



## ML Strategies Legislative Update

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### **Kenya**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, despite the delayed announcement of results in the presidential election, *BBC News* reported that Kenya's economy and financial markets have flourished and are likely to continue to do so with political stability. According to the head of Africa research for Standard Chartered Bank, Razia Khan, investor attitudes towards Kenya have remained surprisingly upbeat. Additional details on how the wait for elections results is impacting Kenya's economy are available [here](#).

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Kenya's Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) declared that Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta won Kenya's presidential race by a small margin and with 50.07% of the vote – enough necessary to avoid a runoff election. Both Deputy Prime Minister Kenyatta and his running mate, William Ruto, have been indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity related to the violence following the 2007 elections in Kenya. Following the announcement of the election results, Kenyatta's main opponent, Prime Minister Raila Odinga, indicated he plans to challenge the presidential election outcome in court, but called on his supporters to avoid violence. An article on the results of the presidential election in Kenya can be read [here](#).

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Kenya on the completion of their elections. In particular, Secretary Kerry commended the people of Kenya for voting peacefully and applauded high voter turnout. Secretary Kerry's full statement following the announcement of the election results in Kenya has been posted [here](#).

#### **Tunisia**

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Tunisian Prime Minister-designate Ali Laarayedh indicated that political leaders were close to ready to unveil the structure for the new Tunisian government following two weeks of negotiations. Prime Minister Laarayedh announced that his Islamist party Ennahda, which dominated the outgoing coalition, had reached an agreement with two secular coalition partners on the

distribution of the positions in the new government and that the framework for the new cabinet would be presented to Tunisian President Moncef Marzouk consistent with the March 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. Additional information on the negotiations can be found [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry released a statement on the formation of the new government in Tunisia. Secretary Kerry welcomed the establishment of a new government under the leadership of Prime Minister Ali Laarayedh and encouraged Tunisia's leaders to quickly finalize a constitution that respects human rights. He also encouraged government leaders to determine a process and a date for free and fair elections. Secretary Kerry's full statement on the new government in Tunisia can be read [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***White House***

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama and National Security Advisor Tom Donilon met with Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan at the White House. This marks Prime Minister Zeidan's first trip to the U.S. as Libya's head of state. During the meeting, President Obama expressed U.S. support for the Libyan Government and the Libyan people as the democratic transition continues. The President also reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring those who attacked the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on September 11<sup>th</sup> are brought to justice. Additional information on Prime Minister Zeidan's meeting at the White House is available [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama indicated his plans to nominate Deborah Jones as U.S. Ambassador to Libya. Jones, who has previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait and is currently a scholar-in-residence at the Middle East Institute, will fill the position previously held by Chris Stevens, who was killed in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi. Additional details on Jones' nomination can be read [here](#).

### ***State Department***

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry awarded the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage award to nine women. While last week the State Department had announced that three African women would receive the award, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, State Department Spokesperson Victoria Nuland indicated that Samira Ibrahim of Egypt, who was supposed to be recognized with the award for having been subject to a forced virginity test and opposing Hosni Mubarak's government, was no longer to receive an award due to alleged tweets including derogatory comments about Jews and celebration of the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. Details on the State Department's decision to withhold Ibrahim's award are available [here](#). Additional information on this year's recipients of the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage award can be found [here](#).

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Esther Brimmer met with United Nations (UN) Special Representative to the Secretary-General for South Sudan Hilde Johnson. The meeting was listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the State Department issued a statement welcoming the technical agreement signed between Sudan and South Sudan establishing a Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), a firm timeline for the withdrawal of forces, and a way ahead for the deployment of a joint border monitoring force. The State Department called on Sudan and South Sudan to immediately implement all nine of the September 27<sup>th</sup> cooperation agreements. The full State Department release can be found [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca met with Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Naela Gabr at the State Department. The meeting was noticed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which is available [here](#).

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, in his remarks with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barthe Eide, Secretary of State John Kerry recognized Norway's contributions to advancing peace in Sudan. In his

remarks, Secretary Kerry reflected on the time he spent in Sudan for negotiations on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Sudan referendum. Both the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy also participated in the negotiations and in advising Sudan and South Sudan on oil arrangements. Secretary Kerry's full remarks on Norway's role in Sudan can be found [here](#).

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict Stabilization Operations Frederick Barton met with Vice Admiral Charles Leidig, Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations, for U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), at the Department of State. The meeting was included as part of the daily listing of State Department appointments, which can be viewed [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan. State Department Chief of Protocol Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall assisted with the bilateral meeting. During their meeting, Secretary Kerry thanked Prime Minister Zeidan for the Government of Libya's cooperation following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in Benghazi. The leaders also discussed the progress made in Libya on building political consensus and protecting human rights, as well as opportunities to increase economic partnership to grow the Libya economy. A transcript of Secretary Kerry's remarks with Prime Minister Zeidan can be read [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a joint statement with Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide and U.K. Foreign Secretary William Hague welcoming the signing of arrangements to implement all nine agreements signed by South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir in September 2012. While the leaders commended the actions taken to begin the withdrawal of forces from the disputed border and to reignite oil production, they also expressed concern for the security and humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan. They also encouraged direct talks between Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N). The full statement on the signing of the implementation matrix for the Sudan-South Sudan agreements is available [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine hosted a meeting of Africa experts at the State Department. Earlier this year, Under Secretary Sonenshine had indicated there is no region in need of more urgent U.S. engagement than the Middle East and North Africa. The meeting was listed on the daily State Department schedule, found [here](#).

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca met with representatives of the Ivory Coast at the Department of State. The meeting was included on the Department's daily appointment list, which can be viewed [here](#).

### ***Department of Defense***

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, *National Journal* reported that while the U.S. is providing the expertise and money to fight Al Qaeda affiliates in East Africa, local soldiers for the effort are being provided by countries in East Africa. According to U.S. Army Major General Ralph Baker, Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, the approach in Africa is referred to as the “train, assist, and enable” model. While Major General Baker indicated that the new model will not permanently eradicate the need for U.S. military personnel to intervene in East Africa, he argued that proactive engagement with African partners is likely to decrease the potential need for future direct U.S. military intervention. The *National Journal* article can be read [here](#).

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Pentagon issued a press release on Army General Carter Ham's appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee. General Ham, who currently serves as Commander of AFRICOM, plans to step down next month. In his testimony, warned of new challenges for AFRICOM, including collaboration between terror groups in North and West Africa. He also spoke to some of AFRICOM's achievements, including tactical gains made against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Central Africa, increased cooperation to prevent piracy, smuggling, and illegal trafficking off Africa's coast, and greater intelligence sharing with African forces in Mali. The Department of Defense press release on General Ham's testimony can be viewed [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM concluded participation in Central Accord 13 training exercises focused on parachute rigging, pathfinder operations, aerial resupply, casualty evacuation, field hospital operations, and first aid techniques. Central Accord 13, a joint multi-national exercise in which U.S., Cameroon, and neighboring Central African militaries partner to promote regional cooperation while increasing aerial resupply and medical treatment capacity, was sponsored by U.S. Army Africa and hosted by the Cameroonian Defense Force. Other partner nations participating in the 10-day training activities included Cameroon, Burundi, Gabon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). An AFRICOM press release on the completion of Central Accord 13 training exercises can be read [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Exercise Saharan Express (SE-13) kicked off in Senegal. SE-13 is a maritime exercise designed to improve cooperation among participating nations in order to increase counter-piracy capabilities and deter maritime crimes in West Africa. In addition to AFRICOM's participation, eight African nations participated in the maritime exercise, including Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Additional details on SE-13 are available [here](#).

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, U.S. defense officials announced AFRICOM is bracing for civilian furloughs under sequestration that could impact as many as 800 of approximately 2,000 AFRICOM employees. The furloughs will likely go into effect next month at the same time AFRICOM is targeting to initiate new partnerships, such as the implementation of the Status of Forces agreement with Niger to conduct reconnaissance and intelligence missions in the region. Despite the furloughs on the horizon, defense officials clarified that U.S. operations to support French and African forces in Mali would not be impacted. Additional information on DOD furloughs is available [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, during a briefing with reporters, a Pentagon official said that the U.S. military will maintain a low key and small footprint in Africa. The same official indicated that the U.S. defense strategy in Africa will be focused on building relationships with African nations in order to counter threats to U.S. citizens in Africa and to prevent and respond to conflict. Additional details on the Pentagon's strategy for Africa can be found [here](#).

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham appeared on a newscast for *Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) News*. General Ham argued that the threat of terrorism in Africa and its impact on Americans in Africa remains very real. He warned that terrorist groups in Africa will not be defeated by military activities and that increased intelligence collection and nation building initiatives will be needed to fully address the threat of terrorism in Africa. A video clip of General Ham's appearance on the newscast can be watched [here](#).

### **U.S. Congress**

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) said that Secretary of State John Kerry had hoped to offer considerably more aid to Egypt than the \$250 million he announced during his March 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> meetings in Cairo, but was blocked by Congress. 112<sup>th</sup> Congress Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and current House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Key Granger (R-TX) ultimately put a hold on additional aid funding to Egypt, out of concern for the positions of the Muslim Brotherhood on democracy and general attitudes towards the U.S. Additional information on Congress's hold on additional foreign aid to Egypt can be found [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the House Armed Services Committee announced that it would hold a hearing on the posture of U.S. European Command and AFRICOM. The hearing is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Committee's announcement of the hearing can be viewed [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, following President Obama's announcement of his intention to nominate Deborah Jones as U.S. Ambassador to Libya, Republicans in both the House and Senate indicated they may put a hold on Jones' nomination until they have access to survivors of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. The recent revelation that survivors are being treated at Walter Reed Hospital has only increased GOP demands for first-hand accounts of the attack. Republican demands for access to survivors are being driven by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Ron Johnson (R-WI), and Richard Burr (R-NC). In the House, access to information on the Benghazi attack is being sought

by Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Frank Wolf (R-VA), and Jim Gerlach (R-NJ). Additional details on the Republican reaction to Jones' nomination are available [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced an amendment to the continuing resolution (CR) currently under consideration that would condition foreign aid to Egypt on Egypt's implementation of economic reforms and human rights safeguards. Notably, the amendment would block new foreign military financing (FMF) contracts until the Administration certifies that the required reforms have been made. A press release issued by Senator Rubio's office, as well as a video clip of Senator Rubio's floor speech on the amendment, is available [here](#).

### **North Africa**

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the *New York Times* reported that Sudan and South Sudan have agreed to resume oil production in a few weeks. South Sudan halted oil production in January 2012 over a dispute with Sudan regarding transportation fees. Both countries have suffered from a loss in oil revenues over the past year, especially South Sudan, which relies on oil for 98% of its revenue. The *New York Times* article on the restart of oil production in Sudan and South Sudan can be read [here](#).

### **East Africa**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, *Businessweek* reported on the progress of mobile banking in Kenya among people without bank accounts, with mobile banking transactions in Kenya surpassing \$61 billion in 2012. Through the M-Pesa program launched by Safaricom and Vodacom in 2007, customers in Kenya are permitted to buy credit on their mobile phone accounts to pay bills and to make purchases. Money transfers are linked to the creditor's phone number. Additional information on the growth of M-Pesa in Kenya is available [here](#).

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the President of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Fadi Chehadé called for a rapid expansion of domain registrars and six new offices across Africa. During the two-day ICANN event held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ICANN President Chehadé also noted that while South Africa is the top ranked African country with country-specific domain names, the country still only places 41<sup>st</sup> globally. Additional details on the ICANN conference in Ethiopia can be viewed [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois announced that a rare, 600-year-old Chinese coin had been found on the Kenya island of Manda. According to scientists from the museum and from the University of Illinois-Chicago who participated in the expedition, the coin is proof that trade existed between China and East Africa decades before European explorers set sail. An article on the discovery of the Chinese coin in East Africa can be read [here](#).

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the *East African* reported that the French-built railway that connects Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, to the Red Sea port of Djibouti will be replaced by a Chinese-built electric railway system. The goal of the project is to expand commercial exports from landlocked Ethiopia as part of Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), which seeks to boost economic growth and achieve middle income status by 2025. Additional information on the rail project in Ethiopia can be found [here](#).

### **West Africa**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, British High Commissioner Peter Jones announced that the U.K. is committed to increasing its trade relations with Ghana and that bilateral trade between the two countries is anticipated to double by 2015. The announcement was made following a meeting between a U.K. delegation and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama to sketch out a new development framework. An article on trade relations between the U.K. and Ghana can be found [here](#).

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the release of new handset market shares for Ghana proved that Samsung, Nokia, and a variety of Chinese phones continue to top sales in the country. By revenue, Samsung commands the largest market share in Ghana, with 33.51%. While Nokia has only 6% of global market share, in Ghana, Nokia's market share is 27.33%. An article on the handset market in Ghana can be read [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, W Hospitality Group unveiled new research indicating that hotel development in Africa grew by 16% last year. According to the research, Nigeria has by far the largest pipeline, with 7,470 planned new rooms. Hotel companies leading the way in expanding in Africa are Hilton Worldwide with 6,230 rooms in its African pipeline, Carlson Rezidor with 5,947 rooms, Accor with 5,165 rooms, and Marriott with 3,900 rooms. Additional information on the growth in hotel development in Africa can be found [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Coca-Cola and International Finance Corp. (IFC) launched a new \$100 million joint initiative to get critical financial backing to women entrepreneurs in Africa. To implement the project, the IFC is utilizing its network of local and regional banking institutions to provide financing to women in the Coca-Cola value chain. The project has already been implemented in Nigeria, where Coca-Cola and IFC are working with Nigerian Bottling Co. and Access Bank to supply financial support to local female micro distributors. Details on the new Coca-Cola/IFC initiative and work currently underway in Nigeria are available [here](#).

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Director of the Real Sector Division of Ghana's Ministry of Finance Idrissu Alhassan announced projections that Ghana will see \$581 million in petroleum revenues this year. The projection is based on calculations that estimated the average price of crude oil at \$94.36 per barrel and estimated production rates at 83.341 barrels of oil per day. An article on the announcement made by Ghana's Ministry of Finance on projected oil revenues in 2013 can be read [here](#).

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the 2012 Ghana Social Development Outlook report, compiled by the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research and released in the capital city of Accra, revealed that the gap between the wealthy and the poor in the country is growing. While the data shows that poverty in Ghana has been reduced by more than 50% since the 1990s, more than 25% of the nation's population is still living in extreme poverty. More information on the Ghana Social Development Outlook report is available [here](#).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) hosted its annual convention in Toronto. As part of the event, the Canada-Southern Africa Chamber of Business and MineAfrica hosted a breakfast meeting during which Singapore-based mining entrepreneur Robert Friedland spoke about his exploration and mining activities in Africa over the past decade. In his remarks, Friedland addressed changes on the continent that make Africa more appealing for business, as well as the wealth of mineral resources in Sub-Saharan Africa. Friedland's full remarks can be read [here](#).

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Secretary General of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and Zimbabwean Minister of Finance Tendai Biti called on Zimbabweans immigrants staying in South Africa to return to Zimbabwe to vote on March 16<sup>th</sup> in the referendum on a proposed new constitution. Secretary General Biti also expressed optimism that the MDC would win the elections, to be held after the constitution is adopted, and that Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai will become the next President of Zimbabwe. An article on the upcoming referendum in Zimbabwe is available [here](#).

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, former South African President Nelson Mandela was discharged from a hospital in Pretoria, South Africa, following testing and a medical examination that were part of a scheduled check-up. The 94-year-old former President was operated on in December 2012 to remove gallstones and to treat a recurring lung infection. President Mandela has reportedly returned to his home in Johannesburg, South Africa, where his care will continue to be managed by his medical team. Additional information on President Mandela's recent overnight hospital stay can be found [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is ready to sign a peace agreement with M23 rebels. According to the draft peace plan, M23 rebels would hand in their weapons ahead of the deployment of United Nations (UN) peacekeepers to the border area between the DRC and Rwanda. In return, M23 rebels not facing prosecution would be integrated into the army and the DRC government would speed up the return of Tutsi refugees from Rwanda. The draft agreement also includes limited amnesty for M23 fighters. Negotiations on the

peace agreement are anticipated to conclude by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Additional details on the emerging peace agreement can be viewed [here](#).

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported that South African media and e-commerce firm Naspers Holdings will merge two of its Russian Internet sites with rival Avito.ru in a deal worth \$570 million. Naspers, which is based in Cape Town, South Africa, has grown into a \$29 billion company by buying businesses in growing markets. An article on Naspers' recent Russian Internet deal can be read [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, *MSN* reported that the new Blackberry z10 smartphone hit the South African market on March 1<sup>st</sup> – three weeks ahead of the new Blackberry being introduced to the U.S. market. The article indicates this was a strategic decision by Blackberry, especially as the Blackberry brand still holds a 50% share of the smartphone market in South Africa, compared to much lower market acceptance in the U.S. The *MSN* report on the introduction of the new Blackberry to the South African market can be read [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of International Women's Day, *The Guardian* published a list of Africa's top 25 women achievers. Topping the list were Joyce Banda, the first female President of Malawi, Graca Machel, a humanitarian and activist who was recently appointed President of the School of African and Oriental Studies at the University of London, and Fatou Bensouda, the first woman prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC). The full list of Africa's top 25 women achievers can be found [here](#).

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, prior to the March 13<sup>th</sup> announcement that Archbishop of Buenos Aires Jorge Mario Bergoglio had been selected as the next pope, *NBC News* reported on the 20 cardinals who were perceived to be frontrunners. Three Africa cardinals were included in the top 20 prospects for the new pope, including the Archbishop of Abuja in Nigeria John Onaiyekan, the former Archbishop of Conakry, Guinea Robert Sarah, and the former Archbishop of Ghana Peter Turkson. The full report on all 20 cardinals can be viewed [here](#).

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said that incoming Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is scheduled to formally replace current Chinese President Hu Jintao next week, will visit South Africa, Tanzania, and the Republic of Congo, although the exact dates for President Xi's travel have yet to be announced. During his trip, President Xi is anticipated to participate in a summit of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) nations while in South Africa, which has led to speculation that President Xi's first overseas trip in his new role will occur at the end of March. Additional details on President Xi's upcoming travel can be viewed [here](#).

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Bloom Consulting unveiled its analysis of the top country brands in Africa, ranking countries using an algorithm that accounts for economic performance and predicated brand strategy. According to Bloom Consulting's analysis, the top five country brands belong to Nigeria, Sudan, Algeria, South Africa, and Zambia. The full Bloom Consulting analysis of country brands in Africa is available [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the *Wall Street Journal* reported the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Washington-based Global Financial Integrity will publish a report on March 15<sup>th</sup> finding that graft and tax evasion cost the continent an average of \$62.5 billion a year in the decade through 2009. According to AfDB Chief Economist Mthuli Ncube, this funding could have otherwise been put to use for economic growth and development in Africa. Additional details on the forthcoming report can be found [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, AfDB launched Open Data Platforms in 20 African countries, including Algeria, Cameroon, Cape Verde, DRC, Ethiopia, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Open Data Platform is part of AfDB's Africa Information Highway initiative, which is intended to improve the management and dissemination of development data from national and international sources. Additional information on AfDB's Africa Information Highway program is available [here](#).

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, *Business Day* reported that the rise of cities in Africa is a primary driver of economic growth on the continent. According to a survey conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), half of all Africans under the age of 20 are rapidly moving to cities and more than 40% of all Africans now reside in urban areas. Based on economic drivers, the EIU has also identified the top 25 African cities in 19 countries that present the best opportunities for growth. Including Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Abuja, Nigeria, and Accra, Ghana, among others. The *Business Day* article on the rise of cities in Africa can be read [here](#).

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