

African Politics and Policy

Newsletter
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Editorial

The crisis in South Sudan is rapidly turning into a catastrophe.

The conflict between government and opposition forces has so far caused the death of more than 50,000 people and the internal displacement of 2 million people.

In a country where 90 per cent of the national income comes from oil, the destruction of oil wells means economic disaster. Stable employment is rapidly disappearing, food production is dropping, inflation is soaring, the collapse of the currency is looming on the horizon, while 3 million people lack food and 12 million people are in need of assistance. Those who can leave the country, while those who remain are forced to face the brutality of an increasingly devastating conflict.

Violence is raging, foreign oil workers are being repatriated, and the news reports only speak of how a vast assortment of human right violations is perpetrated.

Observers noted that the country needs aid and above all peace. above all, we believe, it needs stability which is precisely what this government and these opposition forces are unwilling and unable to provide.

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IN THE NEWS

A peace deal was signed by the government and some of the separatist groups. Whether this deal will lead to the stabilization and pacification of Mali or not is yet unclear as the Tuareg-led National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad had not signed the deal.

South Sudan

In a turn of events that one could only describe as very disappointing, fighting is intensifying in South Sudan and civilians are forced to flee from their home to stay safe. The conflict between the government supporters and the rebels is allegedly responsible for the death of more than 50,000 people and for the displacement of nearly 2 million people. Because of the intensification of an already devastating conflict more than 100,000 people have fled the country in the first week of May 2015.

Instability: a threat for Tanzania?

By Riccardo Pelizzo

Tanzania has been a remarkable success story for the past several years. From 1995 to 2013 the GNI per capita has increased from 170 US dollars to 630, infant mortality has dropped to 97 to 26 per thousand, average life expectancy has increased sensibly from 55 to 61 years and foreign direct investments have increased from 2.28 per cent of the country's GDP in 1995 to 5.6 per cent in 2013.

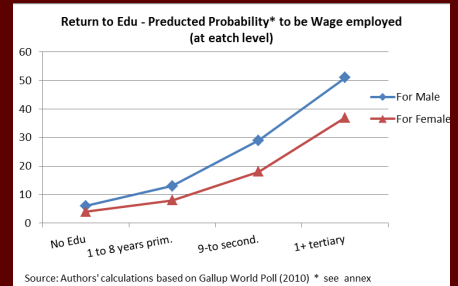
Tanzania has improved and though Tanzanians often feel that more could be done, that the provision of public services could be improved, and that greater efforts should be made to curb income inequality, there is little doubt that Tanzania has made considerable progress along the developmental path in the past two decades.

Political stability in Tanzania and in the neighboring countries was one of the most, if not the most, important determinants of this developmental success.

The region, however, has become increasingly unstable over the past

few months. Political violence is escalating in Burundi where the President is seeking a third mandate, human rights violations are allegedly perpetrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo by the Allied Democratic Forces, corruption scandals are rocking Malawi, Kenya has been the victim of several terrorist attacks, while fears of terror attacks are growing in Uganda. There is reason to fear that there may be a contagion effect and that the instability that is plaguing the region may eventually affect Tanzania where Presidential elections, that often have a destabilizing effect in poorly institutionalized polities, will be held in October.

Tanzania's ability to sustain economic growth and create a more equitable society depends on its ability to neutralize destabilizing forces. If instability finds its way into the Tanzanian political system, the results of many successful years may be seriously compromised.



Education and employment

Recent analyses have revealed that education attainment is strongly related to the probability of being employed and to salary. The data from the Gallup World Survey (2010) show that while less than 10 per cent of the male workers with little to no education are able to find a wage employment, more than 50 percent of male workers with 1 or more years of tertiary education have a waged employment. This evidence sustains the claim that with education, employability increases. To boost employment even further it is essential, however, to reduce the skill mismatch in Africa. Too often skilled workers have skills that employers do not value and/or lack the skill set required by employers. Acquiring the skill sets required by employers is the key for substantially reducing unemployment in the continent.



The results of the Togolese elections

The page of Togo presidential elections has just been closed. After an electoral process full with hiccups and a fairly contested electoral campaign, Togolese finally returned to the ballot boxes on April 25 to vote for the candidate of their choice. The polling stations opened very early the morning and closed at 16:00 in the afternoon, allow the 3 million voters to perform their civic duty. This figure shows a remarkable fall in the rate of participation of approximately 55%. Abstention which provides a precise indication of the political climate in Togo was much higher than in previous elections. In fact most Togolese were not convinced by the social projects and by the policy proposals presented the candidates. Furthermore, many voters failed to find a divided opposition and a president accustomed to the electoral frauds terribly appealing. The campaign was not conducted in usual enthusiasm or excitement but in palpable monotony. Given the unappealing nature of candidates and programs, it is comprehensible why most of population never managed to become particularly interested in the presidential elections. Overall the electoral process was quite peaceful as no clashes were reported. Some dysfunctions were raised in some districts but it was nothing very serious. The international observers gave a rather

positive report on the course of the elections.

The first results were published on April 27th and related to six districts. The provisional results of the whole of the territory were given by the CENI (Independent electoral commission) this Tuesday, April 28. At the head the outgoing president is Faure GNASSINGBE with 58% of the vote, follow-up is Jean Pierre Fabre with 35%. Remaining votes were split between Aimé GOGUE, Gerry TAAMA and Tchassona TRAORE. The electoral results will be validated by the constitutional court which proclaims the final results.

Romualda Stormy

Tourism

Tourism is a major economic resource for African countries. Major investments are made to develop the sector and improves facilities and infrastructures.

Recent forecasts indicate that if properly developed, the aviation sector alone could generate more than 20 billion US \$ in the next decade.

The tourism authority of Zimbabwe announced that the annual earnings generated by the tourist sector are expected to increase by nearly 80 per cento from 827 million US \$ to 1.5 billion.

The Ethiopian Tourism Board expects tourism to increase steadily over the next few years and to generate 7 billion US \$ by 2025.

Infrastructures

Investments in infrastructure may boost African economies

Upon the completion of the Omburu solar plant, in Namibia, the solar plant was connected to the national grid. The second container terminal at the port of Mombasa (Kenya) set to be completed by March 2016, is 85 per cent done. The terminal capacity is expected to increase from 1.1 million TEU to 1.55 million TEU. The most challenging part of the mechanical and construction work for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has been completed according to Azeb Asenake, CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power.



Job Openings

GIGA is trying to recruit a senior research fellow to work primarily on Sub-Saharan Africa on political stability, efficiency, legitimacy as well as on governance and socio-economic development.

<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/ALD139/senior-research-fellow/>

Collaborators

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