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BRIEFING

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 5 – 11 March 2026

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11 Mar 2026 **Bujumbura (Burundi)** *Mining Weekly.* **Isle of Man**-headquartered **Lifezone Metals** signs an exclusivity agreement with the government of Burundi to evaluate the **Musongati** nickel project, one of the country's largest known nickel deposits;

10 Mar 2026 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *All Africa.* **National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda** reports that annual urban inflation in Rwanda rose to 9.2% in February, up 8.9% in January, driven mainly by higher housing, utilities, transport and service-sector costs;

10 Mar 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The Observer.* **M23** rebels claim they handed over more than 5,000 captured Congolese soldiers to the **International Committee of the Red Cross** as a humanitarian gesture and confidence-building measure;

10 Mar 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Foreign affairs minister **Hadera Abera** holds separate talks with **Israel**'s ambassador to Ethiopia, **Avraham Neguise**, **Saudi Arabia**'s ambassador to Ethiopia, **Abdullah Hassan A. Alzahrani**, and chargé d'affaires of the embassy of **Kuwait** in Ethiopia, **Abdulaziz Hamadah**, to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments;

10 Mar 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Streamline*. **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission** arrests former high court judge **Joseph Mutava** and three accomplices over allegations of soliciting a KSh 10.4m ($80,600) bribe to influence a high-stakes legal dispute;

10 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania suspends the implementation of new port charges until 1 July 2026, following objections from stakeholders;

10 Mar 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) reports that foreign exchange reserves doubled in 2025 to around $6 billion, while bond yields fell sharply in early 2026, reflecting strong investor demand despite higher upfront costs;

10 Mar 2026 **Djibouti (Djibouti)** *Addis Standard*. **Djibouti Ports & Free Zones Authority** orders shipping agents not to apply retroactive surcharges to cargo loaded before the **Gulf** crisis, warning that violations will face regulatory penalties, aiming to create trade bottlenecks for **Ethiopia**, which relies on Djibouti for over 95% of its foreign trade;

9 Mar 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters.* State-owned trading company **DRC Gold Trading** plans to increase purchases of artisanal gold to 15 metric tonnes in 2026 to channel production into formal export markets and reduce smuggling;

9 Mar 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** announces that proceeds from the **Kenya Pipeline** Initial Public Offering (IPO) will be allocated to expand **Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)**;

9 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The escalating conflict in **Iran** is causing concern for Tanzanian businesses operating in the **Middle East**, with some traders reportedly trapped amid rising tensions;

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9 Mar 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. Uganda's shilling is under pressure as the **Middle East** conflict drives investors toward safe-haven assets, increasing dollar demand and weakening the local currency;

6 Mar 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *La Prosperite.* Mines minister **Louis Watum Kabamba** highlights copper production exceeding three million tonnes, cobalt prices rising from about $20,000 to $55,000 per tonne, the launch of lithium production in **Tanganyika** in Q2 2026, partnerships with **Glencore**, **CMOC Group**, and **Ivanhoe Mines**, and the first phase of the **Grand Orientale iron mining corridor (MIFOR)** valued at $29 billion, aimed at connecting the northeast and southwest of the country;

6 Mar 2026 **Asmara (Eritrea)** *Solar Quarter.* **African Development Bank (AfDB)** approves a $58m grant to support the expansion of solar power and the modernisation of the national electricity grid in Eritrea;

6 Mar 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) reports that credit to Tanzania's mining sector increased by over 90% in 2025, reflecting strong investor confidence and growing financial support for mineral exploration and development;

5 Mar 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters.* **United States (US)**, **European Union (EU)** and other international partners express concern over continued violations of ceasefires in eastern DRC, urging all parties to recommit ending hostilities and returning to negotiations;

5 Mar 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** officials visiting Kenya are holding technical discussions with the government, but finance minister **John Mbadi** says the visit is not expected to result in a new lending programme at this stage;

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