

In the News: Issue 3

In the News 3 highlights a selection of articles posted to the ANSA-Africa website for the period 1 - 16 May 2010. This issue covers articles on extractive industries, anti-corruption and service delivery issues.

1. Extractive industries

"Generate draft legislation for extractive industry"

Daily Graphic

Lagos: Civil society organisations in Ghana have been tasked to generate draft legislation to be considered as a legal framework for the Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, an initiative that seeks to ensure transparency in the management of revenue from extractive industries.

Can oil succeed where gold failed Ghanaians?

PeaceFM

Accra: It is easier to be pessimistic about Ghanaians feeling the prosperous benefits of our new found wealth, oil, than to be optimistic. Anticipatory democracy, in the Ghanaian sense, has seen many Ghanaians redirecting their expectations of a better tomorrow to the Jubilee Fields offshore.

Rejoinder: Ghana and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

GEITI

Accra: We wish to commend Mr Stephen Yeboah of the Department of Planning, KNUST for putting out some information on the Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in a paper titled "Ghana and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative - Matters Arising". Some very good points were made in the paper. However the paper also contains some inaccuracies we wish to address.

Africa mining: Will mineral-rich countries start a cartel like OPEC?

Christian Science Monitor

Dakar: African leaders are pushing for tougher terms on mining concessions after 25 years of structural adjustment - when countries cut red tape and offered generous tax holidays to foreign prospectors. The new dynamic was on display at a recent mining conference in Senegal.

Baregu: From bleeding Africa to grabbing the land

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: In the last two or so weeks two, highly disturbing trends, have been reported concerning Africa's trials and tribulations. One is a long-term trend traced over the last forty years. The other is emerging but will most likely converge with the first one to seal the fate of the continent.

Liberia's mining sector: Stimulating post-war reconstruction?

Pambazuka News

Monrovia: Following a new agreement to enable China Union to mine in Liberia's central region, many Liberians are hopeful that the revitalisation of the country's mining sector will lead to new employment opportunities. This may well be the case, writes Patrick Wrokpoh, provided the Johnson-Sirleaf government shows the same willingness to pursue favourable terms that it has shown in dealing with another mining company, ArcelorMittal.

2. Anti-corruption

Can Liberia's anti-corruption program serve as new model?

WPR

Monrovia: Almost a year ago, President Barack Obama used his long-awaited speech in Ghana to address a question with which the African continent is all too familiar: corruption. "No country is going to create wealth if its leaders exploit the economy to enrich themselves," Obama lectured his audience in the Ghanaian Parliament.

APNAC: Wielding a sword against corruption

Kubatana

Harare: Corruption is a deplorable activity that haunts Zimbabwe across all walks of life. Corruption is spreading like a veldt fire and a tough stance by all stakeholders is well overdue. The African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Zimbabwe chapter has taken it upon its shoulders to weather the storm by calling their first press conference to publicly express their denunciation of any form of corruption in the country.

Multi-nationals must join in corruption fight

My Joy Online

Accra: Ghana's Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Betty Mould Iddrisu says corruption is one of the key challenges facing investment in Ghana. She has therefore called on multi-nationals to help stem the tide of that canker. She said officials of multi-national corporations continue to indulge in corrupt and underhand dealings with government officials in a bid to achieve short-term benefits and cautioned that such actions will never go unpunished.

Editorial comment: Use of development cooperation funds

The Post

Lusaka: The Swedish people have every reason not to be happy with the manner in which we have managed the development cooperation funds they have given to us to address poverty. There's need for the people of Sweden to evaluate their assistance to us and how it should be given. We think it should be conditional, so that it would be necessary to really know those who are asking for it and how they will manage it.

ACC budget proposal bigger

New Era

Windhoek: The proposed budget allocation for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for the 2010/11 financial year is N\$36.7 million, an increase from the N\$26.9 million allocated during the 2009/2010 budget. Motivating the budget, Deputy Prime Minister Marco Hausiku said the allocation ought to be split between two programmes, one for investigation of allegations of corruption, and the other to establish and implement measures to prevent corruption.

Chogm report: What's going on?

Daily Monitor

Kampala: What's next for the Chogm report? What is going on? These were the questions in the corridors of Parliament yesterday as it emerged that the findings of the long-awaited inquiry into alleged abuse of more than Shs500 billion meant for the 2007 Commonwealth summit would not be tabled on the floor as had been anticipated. A tense mood pervaded the corridors of Parliament as observers claimed there were hushed behind-the-scenes manoeuvres to prevent the report's tabling.

Donors pile pressure on government over corruption

Daily Monitor

Kampala: The government is facing growing pressure from donors over accountability and action against corrupt officials, Daily Monitor can reveal. The donors say they will not settle for anything less than strict enforcement of recommendations of anti-corruption bodies notably Parliament's Public Accounts Committee, the Inspector General of Government, the Auditor General and the Police Criminal Investigations Department among others.

Parliamentary committee warns council secretaries over public funds

The Post

Lusaka: The parliamentary committee on local governance, housing and chiefs' affairs has warned that council secretaries will be penalised for failing to supervise the disbursement of public funds. Committee chairperson Regina Musokotwane said most councils were underperforming and failing to account for funds because of weaknesses at supervisory level.

MENA: A chance for good government

TI

Accountability, transparency and the fight against corruption are high on the policy agendas across the Middle East and North Africa. To help benchmark progress and identify areas of concern, Transparency International (TI) conducted independent assessments of the [National Integrity Systems](#) - the pillars of society that shape how a country is governed - in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine.

3. Service delivery

Ministry of Education not inspecting schools - new report

The Monitor

Kampala: The Education Ministry is not carrying out adequate inspections of primary schools to ensure quality learning delivery. This was the conclusion of the Auditor General's office in its latest value for money report on inspection of primary schools, which covers three financial years (2005/06 to 2007/08).

Kenya: New probe in theft of school funds

Daily Nation

Nairobi: Fresh investigations have been launched into the loss of millions of shillings of free education funds. Close to 20,000 schools countrywide - or 75 per cent of primary and secondary schools - are targeted in an expanded forensic audit of funding for the education sector. Also to be probed are education officials. The audit, tracking financial flows from the Finance and Education ministries, will go back four years to the 2006/2007 financial year.

Local leadership should monitor service delivery

The Monitor

Kampala: Two weeks ago, I wrote about lack of value for money in respect to Naads funds in the districts of northern Uganda. This problem is not a monopoly of the north. In many other districts, the issues with Naads relate to inflated input costs, selection of farmers etc. However, in the north, the problem is made more complicated because district officials who received Naads funds have no farmers to show for it.

Unesco: Marginalisation threatens EFA goals

ThisDay

Abuja: Education for All (EFA) goals are largely threatened by the Nigerian government's failure to address the increasing rate of marginalisation in education, where 97 percent of poor Hausa-speaking girls received less than two years of education, with an increasing drop-outs rate of boys in the South-South and South-East and about 23 million adults still unable to read and write.

SA school attendance drops

Business Report

Johannesburg: Economic hardship caused the number of children and young adults attending school and college to decline last year due to a lack of money, pointing to the long-term effects the recession may have on skills and inequality in South Africa.

Cabinet takes aim at "jobs for cadres"

Business Day

Johannesburg: The cabinet has approved amendments to the Municipal Systems Act to prevent political party office-bearers from holding senior municipal posts, in its drive to turn around the fortunes of local government. Local government has been seriously harmed by political appointments to senior municipal positions. This is the first attempt at addressing problems arising from the African National Congress (ANC) policy of deploying party cadres to senior posts.

Quality of public servants is a critical factor

Sunday Independent

Johannesburg: A key theme that emerged from President Jacob Zuma's meeting last week with directors-general, their deputies and heads of provincial departments is that the quality of governance is critically dependent on the quality of its public servants. A major determinant of the quality of public servants is the rigour and integrity of the recruitment process. A flawed recruitment process will inevitably lead to the wrong people occupying civil service positions.

Zim civil service audit almost complete

Southern Times

Harare: Zimbabwe is on the verge of completing an audit of its civil servants that seeks to weed out thousands of 'ghost' workers that appear on the Government's payroll. The country has more than 250 000 civil servants but it is suspected up to tens of thousands of these are non-existent workers referred to as 'ghost' employees who receive free salaries and other government benefits every month.

The rotten deals of ghost teachers

Sunday Monitor

Kampala: A racket involving head teachers, district education officials and some elements in the Ministry of Public Service is bleeding the national treasury by paying out salaries to nonexistent teachers in both primary and secondary schools, this newspaper can reveal. Our investigation reveals that members of district service commissions - bodies in charge of recruitment at district level - connive with head teachers and personnel officers to include ghost teachers into the government payroll.

New law to promote prudent use of finances

The Standard

Nairobi: Since Independence, a privileged clique of politically connected individuals has had immense powers over management of public finances. Operating under opaque laws that gave little room for accountability and transparency, this clique under the stewardship of Finance Ministers and technocrats at the Treasury have largely been blamed for the inequitable distribution of resources.

URA under fire as revenue dips

New Vision Online

Kampala: The Uganda Revenue Authority is to blame for the decreasing revenue collections. Issa Ssekitto, the Kampala City Traders Association spokesperson, said the tax body's double standards in taxation was part of the problem. "We want equity and transparency regarding tax issues. In this country, it is the 'big fish' and political heavy-weights who get tax waivers and exemptions," he claimed.

MDGs: House threatens agency heads with sanction

Next

Abuja: The House of Representatives Committee on Millennium Development Goals yesterday said it will no longer tolerate deliberate delay in the disbursement of funds and implementation of projects under the programme from ministers and heads of government agencies.

"The crux of MEND's demands is true federalism"

The Guardian

Lagos: Admiral Mike Okhai Akhigbe, head of the Aaron Team, which was nominated by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) to negotiate with the federal government on its behalf, urged the government to address the revenue allocation, as it has done in the case of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), where it made a clear life-long policy that three per cent of the federally collected revenue will go to the development of the federal capital. Interview follows.

RMAFC faults FG's budgeting system

ThisDay

Lagos: The chairman, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Mr Hamman Tukur, has faulted the current budgeting processes and practices in the country. He said the faulty processes had contributed to the under-development of the country as well as its economic woes over the years. Tukur said it had become necessary to review the budgeting procedures and practices in order to achieve efficiency in both the preparation and implementation of budgets for the overall accelerated development of the economy and the nation at large.

Socio-economic rights civil society seeks constitutional recognition

ThisDay

Lagos: Leading professional and civil society groups and activists have launched a campaign to "ensure the inclusion in the Constitution of legally enforceable human rights such as such as environmental rights; the right to housing, to health care, to food, to water and to social security; the right of every child to basic nutrition, shelter, the rights of prisoners and persons deprived of their liberty to conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity."

"Rejecting socio-economic rights from constitution is worst insult"

The Post

Lusaka: Professor Michelo Hansungule has observed that the decision by the National Constitutional Conference (NCC) delegates to reject enshrining socioeconomic rights in the new constitution is the worst insult to majority poor Zambians.

Revisiting the performance of Uganda's road sector

Daily Monitor

Kampala: As Uganda gears up for the reading of the budget for the last financial year of President Museveni's current term, Business Power looks back on the promises made in the NRM government's manifesto. In the inaugural part of this series, Benon Herbert Oluka looks at the roads sector, one of the key priority areas where the government has dedicated most funds in the last four financial years.

WB official commends Uganda's national development plan

African Press Agency

Kampala: The Vice President of the World Bank (WB), Ms Obiageli Ezekwesili, who is on a visit to Uganda, has highly praised Uganda's five-year National Development Plan (NDP), saying if the policies are precisely and expeditiously implemented, they will make the country a middle income nation in a period of seven years.

Policy shift needed for growth - Kasekende

Daily Monitor

Kampala: Dr Louis Kasekende, the deputy governor Bank of Uganda, has said the impact of the global economic crisis could have longer term effects on the African continent.

Mkapa on need for policy reviews

The Citizen

Dar es Salaam: Former President Benjamin Mkapa has called for a regular and periodic review of institutions of governance in order to be able to effect change in African leadership. He said the review should be made regardless of the time and relationship of these institutions - the legislature, political parties and the executive - in order for the public service to become a vehicle of change rather than simply perpetuating the status quo and entrenching mediocrity.

4. General

Ken Wiwa on Africa's youth: An energy to liberate or detonate

Globe and Mail

Toronto: Like most Africans nowadays, I was not yet born during the colonial era. By 1968, most of Africa had been liberated from European rule and I entered the world in the middle of Nigeria's civil war (its first and, to date, only one). Conventional wisdom then had it that once freed of colonial bondage, Africa would use its resource advantage to make a great leap forward. The 2000s would be Africa's century.

African youth seek AU voice

Mmegi

Gaborone: African youth councils are pressing for inclusion in the African Union decision making as an authority in African youth affairs. Botswana National Youth Council director, Fidelis Molao, who recently returned from a Pan African Youth Union meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, says the youth councils decided that they no longer want to sit in AU sessions as mere observers.

"Information access law long overdue"

New Era

Windhoek: The Office of the Media Ombudsman says a public information access law is long overdue and legislators should consider the enactment of such a law speedily. Clement Daniels, the Media Ombudsman, says the absence of such a law is a stumbling block to the public's right to be informed as often, public offices are reluctant to release such information.

Civil society fragmentation worrisome

BOPA

Gaborone: The pro-human rights movement in Botswana is not ready to take advantage of the freedom of information act if it is enacted. Despite the urgent need for this piece of legislation, the fragmented nature of civil society and failure to organise and fight human rights abuses in the country is an indication that a lot needs to be done to sensitise Batswana on their rights.

Access to information crucial for good governance reforms

The Standard

Nairobi: World Press Freedom Day was observed for the seventh time recently but without much fanfare in Kenya. This is because while the international theme was freedom of information, Kenya still does not have an express law providing for the right to know.

Clear policies needed on women emancipation

Tanzania Daily News

Dar Es Salaam: African governments today were challenged to draw up clear plans for emancipation of women to accelerate social and economic development on the continent. Founder and President of Foundation for Community Development in Mozambique, Ms Graça Machel, said yesterday during the interactive session at the World Economic Forum (WEF) that there was need for a workable and clear system to promote emancipation of women.

Experts crave for gender responsive budgeting

Next

Lagos: Finance experts have stated that the government should adopt gender responsive budgeting which seeks to measure the gaps between policy commitments with respect to human rights and women's rights instruments for better outcomes of policies.

Commonwealth laments impact of economic crises on women

The Nation

Lagos: Interim Director of the Social Transformation Programmes Division in the Commonwealth, Mr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, has decried the disproportionate impact of the global economic crisis on women and children. Coomaraswamy, who was speaking at the Gender Responsive Budgeting organised by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in Abuja, yesterday called for reallocation of existing resources on issues that affect women and children.

Advancing the rights of women

ThisDay

Lagos: The Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative is the implementing partner of the Raising Her Voice Project that works to empower women who are economically or educationally disadvantaged. They do this in negotiating for their rights by building their capacities. Godwin Haruna writes on their efforts so far in Nigeria.

West African regional integration process should involve citizens

Ghana News Agency

Accra: Participants at a forum in Accra to discuss "Regional Integration in West Africa" have agreed that the lack of appreciation of issues on regional integration among citizens was an obstacle to the process. "Policies and programmes about regional integration need to be understood and well explained to the citizens".

Zuma's cabinet told to answer questions

Business Day

Cape Town: President Jacob Zuma's Cabinet took a drubbing from MPs in all parties yesterday for failing to answer parliamentary questions properly and for being contemptuous of the legislature. During the debate on Parliament's budget vote, all parties bemoaned the way in which the executive answered questions, with even the presiding officers - National Assembly speaker Max Sisulu and National Council of Provinces chairman Mzinwa Mahlangu - agreeing the answering of questions needed improving.

Ministerial performance contracts to be made public - Zuma

Business Day

Cape Town: President Jacob Zuma yesterday bowed to persistent media and opposition calls and said that the much-vaunted performance contracts he is concluding with the members of his cabinet would be made public when the process had been completed.

* Previous issues of *In the News* can be accessed [here](#).

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