

Harare and bedbugs

Harare City Council is struggling to get rid of bedbugs (tsikidzi) in the densely populated suburb of Mbare after an outbreak was reported this month. Fumigation of the bedbugs has proved difficult as the parasitic insects appear to have developed resistance to the chemicals used. Officials suspect that the bedbug infestation may have been caused by the sale of second-hand clothing from abroad and exacerbated by poor hygiene. The city council will be fumigating public transport vehicles such as estate cars and buses from next week to prevent the bedbugs from spreading to other areas.

Forest fires in Cape Town

At least 190 households have been evacuated from fire-prone neighbourhoods in Cape Town as emergency services battled at least five active fire lines on the city's southern peninsula. The fire is raging on the hillsides in Cape Town, affecting Ou Kaapse way, Clovelly, Tokai, Boyes Drive and the surrounding communities.

Tunisia: Migrant ship sinks off Tunisia

Tunisian coastguards have recovered the bodies of eight African migrants after their boat sank off the country's coast en route to Europe, a security official told Reuters, adding that 29 other people were rescued. The boat sank in the waters off the town of Abwabed near Sfax, a departure point often used by African migrants. Tunisia is grappling with an unprecedented migration crisis and has replaced Libya as a major departure point for Tunisians and other Africans seeking a better life in Europe.

Kenya: Church raid and fear of sects

Kenyan authorities are investigating a possible religious cult after two bodies were recovered and 57 people rescued at St Joseph Missions of Africa Church in Migori County. The latest case has reignited the debate about unregulated churches and fringe religious groups in Kenya, many of which operate outside official control. Human rights activists have repeatedly called for stricter oversight and warned that desperate or vulnerable people remain at risk of spiritual exploitation.

Nigeria: Fine of 220 million dollars confirmed

A Nigerian court has rejected Meta's appeal against a fine of 220 million dollars imposed by the Nigerian Consumer Protection Agency last year for a number of breaches of consumer data. Nigeria had accused Meta of violating the country's data protection and consumer rights laws with Facebook and WhatsApp. Meta is accused of discriminatory practices, abuse of a dominant market position, sharing Nigerian data without authorisation and denying Nigerians the right to determine how their data is used. According to figures published on the website of the National Communications Commission, the country had around 164.3 million internet subscriptions out of a population of 228 million in March.

Algeria: Landslide

Four people have been killed and 13 others injured in a landslide in the western Algerian coastal city of Oran. The landslide occurred late on Saturday in the Hai Essanoubur neighbourhood. 28.04.2025

Congo DRC: Peace rally in Butembo

Hundreds of people gathered in Butembo, in North Kivu, to demand an end to the war in their region. The provincial capital of Goma has been under rebel rule for three months. The conflict in eastern Congo has claimed the lives of an estimated 6 million people since the mid-1990s, in the wake of the genocide in Rwanda. 28.04.2025

Madagascar: Macron asks for forgiveness

President Emmanuel Macron has expressed his desire to seek 'forgiveness' for French colonial rule over Madagascar, starting with the return of looted cultural assets. The island was under French colonial rule from 1896 until 1960, when it gained full independence. He confirmed plans to return cultural objects stolen during colonisation, including the skull of King Toera, who was beheaded by French troops in 1897 and whose remains were taken to France as a trophy. 28.04.2025

Uganda: Ebola outbreak over

Three months after the first cases emerged in the capital Kampala, Uganda has officially declared its latest Ebola outbreak over. "During this outbreak, 14 cases, 12 confirmed and two not confirmed [probable] by laboratory tests, were reported. Four deaths, two confirmed and two probable, occurred. Ten people recovered from the infection," the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a statement. 28.04.2025

Peace agreement to be drawn up

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have agreed to draw up a peace agreement by 2 May in which they commit to respecting each other's sovereignty and to no longer providing military support to armed groups. 28.04.2025

South Africa: Defending sovereignty

The ruling ANC party has defended its country's sovereignty amid growing tensions with the US over ethnic relations and a new land bill. ANC national chairman Gwede Mantashe said: "We are a free country, we are a sovereign country. We are not a province of the United States and we will defend that sovereignty." US President Donald Trump has sharply criticised South Africa's new expropriation law. The Expropriation Act allows the government to seize land without compensation, but only under certain circumstances. 28.4

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

African Popes

North Africa, which is now predominantly Muslim, was once a Christian heartland that produced three popes who have left their mark on the church to this day. Their terms of office coincided with the time of the Roman Empire, which extended over what is now Tunisia, north-east Algeria and the coast of western Libya. All three were recognised as saints by the church.

Pope Victor I (189-199)

Pope Miltiades (311-314)

Pope Gelasius I (492-496)