

African Politics and Policy

Newsletter
n.2, April 2015

Editorial

In 2015 elections will be held in several African countries. The list of countries that will go to the polls includes Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia. While these countries differ from one another in terms of form of government, level of socio-economic development, geographic location, ethnic composition, size, and language, some common themes have emerged in the electoral debates held in these diverse countries.

In some countries (Tanzania, Togo), constitutional and institutional reforms have been among the most salient issues in the course of the electoral campaign. In other countries (Nigeria, Togo), the interest in the electoral campaign has been magnified by the possibility that they could lead to alternation in power for the first time in many years. But while constitutional debates and improvements in the competitiveness of the political system should be regarded as beneficial developments, as far as the quality of democracy goes, it is not equally clear whether they will yield equally beneficial returns with regard to socio-economic development.

Development requires sustained growth and sustained growth requires foreign investments and, as several studies have indicated, political change and instability deter international investors. If these studies are correct in arguing that electoral change may be associated with desirable outcomes (representativeness, competitiveness, democraticness of the political system), but that it may also be associated with possibly less desirable outcomes (lower investments and slower growth), many African voters in the ballot box will have to choose between an electoral stability that secures development at the cost of limited representativeness of the political system and an electoral change that secures a higher democratic quality at the cost of a slower if not arrested development.

Riccardo Pelizzo

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IN THE NEWS

In a report released by REPOA it emerges that the provision of social services in Tanzania has deteriorated in spite of several years of sustained high economic growth. Nearly two-thirds of the respondent perceive the economic conditions of the country to be fairly bad or very bad.

Afrobarometer

Nearly 40 percent of Tanzanian respondents believe that China is the country that exerts the greatest influence on Tanzania. Nearly 70 per cent of the respondents report that the Chinese influence is either somewhat or very beneficial. Further details can be found in a report recently released by REPOA. The report can be found here: http://www.repoa.or.tz/highlights/more/citi-zens_perception_on_chinese_engagem ent_in_tanzania_development

Chinese investments in Africa

By Niall Duggan

The Chinese public's domestic expectation is that its state will ensure a safe and affordable supply of food. In order to insure its food security the People Republic of China has undertaken two approaches. The first approach is to increase its involvement in global food security governance. China has taken a more active role in global food security governance. It has brought food security to what is becoming the core of the global governance decision-making system, the G20. China's historical role, together with its growing economic power, has helped to push the G20 to understand the importance of food security. This has shifted the G20's understanding of economic global governance away from the traditional fields of banking and trade regulation toward understanding the developmental-oriented economic structure. The second approach is to increase its investment into agricultural project in the developing world. However, in doing so, China has acquired large amounts of farmland abroad which has raised concerns among many in developing countries. It has been argued that land grabbing in the de-

veloping world is a form of neo-colonialism. Africa has been one the main focus of this second approach. However in the case of Chinese investment in Africa's agricultural section the story seems to be far more complex than a narrative of neo-colonialism. The SAIS China Africa Research Initiative at John Hopkins University has presented a number of case studies of Chinese investment in the African agricultural section. These cases studies show that Chinese investment in African agriculture is complex web of state, corporate and individual investment which has create a large network of Chinese actors including stated-owned enterprises, join ventures as well as individual entrepreneurs. This has led not only to an integration of the Chinese and African agricultural section but a greater integration of African agricultural section into the global market .



Tourism and Employment: the case of Tanzania

A study conducted by Abel Kyondo and Riccardo Pelizzo shows that the growth of the tourism industry has been a significant determinant of economic growth and socio-economic development in Tanzania. The development of the tourism industry created employment opportunities and wealth, but was not equally effective in reducing poverty and inequality. In this respect the authors note that the majority of workers employed in the tourism industry, according to official statistics compiled on a yearly basis by the government, are paid consistently less than workers employed in any other economic sector and that women, who represent the larger share of the workforce in the tourism industry, are paid considerably less than their male colleagues.

Source: Kinyondo, A. and Pelizzo, R. (2015), Tourism, Development and Inequality: The Case of Tanzania. *Poverty & Public Policy*, 7: 64–79. doi: 10.1002/pop4.92



The road to Togolese elections

In 2014 the relationship between the government and the opposition were a sort of rollercoaster.

The months leading to the election were filled with difficulties and problems. While the constitution authorizes the incumbent president to seek re-election and being re-elected an unlimited number of time, the opposition has repeatedly complained about these constitutional dispositions and asked to set a two-term limit for the president.

Several meetings were called to discuss and find a way to solve these disagreements. Yet, after months of discussions, negotiations, protests and expressions of support, the two parts have not managed to reach an agreement and it is unlikely that they will be able to do so between now and the day of the elections—which are scheduled for April 25th 2015.

There are 5 candidates who have been granted the right to run in these forthcoming elections by the constitutional court. The first candidate is the incumbent president, Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, who will seek a presidential third term. The second candidate is Jean-Pierre FABRE who is the leader of opposition. While the remaining three candidates are Tchaboure GOGUE, Komandega

TAAMA, and Mohamed TCHASSONA TRAORE.

As soon as the electoral campaign reaches its climax, each candidate will try to win the support of as many voters as possible. At the moment there is considerable uncertainty about the electoral outcome. It could represent a turning in the political history of Togo, it could allow the opposition to reach power in more than thirty years and it could mark the end of the GNASSINGBE dynasty. But it could also allow the president to win a third mandate, consolidate his power and prolong the life of his political dynasty.

Romualda Stormy

Tourism

Tourism is a major economic resource for Africa. More than 60 million tourists come every year to Africa and more than 18 million people in Africa work in the tourism industry. Given the economic importance of tourism, African governments are making significant investments to improve and promote tourism in their respective countries. In Angola 1 million US dollars was invested to promote ecotourism in the Bicular National Park. In South Africa 600 million rand were invested to support companies operating in the tourism sector. In Tanzania 1.5 million US dollars were allocated for the rebranding and the promotion of Tanzania as a tourism destination. The government officials of the state of Enugu in Nigeria plan to invest on developing the human capital required to make the tourism industry flourish.

Riccardo Pelizzo

Infrastructures

Investments in infrastructure may boost African economies

Major investments in infrastructures are expected to be one of the main drivers of economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ports, in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Tanzania, are in the process of either being expanded or being built. The port of Lekki in Nigeria is expected to launch operation by 2018, while the expanded port of Abidjan is expected to be finalized by 2121. The port of Bagamoyo, to be completed by 2017, is expected to become the main port on the East African coast. In addition to ports, airports are also in the process of being built or revamped. In Sudan the China Harbour Engineering Company will build the new Khartoum International Airport.



Collaborators

of the Newsletter of African Politics and Policy

Niall Duggan, Lecturer, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland

Romualda Stormy, Correspondent, Lome, Togo

Riccardo Pelizzo, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan

Job Openings

Regional Political analyst:

<http://>

www.eurobrussels.com/

[job_display/101375/](http://www.eurobrussels.com/job_display/101375/)

Region-

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_for_the_Horn_of_Africa_N

airobi_Kenya_Outside_Euro

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Graduate School of Public Policy

53 Kababay Batyr ave.

Astana, Kazakhstan 010000

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