

AFRICA TRACKER

MONTH ENDER

NOVEMBER 2020



AGA-AFRICA
PARTNERSHIPS FOR JUSTICE

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Biden-Harris: What the Victory means for Africa

- And a Very Mixed Year

Karen White
AGA Executive Director



The US Election Seen From Africa: Dark Spots And Silver Linings

The US election happened, and like elsewhere in the world, it riveted attention in Africa and we will explore that in this issue of the newsletter.

The run-up to the vote, with allegations of vote suppression, and the loud claims about a rigged election and a refusal by President Donald Trump to concede to president-elect Joe Biden, was quite a spectacle in Africa.

[The Continent](#), a relatively new and increasingly popular WhatsApp news magazine published by South Africa's Mail & Guardian issued a US election edition, which was representative of the wide range of opinions on the continent on the election. Its editorial entitled "Seeing through the illusion of empire" sums up the tone of most of the articles.

What was fascinating, though, was that it assembled a team of several writers from around Africa, several of whom wrote in their local languages. There was an article in Kiswahili; from Nigeria one in Yoruba and another in Nigerian Pidgin; Cameroonian Pidgin; there was one in Somali; one in Kirundi (Burundi); from Democratic Republic of Congo in Lingala; and contributions in Portuguese and Arabic. All on the meaning of the US election to Africa, and democracy.

Beyond the delight in America as an empire with feet of clay, a couple of voices argued that while the Trump years had seen a setback in Africa relations, and that despite the cynicism, US support for democracy and human rights on the continent

had been tremendously important for progress in these areas. There was hope that a Biden-Harris administration will oversee a return of American state-level support for the expansion of a range of freedoms, including areas where AGA-Africa works on, like the rule of law.

This matters, because according to the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's [authoritative report](#), Africa's governance performance worsened in 2019 for the first time in nearly a decade due to a broad deterioration in the areas of human rights, security and rule of law.

We also continue to track the pandemic in the AGA-Africa zone where, amidst an increase in infections, there's good news too. In a continent where at the end of January no country had laboratories that could test for COVID-19, now all of them do, and in [Nigeria](#) in early November, there were about 80 public health laboratories with the capacity to test for COVID-19.

We also start to look at some of the key moments of the year in the AGA-Africa countries, and will focus exclusively on that in December.

These have been trying months, but there are also many stories that give hope. Consider this: in South Africa during the hard lockdown, final-year students at one of the schools [moved in with their teachers](#) who supervised their studies in small home groups. Be safe, and let's survive the year.

Trump's Loss, Biden-Harris' Victory: Friends In Unlikely Places

Like in several parts of the world, the November 3rd US presidential was one of the biggest stories in Africa for the month. The victory of the Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Democratic ticket is very popular, especially among the African elite, who don't have much love for President Donald Trump, but it definitely isn't universal.

Trump, despite the insults he has hurled at African nations, and his administration putting a big knife to programs that helped many in several countries, has his loyal army of supporters on the continent.

A lot of attention, though, was focused on the divisive rhetoric of President Trump, his attacks on the election and claims of vote fraud, and refusal to concede once the election was called for Biden.

At the end of this section we list a few links to the wide scope of views on American democracy, and looking forward, to expectations of the Biden-Harris administration.

Here, we summarize the insights gleaned from the African

response. One of the most remarkable things is how the US election united the left, middle, and right of African politics and its punditocracy, and the broad range of the continent's other ideological divides.

The African right and left, in power, both have autocratic tendencies. In the past, they have borne the brunt of American criticism, and even sanctions, for their anti-democratic actions. Seeing dysfunction and strongman politics in a US election was sweet payback, and they reveled in it.



Both the African right and left, vist - and resented being lectured by the US and western nations, something they saw as "neo-colonial" and/or "imperialist". But then there is the middle, where many civil society organizations, scholars

are located. Ordinarily, one would expect this group to be sympathetic to the liberal democratic values western democracy wraps itself in.

However, over the years, the realities of realpolitik meant

the US and other western nations allied with leaders and states with dodgy democratic credentials, to fight terrorism, to foil geopolitical rivals, or to capture advantageous economic ground. Civil society and progressive intellectuals

have felt betrayed, and saw the election fiasco as America getting its comeuppance in the end.

Trump's support, in the AGA-Africa countries is particularly significant in Nigeria and among the evangelical contingent in Kenya. In a continent where patriarchy still runs deep, LGBT phobia is deadly in most places, and opposition to abortion visceral, Trump's – or at least the extreme side of the Republican Party – position has a lot of purchase. Their outspokenness about imperiled Christians in countries like Nigeria, added to their attraction.

Past the political power plays, Trump's foul-mouthedness and bluntness, jarring to some, endeared him to many in Africa, where those traits are cherished in traditional cultures. Every family, or clan, will always have the obnoxious uncle or aunt, who tells it as it is. They might be

publicly shunned, but privately loved and pampered as “truth tellers”. In Uganda, for example, like in most of Africa, you don't speak ill of the dead.

This is where the obnoxious aunt or uncle comes in. Often, they will be plied with drink, and during the night funeral vigil, unleash a rant about the sins of the deceased. No one will stop them, and their “outrageous” conduct will either be blamed on drink, or written off as their usual cantankerousness. But it is valued, and offers some closure to those who were offended by the deceased. They are the only ones who have license to do that.

It creates a duality that needs to be understood to appreciate Trump's contradictory standing among several Africans – those who dislike him, can also like him for much the same reasons.

Beyond opinions of the US,

Trump, and Biden, in practical terms, and regarding some of the areas that AGA-Africa works on, these have been listed as the specific actions that the next administration is expected to take on in Africa, as the campaign [outlined](#) in its “The Biden-Harris Agenda for the Diaspora.”

- Reversing the travel bans aimed at decreasing legal immigration to the U.S., including the “Muslim travel ban”, which has severely impacted Nigerian, Sudanese, Somali, and other diaspora communities.
- Reinvigorating diplomatic relations with African governments and, particularly, regional institutions, including the African Union.
- Continuing the Young African Leaders Initiative that was founded by President Barack Obama in 2010.



And a sampling of some of the views on the US election, and on the in-coming Biden administration:

[African leaders welcome Biden's US election win](#)

African leaders have welcomed the incoming US president on his electoral victory, expressing hope that Joe Biden's win will boost trade and other relations between the continent and America.

[Democrats on the African continent are eager to have an ally again.](#)

In Biden and Harris, they hope to have an administration that will amplify the voices of civic leaders who are championing human rights and advocating for much needed reforms.

[The US has championed democracy in Africa for decades, now its own problems show a need for humility.](#)

With US concerns around elections in Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Guinea and others Biden's victory comes at a time when American democracy is going through a rough patch

[United States Risks Sanctions From Zimbabwe If Elections Are Not Free And Fair](#)

A tongue-in-cheek article claiming “Zimbabweans have warned President Donald Trump to respect the will of the people of United States in the election currently underway in that country. This comes as cases of voter intimidation and suppression have

been on the rise in US”.

[‘President’ Biden would have to take Africa much more seriously](#)

An analysis for the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies (ISS), published before the US elections in November.

[What will Biden's US win mean for Africa? Experts weigh in](#)

In the aftermath of Joe Biden's victory, Qatar-headquartered Al Jazeera network asked African experts from various fields – from art and finance to human rights and governance – to share their views about likely US policies in the continent under Biden.

[US elections: What does a Biden win mean for Africa?](#)

Focusing mainly on the views of civil society and the activist community in Africa.

[Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: ‘America under Trump felt like a personal loss’](#)

Renowned Nigerian writer in an interview with *Guardian*, following Biden's victory.

[Trump's ‘victory in 2016 gave confidence to racists in SA’ – Ndlozi](#)

A member of South Africa's radical and leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) on Biden's win.

‘Trump is the rupture in US-Africa policy, Biden much more engaged’

An interview in *The Africa Report*.

Biden and Harris’s Reset for Africa.

For the moment, it seems, America, the symbol of democracy, might reemerge.

Kenya/Uganda: Will Biden be as warmly welcomed as Trump?

Many Kenyans favoured President Trump, who won the backing of 70% of respondents to a Pew Research survey of 25 countries in 2018. Over half of Kenyans believed he was a positive influence on international relations. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni also professed admiration for Trump saying: “I love Trump because he tells Africans frankly. The Africans need to solve their problems; the Africans are weak.”

‘He just says it as it is’: why many Nigerians support Donald Trump

Pew research suggested 58% of people in Nigeria said they have confidence in Trump – the fourth highest total after the Philippines, Israel and Kenya.

Sa’eed Husaini, a political analyst in Lagos, noted similarities between Nigerian and US politics. “Judging by our own president, it isn’t entirely surprising that a septuagenarian economic nationalist with a born-again vice-president, minimal respect for rule of law and archaic views about women is popular in Nigeria.” Nigeria’s president, Muhammadu Buhari, is 76; its vice-president, Yemi Osinbajo, is a Pentecostal pastor.

Among Biafra secessionists in Nigeria’s south-east, support for Trump is often emphatic. When Trump tweeted in response to Britain’s EU referendum result in 2016 that “self-determination is the sacred right of all free peoples”, many pro-Biafran sites claimed it was veiled support for a Biafran state.

COVID-19: Africa Outlook



While Africa remains the second least affected continent by COVID-19 after Oceania, a continent-wide study of its hospitalized patients shows that it is facing far higher mortality rates in intensive care units than other parts of the world. The higher ICU death rates are best

explained by scarce resources. The study titled “An African, multi-centre evaluation of patient care and clinical outcomes for patients with Covid-19 infection admitted to high-care or intensive care units” is currently awaiting peer review.

According to early findings, 631 of the 1,153 adult patients (55%) who were referred to intensive care or high-care units following suspected or known COVID-19 infection in the studied hospitals died. By comparison, global mortality of patients admitted to intensive care is 31%.

In the past month, nearly 20 African countries have reported a 20% increase in new COVID-19 cases, according to the World Health Organization.

After reporting a downward trend then a plateau, Africa has

been experiencing a rise in cases since early October and the WHO said the latest increase is driven by the North African region, where temperatures are falling.

The WHO Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti called

for vigilance in the next few weeks to avert a further surge that could overwhelm health systems. In particular, she cited Kenya, Morocco and South Africa where infections have been increasing considerably.

TABLE 1: Total Month-on-Month Africa Headline COVID-19 Picture

	Feb 28	Mar 28	Apr 28	May 28	June 28	July 26	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25
Total Cases	-	3,924	33,085	123,724	369,341	827,518	1,195,702	1,437,297	1,709,091	2,092,503
% Δ Total Cases	-	-	743%	274%	199%	124%	44%	20%	19%	22%
Total Deaths	-	117	1,465	3,668	9,368	17,506	28,007	34,696	41,132	50,357
% Δ Total Deaths	-	-	1152%	150%	155%	87%	60%	24%	19%	22%

Source: WHO

Takeaways

- As at November 25th, while the absolute number of COVID-19 cases in Africa continued to rise, the percentage change in total COVID-19 cases in Africa has gone up for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, at 22%. Until now, the trend had been downward.
- As for the percentage change in total COVID-19 deaths, it has risen for the first time in 5 months, also at 22%.

Essentially, both curves have been flattening, but look to possibly be on an upward trajectory.

TABLE 1: 8 AGA-Africa Countries Headline COVID-19 Data

COUNTRY	At November 25			
	CASES		DEATHS	
	TOTAL	% Δ from October 25	TOTAL	% Δ from October 25
Ghana	51,184	7%	323	2%
Kenya	78,512	61%	1,409	57%
Malawi	6,017	2%	185	1%
Nigeria	66,607	8%	1,169	4%
Rwanda	5,750	14%	47	38%
South Africa	772,252	8%	21,083	11%
Uganda	18,406	63%	186	88%
Zambia	17,466	8%	357	3%

Source: WHO

Takeaways

- As of November 25, Uganda had the highest percentage increase in both total COVID-19 cases and deaths amongst the AGA-Africa countries, at 63% and 88% respectively. Uganda has had the highest percentage increase in both total COVID-19 cases and deaths among AGA-Africa countries since September 25.

For latest data on Covid-19 in Africa see: [AfricaCDC](#), [WHO Africa Region](#), [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Research Center](#).

From Cybercrime, Gender-Based Violence, Trafficking, To Counterfeiting, It Has Been A Bad Year

Despite the pandemic and lockdowns, there was little good news in AGA-Africa's mandate areas this year, and we review here selected developments over the last 10 months.

Human Trafficking

To date in 2020, [over 18,000 migrants](#) have arrived in the Canary Islands after long and dangerous journeys across the Atlantic. At least 12,000 of them arrived in the months of October and November. Most migrants are arriving from West African countries, with many fleeing insecurity and violence in the Sahel or extreme poverty and difficult conditions. Smuggling networks also sometimes mirror an unrealistic situation in destination countries that pushes migrants to leave in search of better living conditions. COVID-19 impacts, including food insecurity, are among the other factors believed to be driving these departures.

While these figures represent a seven-fold increase compared to the 1,550 arrivals during the same period of 2019 (January-November), the International Organization for Migration

(IOM) believes that the situation remains manageable through solidarity and a human rights-centered policy and approach.



Cybercrime

With increased digital dependency brought on by restrictions to help combat COVID-19, [cybercriminals went into overdrive](#). A report by Kaspersky Security Solutions revealed that about 28 million cyber-attacks and 102 million detections of potentially unwanted programs (pornware, adware etc.) were recorded as of August 2020.

AGA-Africa countries topped the list of the most targeted. The results over the same 7-month period in Nigeria showed that there were 3.8 million cyber-attacks and 16.8 million potentially unwanted applications (PUAs) detections –

which is four times as much over a similar period in the previous year.

Kenyan and South African [threat landscapes](#) have been more intense. In South Africa, there were almost 10 million malware attacks and a staggering 43 million PUA detections. Kenyan users faced even more malware attacks – around 14 million, and 41 million PUA appearances.

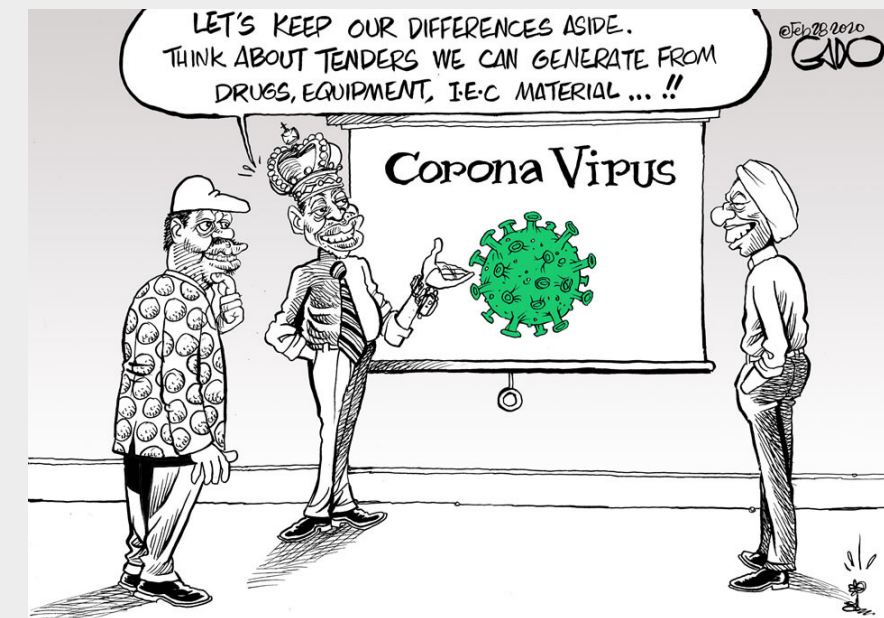
Money laundering

The European Commission added four African nations to a [new list of countries that pose financial risks](#) to the European Union due to anti-money laundering and terrorism financing shortfalls. Ghana and Uganda were two of the four countries. The addition of the countries means that companies in any of them are prohibited from receiving new funding from the European Union.

Five [Kenyan banks were fined](#) US\$3.75 million for anti-money laundering breaches, the country's chief prosecutor announced on March 5th.

Corruption

We reported at length in previous newsletters the pandemic of corruption. With vast amounts of money and resources being poured in the fight against COVID-19, and the



response being the most active undertaking during lockdown, it attracted bad actors too.

From South Africa, to Kenya, there have been protests against the graft. To spotlight a few, the [public uproar in Kenya](#) in recent weeks has highlighted the depth of frustration over the handling of aid to combat coronavirus, not just there, but across the continent as a whole.

"Theft doesn't even stop during a pandemic," said Kenyan anti-corruption activist Wanjeri Nderu, who has rallied protesters under the hashtag #stopCovid19thieves. "We have people dying while some are stealing."

In Uganda, local media published a leaked audio from Zoom in which the country's ambassador to Copenhagen, Nimisha Madhvani, her deputy, and other staff members are heard laughing as they appear to be concocting a plan to share among themselves the money that is meant to be used to deal with the outbreak.

In Nigeria, CivicHive, a good governance NGO, earlier this month uncovered Bureau of Public Procurement data showing that the Federal Ministry of Health had spent N37.06m (\$96,000) on 1,808 ordinary face masks, about \$53 apiece.

In South Africa, politicians from the ruling African National Congress (ANC) have been implicated in fraud over the supply of PPE to the government.

Counterfeit drugs

Fear of the virus and the inability to verify the authenticity of products are pushing many Africans towards [fake and substandard pharmaceutical](#)

[products](#) and medical supplies. This trend, which will have a dramatic effect on the health of the population, and will likely go on until a vaccine or effective remedy is available on the continent too.

In March, in Uganda, a father and daughter duo were arrested for administering a fake vaccine against the coronavirus.

The lack of regulatory oversight is one of the reasons why the region is so attractive to criminals in the business of falsifying medicines.

In [West Africa it is a big business](#). The criminals have been keeping the head of the Intellectual Property Rights Unit at the customs service, Mohammed Babandede, and his team busy as the pandemic has created the perfect storm for fake medicines to flourish.

"It is really scary," he said, adding that in one week more than 30 million counterfeit tablets had been seized. He explained that authorities in India had provided intelligence on a shipment coming into Tin Can Island Port in Lagos, the commercial capital. The consignment included significant amounts of counterfeit dexamethasone - a medicine believed to treat severe Covid-19 symptoms.

In the same week, he also intercepted 920,000 fake tramadol tablets at Lagos airport that had come from Mumbai. These pills were likely destined for markets in northern Nigeria where abuse of the drug is high.

Gender-based violence

Definitely, one of the tragic facts of the pandemic has been the spike in gender-based violence. In the last few months, as the coronavirus has spread across the world, [African countries registered a surge in cases of domestic violence and sexual violence](#), which has provoked public outrage.

When it reached horror levels in South Africa, in one of his national COVID-19 addresses, President Cyril Ramaphosa decried that "the scourge of gender-based violence continues to stalk our country as the men of our country declared war on the women." Calls to the government-run GBV and femicide command centre had reportedly

doubled during the nationwide lockdown.

In early June, Nigerians started the #WeAreTired campaign after two young women, Vera Uwaila Omosuwa, a 22-year-old microbiology student, and 18-year-old Barakat Bello were raped and killed five days apart. Following the online campaign and nationwide protests by women's rights activists, all 36 Nigerian governors agreed to declare a state of emergency over gender-based violence against women and children.

In Machakos County in Kenya, 3,964 girls became pregnant in the five-month period to June, as children stayed at home due to COVID-19 closures. Similar grim trends have been registered in neighbouring Uganda. Most of these cases are a result of statutory rape.

So far, the measures taken against GBV, and plans implemented by some governments to address prevention, protection, accountability, support and



healing their impact has been limited. However, some the actions have been headline-grabbing.

The Nigerian State of Kaduna recently introduced a law which allows for rapists of children under the age of 14 to [be chemically castrated](#). Following popular protests, all state governors declared a state of emergency due to gender-based violence.

Meanwhile, in Malawi, the Supreme Court ordered the police in a small town to compensate victims of sexual abuse by officers.

Notably, South Africa began an official mourning period from November 25th for those who've [died of the coronavirus or fallen](#)

[victim to gender-based violence](#).

The national flag will be flown at half-mast for five days to commemorate the more than 21,000 people who have died as a result of Covid-19. Sixteen days of mourning were also declared in remembrance of women killed as a result of gender-based violence.

Education

The pandemic hit education hard, with over 250 million pupils and students out of school at the height of the pandemic. Research shows that school closures caused by the pandemic [exacerbated previously existing inequalities](#), and that children who were already most at risk of being excluded from a quality education have been most affected.

Rule Of Law Collapses In Face Of Political Protest

One of the most consequential events of the year in Africa, were the #ENDSars protests

in Nigeria against police brutality and extortion. They came to a bloody head-off, with President

Muhammadu Buhari acknowledging late October that [63 people were killed in the unrest](#),

and the police chief putting the figure at [102](#) in late November. Activists say the toll is

much higher.

After weeks of denial, the Nigerian army said that its [troops fired shots](#) into the air to disperse a large crowd at the Lekki Toll Plaza in Lagos where several peaceful protesters were killed late in October.

The October 20 incident at the plaza caused both local and international outrage. At least 10 protesters were killed in the Lekki plaza shooting, according to Amnesty International, which charged that army troops opened fire on protesters without provocation.

The army had initially maintained that its troops were not at the site of the shooting.

The event was a turning point. The protestors have begun to retreat, but analysts see [a generation poised to seize the moment](#).

The people driving #ENDSARS from the pages of the internet to the streets of Nigerian cities and now back online again are overwhelmingly young, like the country itself. Half of Nigeria's estimated 182 million people are under 30.

Their generation, the first in decades to grow up in a democracy, is also fed up with its disappointments: the corruption and



inequality that have become central concerns of their movement.

Bulama Bukarti, a sub-Saharan African expert at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, says the protests – the largest since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999 – were a result of long-building frustration “and outrage that has accumulated over the years.”

The UK parliament on November 23 called on the British government to immediately commence investigation into human rights abuses by the Nigerian government and security agencies on citizens.

It also demanded the UK government [consider imposing sanctions](#) on officials who are found culpable. The sanctions range from visa bans to assets freezing as contained in an e-petition upon which the parliament's November 23 debate was based.

A total of 220,330 people had signed the e-petition with over 2,000 of the petitioners from the UK. In the petition, the people accused the Nigerian government and security officials of human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings.

The Nigerian government also got

embroiled in a [feud with CNN](#) over its reporting of the Lekki incident. The government threatened CNN with sanctions over its investigative report on the shooting, but despite that, on November 24 the network [released a second report](#) on the incident.

CNN's first report mid-November alleged that the Nigerian Army used live bullets on protesters during its intervention in the #EndSARS protest at Lekki in Lagos State. It quoted Ahmed Taiwo, Commander of 81 Division, Army Military Intelligence Brigade, as admitting that soldiers carried live ammunition to the protest ground.

The Good, The Bad: A Round Up

A rare breed of brave judges

Malawi's constitutional court judges [won the 2020 Chatham House Prize](#) in recognition of the "courage and independence in the defence of democracy" demonstrated in their ruling that annulled the May 2019 presidential election. The nullification of the re-election of Peter Mutharika, was only the second time, after Kenya in 2017, that a court in Africa overturned a presidential election.

They had to be driven to and from court in military armored trucks.



A pandemic spurs African innovation

A World Health Organization analysis found that the COVID-19 pandemic has galvanized the development of more than 120 health technology innovations that have been piloted or adopted in Africa. The countries with the most innovations were all in the AGA-Africa zone; South Africa (13%), Kenya (10%), Nigeria (8%) and Rwanda (6%).

First African fintech in United for Wildlife Financial Taskforce

Kenyan telco giant Safaricom's M-Pesa became the [first African fintech](#) to join United for Wildlife Financial Taskforce.

The M-Pesa mobile money system has become Africa's most popular financial services provider and the continent's leading financial technology platform.

United for Wildlife's Financial Taskforce was established in 2018 via a Declaration signed at Mansion House in London. The

Declaration commits signatories to use financial intelligence and resources to support law enforcement efforts to pursue the illegal wildlife trade's greatest beneficiaries.

A textile industry thrives in adversity

Rwanda's textile and garment sector hit a [record 83% growth](#) between 2018 and 2020 after the US suspended it from list of

countries whose apparel exports enter American market duty-free, following Kigali's move to raise tariffs on second-hand (mitumba) clothes to protect the local industry.

First African COVID era default

Zambia mid-November opted to bow out of a \$42.5 million eurobond repayment, becoming the [first African nation to default on its debt in the COVID-19 era](#).

Governance declines for first time in a decade

Africa's governance performance worsened in 2019 for the [first time in nearly a decade](#) due to a broad deterioration in the areas of human rights, security and rule of law, according to a survey published on November 16th.

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) - the most comprehensive survey of its kind on the continent - rates 54 African nations against criteria including security, human rights, economic stability, just laws, free elections, corruption, infrastructure, poverty, health and education.

The 2019 African average score for overall governance declined by -0.2 points from 2018, registering the first year-on-year score deterioration since 2010, the report published by the foundation of Sudanese telecoms tycoon Mo Ibrahim said on November 19.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation compiles the data with the aim of promoting better governance and economic development in Africa.

Rocky start to Uganda presidential campaigns

The campaigns for next January's Uganda presidential and legislative elections formally kicked off, but it was hard going for opposition candidates. The main challenger to President Yoweri Museveni, musician turned politician MP Robert Kyagulanyi (more popularly known as Bobi Wine) was manhandled and briefly arrested immediately after nominations. Another, Patrick Amuriat, was roughed up and arrived for nomination shoeless and disheveled.

For Bobi Wine, it got worse from then on. After his arrest again on November 18, allegedly for having a crowd-size that breached COVID-19 rules, violence broke out in several

towns. Over four dozen people were killed, in scenes that were shockingly bloody.

There is a now widespread view that events in Uganda are part of a troubling democratic recession in [East Africa](#), and indeed [Africa](#) - especially [West Africa](#). The October elections in Tanzania were easily its most brazenly rigged.

Ghana's charismatic Jerry Rawlings passes

Ghana's former President Jerry John Rawlings died on November 12.

He led two coups, first in 1979, before twice being elected president in multiparty polls.

A [charismatic figure](#), he first seized power railing against corruption and was responsible

for executing several former heads of state for their alleged graft and mismanagement.

He was also seen as a champion of the poor, but his rule was marked human rights abuses in its early.

Rawlings, together with leaders like Burkina Faso's Capt. Thomas Sankara, captured the imagination of the continent with their dashing ways, revolutionary actions, anti-imperialist rhetoric, and populist policies.

Sankara was assassinated, but Rawlings went on to become one of the continent's most significant post-Cold War political and economic reformers.

He died in hospital in the capital, Accra, after a short illness.



Off-Cut

An illegal settlement called COVID – and Sanitizer

Izwelethu, also known as “Covid,” is a densely populated settlement in South Africa comprising more than 800 tin shacks and 3,000-plus residents. It was founded in March, when South Africa’s national lockdown began, and has been weathering a number of storms ever since — the meteorological ones that the “Cape of Storms”

is infamous for, and the grim epidemiological storm of a global pandemic.

Since the coronavirus hit, there’s been a staggering rise in such “land invasions” in South African cities.

In Cape Town, the reason is obvious: Many of the city’s economically vulnerable township citizens lost their jobs and income

when the country went into lockdown. Those already living in shacks, often in the backyards of other homes, could no longer afford their rent. So, they looked for land where they could erect new shacks and live rent-free. Next to Covid, for example, is a settlement called “Sanitizer.” There’s also one called “19” (as in COVID-19). It’s an example of the sardonic South African sense of humor.

Trainings

GHANA

AGA-AFRICA

Ghana Police Service

The Attorney General Alliance - Africa in collaboration with Ghana Police Service, and Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit Presents :

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

9th - 11th November 2020 | 2PM GMT | 5PM EAT | 9AM EST

C/SUPT OWUSUWAA KYEREMEH
Director, DOVVSU, Ghana Police Service

MARKUS GREEN ESQ.
AGA-Africa Board Member

MARK WYNN
Owner Wynn Consulting

NATALAE VELEZ
Special Victims Bureau Domestic Violence Unit and Human Trafficking Response Unit, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Expert

DR HERBERT GUSTAV YANKSON
Assistant Commissioner of Police, Director Cybercrime Unit, Ghana Police Service

EDNA KUMA
Executive Director African Women Lawyers Association

VICTORIA ASIEDUWAA
Principal State Attorney, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, Prosecutions Division, Accra

LYDIA MUTHIANI
Human Rights Lawyer

Gender-Based Violence Workshop in Partnership with the Ghana Police Service, Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit, 9-11 November

AGA-Africa in conjunction with the Ghana Police Service organized a 3-day Gender-Based Violence Virtual Workshop from 9-11 November.

The workshop brought together officers of the Ghana Police Service from the Domestic Violence and

Victim Support Unit and was officially opened by Owusuwaa Kyeremeh, Chief Superintendent of Police, Director, DOVVSU, Ghana Police Service and Susan Lustig, the AGA-Africa Administrative Director.

The workshop’s subject matter experts were Lt. Mark Wynn (ret), Owner/Operator Wynn Consulting and Natalae Velez, Assistant Prosecutor Human Trafficking Response Unit from the US. Regionally, the workshop benefited from the expertise of Lydia Muthiani, Human Rights Lawyer, Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network from Kenya.

From Ghana the facilitators were Edna Kuma, Executive Director African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), Dr Herbert Gustav Yankson, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Director Cybercrime Unit and Sylvester Asare, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ghana Police Service.

The workshop was officially closed by Owusuwaa Kyeremeh, Chief Superintendent of Police, Director, DOVVSU, Ghana Police Service and Maame Hagan, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Ghana.

AGA-AFRICA

Ghana Police Service

The Attorney General Alliance - Africa in collaboration with Ghana Police Service, and Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit Presents :

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

16th - 18th November 2020 | 2PM GMT | 5PM EAT | 9AM EST (NY)

C/SUPT OWUSUWAA KYEREMEH
Director, DOVVSU, Ghana Police Service

MARKUS GREEN ESQ.
AGA-Africa Board Member

MARK WYNN
Owner Wynn Consulting

NATALAE VELEZ
Special Victims Bureau Domestic Violence Unit and Human Trafficking Response Unit, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Expert

DR HERBERT GUSTAV YANKSON
Assistant Commissioner of Police, Director Cybercrime Unit, Ghana Police Service

EDNA KUMA
Executive Director African Women Lawyers Association

ASP SYLVESTER ASARE ESQ.
Head, Legal And Prosecution, CID Headquarters

VICTORIA ASIEDUWAA
Principal State Attorney, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, Prosecutions Division, Accra

LYDIA MUTHIANI
Human Rights Lawyer

Gender-Based Violence Workshop in Partnership with the Ghana Police Service, Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit, 16-18 November

For a second time in November, AGA-Africa and the Ghana Police Service organized a 3-day Gender-Based Violence Virtual Workshop from 16 to 18 November. The workshop brought together another set of officers from the Ghanaian law enforcement sector and was officially opened by Markus Green, AGA-Africa Board Member and Owusuwaa Kyeremeh, Chief Superintendent of Police, Director, DOVVSU, Ghana Police Service.

The subject matter experts for the workshop were Lt. Mark Wynn (ret), Owner/Operator Wynn Consulting and Natalae Velez, Assistant Prosecutor Human Trafficking Response Unit from the US.

Regionally, the workshop benefited from the expertise of Lydia Muthiani, Human Rights Lawyer, Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network from Kenya.

From Ghana the facilitators were Edna Kuma, Executive Director African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA) and Dr Herbert Gustav Yankson, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Director Cybercrime Unit and Sylvester Asare, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ghana Police Service.

The workshop was officially brought to a close by Owusuwaa Kyeremeh, Chief Superintendent of Police, Director, DOVVSU, Ghana Police Service and Maame Hagan, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Ghana.

AGA-Africa In Collaboration With the Criminal Investigation Department & Cybercrime Unit, Ghana Police Service Presents:

DIGITAL FORENSICS AND EVIDENCE WORKSHOP

24th – 27th November 2020 | 2PM GMT | 5PM EAT | 9AM EST (NY)

MARKUS GREEN ESQ.
AGA-Africa Board Member

DR HERBERT GUSTAV YANKSON
Assistant Commissioner of Police,
Director Cybercrime Unit,
Ghana Police Service

JEFFREY B. WELTY
Special Deputy Attorney General,
North Carolina Department of Justice

STEPHEN KIPTINNESS
Senior Partner, Technology & Intellectual Property

ALEX OSUNGA
Cyber Security Professional
at @iLabAfrica

f i t @aga_africa www.agafrica.org

Digital Forensic Workshop with the Ghana Police Services, CID, 24-27 November

AGA-Africa in conjunction with the Criminal Investigation Department and Cybercrime Unit, Ghana Police Service organized a 4-day Digital Forensics and Evidence Virtual Workshop from the 23rd to 26th November 2020.

The workshop brought together investigators from all over Ghana who are involved in cybercrime investigations from the CID and Cybercrime Units. The training was officially opened by Maame Hagan, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Ghana. Participating in the workshop was AGA Facilitator Jeffrey B. Welty, Special Deputy Attorney General, North Carolina Department of Justice from the US.

Regionally, the workshop benefited from the expertise of seasoned legal expert Stephen Kiptinness, Senior Partner, Technology & Intellectual Property and talented Cyber Security professional Alex Osunga who works at @iLabAfrica from Kenya and Dr. Herbert Gustav Yankson, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Director Cybercrime Unit, Ghana Police Service.

AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Ghana, Maame Hagan brought the illuminating 4-day workshop to a close

MALAWI

The Attorney General Alliance - Africa in collaboration with the Commercial Law Clinic, Faculty of Law, University of Malawi Presents:

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON REGULATING CORRUPTION & MONEY LAUNDERING ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM & THE LAW

12th- 13th November 2020 | 13:00 PM CAT | 06:00 AM EST | 14:00 PM EAT

MARKUS GREEN ESQ.
AGA Africa Board Member

XAVIER CUNNINGHAM
Assistant United States Attorney

RACHEL HEINTZ
Assistant Attorney General (AAG),
Southern Arizona White Collar and
Criminal Enterprise Section,
Arizona Attorney General's Office

DR. SUNDUZWAYO MADISE
Dean, Faculty of Law,
University of Malawi

DR. JEAN PHILLIP-PRIMINTA
Anti-Money Laundering and
Asset Recovery Practitioner

FAITH SUMANI
Law Student, University Of
Malawi, Chancellor College

RASHIDAH LAIKA WINESI
Law Student, University Of
Malawi, Chancellor College

ANDREW UMALI
Law Student, University Of
Malawi, Chancellor College

CHIMANGO NYASURU
Law Student, University Of
Malawi, Chancellor College

ARTHUR TRENT NDALA
Law Student, University Of
Malawi, Chancellor College

SAMUEL KAPHUKA
Coordinator, Commercial Law Clinic,
Chancellor College

Regulating Corruption & Money Laundering Enforcement Mechanism & the Law Workshop, 12-13 November

The Attorney General Alliance (AGA) - Africa, in collaboration with the Commercial Law Clinic, faculty of Law, University of Malawi held a two-day virtual workshop on Financial Crimes from 12-13 November.

The workshop which was held at Sunbird Ku Chawe, Zomba, Malawi under the theme “New Perspectives on Regulating Corruption & Money Laundering Enforcement Mechanism & the Law Mechanism & the Law”, was aimed at equipping University of Malawi Law Students with special skills to be used when dealing with financial crimes.

Delivering his opening remarks at the Financial Crimes Workshop, Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise, the Dean of Faculty of Law at the University of Malawi, encouraged participants to take part in the discussions and thanked AGA-Africa for organizing the workshop and for the positive partnership that has been established between AGA-Africa and the Commercial Law Clinic of the Faculty of Law, University of Malawi.

Speaking on behalf of AGA-Africa, Gift Chikwakwa, who is the country coordinator for AGA-Africa, said AGA is interested in deepening collaboration with the University of Malawi, specifically the law faculty of Chancellor College, through the signing of the MOU to foster trainings in dealing with international criminal activities.

She also informed the participants of the gravity that money laundering offences have had on Malawi's economy, making the country lose an estimated \$17m between 2013 and 2017 according to the National Risk Assessment of Malawi.



Consumer Protection Law Webinar with the University of Pretoria, 16 November

AGA-Africa in conjunction with the University of Pretoria organized a Consumer Protection Law Webinar

on the 16th of November 2020.

The Webinar was officially opened by AGA-Africa Board Member, Markus Green and ably moderated by Prof. Jacolien Barnard, Associate Professor, Department of Mercantile Law, Law Faculty, University of Pretoria and John Ukegbu, Esq. Senior Staff Attorney Northeast New Jersey Legal Services.

The distinguished panellists gracing the webinar were Neil Fogarty, Managing Attorney, Consumer Unit, Northeast New Jersey Legal Services, Jersey City, N.J and Scott C Borison, Founder, Borison Firm, LLC, from the US; Dr. Ahmed Babatunde Popoola (Dr. Tunde Popoola) Managing Director of CRC Credit Bureau Limited from Nigeria, Dr. Isaac M. Rutenberg, Director of the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) at Strathmore Law School in Kenya; and Dr. Sylvia Papadopoulos Senior Lecturer, Department of Mercantile Law, University of Pretoria and Prof. Stefan Renke, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mercantile Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

The Webinar was officially closed by AGA-Africa Country Representative, South Africa Kim Robinson.

NIGERIA

Administration of Criminal Justice Webinar – Kogi State, 23-24 November



The two-day webinar was organized in collaboration with the Kogi State Office of Public Defender and Citizen's Right Commission from 23-24 November using the GoToWEBINAR platform.

The webinar sessions were livestreamed for the benefit of both the virtual participants and had a good number of onsite participants in attendance.

Among the facilitators who presented during the two-day training were: Stephen Kiptinness, Abdullahi W. Zakari ESQ (Director General, of the Public Defender and Citizen's Rights Commission, Kogi State), Olayinka Adeyemi (Director of Public Prosecution, Lagos State), Jesus Romero, Henry Coker and Chief Anthony Idigbe SAN. Mrs Ebelechukwu Enedah and Omolade Sanni were moderators for the training.

Upcoming events

DECEMBER	
<i>Zambia</i>	
1 st – 3 rd	Human Trafficking Workshop – NPA
<i>Nigeria</i>	
2nd - 3rd	Effective Investigation and Prosecution of the Offence of Rape and other Gender-Based Violence Offences Webinar – Cross River State Government
<i>Malawi</i>	
4 th	Anti- Money Laundering Workshop – Women Lawyer Association
<i>Kenya</i>	
9 th	Gender-Based Violence Webinar – Office of the Director Public Prosecutions of Kenya
<i>Ghana</i>	
14 th -17 th	Digital Forensic Workshop – Ghana Police Services, CID
<i>Kenya</i>	
17 th	Hate Speech Webinar – Office of the Director Public Prosecutions of Kenya
<i>Uganda</i>	
TBD	Anti- Money Laundering – Judicial Training Institute of Uganda

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Email: slustig@agalliance.org or info@AGAAfrica.org



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