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DAILY AFRICA NEWS

Africa - U.N Chief Calls for Investment in Farmers: Investing in African farmers is a vital part of a comprehensive global response to the crisis brought on by high food prices, which is "literally a life and death issue" for millions around the world, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today.

Africa - Leaders Tackle Development Needs at U.N: The General Assembly is convening a high-level meeting today on Africa's development needs, amid growing concerns that the continent is lagging behind other regions in the global campaign to halve poverty, illiteracy and other socio-economic ills by 2015.

Africa - At High-Level U.N Forum, Leaders Pledge to Address Continents Development Needs: World leaders meeting at the United Nations today have underscored the urgency of finding solutions to the major challenges facing Africa, and have recommitted themselves to a global partnership to help the continent halve poverty, illiteracy and other socio-economic ills by 2015.

Africa - "Bold Leadership" Needed to Turn Tide of Poverty? Ahead of a crucial meeting in New York next week to assess the state of the world's fight against global poverty, international agency Oxfam called on world leaders to redouble their efforts to fight the impact of rising food and fuel prices - and the attendant economic slowdown from eroding real gains in poverty reduction.

Nigeria - Lay down Your Arms, Defense Force Tells Militants: The Defense Headquarters (DHQ) yesterday challenged militants in the Niger Delta to lay down their arms if they were truly committed to peace.

Nigeria - Militants Suspend Attacks on Oil Facilities: Militants in the Niger Delta who had taken on the Joint Task Force (JTF) in a war to cripple oil facilities in the region have temporarily suspended attacks, citing the intervention of some eminent Niger Delta leaders.

Nigeria - "Militants Agree to Cease-Fire!" - Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta, MEND, may have quietly agreed to ceasefire as a high ranking leader of the militant group has reportedly acceded to the demand by Ijaw leader, Chief Edwin Clark, for cessation of hostilities before the Federal Government would attend to the MEND's demands.

Nigeria - Governors Move to Contain Militants, Amid Fears that Hostilities May Spread: Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the fear-provoking militia in the Niger-Delta, has countered

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the announcement of the Defense Headquarters, DHQ, that the "oil war", christened, "Hurricane Barbarossa", which it declared, Sunday, September 14, was a sheer propaganda, saying "the military is deluding itself" by playing down the current cataclysm in the region.

Nigeria - 11 Arrested Over 60 Million Naira Oil Bunkering Deal: The Joint Military Task Force (JTF) at the weekend recorded another breakthrough in the war against illegal oil bunkering in the Niger Delta, when it impounded about 400 metric tons of substance suspected to be diesel, otherwise known as Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) with a street value of about N60million.

Nigeria - Unpaid Allowances; Army Arrests Five Officers: Army authorities at the week-end announced the arrest of five officers who were alleged to have caused the protest embarked upon by some soldiers over unpaid allowances, after peace-keeping operations in Liberia.

Nigeria - Yar'Adua to Sack His Cabinet: Barring last minute changes of mind, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua will on Wednesday 24, announce the dissolution of his cabinet

South Africa - President Officially Resigns: President Thabo Mbeki on Sunday night 21 announced to the nation that he had formally resigned - effective from the day that will be determined by the National Assembly.

South Africa - Little Chance Now of Arms Deal Probe: There is little possibility of a fresh probe into the government's multibillion-rand arms deal, with the Presidency and the African National Congress (ANC) thus far noncommittal on the issue.

South Africa - ANC's Deputy President to Replace Mbeki: African National Congress (ANC) deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe will replace President Thabo Mbeki, who announced his resignation last night. Business Day has confirmed from two sources today that Motlanthe will take over.

South Africa - Mbeki Attacks "Unfair and Unjust" Nicholson Ruling: President Thabo Mbeki applied to the Constitutional Court yesterday for leave to appeal against the findings of Judge Chris Nicholson on political interference by the executive in the work of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

South Africa - Mbeki Denies Interfering with Prosecutions: President Thabo Mbeki has told the nation that neither he nor his cabinet had interfered in the work of the National Prosecuting Authority (NAP).

South Africa - Tutu Warns of "Banana Republic" Future: Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday he was "deeply disturbed" by President Thabo Mbeki's "humiliating" axing, which meant South Africa had been subordinated to a political party.

South Africa - Motlanthe to be sworn in for "Seamless Transition": The election of a new president - certain now to be African National Congress (ANC) deputy president and minister without portfolio Kgalema Motlanthe - will take place in the National Assembly on Thursday 25.

South Africa - Essop Pahad, Azapo Minister to Quit Cabinet: Minister in the Presidency Essop Pahad, who is Thabo Mbeki's close ally, ended speculation about his future in the cabinet when he announced his intention yesterday to resign.

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Uganda - LRA Rebels Attack in South Sudan: The Lord's Resistance Army rebels have allegedly carried out more brutal attacks in South Sudan, killing several civilians in the process. A senior official in south Sudan's Western Equatorial State government, Colonel Joseph Ngere, told yesterday that the barracks attack involved about 100 LRA rebels who burnt houses among other atrocities.

Uganda - Somali Militants Attack UPDF Peacekeepers: Uganda soldiers serving under the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia have come under mortar attack twice since Sunday night, spokesperson Major Barigye Bahoku has said.

Uganda - Resign, Suruma Tells NSSF Chiefs: Finance Minister Ezra Suruma yesterday urged National Social Security Fund boss David Jamwa and his deputy Mondo Kagonyera to resign over the Temangalo land controversy, even as revelations emerged that the minister had appointed his business associates to the Fund's board.

Uganda - Corruption Probes Continue in Government Land Saga: Investigations into the National Social Security Fund's land purchase saga take on a new spin today as Finance Minister Ezra Suruma appears before MPs investigating the deal while Major-General Jim Muhwezi, a leading critic of the transaction, appears before detectives investigating him for alleged corruption.

Rwanda - War Rages in DRC as Government Forces Seek FDLR Support: The clashes in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between the government forces (FARDC) and rebels of Congrès National pour la Defense du Peuple (CNDP), have taken new dimensions with the FARDC joining hands with Rwandan rebels, FDLR.

Rwanda - Mbeki's Resignation Won't Affect Country: South Africa's Ambassador to Rwanda, Ezra Sigwela, said yesterday that his country's relations with Rwanda and the projects the two are undertaking together will not be stalled if President Mbeki steps down.

Somalia - Djibouti Peace Conference Ends in Dispute: Three days of peace negotiations between the Somali interim government and an opposition faction ended Sunday without an agreement.

Somalia - Sarkozy Vows to Continue Raids on Pirates: French President Nicholas Sarkozy last week vowed to continue undercover rescue missions by French Special Forces against Somali pirates as the international community gears up for a major crackdown on the growing menace off the Horn of Africa coast.

Zimbabwe - Cabinet Talks on Hold as Mugabe Visits U.N: Talks aimed at breaking a deadlock over the allocation of ministries for the proposed new government will have to wait until Robert Mugabe returns from a United Nations summit in New York.

Zimbabwe - Cabinet Talks Hit by Row over Key Posts: Ideological differences between Zimbabwe's traditional political foes remain a major threat to the new inclusive government constituted last week in a bid to end the once prosperous country's economic and political crisis.

Mauritania - Terrorist Attack Hits Already Fragile Economy: Alleged terrorist attacks on 14 September in Tourine in the northeast killed 11 soldiers and their civilian guide, confirmed Mauritania's newly-installed defense ministry on 20 September. Analysts say the economy can ill-afford this additional blow in the face of donor sanction threats.

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Congo-Kinshasa - MONUC Joins FDLR-FARDC Triangle in Eastern DRC War: Reports point out that the U.N peacekeeping forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), MONUC, has now openly taken sides in the ongoing war in the eastern part of the country.

Kenya - Kenyatta's Secret Land Deal with British: Fresh evidence confirms widespread speculation that Kenya's first president Jomo Kenyatta entered a secret pact with the British government not to interfere with the skewed land distribution at independence.

Tanzania - Bank Workers down Tools over Benefits: Operations at the National Microfinance Bank, the country's largest bank, are expected to be paralyzed today when more than 1.800 employees go on strike to force the Government to pay them lump sum payments in benefits.

Sudan - Egyptian Military Engineers Join U.N-A.U Mission in Darfur: A contingent of 126 Egyptian engineers today arrived in El-Fasher, Darfur, according to the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID).

Algeria - Three Journalists Arrested, Questioned about Sources and Released: The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) today joined calls from Algerian journalists that the government respect journalists' rights and end its practice of intimidating and harassing media to get them to reveal their confidential sources.

Ghana - VP Appeals for More Aid from South Korea: Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama has appealed to South Korea, to stick to its promise to triple its economic assistance to Africa and strive to put Ghana high on the agenda.

Liberia - Indeed a Gain on Corruption: The Sirleaf administration, last week, commissioned the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The commissioning ceremony followed the legislative enactment of a law establishing the commission. This is a big lunge ahead in the fight against corruption - perhaps softening the ground for the Sirleaf Administration's implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan. The commissioning of the ACC at this time takes the country halfway to taking corruption in a reign and banishing it from the Liberian society, making it an exception rather than a major modus operandi of major public financial transactions. The enactment into law and the commissioning of an anti-corruption institution is exactly what diagnosis is to the treatment of a stubborn ill.

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