

December 2017

H+K

Africa Digest

Summary of Key Political & Economic
Developments

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Political News Roundup

Angola

Angola plans to open up telecoms industry to foreign bidders

Ref: 30 November 2017

Angola plans to sell a minority stake in a state-owned telecommunications provider and hold an auction for a fourth industry operator as new President Joao Lourenco shakes up the business environment and reduces the influence of his predecessor's family.

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The winning bidder will be able to offer fixed-line, mobile, internet and paid-television services, Rocha said.

Africa's richest woman prepares deals after losing oil post

Ref: 11 December 2017

Less than a month after being fired as head of Angola's state-owned oil company, Isabel dos Santos says she is studying new deals.

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Ethiopia

Egypt parliament majority welcomes Ethiopian PM's visit

Ref: 17 December 2017

The Support Egypt Coalition, a pro-government parliamentary coalition that controls 350 parliament seats, welcomed the visit of the Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to Egypt to address the Egyptian people in the House of Representatives.

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Dutch Court sentences Ethiopian to life in prison for war crimes

Ref: 17 December 2017

A court in the Netherlands convicted an aide to a former Ethiopian dictator and sentenced him to life in prison for war crimes carried out during Ethiopia's "red terror" purges of the 1970s, including the execution of 75 prisoners.

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Ethiopia's political crisis deepens amid EPRDF deadlock on the way forward

Ref: 16 December 2017

Ethiopia's political and security crisis shows no signs of abating. Authorities recently imposed nightly curfew at a number of public colleges and universities following a spate of inter-ethnic clashes and the murder of scores of students.

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Ghana

Court clears Ghanaians living abroad to vote in 2020

Ref: 18 December 2017

An Accra High Court has ordered the Electoral Commission (EC) to within one year implement the Representation of the People Amendment Act (ROPAA) law.

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Government to increase passport fees by 100%

Ref: 16 December 2017

A proposal to that effect has been sent to the Finance Ministry by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

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Bear with us, we will take care of Mahama soon - Government

Ref: 14 December 2017

Minister of Information, Mustapha Hamid, has asked Former President John Dramani Mahama to remain calm as the government will soon cater to his needs as enshrined in the provisions for ex-presidents.

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How is Ghana's president Akufo-Addo faring one year after his election win?

Ref: 6 December 2017

One year ago, many people in Ghana celebrated the victory of opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo.

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Kenya



Uhuru warns against secession campaign as Nasa vows defiance

Ref: 15 December 2017

President Uhuru Kenyatta has scoffed at opposition calls for secession and warned that stern action will be taken against anyone threatening the country's peace and stability.

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US pushes for dialogue amid political tension in Kenya

Ref: 5 December 2017

The US government sent its top diplomat on African affairs to Kenya in a bid to push for dialogue between political antagonists.

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Envoys pick four-point agenda as they pre-prepare for talks

Ref: 16 December 2017

Four key agenda items for Kenya's national dialogue have been proposed ahead of talks facilitated by diplomats, the clergy, business and trade union leaders.

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Mozambique

Reuters-Mozambique president replaces energy and foreign ministers

Ref: 13 December 2017

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi has sacked four ministers, including those with the foreign affairs and energy portfolios, his office said, without giving a reason.

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China to finance new Mozambique airport

Ref: 13 December 2017

China has given Mozambique a \$60m (£45m) grant to build an airport in the southern port city of Xai Xai.

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Nigeria

2018 budget heavily padded, full of errors – Nigerian Senate

Ref: 20 December 2017

The Nigerian Senate has observed that the 2018 budget was "heavily padded, inconsistent, full of errors and inaccuracies."

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Nigeria VP Yemi Osinbajo Says: \$1bn ECA fund not for Boko Haram war alone

Ref: 20 December 2017

The current report reaching us reveals how Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo, recently, said the much-criticised \$1bn that state governors asked the Federal Government to withdraw from the Excess Crude Account was not meant for the fight against insurgency alone.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria commences 48-hr visa issuance in New York

Ref: 20 December 2017

The Nigerian Consulate in New York has said that applicants for the Nigeria visa can now get it in 48 hours with the introduction of the issuance of the biometric visa.

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Malabu Scandal: UK court rules in favour of Nigerian govt

Ref: 16 December 2017

A British judge ruled recently that up to \$85 million from the notorious Malabu oil deal should be returned to the Nigerian government.

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Rwanda

Kagame re-elected RPF chair as three-day congress ends

Ref: 17 December 2017

Members of the RPF Inkotanyi National Congress overwhelmingly re-elected President Paul Kagame to lead the party for the next five years.

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Kagame delivers State of Nation address, opens Umushyikirano

Ref: 18 December 2017

President Paul Kagame delivered the State of the Nation Address, stating that the country has grown stronger over the last one year.

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Election of EALA speaker postponed as Burundi, Tanzanian MPs boycott session

Ref: 19 December 2017

Proceedings for the inauguration of the fourth East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) begun calmly with lawmakers swearing in as expected in Arusha, Tanzania.

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South Africa



Ramaphosa set to rule South Africa after winning control of ANC

Ref: 18 December 2017

South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa beat Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma in a gripping battle for control of the ruling party, putting him on track to become the nation's next leader.

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How government will fund free education to be clarified at 2018 budget

Ref: 16 December 2017

Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba has left it until next year's budget to clarify how the state will pay for the presidency's announcement on fee-free higher education.

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How will new ANC leader Ramaphosa deal with Zuma?

Ref: 19 December 2017

As African National Congress (ANC) president Cyril Ramaphosa settles into his new position, questions are being asked about how he will deal with President Jacob Zuma.

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Tanzania

Tanzania demands a UN inquiry into the DRC killing of its peacekeeping soldiers

Ref: 14 December 2017

Tanzania's government is urging the United Nations to conduct an independent investigation into the circumstances that led to the killing of 15 of its peacekeepers last week in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Vice President relocates to Dodoma

Ref: 15 December 2017

Vice President Ms Samia Suluhu Hassan officially relocated to the capital, Dodoma. She becomes the second high ranking government leader to move to Dodoma from Dar es Salaam after Prime Minister did so in September, 2016.

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Opposition threatens to boycott January by-elections

Ref: 12 December 2017

The opposition Ukawa coalition threatened to boycott parliamentary and civic by-elections scheduled for next month.

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Uganda

Age limit: NRM MPs blocked from leaving country, Kampala

Ref: 13 December 2017

The ruling party, National Resistance Movement (NRM) blocked its members from leaving the country and Kampala city until after the age limit bill had been passed in Parliament.

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Legal committee MPs approve Age Limit Bill

Ref: 10 December 2017

The Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee members endorsed the most sweeping constitutional changes since 2005, with 18 votes, taking a significant leap forward as 10th Parliament seeks to debate the removal of the age limit caps from the Constitution, restore term limits and increase the presidential term from five to seven years.

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85% of Ugandans opposed to age limit amendment - survey

Ref: 31 October 2017

A survey conducted by civil society organizations indicated that 85 per cent of Ugandans do not support the proposed constitutional amendment to lift caps on the presidential age.

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Economic News Roundup

Angola

The exit of Africa's richest woman could revitalise Angola's cash cow

Ref: 6 December 2017

New Angolan president João Lourenço is not sitting idle while the descendants of former president José Eduardo dos Santos rule over the country's most profitable and important institutions.

[Read more](#)

Angola's Lourenço offers ultimatum for repatriation of funds

Ref: 14 December 2017

Angola's President João Lourenço has told Angolans to repatriate funds illegally held abroad in coming months or risk prosecution, in a bid to spur domestic investment and combat corruption.

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Angola to offer grace period to recover overseas funds

Ref: 14 December 2017

Angola will set a moratorium in January to allow citizens with money abroad to repatriate their funds, as the oil-producing country struggles to ease an acute dollar shortage that began soon after oil prices dropped in 2014.

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Ethiopia

Ethiopia widens economic lead

Ref: 14 December 2017

Ethiopia continues to widen its lead as the fastest growing economy in East Africa, taking advantage of Kenya's economic challenges to post record growth.

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Ethiopian, Jordanian chambers sign MoU

Ref: 9 December 2017

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association -ECCSA signed memorandum of understanding with Jordanian Chamber of Industry during the joint Business Forum held at Hilton Hotel.

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Ghana

President Akufo-Addo launches \$1.5bn Marine drive project

Ref: 27 November 2017

President Nana Akufo-Addo has launched a project to build a \$1.5 billion Marine Drive Tourism Enclave covering over 240 acres of land from the Osu Christianborg Castle to the Arts Centre within 10 years.

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Interest rates witness marginal decline despite significant policy rate cut

Ref: 27 November 2017

Latest data from the Central Bank on interest rates showed that the cost of credit witnessed marginal decline from January to November this year.

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Ghana's economy not doomed – Kotei Dzani

Ref: 14 December 2017

The President of Group Ideal, Nii Kotei Dzani, the economy is not doomed but rather recovering given the prudent economic measures being implemented by the government.

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Second Deputy BoG Governor to resign

Ref: 11 December 2017

The Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr Johnson Asiana, is in the process of resigning from the Bank.

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Kenya

US-Kenya deal to boost over 2,000 small companies

Ref: 17 December 2017

A partnership between Kenya and the US promises to see over 2,000 small businesses in Nairobi, Mombasa and Vihiga counties venture into the expansive American market by December next year.

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Flat exports as trade deficit hits Sh946bn

Ref: 18 December 2017

Kenya's trade deficit widened to a record Sh946.8 billion in the 10 months to October driven by the doubling of food imports and purchase of machinery from abroad.

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KRA says Kenya risks losing billions in China tax agreement

Ref: 3 December 2017

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has poked holes in the tax agreement which Kenya signed with Beijing in September cushioning Chinese firms from paying tax on interest they earn.

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Mozambique



Mozambique's economy needs reforms, fiscal discipline to grow - central bank governor

Ref: 18 December 2017

Mozambique needs reforms and fiscal discipline for it to return to levels of economic growth seen before its crippling 2016 debt crisis, central bank governor Rogério Zandamela said. Mozambique's economic growth is projected at 4.7 percent this year compared with 3.3 percent in 2016.

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Most of 2018 budget goes to social and economic sectors

Ref: 11 December 2017

Social and economic sectors account for the great majority of the public expenditure envisaged in the Mozambican government's draft 2018 state budget, once financial operations and debt servicing have been excluded.

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Economic growth in Mozambique will be bolstered by natural gas exploration

Ref: 12 December 2017

The beginning of the process of extraction, processing and marketing of natural gas by Italian group ENI and other partners in northern Mozambique will result in more accelerated economic growth, at an average of 5.5% between 2020 and 2022, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

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Nigeria

Nigeria's petroleum fiscal terms weak, discouraging investments — Report

Ref: 19 December 2017

The fiscal terms of the Nigerian petroleum industry is weak, inflexible and unattractive to investors, according to a report by the Nigerian Natural Resource Charter, NNRC.

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Economic migration across the Sahara and the Mediterranean

Ref: 19 December 2017

Within the past month, many Nigerian newspapers have recycled tales of horror, including slavery in Libya, experienced by many Africans, mostly Nigerians.

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Nigeria's foreign reserves hits \$36.9Bn

Ref: 18 December 2017

According to data on the website of the CBN, where details of the reserve management and movement are published, the country opened the year with \$26.1 billion in the reserves.

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'Capital expenditure should go up to drive growth'

Ref: 18 December 2017

The presidency recently expressed excitement over report that Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased to N29.45 trillion, saying the country's economy has improved further.

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Rwanda

Private sector tipped to lead the transformation agenda, what support do they need?

Ref: 19 December 2017

There is need for more empowerment of the private sector so that it can play a leading role in driving the national transformation agenda for the next seven years, analysts said.

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RwandAir gets fifth freedom right on Abuja-Yaoundé route

Ref: 16 December 2017

Efforts by the national flag carrier, RwandAir, to expand its footprint across West Africa have been boosted after it was granted fifth freedom right by Nigerian aviation authorities.

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South Africa

Rand rallies over 4% as Ramaphosa takes ANC top job in close contest

Ref: 18 December 2017

The rand rallied to a nine-month high under R12.60 to the US dollar as news broke that Cyril Ramaphosa won the ANC leadership race at the party's 54th National Conference at Nasrec in Johannesburg.

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How Ramaphosa plans to fix South Africa's beleaguered economy

Ref: 18 December 2017

After winning a bruising battle for control of South Africa's ruling party, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa now faces an even more daunting task: rebuilding an economy battered by years of misrule, corruption and the appointment of incompetent officials.

[Read more](#)

Ramaphosa's ANC election win lifts South African banks

Ref: 19 December 2017

South African banking stocks rallied recently, buoyed by optimism that the newly elected leader of the ruling African National Congress will push through policies aimed at putting the economy on a stronger footing.

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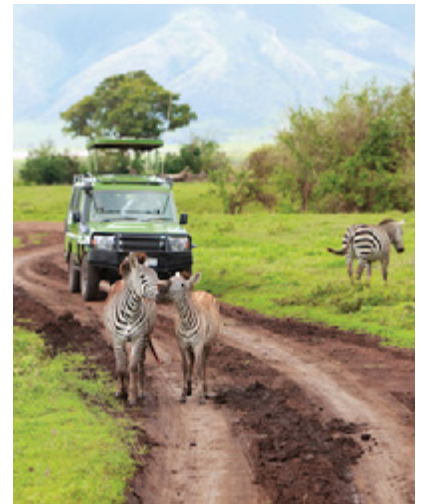
Tanzania

Importers of sub-standard goods given two-month ultimatum

Ref: 11 December 2017

The Minister of Industries, Trade and Investment, Charles Mwijage issued two-month ultimatum to importers of substandard goods to stop the illegal business otherwise the legal measures will fall on them.

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Tourism earnings up to 4.6tr/-

Ref: 15 December 2017

Tanzania's tourism earnings increased by 12.1 per cent to 4.68tr/- last year from 4.18tr/- in 2015 contributed by the surge of the number of tourist arrivals.

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National entrepreneurship strategy launched in Dar

Ref: 14 December 2017

The government through National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has launched the inclusive national entrepreneurship strategy to foster industrialisation drive.

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Uganda

Uganda advised to balance its trade with China

Ref: 6 December 2017

Uganda has been advised to increase the value and volume of its exports to China if it wants to benefit from the trade between the two countries.

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Sale of Tullow Oil interests to Total, CNOOC stalls

Ref: 16 December 2017

The expected sale of Tullow Oil's interests to its joint venture partners in Uganda's oil fields, Total E&P and China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) has been delayed over taxation and the question of who will operate the oil blocks.

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