1. Democratic Republic of Congo

**DR Congo set to unveil candidates for troubled elections**

The marathon road towards elections in Democratic Republic of Congo reaches a critical point Wednesday with the publication of officially-vetted candidates for the December 23 poll in which two heavyweight contenders have been sidelined. More than two dozen people registered their bid with the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), a much-contested panel tasked with overseeing the ballot in one of the Africa’s biggest and most unstable nations. Capital News

2. Ethiopia

**Ethiopia PM asks Oromo parties to unite, safeguard ongoing reforms**

Ethiopia’s prime minister, Abiy Ahmed has called on political parties in the Oromia region to refrain from trading in the name of the Oromo people and the region’s struggle, state affiliated Fana BC reported on Wednesday. African News

3. Kenya

**Kenya to launch UN Security Council membership bid next June**

Kenya is set to launch its campaign for a non-permanent membership slot in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2021-2022 terms in June next year. Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma told a news conference Wednesday that Kenya was already lobbying for an endorsement from its peers in the African Union (AU) and the region ahead of the campaign. Capital News

**Speaker Muturi defends Parliamentary Group meetings as VAT debate looms**

National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi has reiterated the independence of Parliament saying the House is not an extension of the Executive. Following Tuesday's Jubilee Party and National Super Alliance (NASA) Parliamentary Group meetings where members were
whipped to support President Uhuru Kenyatta’s proposals on the Finance Bill 2018, Muturi said MPs are not at the beck and call of the Executive. **Capital News**

**Uhuru Kenyatta’s new tax measures set to inflict more pain**

For 41-year-old Jane Wangeci, a resident of Kibra, Nairobi, the high price of charcoal and kerosene has in the recent past meant changing cooking habits for her young family of four. “We stopped preparing three meals a day because the cost of charcoal and kerosene has risen beyond our reach,” Ms Wangeci said on Wednesday when the Nation visited her. “It is becoming unbearable.” **Daily Nation**

4. **Liberia**

**Liberia investigating disappearance of $100m in bank notes**

Liberia says it is investigating the disappearance of newly printed bills worth nearly $100m destined for the country's central bank. **Aljazeera**

5. **Nigeria**

**Buhari’s govt, a disaster, says Bafarawa**

A two-term governor of Sokoto State and the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Presidential aspirant, Dr AttahiruBafarawa, yesterday, described the President Muhammadu Buhari-led government as a disaster. He spoke with newsmen shortly after addressing Ogun State executives and delegates of the PDP, as part of his ongoing campaign tour in Abeokuta. **Vanguard**

**INEC ban on smart phones unconstitutional, unacceptable —Ekweremadu**

DEPUTY Senate President, Dr Ike Ekweremadu, yesterday, slammed Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, over its decision to ban the use of smart phones at polling units, describing the move as unconstitutional and unacceptable. He explained that the National Assembly was again working on the Electoral Act to pave the way for the announcement of result of elections at polling booths, stating that the ban would hamper the free flow of communication, which is necessary to have a free, fair and credible election. **Vanguard**

6. **Rwanda**

**Kagame urges new MPs to protect Rwanda's sovereignty**

Rwanda’s president Paul Kagame told new legislators who were sworn-in on Wednesday, to hold government more accountable, warning that corruption and divisive politics would not be tolerated. **Africa News**
7. South Africa

**Political parties to oppose Zama's application to appeal order for him to pay costs of state capture report review**

The EFF and other political parties will head to the North Gauteng High Court on Thursday to oppose former president Jacob Zuma's application for leave to appeal a judgment that said he should pay the costs of reviewing Thuli Madonsela's remedial action for the institution of the state capture inquiry. Zuma had instructed his lawyers in December of 2017 to file an application for leave to appeal the ruling ordering him to set up a commission of inquiry into state capture. News24

**Eastern Cape High Court to rule on whether Trollip's removal was legal or not**

The Eastern Cape High Court in Port Elizabeth will on Thursday rule on whether the removal of Athol Trollip as mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay was legal or not. Trollip was removed by the ANC, EFF and UDM as mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay in August following a motion of no confidence. The seat of executive mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay has since been occupied by the UDM's MongameliBobani. News24

8. South Sudan

**Rights group accuses South Sudan of 'war crimes'**

South Sudan's government and its allied militias have been accused of carrying out war crimes of "staggering brutality" during an offensive earlier this year. Witnesses described how soldiers and fighters targeted civilians by raping them, burning them alive, running them over with armored vehicles, and hanging them from trees, Amnesty International said in a report on Wednesday. Aljazeera

9. Uganda

**Bobi Wine: Ugandan pop star-turned-politician to return home**

Uganda's pop star-turned-opposition politician is returning home on Thursday after receiving treatment in the United States for injuries suffered during alleged state torture. Aljazeera