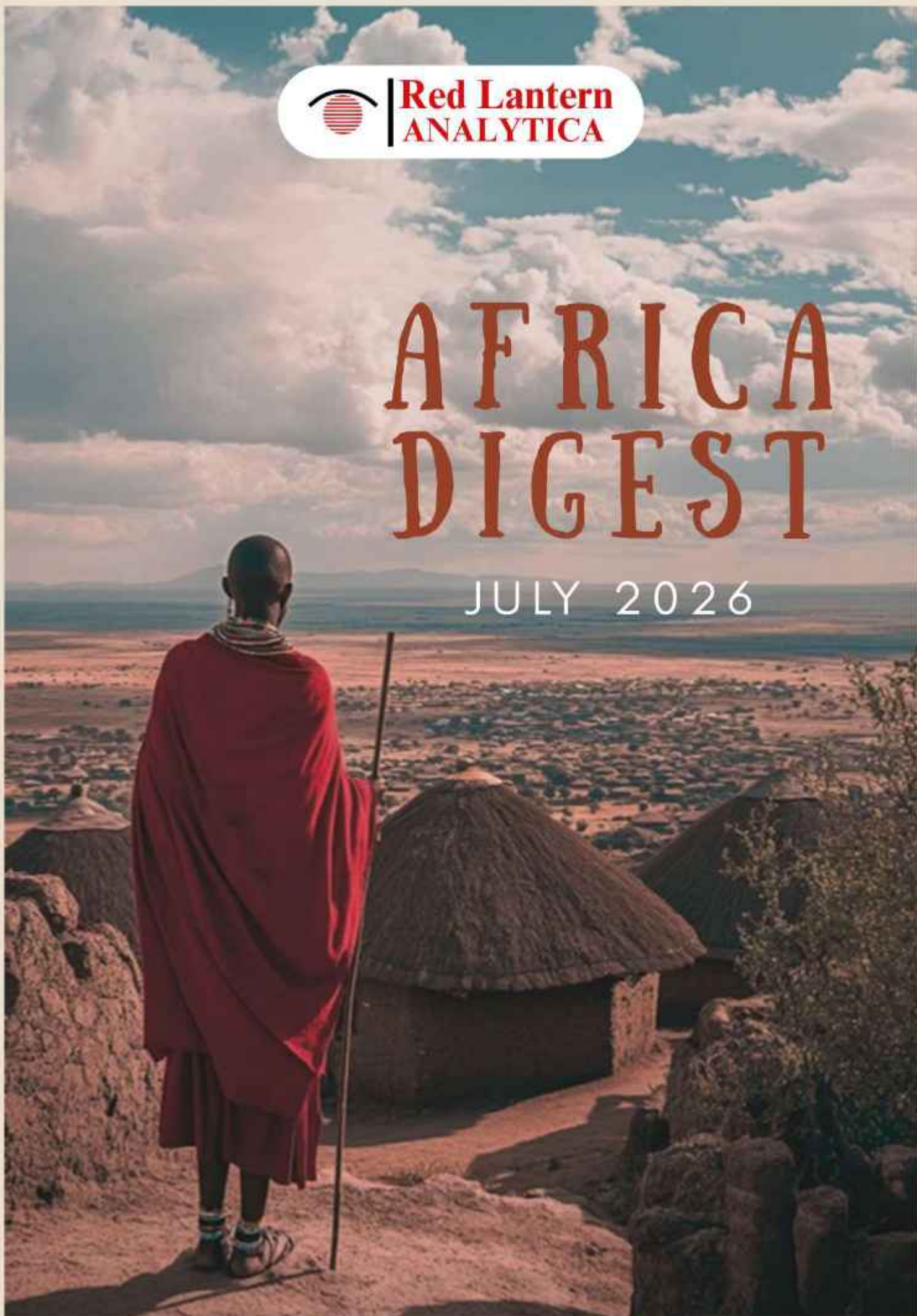




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Al Qaeda Affiliate Claims Coordinated Attacks on Malian Military Positions

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), an Al Qaeda affiliate, claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks on multiple Malian military positions. The assaults underscored the group's operational reach despite ongoing counterinsurgency efforts, raising concerns over Mali's deteriorating security environment and the capacity of state forces to contain expanding militant activity.



Coordinated Insurgent Offensive Exposes Mali's Persistent Security Challenges

Armed insurgents launched simultaneous attacks across northern and central Mali, targeting military installations in multiple towns. The coordinated offensive highlighted persistent weaknesses in Mali's security architecture despite increased military operations and international partnerships, reinforcing concerns over expanding militant influence across the Sahel.



Zimbabwe Begins Agricultural Exports to China Through Blueberry Shipments

Zimbabwe commenced commercial blueberry exports to China following expanded market access agreements. The initiative strengthens bilateral agricultural trade, diversifies Zimbabwe's export markets and reflects Beijing's growing economic engagement across Africa through increased imports, investment and agricultural cooperation under broader China-Africa economic relations.



Russia Deepens Military Cooperation with Sahel States Amid Insurgency

Russia expanded defence cooperation with Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger through military assistance and security engagement as insurgent violence intensified across the Sahel. The partnership reflects Moscow's growing strategic presence in West Africa while regional governments seek alternative security partnerships following the withdrawal of several Western military missions.



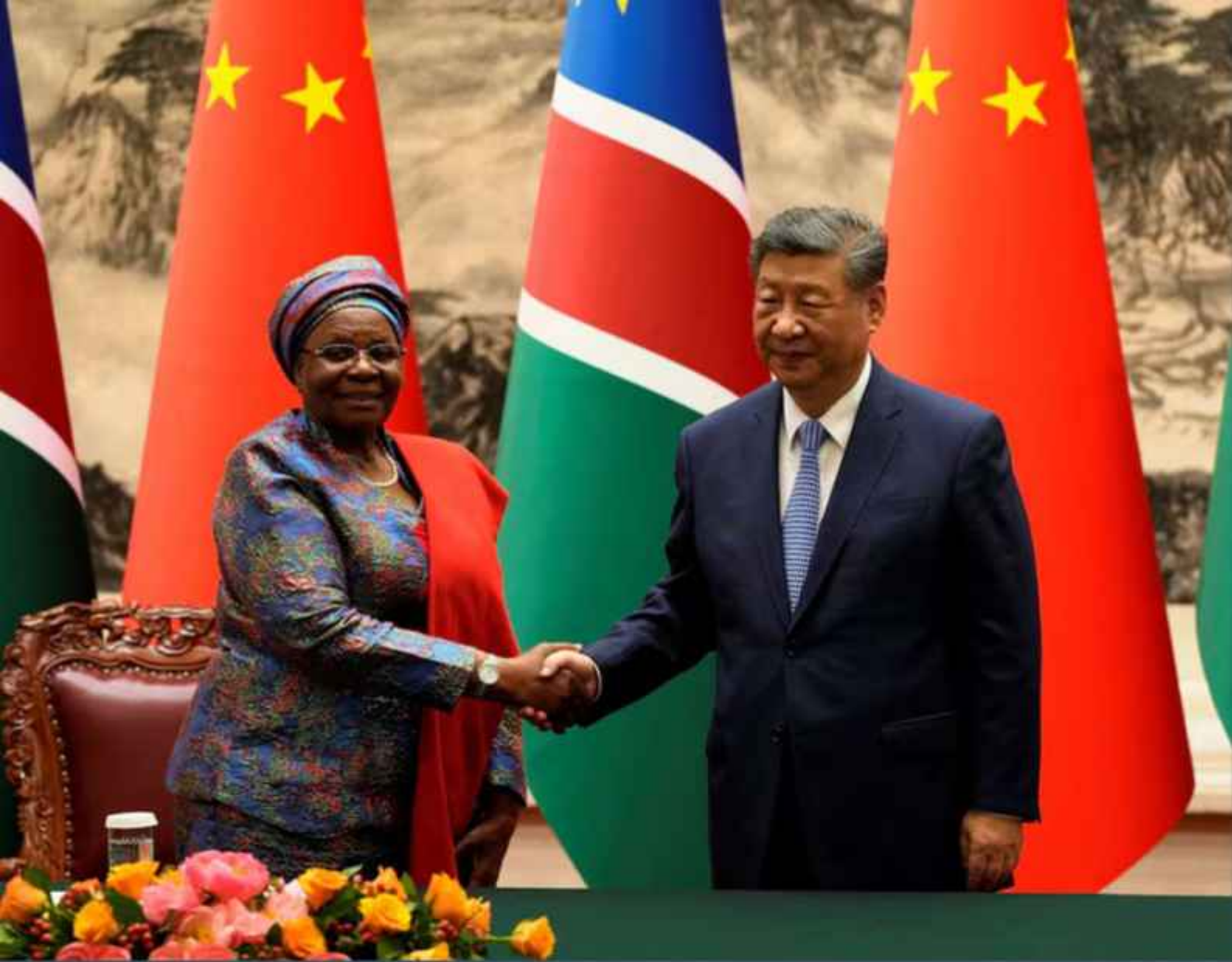
AfDB Approves \$234 Million Loan for Morocco's Rail Expansion

The African Development Bank approved a \$234 million loan to support Morocco's railway expansion programme. The investment aims to improve national connectivity, promote sustainable transport, reduce carbon emissions and strengthen economic competitiveness by modernising strategic transport infrastructure across key economic corridors.



Russia Offers Security Assistance to Mozambique Against Terrorism

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that Moscow is prepared to assist Mozambique in addressing terrorist threats, including through defence cooperation and security support. The announcement reflects Russia's expanding security engagement in Africa and efforts to strengthen bilateral partnerships amid persistent insurgency in northern Mozambique.



Namibia Secures Infrastructure, Mining and Energy Agreements with China

During a state visit to China, Namibia concluded agreements covering infrastructure, mining and energy cooperation. The deals deepen bilateral economic ties, expand Chinese investment in strategic sectors and reinforce Beijing's long-term economic engagement across southern Africa through infrastructure development and resource partnerships.



Angola Expands Use of Chinese Yuan in Banking Regulations

Angola authorised commercial banks to use the Chinese yuan to meet reserve requirements, marking another step toward currency diversification. The decision strengthens financial cooperation with China, reduces dependence on traditional reserve currencies and reflects Beijing's broader efforts to internationalise the yuan through African financial partnerships.

Congo Rebels Build Ebola Response to Strengthen Governance Legitimacy

Rebel authorities controlling parts of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo established independent Ebola response mechanisms, seeking to demonstrate administrative capability and governance effectiveness. The development illustrates how armed groups increasingly use public service delivery to strengthen local legitimacy amid prolonged conflict.





Nigeria Plans Greater Leadership in Regional Humanitarian Response

Nigeria announced plans to assume a greater leadership role in humanitarian operations as the United Nations restructures its regional support mechanisms. The initiative aims to strengthen nationally led crisis management, improve coordination and enhance long-term resilience in responding to humanitarian emergencies across West Africa.



Former Senegalese President Sall Campaigns for United Nations Leadership

Former Senegalese President Macky Sall returned to Senegal while continuing his campaign for the position of United Nations Secretary-General. His diplomatic outreach reflects efforts to secure regional and international backing, positioning his candidacy within broader discussions on African representation in global governance institutions.



Ghana Revises Mining Law to Strengthen Regulation and Sector Oversight

Ghana approved amendments to its mining legislation to improve regulatory oversight, enhance environmental compliance and strengthen governance of the extractive sector. The reforms seek to increase transparency, address illegal mining activities and ensure sustainable management of the country's strategic mineral resources.

Nigeria Launches \$500 Million Fund to Strengthen Food Security

Nigeria established a \$500 million agricultural investment fund to boost domestic food production, improve agricultural productivity and strengthen national food security. The initiative supports broader economic diversification efforts while addressing inflationary pressures and reducing dependence on imported agricultural commodities.





United Nations Sanctions Armed Group Leaders Operating in Eastern Congo

The United Nations imposed sanctions on leaders of armed groups operating in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, citing continued violence and regional instability. The measures include asset freezes and travel bans aimed at limiting militant financing while supporting international efforts to restore security in the conflict-affected region.



ECOWAS Endorses Nigeria–Morocco Atlantic Gas Pipeline Initiative

ECOWAS member states signed an agreement supporting the Nigeria–Morocco Atlantic Gas Pipeline, reaffirming regional commitment to cross-border energy infrastructure. The project is expected to strengthen regional energy integration, expand natural gas exports, improve energy security and promote long-term economic cooperation across West Africa.



World Bank Approves \$1.5 Billion Infrastructure Loan for South Africa

The World Bank approved a \$1.5 billion loan to support South Africa's infrastructure modernisation programme. The financing will strengthen energy, transport and public infrastructure, improve economic competitiveness and address structural constraints affecting long-term growth while supporting broader economic reform initiatives.

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Deadly Insurgent Ambush Highlights Mali's Escalating Security Crisis

Insurgents ambushed a Malian military convoy, reportedly killing more than fifty soldiers in one of the deadliest attacks of the year. The incident underscored the continued operational strength of militant groups and highlighted persistent challenges confronting Mali's counterterrorism strategy despite military partnerships.



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