

Cameroon: remedy or hocus-pocus

While the market for natural healing products is booming in Europe, in Africa, where they have been used for generations, the knowledge is being lost in many places because it is being displaced by pharmaceutical products from Asia, Europe and America. Two researchers from Cameroon want to prove the effectiveness of natural remedies and bring both worlds together. In their laboratory in Yaoundé, they are working together to provide scientific evidence of the effectiveness of many plants and to restore confidence in traditional remedies. Last year, they were honoured with the L'Oréal Unesco for Women in Science Award. 25.01.2024

Nigeria: Lagos bans plastic

The state of Lagos, which includes the city of Lagos with more than 20 million inhabitants, has issued an immediate ban on polystyrene and single-use plastic to combat environmental pollution. Many street vendors and markets in Lagos use polystyrene containers to serve and deliver food or produce. Environmental experts explained that the implementation and enforcement of the ban could pose difficulties. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that the equivalent of 2,000 rubbish trucks full of plastic are dumped into the oceans, rivers and lakes every day. Kenya and Uganda have tried to ban plastic bags.

Malaria - Vaccination programmes

Cameroon launched the first malaria vaccination programme to be routinely offered nationwide. A step that the WHO describes as "historic". Burkina Faso, Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone will follow with large-scale vaccination programmes. According to the World Health Organisation, more than 600,000 people die from the mosquito-borne disease every year, 95% of them in Africa. Children under the age of five are responsible for more than 80 % of deaths on the continent. Since 2019, more than two million children in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi have been vaccinated in a pilot phase.

Blinken travels to 4 democracies on the Atlantic coast

At the start of a four-country tour of Africa (Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Angola), US Secretary of State Antony Blinken declared that the USA is interested in deepening relations with Africa despite global crises. Russia and China - seen by the USA as its most important global rivals - have rapidly expanded their influence in Africa in recent years. While China provided loans for infrastructure projects, Russia's powerful and ruthless Wagner Group of mercenaries was deployed in Mali, the Central African Republic and allegedly also in Burkina Faso. The security situation in the Sahel is deteriorating and doubts are growing about an important US base in Niger affected by a coup. 24.01.2024

First elected female local council chairwoman

The All Progressives Congress Party (APC) has won the chairmanship and 312 councillorship seats in all the 27 Local Government Areas of Borno State in the local government elections. Inna Galadima, the APC candidate was declared the elected chairman of local governments in the state in Jere, making her the first woman to hold that office. 24.01.2024

Kongo DRC: Mehr Sicherheit und Wohlstand

After being sworn in for a second term as President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Felix Tshisekedi promised to take "all necessary measures for the progress of our country", which despite its wealth of natural resources has around 100 million predominantly impoverished inhabitants. In his speech to cheering supporters, who had gathered in Kinshasa's Martyrs' Stadium together with government representatives, African heads of state and other foreign delegations, the president repeated the promises he had made during the election campaign: "more jobs, more purchasing power, more security for all, a more diversified and competitive economy, more access to health services and more efficient public services." The opposition candidates, including Moise Katumbi and Martin Fayulu, have rejected the official results, according to which the incumbent received 73% of the votes cast. Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, the Archbishop of Kinshasa, called the elections a "gigantic, organised chaos".

Orthodox Christians celebrate Timket - the baptism of Jesus

On 19 January, Orthodox Christians in Ethiopia celebrate the Timket festival. The festival begins with a ritual in which each church carries a tabot - a sacred replica of the Ark of the Covenant. During this ritual, the tabot is covered with a cloth and carried to a nearby water source. Hundreds of thousands of people gather there to sing spiritual songs and pray. The Timket festival is one of the highest and holiest holidays in the Ethiopian Orthodox Christian calendar. Timket used to be in Gondar, a town in the northern Amhara region. However, due to the ongoing conflict between government troops and rebels in the region, many people now prefer to celebrate in Addis Ababa.

Liberia: From Youngest to Oldest

The 79-year-old Joseph Boakai, mocked by his critics as "Sleepy Joe", is to be sworn in as Liberia's oldest president after narrowly winning the run-off election in November with the help of former rebel commander Prince Johnson. This marks a generational change, as Boakai will take over from George Weah, the country's youngest elected president. The former international football star became president at the age of 51. After defeating Boakai in the elections six years ago, he lost this time by just over 20,000 votes. The people had had enough of the Weah government - of its corruption and extravagance, its swanky cars and fancy restaurants.

Sudan: Membership suspended

Sudan is suspending its membership of the north-east African bloc IGAD. IGAD has been trying to end the nine-month war between the Sudanese army and the rival paramilitary group the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The Sudanese government criticised IGAD for inviting the head of the RSF to a summit. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was founded in 1996 and consists of eight states - Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia.

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

Seychelles: Feasibility study on the eradication of cats and rats

Zambia: Covid-19 cases rise