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The ASEA Daily News & Resources

Africa Southeast Area



Thursday 16 July 2015

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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

[Russell M. Nelson: New President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — Russell M. Nelson is president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He was set apart (an official appointment) to this calling by President Thomas S. Monson Wednesday, July 15, 2015. As president of the Twelve, he is referred to as President Russell M. Nelson and succeeds the late President Boyd K. Packer, who died July 3, 2015. It is the Church's practice that the senior member by date of assignment to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles becomes quorum president.

Interesting Stuff about Africa & ASEA area

Found in the news stream.

Medical News Found in the news stream.

[Huge concern over Ebola resurgence in Liberia](#)

Social Media Found in the news stream.

Religious Freedom Found in the news stream.

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

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 reiterates plans to turn capital into a diamond city](#)

Gaborone mayor Kagiso Thutlwe on Wednesday reiterated the local authority's plans to transform the Botswana capital into a diamond city. In an interview, Thutlwe explained that public-private partnership was an important ingredient to accomplish the goal, adding that his office would collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to make the city more habitable.

[Botswana records suspected FMD cases](#)

Botswana on Wednesday announced that it has recorded a suspected outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Chobe district in northern part of the country. A press release from the Chobe Veterinary Department said the movement of cloven-hooved animals and their fresh products was no longer allowed out of the Chobe area.

The statement also stated that movement of fresh products derived from cloven-hooved animals has been banned from the Chobe area.

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

[Uganda president leaves Burundi crisis talks without deal](#)

Bujumbura (Burundi) (AFP) - Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni left crisis talks between Burundi's rival political factions without a deal, but last-ditch efforts following months of violence continued ahead of polls next week.

Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid to stand for a third consecutive five-year term in an election next Tuesday, despite a constitutional two-term limit, has sparked months of turmoil and an attempted coup in mid-May.

[Uganda president: Burundi factions to resume negotiations](#)

BUJUMBURA, Burundi -- Uganda's president says Burundi's government and opposition groups have agreed to resume negotiations aimed at ending political unrest over President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who is mediating Burundi's crisis under the banner of a regional bloc, said in a statement Wednesday that Burundi's political actors had agreed to negotiate "unconditionally and expeditiously in order to reach an agreement on issues affecting the political situation in Burundi and report back as soon as possible."

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

[Central African Republic conflict 'part-funded by European firms'](#)

European timber companies have helped fund the war in the Central African Republic through lucrative deals with militia groups, campaign group Global Witness alleges in a new report. The companies paid millions of dollars to rebel groups accused of war crimes, the report says.

It accuses the EU of failing to stop imports of illegal timber to Europe.

Thousands of people have been killed in the conflict which followed a coup by the Seleka rebel group in March 2013.

Chad

(This country borders ASEAN)

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:

[Anyone wearing 'burka' veil faces arrest in Chad following Boko Haram suicide attack](#)

Authorities in the African nation of Chad have issued a warning that anyone caught wearing a full face veil or "burka" will be immediately arrested following the latest suicide bombing carried out by a fighter from Boko Haram disguised as a woman donning the Muslim garment.

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

[Republic of Congo starts "all inclusive" political dialogue](#)

SIBITI, Republic of Congo, July 14 (Xinhua) -- Republic of Congo's "all inclusive" national dialogue began on Monday in Sibiti, about 350 km southwest of Brazzaville, with over 450 delegates representing political parties, civil society groups and religious groups participating.

During the talks which will end on July 17, participants will discuss two key issues which include electoral governance and the proposed changes to the 2002 Constitution, something that has divided the country's political class.

Participants will particularly focus on whether the Constitution should be amended to allow President Denis Sassou Nguesso to contest for a third term during the 2016 presidential elections.

Several opposition parties such as the PanAfrican Union for Social Democracy, the Republican Front for Democratic Transition as well as some parties allied to the ruling party such as the Congolese

Movement for Democracy and Integral Development and Action Committee for Democracy and Development refused to take part in the talks.

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

[UN drops demand for Congo to replace generals accused of abuses](#)

The United Nations has dropped a demand for two Democratic Republic of Congo generals accused of human rights abuses to be replaced before U.N. peacekeepers can resume cooperation with the Congolese army on operations against a Rwandan rebel group.

Martin Kobler, head of the U.N. mission in Congo, said talks continued with the government on working jointly to tackle the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels in the country's east, but that the two generals still remain in place.

"We do not request the replacement of the generals ... anymore," Kobler said on Tuesday, speaking after he briefed the U.N. Security Council, adding: "There are certain conditions which have to be fulfilled."

[Photos: How a female entrepreneur helped Kinshasa's traffic problem, one robocop at a time](#)

Despite being home to only 2% of the world's automotive vehicles, the sub-Saharan Africa region leads for the rate of deaths on the road, with an average of 24.1 deaths per 100 000 population that rises up to 27.8 deaths per 100,000 in the 19 middle income countries on the continent (as a comparison, the global average for middle-income countries is 20.1 per 100,000 people).



In Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) capital and biggest city, the deaths on the road have topped 2,276 since 2007, the Guardian reported. Since last year, however, the

traffic police of the city can count on a special helping hand: Robocop—or, well, a relative.

Three mechanic policemen, Tamuke, Mwaluke and Kisanga, were installed at three of the city's main traffic junctions in March 2015. The robots work by video recording traffic behavior and transmitting footage to the police to deter drivers from breaking road regulations. The robots—which stand at 2.5 m high and weigh 250kg—are made of aluminum and powered by solar panels. They cost \$27,500, while the initial prototypes, installed in late 2013, cost \$10,000.

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

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

[Feds issue travel warning ahead of Obama's trip to Kenya](#)

Weeks before President Obama is set to make a historic visit to Kenya, the State Department is warning Americans about the risks of crime and terror attacks in the country.

On Monday, the State Department issued a travel alert notifying Americans that the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi could turn them into targets.


"As with all large public events, there is the opportunity for criminal elements to target participants and other visitors," the State Department said in its Monday warning. "Large-scale public events such as this summit can also be a target for terrorists."


[Terrorism becoming routine in Kenya](#)

Nairobi, Kenya – It was still dark when suspected members of the militant group Al-Shabaab detonated explosives outside a compound in Mandera, a city in northeastern Kenya.

More than a hundred quarry workers were inside the compound sleeping when the attack took place last week, 14 of whom died from the barrage of militant gunfire; nearly a dozen more were injured while fleeing.

In less than two weeks, President Barack Obama will be visiting Kenya, his father's country of origin, so you might think a terrorist attack here would be big news, or at least prompt official pronouncements of new measures aimed at beefing up security.

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

[UNESCO discounts American explorer's claim of discovery of pirate treasure in Madagascar](#)

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The account of an American underwater explorer who says he found a silver ingot that belonged to 17th century pirate Captain Kidd in Madagascar is false, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The so-called silver ingot is actually a piece of ballast that consists almost entirely of lead, the U.N. cultural body UNESCO said in a statement. It also dismissed assertions that the shipwreck of the Adventure Galley, a vessel belonging to Captain Kidd, had been found. The underwater structure was instead a broken segment from port construction, it said.

In May, explorer Barry Clifford presented what he said was the silver ingot to Madagascar's president in a ceremony on the island of Sainte Marie, near the country's northeast coast. Clifford's diving team had said the bar was found in a bay off the island.

[Verbal shoot-out over Madagascar's 'pirate shipwreck'](#)

The producer leading a television documentary team that says it has found 17th-century pirate William Kidd's sunken ship fought back on Wednesday against a UNESCO report dismissing their claims.

Sam Brown, who is making a film with marine archaeologist Barry Clifford, called UNESCO's report a "disgrace" and said the UN body was motivated by its opposition to privately-funded research.

"UNESCO will attempt to discredit Barry Clifford by whatever means they can," Brown said in an email to AFP.


"They have exhibited a frankly shocking lack of transparency and impartiality throughout.


"They dived on the wreck site for less than four days in poor visibility and used very questionable methods."


Clifford declared in May that he had located the wreck of Kidd's legendary "Adventure Galley" ship -- and a 50-kilogramme (110-pound) silver ingot of plunder -- off the coast of Madagascar.

UNESCO, the UN's scientific and educational arm, flew experts to the site in the Indian Ocean to investigate the claims, and issued its damning report on Tuesday.

It said the "silver" ingot was just a lead weight, and that the supposed shipwreck was rubble from old port construction.

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


[Drought Aids Spread of Foot and Mouth in Mozambique](#)

MOZAMBIQUE - An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease has been confirmed in the south of Mozambique.

The village cattle were grazing in an area affected by drought, and were concentrated in a few water points. The drought is thought to be increasing the movement of susceptible animals and interactions with wildlife species.


25 cattle were infected, out of a susceptible population of 12,560 animals in the village. The infection was confirmed by various scientific tests in laboratories in the neighbouring countries of Botswana and South Africa.

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

Nigeria

(This country borders ASEA)

	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

[Nigerian Leader Fires Military Leadership for Failure to Defeat Boko Haram Insurgents](#)

ABUJA, Nigeria—Boko Haram militants killed at least 20 people overnight on Tuesday, hours after President Muhammadu Buhari fired all Nigeria's military leadership in a rebuke for their inability to stop the Islamist group's latest spate of deadly attacks.

Fighters rode motorcycles and pickup trucks into the town of Mainok in northeastern Nigeria late Monday and shot everyone they could find before burning most houses to the ground, resident Modu Kachalla said. "We counted over 20 dead bodies today after we came out of hiding," Mr. Kachalla said.

[Nigerians Debate Hijab Ban After Headscarves Outlawed in Chad](#)

Calls to ban Islamic headscarves in Nigeria have ignited a fierce debate across the African nation, which is grappling with frequent suicide bombings. The discussion comes a week after a suicide bomber veiled by a burqa killed more than a dozen people in neighboring Chad.

Both Chad and Nigeria have faced a series of attacks from Islamist group Boko Haram, which is said to have killed more than 10,000 people since 2009. The recent insurgency has prompted Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to replace the nation's military chiefs in hopes of defeating the group.


An informal poll conducted by Nigerian news site Pulse found 68 percent of Nigerians would support a ban on the hijab, a religious scarf which covers Muslim women's head and chest. But Nigeria's highest Muslim group, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, has expressed its disapproval of a proposed ban.

"We are certainly not going to support any ban on the hijab under whatever guise," Khalid Aliyu Abubakar, the group's secretary general, told Worldnet. "The hijab is being blamed as if it were the hijab itself that was carrying out these dastardly acts." Abukajar suggested Nigeria instead adopt more advanced technology for crime detection.


[Obama To Pressure Nigeria On Anti-Gay Law During Buhari's White House Visit](#)

While Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari plans to discuss Boko Haram and Nigeria's economy during his upcoming visit to the White House, U.S. President Barack Obama might push another agenda. Washington has pledged to pressure the West African country to reverse its anti-gay law and end its persecution of homosexual people.

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.

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:


[32 people killed in al-Shabab attack on southern Somali district](#)

MOGADISHU, Somalia, July 14 (UPI) -- African Union forces in Somalia say they killed 25 al-Shabab militants who attacked a district in the country's south.


Five soldiers and two civilians also died in the five-hour attack Monday on Rage Celle, Xinhua news agency quoted Mayor Yusuf Haji Mohamod as saying.

[Somalia: '7 militants killed' after ambush on Ethiopian troops](#)

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

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:

[Outrage as nine Sudanese women face 40 lashes for wearing trousers](#)

A Sudanese Christian woman arrested for wearing trousers has narrowly escaped the punishment of 40 lashes, in a case that human rights groups say is further damning evidence of the government's intolerance to its Christian population.

Fardos Al Toum, 19, was arrested for indecency along with 11 other women in June in front of a church in Khartoum by the so-called morality police, who enforce the government's strict codes, for appearing in public in trousers and skirts.

A judge pronounced his guilty verdict on Monday, and the rest of the nine accused women will appear at separate trials throughout July, the threat of flogging still hanging over them.

South Sudan

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	28% / 12%
Penetration of population w/ internet	unkn
GDP per capita USD\$	2,000 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	12% / 2008
Population below poverty line:	50.6% / 2009

Population: 11,749,434
Labor Force:
Life Expectancy: 62
Church Members:
Congregations:

[S. Sudanese rebel commander says death of his son no different](#)

July 14, 2015 (ADDIS ABABA) – Top South Sudanese rebel commander has confirmed the death of his son, but said his murder had no difference from the death of tens of thousands of other sons and daughters massacred by the “regime” of president Salva Kiir.

Swaziland

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	70% / 11%
Penetration of population w/ internet	23.8%
GDP per capita USD\$	7,800 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	28.5% / 2010
Population below poverty line:	69%

Population: 1,280,595
Labor Force: 435,000
Life Expectancy: 49
Church Members: 1,768
Congregations: 4

[Swaziland frees opposition politicians after a year](#)

Johannesburg (AFP) - Swaziland on Tuesday freed two prominent opposition politicians arrested over a year ago for allegedly calling for the overthrow of absolute monarch King Mswati III, rights activists told AFP.

Mario Masuku and Maxwell Dlamini were detained shortly after criticising the king and the government during a May Day rally organised last year by anti-monarchist trade unions.

"This morning the Supreme Court, after hearing an appeal, unanimously decided that the two be released on bail," said Wandile Dlodlu, who heads a coalition of pro-democracy groups.

Tanzania

Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	62% / 24%
Penetration of population w/ internet	15%
GDP per capita USD\$	1,900 / 2014
Unemployment / year est.	10.7% / 2011
Population below poverty line:	36% / 2002

Population: 50,998,619
Labor Force: 25,000,000
Life Expectancy: 61
Church Members: 1,336
Congregations: 6

Uganda



Cellphone/Smartphone penetration	64% / 11%
Penetration of population w/ internet	16.8
GDP per capita USD\$	1,800
Unemployment / year est.	4.2% / 2010
Population below poverty line:	25.5%

Population: 40,777,196
Labor Force: 18,000,000
Life Expectancy: 59
Church Members: 13,248
Congregations: 26

[In Uganda, Museveni finds biggest election obstacle in former friends](#)

Three politicians who have announced their candidacy in next year’s election were once part of President Museveni’s powerful inner circle. Now, they find themselves on the opposite end of his wrath.

Ugandans are still reeling from the arrest and release of two prominent politicians last week, a move that foreshadows a potentially explosive election next year.

Last Friday, former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi and Kizza Besigye, a former presidential candidate, were placed under "preventive arrest" after announcing their intentions to challenge President Yoweri Museveni’s three decades in power in the 2016 election. They were released 12 hours later without charge.

It was only last month that David Sejusa, another presidential candidate, went through a similar episode. Each of these three challengers was at one time part of Mr. Museveni's tight inner circle, “The Historicals,” which has slowly crumbled amid his efforts to consolidate his power.

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

[Zimbabwe Is Proposing to Return a Select Number of Farms to White Landowners](#)

The decision comes 15 years after the state encouraged violent seizures of white-owned properties

A decade and a half after the Zimbabwean government seized large swaths of land from white farmers in the country, President Robert Mugabe has tentatively declared that he will return certain properties to their original owners.

Under the suggested policy, the leaders of the country’s 10 provinces will draft a list of farms in their respective districts that they deem to be “of strategic economic importance,” the Zimbabwe Mail reports. The government will also establish a European Union–backed commission to evaluate the landgrab practices commenced in 2000, which were frequently violent.

The property-seizure policy, which sent the country into economic crisis and left a number of civilian landowners dead, was both an exercise in kleptocracy and an attempt to wrest the country from its fraught colonial legacy. Many of the 4,000 white-owned farms taken by Mugabe’s government had been operated by the same families for decades — families that had come to the British colony of Rhodesia to make their fortunes in a system built on racial hierarchy.

At present, only 300 white farmers remain on their original properties; meanwhile, a number of the farms seized in the past 15 years have ceased operations, requiring Zimbabwe — the erstwhile “Breadbasket of Africa” — to import food to stave off a hunger crisis.

In spite of his government’s failure to sustain agricultural success on the reclaimed lands, Mugabe obstinately continues to defend his original decision.

“Don’t be too kind to white farmers,” Mugabe said at a recent meeting of the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front, the country’s ruling nationalist party, the Mail reports. “They can own industries and companies or stay in apartments in our towns, but they cannot own land. They must leave the land to blacks.”

[Don't mess with Grace Mugabe – she could be the next president of Zimbabwe](#)

For two decades, she was a demure companion at her husband's side. Now she has taken the stage as a fearsome political figure in her own right. Can Grace Mugabe seize power before it's too late?

[Zimbabwe's desperate gold rush poisons children with mercury](#)

MUTARE, Zimbabwe, (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Cynthia Dzimbati was exhausted. Her three-month-old baby strapped to her back and panning dish in hand, she had spent the whole day working the Mutare River for not one single ounce of gold.

"This is now my life. I lost my job," said the 31-year old single mother, looking so worn out she could easily have passed for 50. "I have three children to feed."

Dzimbati poured a few drops of mercury into a bowl of dirty water and stirred it with her bare hands.

The gold in the river is growing more scarce these days, she said, so the illegal artisanal miners are relying on mercury, a highly toxic substance supplied by the smugglers who buy their product, to trap the precious metal from the muddy river waters in the eastern borders of Zimbabwe.

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
	14,018 Congregations

Travel Advisories/Warnings

[Feds issue travel warning ahead of Obama's trip to Kenya](#)

Weeks before President Obama is set to make a historic visit to Kenya, the State Department is warning Americans about the risks of crime and terror attacks in the country.

On Monday, the State Department issued a travel alert notifying Americans that the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi could turn them into targets.

"As with all large public events, there is the opportunity for criminal elements to target participants and other visitors," the State Department said in its Monday warning. "Large-scale public events such as this summit can also be a target for terrorists."

[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](#).

Elder Berg & Sister Berg
Africa Southeast Area Assistant Directors of Public Affairs,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Email: ASEAPublicAffairs@ldschurch.org
Cellphone..... +27 (0)83 443 3829
Office.....+27 (0)11 645 1538

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- [Zimbabwe Mormon Newsroom](#)

13 ASEA Facebook pages

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