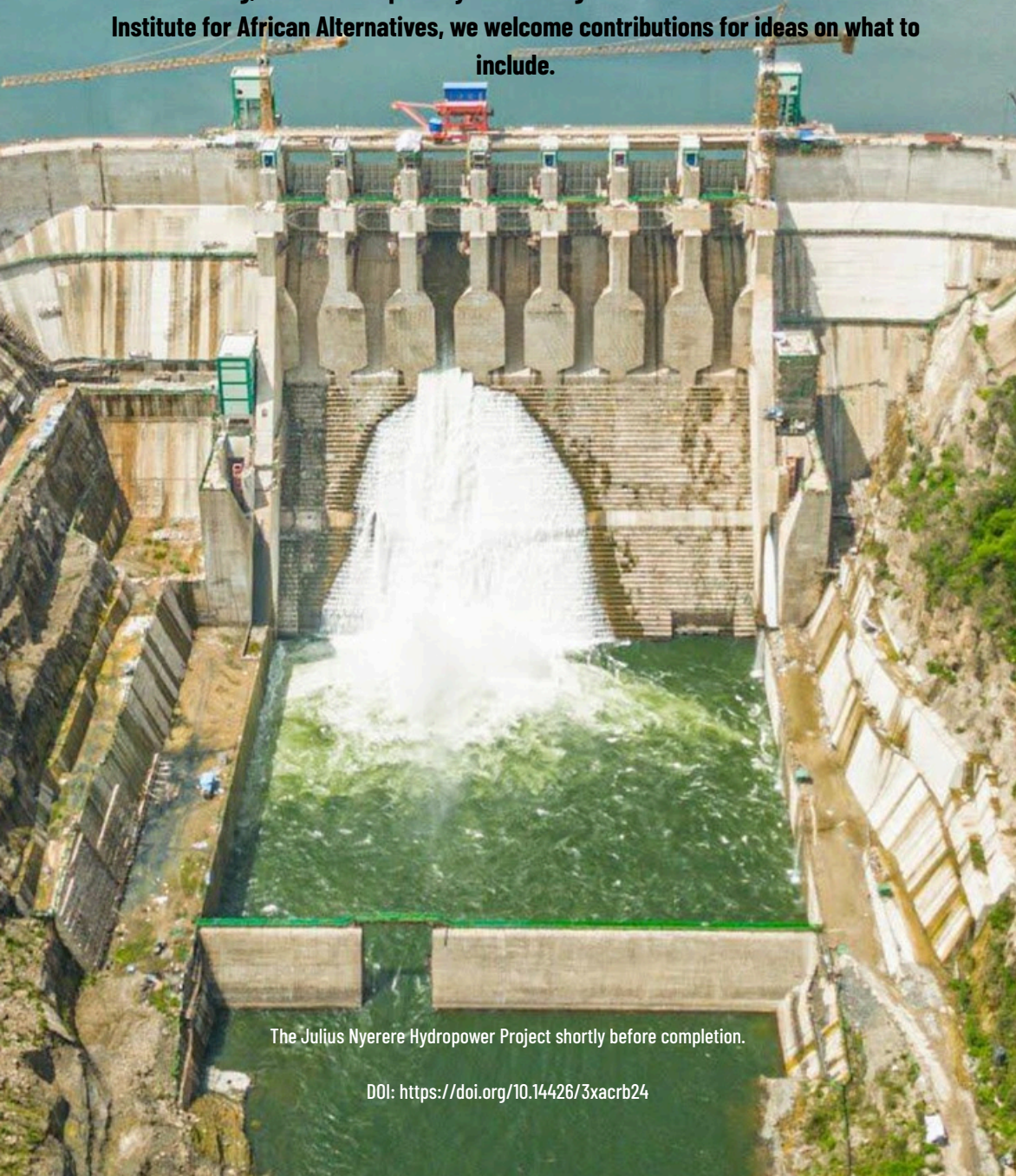


Dateline Africa

Africa Diary 1 June to 31 August 2026

A selection of events about, and from across, the continent that are significant or interesting, or both. Compiled by the New Agenda Editorial Collective at the Institute for African Alternatives, we welcome contributions for ideas on what to include.



The Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project shortly before completion.

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August

22 August: Tanzania commissioned the new Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), which has almost doubled the capacity of the national grid. More than seven years in construction, and generating 2,115 megawatts, the project was managed by Egyptian contractors on the Rufiji River at a cost to Tanzania of about \$2.84 billion (approximately R45.18 billion). Said to be the fourth biggest dam in Africa, it will provide a reliable supply of both water and power for an economy long plagued by water rationing and power shortages. The dam impounds water from several rivers in the Selous Game Reserve and will allow flood control and irrigated farming in the Rufiji delta in the south of the country. However, it is associated with extreme environmental risks.

17 August: President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa assumed the leadership of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for the 2026/27 term during the organisation's 46th ordinary summit in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal. Ramaphosa said SADC was "a story of the triumph of solidarity over division and adversity." The people of the region had stood together against colonialism, minority rule, and apartheid. Anti-migrant group March and March protested near the SADC summit venue, calling on leaders from the region to take back their citizens who are living in South Africa without proper documentation. The President said that South Africans were deeply concerned and shamed over the treatment of foreign nationals in South Africa, including cases in which people were forced to leave the country under threat of violence.

14 August: An updated assessment from the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that the Ebola disease outbreak, which was first detected in May 2026 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), had rapidly evolved into a large and geographically expanding epidemic, with sustained transmission, high mortality and an increasing risk of further international spread. This was the largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded in the DRC with 4,566 confirmed cases and 2,128 deaths to date. Continued infections among healthcare workers, extensive contact-tracing demands, high population mobility, insecurity, displacement, and restricted access were making the outbreak difficult to control. Ituri Province remained the epicentre of the outbreak, spreading from a rural gold-mining area characterised by high population mobility linked to mining, trade, and movement between communities. No licenced vaccine or specific antiviral treatment was currently available for the particular virus linked to the outbreak.



WHO response to Ebola outbreak in the DRC, 22 July 2026. The first Ebola treatment centre to be built in Bunia. Photo: Grainne Harrington, WHO

8 August: *The Economist*, a right-wing newspaper, printed a rare cover story on Sudan and called for a truce as the war entered its fourth year. For a time, Sudan was called a “forgotten war”. But *The Economist* said it was better thought of as a neglected war. “One forgets things by mistake; to neglect is a deliberate decision.” More than 14 million people have been displaced. Hundreds of thousands have died. The country has fractured into fiefdoms and scores of militias who fight against or alongside the main warring parties: the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which is the de



From The Economist 8 August 2026: "Before the war erupted in April 2023, Khartoum was a bustling city of around 7m people. Today its centre is deserted."

facto government.

The opportunity for a truce has only been made possible by the war on Iran, which “has mostly made Sudan an even lower priority than usual”. Saudi Arabia (with Egypt and Turkey) support the SAF. The UAE denies backing the RSF. The argument is hard to follow, but fighting in Sudan will pause now for the rainy season. Why not stop for good?



July

21 July: The United Nations annual report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2026) estimated that 20% of the population of Africa went hungry in 2025, compared to 7.8% of the global population who faced problems getting enough food. Africa now has the highest number of hungry people in absolute terms. The continent is home to approximately 309 million hungry people, compared to 292 million in Asia. Still, the report shows that Africa's previously rising trend in hunger data is beginning to stabilise. The crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, caused by the war unleashed by Israel and the United States, is expected to have an impact on food insecurity in the coming months due to higher energy and fertilizer prices. Food inflation and lower crop yields (due to a drop in the use of fertiliser) will have a future effect on hunger.

3 July: The Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), based in Lagos, Nigeria, announced the financial close of the US \$753 million Lobito Corridor Railway Project in Angola. The funding will support the rehabilitation, upgrade, and long-term operation of the 1,300km rail corridor linking Lobito port in Angola to the DRC. The project is projected to increase the corridor's freight capacity roughly tenfold, to about 4.6 million tons a year, while cutting the cost of moving critical minerals by an estimated 30%. Copper, cobalt, and zinc exports could reach Lobito within five to eight days, against roughly 25 days for the same cargo routed to Durban. US\$553 million came from the US International Development Finance Corporation and US\$200 million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa. AFC has 48 member countries and has invested US\$18.5 billion across Africa since its inception in 2007.



June

30 June: Weeks of violence and intimidation against immigrants to South Africa from other African countries culminated in a day of organised protests and marches against “illegal immigration”. 30 June marked a so-called “deadline” set by the anti-immigration movement, March and March, for the government to act against illegal immigration, and for undocumented immigrants to leave the country. Anti-immigrant vigilantes often fail to differentiate between documented and undocumented immigrants when harassing them. Police and private security largely succeeded in reducing violence on the day.

3 June: The Parliament of Ghana hosted the 4th African Regional Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family Values and Sovereignty in Accra. The previous three conferences were hosted by Uganda. They are part of an effort to urge states to withdraw from aspects of the African Union’s 2003 Maputo protocol, which promotes gender equality and protects the reproductive and health rights of women and girls. Only South Africa and Mozambique abstained from a motion to endorse a charter for governments to withdraw from international treaties or funding agreements that promote “the LGBT agenda”, abortion, and sex education. Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation has been on the rise across west Africa. A new bill passed by Ghana’s parliament imposes prison terms of up to three years for those identifying as LGBTQ+.



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