

## Kenya: Visa simplifications

The government has announced that the electronic travel authorisation (eTA) and visa requirement will be abolished for all African nationals except for those from Somalia and Libya. This measure is intended to promote regional integration and the growth of tourism in Africa. African visitors now have a two-month stay, while East African Community (EAC) nationals retain their six-month stay under the existing free movement protocols. 23.01.25

## South Africa: Memorial to soldiers of the 1st World War

Hundreds of South African soldiers, mostly black, who died during the First World War have been honoured with a new memorial in Cape Town after going unrecognised for more than a century. Princess Anne, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), unveiled the memorial in a moving ceremony attended by relatives of the dead. In 2021, the UK apologised after a report blamed 'pervasive racism' for failing to properly honour at least 100,000 black and Asian soldiers who had fought on its side. 23.01.2025

## Nigeria: Expansion of LEO satellite partnership

Communications satellite company (NIGCOMSAT) is partnering with French company Eutelsat to provide Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite services in Nigeria to bridge the digital divide in the country. LEO satellites operate at an altitude of 500 to 2,000 kilometres, unlike conventional geostationary satellites which operate at higher altitudes, typically 35,786 kilometres from Earth. As a result, LEO satellites provide high-speed, low-latency Internet, making them ideal for delivering Internet services to underserved communities, government agencies and businesses. The partnership is a critical step in advancing Nigeria's digital transformation and strengthening ties with France in satellite technology. This development is in line with Nigeria's National Broadband Plan 2020-2025, which aims to increase broadband penetration to 70%. 22.01.2025

## Congo DRC: Reducing dependencies

The Democratic Republic of Congo is looking for mining investors from Saudi Arabia to reduce its dependence on Chinese companies, which currently dominate the sector. Marcellin Paluku, Deputy Cabinet Director at the Congolese Ministry of Mines, pointed out the economic risks associated with dependence on a single partner, as 80% of Congolese mines are operated by Chinese companies. Congo is the largest producer of cobalt in the world and companies such as the Chinese CMOG Group, the world's leading cobalt producer, have significantly increased their investments in the country in recent years. The government is now exploring partnerships with investors from the European Union, India and Saudi Arabia to mitigate the risks to the country's economy and create joint ventures that are less biased in favour of investors. 22.01.2025

## Cameroon: Eighth term!?

President Paul Biya, 91, is expected to seek an eighth term in office to extend his 42-year tenure and become the longest-serving head of state in Africa. While Biya's Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) is backing him, critics cite his age and health as obstacles to resolving pressing issues such as the Anglophone separatist conflict. Opposition voices argue that Biya's

long reign is hindering progress. However, they are fragmented and unable to offer a unified alternative. In the meantime, Biya's son, Franck Biya, is reportedly being groomed as his successor. The country's economy, characterised by slowing GDP growth and a high poverty rate, further complicates the situation. Given the widespread corruption and lack of infrastructure, many doubt that another term in office for Biya can solve Cameroon's deep-rooted problems. 22.01.2025

## Togo: Considering membership in the AES

According to Foreign Minister Robert Dussey, Togo is examining the possibility of joining the Alliance des États du Sahel (AES). Dussey emphasised that the decision lies with the President of Togo but indicated that public opinion would probably be in favour of the move. Membership of the AES could offer strategic advantages by giving landlocked Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso access to the sea via Togo's coast and the port of Lomé, boosting regional trade. Such an agreement would benefit Togo, which would act as a hub for trade. The AES was founded by the military-led nations after they withdrew from ECOWAS. 21.01.2025

## Kenya: New contingent arrives in Haiti

The latest contingent of 217 Kenyan police officers arrived in Port-au-Prince. About 10 countries have pledged troops to Haiti as part of a United Nations-backed anti-gang force, but so far only a few have been deployed. Kenya began sending police officers to the country in June last year and now has more than 600 on the ground. President William Ruto has pledged a total of 1,000 troops as part of the Multinational Security Support.

## Nigeria: BRICS partner country

The Brazilian government has announced that Nigeria has been accepted as a partner country in the multinational BRICS group. This brings Africa's largest economy into the growing alliance of emerging economies. Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan. The BRICS now represent more than half of the world's population and more than 45% of global GDP, signalling their growing weight on the international stage. 20.01.2025

## Tunisia: Italy provides 400 million euros

Italy and Tunisia have sealed a two-year partnership. Italy has pledged 400 million euros to support development initiatives that focus on the energy transition and the promotion of renewable energy sources. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has prioritized agreements with African countries as part of her development strategy, the so-called Mattei Plan, named after Enrico Mattei, the founder of the state-owned oil and gas company Eni. With this plan, Italy wants to create jobs and opportunities in Africa and thus reduce the incentive for people to make the dangerous journey across the central Mediterranean. 20.01.2025

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

## Nigeria: Tanker accident causes more than 77 deaths

## Congo DRC: M23 rebels capture the important town of Minova