in Cameroon, killing at least 14 people, a military spokesman said Monday.


Col. Didier Badjeck said three Chadian soldiers were among those killed Sunday in Fotokol, a town on the border with Nigeria's Borno state. He said no Cameroonian soldiers were hurt.

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% / -%	Population: 13,288,797
		Penetration of population w/ internet	2.4%	Labor Force: 4,919,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	2,600	Life Expectancy: 51
		Unemployment / year est.	22% / 2009	Church Members:
		Population below poverty line:	80% / 2001	Congregations:

Congo Rep. (Brazzaville)		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	100% / 7%	Population: 4,753,445
		Penetration of population w/ internet	2.0%	Labor Force: 2,890,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	6,600	Life Expectancy: 59
		Unemployment / year est.	53% / 2012	Church Members: 6,053
		Population below poverty line:	46.5% / 2011	Congregations: 17


DR Congo (Kinshasa)		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	59% / 8%	Population: 71,509,992
		Penetration of population w/ internet	2.0%	Labor Force: 27,590,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	700 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 50
		Unemployment / year est.	46% / 2009	Church Members: 42,689
		Population below poverty line:	63%	Congregations: 145

Equatorial Guinea		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	87% / -%	Population: 802,008
		Penetration of population w/ internet	16.0%	Labor Force: 195,200
		GDP per capita USD\$	32,600	Life Expectancy: 53
		Unemployment / year est.	22.3% / 2009	Church Members:
		Population below poverty line:	na	Congregations:


Ethiopia		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	26% / 49%	Population: 101,683,016
		Penetration of population w/ internet	1.7%	Labor Force: 47,320,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	1,500	Life Expectancy: 64
		Unemployment / year est.	17.5% / 2012	Church Members: 1,854
		Population below poverty line:	39% / 2012	Congregations: 64


[Key global development summit to open in Ethiopia](#)
 Addis Ababa (AFP) - World leaders are meeting in Ethiopia's capital from Monday for a development financing summit presented as crucial for United Nations efforts to end global poverty and manage climate change by 2030.

Gabon		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	175% / -%	Population: 1,742,265
		Penetration of population w/ internet	9.9%	Labor Force: 636,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	21,600	Life Expectancy: 63
		Unemployment / year est.	21% / 2006	Church Members:
		Population below poverty line:	na	Congregations:


Kenya		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	83% / 67%	Population: 46,764,772
		Penetration of population w/ internet	36.7%	Labor Force: 17,700,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	3,100	Life Expectancy: 62
		Unemployment / year est.	40% / 2008	Church Members: 12,471
		Population below poverty line:	43.4 / 2012	Congregations: 62


Lesotho		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	95% / 24%	Population: 2,074,095
		Penetration of population w/ internet	5.3%	Labor Force: 894,400
		GDP per capita USD\$	2,900 / 2014	Life Expectancy: 49
		Unemployment / year est.	25% / 2008	Church Members: 867
		Population below poverty line:	49 / 1999	Congregations: 2

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

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%
Penetration of population w/ internet	1.6%
GDP per capita USD\$	1,000 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	2.25% / 2009
Population below poverty line:	63%

Population: 19,289,323
Labor Force: 5,800,000
Life Expectancy: 58
Church Members: 793
Congregations: 2

[Niger appeal court gives green light to baby-trafficking trial](#)

NIAMEY A Niger appeal court in Niamey gave a criminal court the go-ahead for a child-trafficking case involving the former head of the national assembly, his wife and some 30 other members of the political and social elite, who might now face long jail terms.

Hama Amadou, who fled to France in August and has protested his innocence, was a political ally of President Mahamadou Issoufou until 2013 and has emerged as a potential opposition challenger in the 2016 presidential election.

Amadou left Niger before he could be questioned but his wife and the others have been charged with falsely claiming parenthood of about 30 babies born to women in Nigeria for the sole purpose of being sold to wealthy couples in Niger.

The opposition says the case is politically motivated.

In January, a criminal court judge threw out the case, saying it was a civil matter.

Those accused have five days to appeal the court's decision, according to a statement from the appeal court, which also rejected a request to annul an arrest warrant for Amadou.

Nigeria

(This country borders ASEAN)



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	97% / 15%
Penetration of population w/ internet	37.6%
GDP per capita USD\$	6,100 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	23.9% / 2011
Population below poverty line:	70%

Population: 179,825,664
Labor Force: 54,970,000
Life Expectancy: 52
Church Members: 129,989
Congregations: 416

[Nigeria Military Leaders, Faulted in Fighting Militants, Are Fired](#)

NIAMEY, Niger — Nigeria's new president, Muhammadu Buhari, dismissed all of his country's top military officials on Monday, his spokesman announced, after weeks of mounting violence in which Boko Haram fighters have killed hundreds of civilians.



The Nigerian military's handling of Boko Haram's bloody six-year uprising has been widely seen as dismal. It has been faulted not only for failing to stem the extremist group's murderous rampages, but also for making the situation worse through widespread human rights violations.

The country's news media has been urging Mr. Buhari for weeks to get rid of the architects of what is seen in Nigeria as a failed campaign to stop the Islamist militant group. On Monday, some analysts questioned why Mr. Buhari, who took office in late May, waited so long.

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[Bomb blast hits military checkpoint in Nigeria](#)

A bus driver detonated the bomb at a military checkpoint near Maiduguri in Nigeria's northeast, killing at least one civilian and wounding three others, sources from Nigeria's military and the civilian joint task force (JTF) said on Monday. The bomb went off at around noon, they said.

"There have been casualties but we're still working to confirm the numbers," said Babakura Kolo, who is a member of the JTF, a vigilante team assisting the military against Boko Haram.

No group immediately came forward to claim responsibility for the bomb blast, but the attack bore the hallmarks of Islamist militant group Boko Haram. Maiduguri is the birthplace of the terror sect.

[Niger Delta Renaissance Movement Writes Buhari, Says Sabotage Behind Recent Oil Explosions](#)

The NDRM, in a statement signed by its president Gabriel Elliot and secretary Ebiri Emmanuel, said the multiple explosions were a result of dynamite detonation coordinated by elements from contracting firms familiar with the internal workings of the oil facility.

A group known as the Niger Delta Renaissance Movement (NDRM) has sent a letter to President Muhammadu Buhari alleging that the recent explosions in Rivers State at facilities owned by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) are the result of sabotage and should be investigated.

The NDRM announced that their own investigations showed that the multiple explosions at the multi-million naira Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) Oil facility at Ebeocha oil field in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Council of Rivers State is suspicious and should be condemned in strong terms.

[Bureaucrats Go Hungry as Nigerian Oil Crisis Hobbles Economy](#)

It's **been five months** since Johnson Umeadi and his wife, Adaku, received their salaries as government workers in southeastern Nigeria.

With Nigeria's finances shot by last year's collapse in oil prices, they're struggling with rent and can't afford school fees for their three children. Shops and grocers are no longer willing to extend them the credit they need to buy basic items such as food and drinks.

"It's like we put all our eggs in one basket and then it went porous," said Johnson, a 45-year-old employed by a department of Imo state responsible for infrastructure projects, in Owerri. "If one of us was working in a private company, or even engaged in petty trading, we would've fared better," he said, declining to disclose his salary.

[Explosives found at church in Jos, central Nigeria: police](#)

Jos (Nigeria) (AFP) - Explosives were found at a church in the central Nigerian city of Jos on Sunday, police and the Red Cross told AFP, adding that the device went off but there were no casualties.

"It was averted because the bomb was detected by the church's security personnel. There were no casualties," said Emmanuel Abuh, spokesman for the state police in Plateau, of which Jos is the capital.

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

[Amid chaos in neighbouring Burundi:Rwandan lawmakers back move to let President Kagame run again](#)

Rwandan lawmakers backed a motion on Tuesday to let President Paul Kagame run for a third term in office, paving the way for a referendum to amend the constitution. A similar move by the president of neighboring Burundi has provoked violent protests and fears of renewed ethnic conflict in a combustible region. One analyst said any similar opposition to the move in Rwanda would likely be stamped out quickly.

Rwanda's Kagame, whose ruling party has controlled the country for the last decade, has not directly said he wants to run again. But he has said he is open to persuasion that the two-term limit in the constitution needed to be changed, and a petition to that effect has collected 3.8 million signatures. Members of parliament voted unanimously to back the petition, said speaker Donatille Mukabalisa, adding that a referendum would be called on whether to amend the constitution. "We've started the process to the referendum. We shouldn't delay the process," Mukabalisa told a news conference.

Yolande Bouka, a Nairobi-based researcher for the Institute for Security Studies, said there was no chance of such protests in Rwanda. "Dissent is very violently and swiftly repressed by the government," she said. "Therefore the likelihood of protests as we saw in Burundi and Burkina Faso or even Senegal a few years ago is quite unlikely." Green party leader Frank Habineza is opposed to the constitutional amendment and has challenged it in court. "Why would they have to hurry? They have to wait for the Supreme court to make its ruling," he said.



[Rwandan lawmakers vote to support third term for president](#)

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Rwandan lawmakers on Tuesday voted in support of a petition to remove presidential term limits from the country's constitution, starting a process that could see President Paul Kagame extend his rule beyond two terms.

A national petition had urged lawmakers to remove term limits, which would open the way for Kagame to seek re-election at the end of his current term in 2017. A parliamentary committee will now consider the proposal to remove term limits, and later it may be voted on in a national referendum.

Kagame became president in 2000 after being the country's de facto leader since the end of the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Somalia		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:

South Africa	 	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

[South Africa tourism 'crisis' after visa rules changed](#)

Since suffering a blip during a 2009 recession, tourist arrivals have grown at a healthy rate of 7-14 per cent annually, with the industry providing more than 1.5m jobs.

Yet in the first three months of this year — the second half of the southern hemisphere summer — there was a 6 per cent fall in arrivals, easily the biggest quarterly decline since the advent of democracy in 1994.

Several factors are seen to be behind the dip, including the lingering stigma of last year's Ebola outbreak in west Africa, even though South Africa is thousands of miles away and reported no cases of the disease.

But much of the blame is now being placed on the government's decision to tighten visa rules. The first significant change came into force in October, with travellers to South Africa forced to appear personally at a consulate to provide biometric data when they apply for visas. A second substantive change came into effect at the beginning of June, requiring children travelling with parents to have an unabridged birth certificate with them.

Sudan		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:

South Sudan		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: 'The brutality and violence is indescribable'](#)

After years of political unrest and violence, the people of South Sudan are still forced to live in horrendous conditions, and are being driven to starvation.

A report compiled by Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) describes citizens being forced to eat grass and berries to avoid starving to death. According to the UN, at least 4.6 million people are facing severe food insecurity in the county, and over half of the total population of 12 million are in need of aid. The UN has also estimated that 50,000 South Sudanese children could die in 2015 as a result of the crisis and some 2 million people are believed to have been displaced.

[Grenade explosion in Warrap kills two, injures 10 others](#)

July 13, 2015 (KUACJOK) – A hand grenade explosion in South Sudan’s Warrap state on Saturday left two people dead while 10 others were seriously injured, authorities said.

A picture showing a grenade explosion (garrysmo.org)

An eyewitness said the attacker entered a shop and pretended to be buying goods, before detonating the hand device in front of the shop.

“The wounded survivors included four teenagers and six foreigners from Sudan,” the eyewitness told Sudan Tribune Monday.

Swaziland	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

Tanzania	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

[Police: 7 Killed in Gun Attack on Tanzania Police Post](#)

Tanzania's police chief says gunmen attacked a police station in the city of Dar es Salaam, killing seven people and injuring four others.

Ernest Mangu told reporters Monday that four of the victims were police officers. Three civilians were also killed in the attack on Sunday night, although the police believe one of them was among the attackers.


Mangu said the gunmen ran away with an unknown number of firearms and ammunition.

There have been at least three attacks on Tanzanian police stations this year.

[Tanzania's ruling party picks works minister for presidential race](#)

DODOMA (Reuters) - Tanzania's ruling party on Sunday named Works Minister John Magufuli as its candidate for this year's presidential race, making him the most likely next leader of the east African nation.

The Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party has ruled Tanzania for five decades and its candidate is widely expected to take over from President Jakaya Kikwete, who has served a maximum two terms, after the Oct. 25 election.

Uganda		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

[Uganda Opposition Leader Presses for Political Reform](#)

Uganda’s main opposition leader and past presidential candidate said anyone who believes in democracy must work for reform aimed at a free and fair electoral process.

Kizza Besigye of the Forum for Democratic Change contested three consecutive presidential elections, in 2001, 2006, and 2011. Besigye said all three were marked by voting irregularities. He has announced his candidacy to contest the 2016 election.

Last Thursday, police arrested him, along with former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi who is seeking the ruling party’s nomination, on what they called “preventive” measures.

Besigye said he plans to resume his campaign Tuesday in spite of the threat of being re-arrested. He said the police have no power under the Public Order Management Act, an old colonial law, to stop political parties from holding meetings.

[Will restoration of Presidential term limits save Uganda?](#)


Uganda will hold elections in early 2016 in what will be the incumbent President’s 30th year in power. These elections have generated several provocative, yet fruitful discussions amongst Ugandans and if you ask me why, well, your guess is as good as mine.

Consequently, I feel constrained to add my voice to the ongoing debate on the restoration of presidential term limits that is steamrolling throughout Uganda. Will the restoration of these term limits do any good to Ugandans?

It is important to note that a presidential term limit is a legal restriction that limits the number of terms a president may serve in office. **In Uganda, a president was initially restricted to only two terms prior to the 2005 Constitutional amendment which ushered in a limitless tenure in his office.**

Given the ongoing debate on presidential term limits, it is not surprising that those who profess to favour them argue that term limits would not only check corruption and promote political accountability but they would also provide an important check on the concentration of power and strengthen democracy. They contend that the longer a president holds power, the more likely it is that he/she would stop serving the public and begin serving his/her own interests. They go ahead to state that this erodes the balance of power and weakens the authority of autonomous legislatures, independent judiciaries, neutral electoral authorities and competitive political parties.

It is, however, equally important to note the limitations of term limits. Term limits would hardly check corruption or promote political accountability, let alone strengthen democracy in Uganda and I will tell you why. I was initially in favor of term limits, but having now bothered to stop and actually think about the issue, I have changed my mind.

Zambia		Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	73% / 10%	Population: 15,549,296
		Penetration of population w/ internet	15.4%	Labor Force: 6,338,000
		GDP per capita USD\$	4,100	Life Expectancy: 58
		Unemployment / year est.	15% / 2008	Church Members: 3,359
		Population below poverty line:	60.5%	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

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 travelers "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--(ENEWSPP)--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.

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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- [Zimbabwe Mormon Newsroom](#)

13 ASEA Facebook pages

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