

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 18 – 24 January 2024

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24 Jan 2024 **Jakarta (Indonesia)** *The Citizen*. President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** arrives in **Indonesia**, kicking off a three-day state visit aimed at boosting bilateral relations and securing new economic partnerships;

23 Jan 2024 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *The East African*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** projects Burundi's economy will grow by 4.3% in 2024, up from a projected 2.7% in 2023, driven by the agricultural sector;

23 Jan 2024 **Asmara (Eritrea)** *News24*. **Committee to Project Journalists (CPJ)** releases its latest report, ranking Eritrea as the worst place to work as a media practitioner in **Africa**, adding that with 16 journalists in jail, Eritrea is the seventh-worst jailer of journalists worldwide;

23 Jan 2024 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Al Jazeera*. **Somalia's** President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** warns Ethiopia against implementing its deal with **Somaliland** that will offer Ethiopia access to the **Red Sea**;

23 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** indicates that diaspora remittances reached \$4.19 billion in 2023, substantially boosting the current account balance amid lower export revenues;

23 Jan 2024 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Africanews*. Authorities accuse **Burundi's** President **Evariste Ndayishimiye** of making “*inflammatory allegations aimed at sowing division among Rwandans*” as tensions between the two neighbouring countries continue;

23 Jan 2024 **Khartoum (Sudan)** *EU*. **European Council** announces sanctions against six firms involved in the war in Sudan, including three controlled by the **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)**;

23 Jan 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Down To Earth*. Tanzania, **Uganda** and **Kenya** meet for a multination stakeholder consultation to consider strategies to restore **Lake Victoria**;

23 Jan 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Bloomberg*. **Bank of Uganda (BoU)** (central bank) deputy governor **Michael Atingi-Ego** says the BoU is looking toward easing monetary policy but is waiting to assess potential impacts of issues such as global oil prices;

22 Jan 2024 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *AFP*. **United States** secretary of state **Anthony Blinken** calls on President **Felix Tshisekedi** to address election concerns raised by election observation missions during the December polls;

22 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. The shilling falls to a record low of 162.29 against the **United States** dollar, with some forecasts expecting the shilling to depreciate to as low as 210 against the dollar before year-end;

22 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC)** says the proposed standard gauge railway (SGR) running on the **Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport Corridor** will cost \$16 billion;

22 Jan 2024 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Financial Times*. **United Kingdom's (UK) House of Lords** votes on UK prime minister **Rushi Sunak's** plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, compelling the government to back up its claim that Rwanda is safe before it votes on ratifying the treaty;

22 Jan 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. Tanzania announces plans to conduct political dialogue with its neighbours, including **Burundi, Rwanda** and **DRC**, to explore options to repatriate refugees;

22 Jan 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *The East Africa*. Auditor general reports that spending cuts and delays in approving contractors' claims have pushed government arrears up by more than \$208m in the last financial year, which is also negatively impacting local contractors' operations and cash flow;

21 Jan 2024 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Anadolu Agency*. Ethiopia continues to defend its **Red Sea** access deal with **Somaliland**, with national security affairs adviser **Redwan Hussein** stating on social media platform **X** that the deal is based on cooperation and partnership, and not an annexation or assumption of sovereignty over the territory of any state;

21 Jan 2024 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Agence Ecofin*. **African Development Bank (AfDB)** and Ethiopia resolve to normalise relations following the AfDB's decision to remove staff following an incident in which Ethiopia security agents assaulted two of its staff members;

21 Jan 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Business Insider Africa*. Foreign affairs and **East African** cooperation minister **January Makamba** says President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** is expected to meet **Pope Francis** during a visit to the **Vatican** on 11 and 12 February, and will tour **Indonesia** from 24 to 26 January and **Norway** from 13 to 14 February;

21 Jan 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *BBC*. **United Kingdom**-based **BBC** publication reports that an investigation it carried out has uncovered a network of fake social media accounts in Uganda that spread pro-government messages and target critics with threats, with social media platform **Meta** stating that it believes the accounts are linked to the **Government Citizen Interaction Centre**, a government agency;

20 Jan 2024 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Engineering News*. President **Felix Tshisekedi** says during his inauguration that the DRC and **China** are discussing a \$7-billion financing deal as part of a renegotiated minerals-for-infrastructure deal;

20 Jan 2024 **Khartoum (Sudan)** *Al Jazeera*. Foreign ministry announces Sudan has suspended its membership of the **East African** regional bloc, the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**, accusing the bloc of undermining Sudan's sovereignty by inviting the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** leader **Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo** to a summit;

19 Jan 2024 **Djibouti (Djibouti)** *Africanews*. **Denmark**-headquartered shipping giant **Maersk** temporarily suspends bookings to Djibouti amid heightened security risks in the **Red Sea/Gulf of Aden**;

19 Jan 2024 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The **World Economic Outlook** issued by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** indicates that the **East African Community (EAC)** is poised for 5.9% economic growth this year. Tanzania will also record the lowest inflation rate among the EAC member countries this year at 5%;

19 Jan 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Reuters*. The **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) sets its main interest rate at 5.5%. The decision is the first by the central bank since it said earlier this month that it would start using a benchmark interest rate to signal its monetary policy direction. Inflation also fell to 3% in December from 3.2% in November;

18 Jan 2024 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *SABC News*. Two opposition candidates in the December presidential election – **Martin Fayulu** and **Moise Katumbi** – call for a protest on 20 January when President **Felix Tshisekedi** is set to be sworn in for a second term;

18 Jan 2024 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Al Jazeera*. **Somalia** rejects any mediation efforts aimed at quelling tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia unless Ethiopia cancels its deal with **Somaliland** that grants Ethiopia access to the **Red Sea**;

18 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Finance minister **Njuguna Ndung'u** says in a letter to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** that Kenya will go to the international bond market as soon as the market situation allows;

18 Jan 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Analysts say that recurrent trade-related rows between Tanzania and **Kenya** stem from the fact that **East Africa's** two largest economies largely depend on similar sectors to drive growth;

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