

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 12 – 18 March 2026

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17 Mar 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Prime cabinet secretary **Musalia Mudavadi** announces that **Russia** has agreed to stop recruiting Kenyans to fight in the war in **Ukraine** after public backlash over large-scale enlistment;

17 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Government announces measures to encourage greater youth participation in mining, with a key focus on improving access to finance, which has been a major barrier for young miners;

17 Mar 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. The **European Union (EU)** launches a €44m (\$48m) programme to boost value addition in Uganda’s coffee sector;

16 2026 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *The Africa Report*. The **United States (US)** hosts Rwandan and **Congolese** officials in **Washington (US)** to address stalled peace accords in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, following US sanctions on Rwanda over its support for **M23** rebels;

16 Mar 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** and **Russia’s** President **Vladimir Putin** hold a phone call to discuss strengthening bilateral relations across several areas, continuing a long history of diplomatic engagement and prior agreements, including on nuclear energy;

16 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. **Mining Commission** reports that the expansion of local mineral refineries and enforcing policies that require in-country processing before export has added TSh 5.8 trillion shillings (\$2.32 billion) in value;

16 Mar 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. Opposition leader **Bob Wine** confirms he has temporarily left the country after two months in hiding following the disputed January election;

16 Mar 2026 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Africa News Agency*. At the 3rd **Inclusive FinTech Forum** in Kigali, fintech leaders and policymakers emphasise that mobile money, digital payments, and cross-border financial services can significantly expand access to finance for millions of Africans, particularly in rural areas and for small businesses;

16 Mar 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Parliament scrutinises the **Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)** over Sh4.2 billion (\$32m) in unpaid legal fees, with acting CEO **Moses Sunkuli** appearing before the **National Assembly Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs, and Human Rights** to explain the delays;

16 Mar 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. Finance ministry reports government spent \$416.62m serving external debt in the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, up

from \$381.52m in the previous quarter, as Uganda's debt servicing costs continue climbing;

15 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania launches a new export hub aimed at connecting 100,000 youth entrepreneurs to global markets by 2030, as part of efforts to expand trade and create jobs for young people;

12 Mar 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Officials from **Djibouti**, Ethiopia and **Somalia** hold an informal tripartite consultation to discuss regional peace, security, economic integration, and shared challenges;

12 Mar 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. The war involving **Iran** disrupts Kenya's meat exports to the **Middle East**, which normally amount to about Sh300m (\$2.3m) per week;

12 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **China** reaffirms its support for Tanzania's industrial growth, highlighted during ambassador **Chen Mingjian**'s visit to **Saturn Corporation**'s **HOWO** truck assembly plant in **Kigamboni**;

12 Mar 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. Uganda announces visa-free entry for nationals of 40 countries, excluding the **United States (US)** and any from the **European Union (EU)**;

10 Mar 2026 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *APA News*. **Mouna Diawara** takes charge as head of the **African Development Bank's (AfDB)** country office in Burundi, reaffirming the bank's commitment to supporting Burundi's development goals under **Vision Burundi 2040-2060**;

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