1. ALGERIA

Number of migrants 'abandoned by Algeria' in Sahara drops
The number of migrants allegedly being forced to cross the Sahara Desert on foot by Algeria has dropped significantly, a UN agency says. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has dealt with about 10,000 people abandoned near the southern border since last September - some left by traffickers and others expelled by Algerian authorities - a claim that the North African country has refuted. Algeria is on the migrant route to the Mediterranean and has seen an estimated 100,000 people cross into its territory in the last few years, mainly from West Africa.

2. Cameroon

Cameroon President Paul Biya to stand for seventh term
Paul Biya, Cameroon's 85-year-old president, has formally declared that he will run again in the country's upcoming elections, seeking a seventh term. Biya has been head of state since 1982, when he took over following the resignation of Ahmadou Ahidjo who was in power since independence in 1960. "Aware of the challenges, we must take up together to ensure a more united, stable and prosperous Cameroon. I am willing to respond positively to your overwhelming calls. I will stand as your candidate in the upcoming presidential election," Biya said in a Twitter post on Friday. Al Jazeera

3. Democratic republic of Congo

Jean-Pierre Bemba named as DRC presidential candidate
Jean-Pierre Bemba has been declared an opposition party candidate for the Democratic Republic of Congo's upcoming presidential election following his recent acquittal of war crimes charges in an appeal to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Bemba, a former DRC vice president, accepted the candidacy from his Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) party on Friday by telephone from Brussels, where he was released days after the ICC overturned his 18-year sentence. Al Jazeera

DRC universities urge Kabila to step aside
Several universities in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Saturday signed a petition against President Joseph Kabila running for a third term in office later this year. University professors and staff signed the document calling Kabila's candidacy in the December polls "an unacceptable
offence of high treason against the nation and the state" following months of heavily repressed protests calling for the long-time leader to stand aside. **News 24**

**DR Congo's new army chief subject of U.S., EU sanctions**

Congo’s President Joseph Kabila has appointed a new army chief who is under international sanctions for the violent repression of dissent, raising fears of an imminent crackdown. State television reported on Sunday that Kabila had appointed General John Numbi to the role of inspector general of the Congolese Armed Forces. Numbi has been placed under sanctions by the United States, European Union and Switzerland for alleged killings of scores of civilians by forces controlled by him over several years. **Africa news.**

### 4. ETHIOPIA

**Eritrea’s Isaias Afwerki in historic Ethiopia visit**

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki along with his delegation arrived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Saturday in a historic visit to cement peace between the two neighbors following two decades of hostilities. Eritrea seceded in 1993 after decades of bloody conflict. Relations deteriorated further with the outbreak of war between 1998-2000 claiming some 80,000 lives. President Afeworki’s visit comes just five days after Prime Minister Abiy visited Asmara on Sunday and signed a deal declaring an end to the state of war between the two countries. On Monday, President Afeworki is expected open his country’s embassy in Addis. **Daily Nation; BBC; Aljazeera**

### 5. KENYA

**Former US president meets Uhuru Kenyatta**

Former US President Barrack Obama arrived in Kenya Sunday afternoon for a two-day visit that started with a courtesy call on President Uhuru Kenyatta. President Kenyatta congratulated, the 44th US president, who last visited the country in 2015, for establishing the Obama Foundation, which seeks to empower the youth to become the agents of change that the African continent needs. Mr Obama will inaugurate the Sauti Kuu Foundation’s project run by his half sister, Dr Auma Obama, in Siaya Country in western Kenya, where his father was born. After inaugurating the Sauti Kuu Foundation and visiting his ancestral home in Alego Nyang’oma of Siaya County, Mr. Obama will head to South Africa where he is expected to deliver the 16th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in Johannesburg. **The East African; Daily Nation**

**Somali elder wants to meet Obama**

Mr Mohamed Hassan Mumin, a peace elder from Wajir County who dressed former US President Barack Obama in traditional Somali outfit in 2006, when he was Illinois Senator, is now seeking to meet him. Mr Mumin is widely credited with bringing to end bloody inter-clan clashes between Degodia and Ogaden in Wajir in 1993. **Daily Nation**

**200 young Africans picked for Obama leadership program**

The “The Obama Foundation Leaders: Africa programme” on Friday said it had selected 200 rising leaders from forty-four African countries for its civic leadership programme in the continent. The one-year leadership development and civic engagement programme aims to train, support and connect emerging African leaders to create positive change in their communities. The young leaders selected were working in the government, civil society and private sector. The programme will be launched by former US President Barrack Obama on July 14 in Johannesburg, South Africa. **The East African**

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Please note: The news items presented here are for informational purposes only. The views expressed within them are those of the authors and/or individuals quoted, not those of the Africa Policy Institute.
Security tight as Obama lands in Kogelo

There was heavy security as an elite squad from Kenya’s General Service Unit and American Secret Service agents pitched tent at K’Ogelo and much of Alego, restricting the life of folks used to ride boda boda without protective gear or doing free walkabouts. Only accredited guests will be allowed into the venue, but there will also be a strict stop-and-search routine for anyone using roads near the venue. The police will block the road leading to Ng’Iya High School as the former President Obama is expected to land there with his chopper. Guests were urged to carry light luggage as they come into Sauti Kuu Centre to ease the security search. Journalists covering the event were told to ensure accreditation for their vehicles and themselves in order to be allowed access to the venue. Traders and artist are cashing in on t-shirts, calendar’s and tags in readiness for tomorrow’s inauguration of Sauti Kuu Centre. Daily Nation

KWS on the spot as 8 black rhinos die after translocation

Four days after 8 of a herd of 11 black rhinos died at the Tsavo East National Park following their translocation from the Nairobi and Nakuru national parks due to overcrowding, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has yet to address the matter publicly, raising suspicion over what happened, even as local and international conservationists mounted pressure on the agency to take responsibility for the animals’ deaths. The programme targeting 14 rhinos was jointly conducted by KWS and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) at a cost of Sh100 million. KWS suspects that the animals died from salt poisoning after drinking highly saline water in their new surroundings. DAILY NATION; Aljazeera

Ogiek to fight Mau evictions in Africa court

The Ogiek community will go back to the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights this week over the ongoing Maasai Mau Forest evictions. The evictions started seven days ago and are being carried out by officers from the Kenya Forest Service, Administration Police and Kenya Wildlife Service. The community’s Council of Elders chairman, Mr Joseph Towett, said the evictions violate the court’s judgment issued last year by the Arusha-based court. After more than five years of litigation, the court ruled in May 2017 that the Kenya government had violated the rights and freedoms of the Ogiek by driving them out of their ancestral land nearly. The evictions have so far affected 13 shopping centers, 772 houses, over 3,000 livestock and 8,860 people. Daily Nation

6. RWANDA

Deals on the cards as Xi Jinping visits Rwanda

Chinese President Xi Jinping will arrive in Rwanda on July 22 for a two-day state visit, during which he is expected to sign a number of agreements and MoUs on trade, investment, infrastructure and defense. His visit could help secure funding for key roads, and the expansion of the national carrier Rwanda Air, but financing the SGR, linking Rwanda to the Indian Ocean, is not among them. President Paul Kagame paid a state visit to China in March 2017. He is also expected in Beijing in September to attend the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation. The East African
7. SOMALIA

**Shabaab claims twin car blasts near Somali presidency**
Abdulahi Ahmed, a security official confirmed that three Shabaab gunmen were shot dead Saturday after exchanging fire with security forces outside the presidential palace in Mogadishu - an attack in which two car bombs were also detonated. The Al-Qaeda linked Shabaab group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement. The attack comes a week after five civilians were killed in two blasts targeting Somalia's internal security ministry. *Daily Nation*

8. TANZANIA

**Air Tanzania brings competition to Kenya Airways, RwandAir**
Air Tanzania starts direct flights from Dar-es-Salaam to Entebbe and Bujumbura later next month, a route that has been dominated by Kenya Airways and Rwanda Air – bringing competition to their doorstep as well as convenience and savings to the regional traveler. The Tanzania national carrier, in its second year of operation, revealed that it will start a four-times-a-week direct flight to Entebbe from Dar es Salaam and a three times a week flight to Bujumbura, on two routes. This offers relief to regional travelers who have had to endure the complex and unattractive connecting options on these two routes. Kenya Airways, after enjoying a near monopoly of the Dar-Nairobi-Entebbe route, will loss earnings from the introduction of direct flights. *The East African*

9. Zimbabwe

**Zim name is 'cursed', needs a new one: MDC leader Chamisa**
Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has vowed to rename Zimbabwe, saying the current name is "cursed" and is responsible for the nation's poor showing in international sporting events.
"Zimbabwe cannot remain Zimbabwe because it has been turned into Zimbabwe ruins," Chamisa told thousands of supporters at a rally in the eastern city of Mutare on Sunday. *News 24*

**Mugabes 'offered opposition MDC leader Chamisa $24m, 12 cars' for campaign**
The Mugabe family offered the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Nelson Chamisa 24 million US dollars and a dozen vehicles to oil its election campaign, a Zimbabwean newspaper has claimed. In return, the MDC would reserve 82 parliamentary seats and a vice president’s post for a party linked to the Mugabe’s, the report said. *News 24*