

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 5 – 11 October 2023

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11 Oct 2023 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *Africanews*. Former **Banque de la République du Burundi** governor **Dieudonné Murengeantwari**, who was fired on Sunday, is arrested on charges of corruption and misappropriation of public property;

11 Oct 2023 **Asmara (Eritrea)** *The East African*. **Somalia's** President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** visits Eritrea and undertakes a tour of military camps where Somali cadets have been going for training since 2019.;

11 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Officials begin talks with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and **World Bank** for a new loan to help settle its \$2 billion **Eurobond** repayment which was due in June 2024;

11 Oct 2023 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *New Time*. Rwanda connects its largest methane gas power plant to the national grid, taking another step towards offering cheaper energy sources;

10 Oct 2023 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *UN News*. **United Nations General Assembly** elects 15 new countries to serve on the **UN Human Rights Council**, including Burundi, a decision which is met with condemnation given that Burundi is often accused of violating human rights;

10 Oct 2023 **Djibouti (Djibouti)** *The Africa Report*. Djibouti, a member of the **Arab League**, condemns **Israel** for escalating attacks against **Palestine**, reaffirming its support for Palestine;

10 Oct 2023 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. Officials say government will not extend the mandate of the **East African Community Regional Forces (EACRF)**, which will now leave DRC on 8 December;

10 Oct 2023 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *RFI*. **World Food Programme** says it has partially resumed distributing food aid in Ethiopia after halting assistance four months ago over diversion of supplies;

10 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Africanews*. High court judge **Enock Mwita** temporarily suspends the government's plan to send police to **Haiti** in a **United Nations**-backed mission by granting an interim injunction in a case brought by opposition politician **Ekuru Aukot** who argued that the deployment was unconstitutional and not backed by any law or treaty;

10 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Citizen*. Economist Professor **Fred Ogola** launches a report noting that Kenya risks serious economic ramifications, estimated at \$28.13 billion, if President **William Ruto** approves the **Family Protection Bill**, which seeks to ban homosexuality, same-sex unions, and LGBTQ activities and campaigns;

10 Oct 2023 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *AFP*. **United States**-headquartered **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** accuses President **Paul Kagame** of using his good international standing to cover up abuse, close monitoring and arbitrary arrests of Rwandans who live abroad and are scared of criticising his regime;

- 9 Oct 2023 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Capital FM*. Defence ministers of the **East African Community (EAC)** propose an extension of the mandate of the **East African Community Regional Force (EACRF)** which is currently deployed in eastern DRC in an attempt to quell rebel violence;
- 9 Oct 2023 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. President **Sahle-Work Zewde** reports that Ethiopia is in the final stages of completing the civil engineering aspect of the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**, and that it will be completed at the end of the current Ethiopian year, which ends 11 September 2024;
- 9 Oct 2023 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** and **India's** prime minister, **Narendra Modi**, agree to accelerate the use of their local currencies, the Tanzania shilling and rupee, to bolster trade and offset the impacts of **United States** dollar shortages. Hassan, who is visiting India, also announces that the two countries have agreed to raise bilateral relations to a strategic partnership level;
- 8 Oct 2023 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Rwanda's** infrastructure minister **Jimmy Gasore** announces that the **Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Power Plant** is almost ready for commissioning, with tests of the plant on the Tanzania/Rwanda/**Burundi** border set to happen later this month;
- 8 Oct 2023 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The East African*. **Turkey**-headquartered construction company **Yapi Merkezi** reports a \$1.8 billion funding gap for Tanzania's standard gauge railway project (SGR) and is working with the government to find additional funding from **European** partners;
- 8 Oct 2023 **Kampala (Uganda)** *The East African*. **Petroleum Authority Uganda (PAU)** suspends all operations at the **Kingfisher** oil field, run by **China National Offshore Oil Corporation**, citing safety concerns after a fatal accident on 6 October;
- 7 Oct 2023 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Africanews*. President **Felix Tshisekedi** submits his candidacy for a second term in office, joining 23 other candidates running in the upcoming December election;
- 7 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. President **William Ruto** is set to ask **China** for a \$1 billion loan and debt restructuring plan as the cost of servicing debt, mainly to China, continues to weigh on the economy;
- 6 Oct 2023 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Fitch*. **United States**-headquartered credit rating agency **Fitch** revises its outlook on Rwanda's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) from negative to stable and affirms the IDR rating at B+;
- 5 Oct 2023 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *IMF*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff conclude a visit to Burundi on recent developments and progress towards reforms under its **Extended Credit Facility (ECF)** arrangement;
- 5 Oct 2023 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *Africanews*. **Supreme Court** denies former prime minister **Alain-Guillaume Bunyion's** request for release on bail. Bunyion, accused of undermining national security, has remained in pre-trial detention since his trial began in September;
- 5 Oct 2023 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Bloomberg*. Ethiopia's sole **Eurobond** yield falls as investors increasingly anticipate a debt default, eroding the progress in the bond rally following the announcement of the peace process;
- 5 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** announces that President **William Ruto** will request a \$1 billion loan from **China** during a state visit planned in late October, to complete stalled road construction projects and will also request "more time to repay the debts it is servicing";
- 5 Oct 2023 **Khartoum (Sudan)** *EastAfrican*. Sudan's government rejects the draft resolution of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (OHCHR)** proposing a three-member committee to investigate violations and crimes during conflict in Sudan;

5 Oct 2023 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) advises financial institutions to prepare to mitigate the effect of the looming **El Nino** through the provision of additional financial services;

5 Oct 2023 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. Ugandan security forces arrest 40 people on charges of “*inciting violence*” during an operation to prevent the group planning to march from **Entebbe International Airport (EIA)** following the return of **National Unity Party (NUP)** leader **Bobi Wine**, who claims to be under house arrest;

5 Oct 2023 **Kampala (Uganda)** *X*. Opposition party **National Unity Platform (NUP)** says its leader, **Bobi Wine**, has been arrested at **Entebbe International Airport** upon returning from a tour of several countries. Police have not commented on why he was arrested;

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