

Africa's population to reach 1.18 billion in 2015, UN says

By Jerome Hule

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK (PANA) — Africa's population, now put at more than 738.7 million is expected to reach 1.18 billion in 2015, the Population Division of the United Nations said recently.

The projected 60 percent rise in the next 18 years is based on a scenario which assumes that fertility will stabilize at slightly over two children per woman by 2050.

By this projection, the world population will reach 7.28 billion by 2015, up from the current 5.76 billion. Currently, 12.8 percent of the people in the world live in Africa, the population division said.

With an annual population growth rate of 2.7 percent and a fertility level of 5.7 children per woman, Africa's population is increasing at the fastest rate in the world.

In terms of sub-regions, Eastern Africa comprising of 18 countries, has the highest population of 227.64 million. In this area, Ethiopia comes tops with 58.24 million persons followed by Tanzania with 30.8 million.

The 17 western African countries have 215.59 million persons. In this zone, Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is listed with 115 million people.

Nigeria, whose population is expected to hit 190.9 million in 2015, is ranked the 10th most populated country in the world. China, the most

populated country in the world, has 1.23 billion persons, about 21 percent of the world population.

The seven northern African countries have a total of 161.37 million people, while the nine central African states have 85.73 million people. The five southern African countries have a total of 48.41 million.

Current population growth rates show that central Africa has the highest average growth, 3.4 percent, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, formerly Zaire, having the highest growth rate, 3.9 percent.

Guinea has the fastest growing population with an annual growth rate of 4.9 percent. Its current population is just 7.5 million but may

reach 11.94 in 2015.

The UN projections show that Africa's population will nearly quadruple in 2150 to 2.8 billion. World population trends show that with the exception of Europe, whose population is expected to decline, all other parts will record increases, though at varying levels.

Current world population ranking places China at the top with 1.23 billion, followed by India with 945 million; United States, 269 million; Indonesia, 200 million and Brazil, 161 million.

Others following, in order of population, are: Russia, 148 million; Pakistan, 140 million; Japan, 125 million; Bangladesh 120 million and Nigeria, 115 million.

Winfrey

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show falsely portrayed U.S. cattle as being at risk of the disease.

Mad cow disease has never been detected in the United States.

The defense attorneys said the 1995 Texas law cited by the cattlemen protects perishable food products from knowingly false and defamatory statements.

"Under the plaintiffs'



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theory, any person in the United States who owned a cow has a

cause of action," defense attorney Charles Babcock said. "It creates too much danger, too much risk to people speaking about generic topics." Twelve other states have similar laws, but none has been tested in court.

Babcock argued that cattle feeders are the wrong people to use the perishable food law because livestock aren't in that category "in the sense that people could eat them."

"They have to go through another step in the chain—the slaughterhouse," Babcock said.

Plaintiffs' attorneys retorted, saying that cattle are a perishable food because the longer a cow is held, the lower the quality of the meat.

"If you don't market it (cattle) in a limited time frame, beef deteriorates," said Joe Coyne, who represents cattleman Paul Engler.

Memphis

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Spence said.

"The ordinance speaks to what the director of police must do when he receives a request from anyone for a permit to assemble, march or conduct a parade here in the city.

"Exactly how the rally or assembly is going to take place and the kinds of restrictions will be left up to the director of police who will ... oversee this ordinance and will make sure that anyone who assembles or conducts a parade complies with it," he said.

Extremists

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And there are plenty of locals who share a distrust of the government with separatist movements that have sprung up around the country, from Texas to Montana.

A group called The Army of God has claimed responsibility for the Birmingham bombing, as well as last year's bombing of an abortion clinic and a gay nightclub in Atlanta.

"We can't prevent groups like the Klan from coming to the city, but we can certainly restrict in part how they conduct their activity."

The last known public appearance of the Klan in Memphis was Oct. 31, 1923, according to local library records.

On that day, 2,000 Klansmen marched to the steps of the Shelby County Courthouse (Memphis is in Shelby county), demanding the disqualification of some officials after their candidate lost the city's mayoral election.

Gale Jones Carson writes for the Tri-State Defender

The Cherokee Scout, Murphy's weekly newspaper, recently received a letter that said, "Be Advised: The Army of God is more than one."

Lanny Mason, who owns a Christian bookstore in Murphy, said the area is getting a "bad rap" because of some outsiders.

"Most people around here are God-fearing citizens and want to do the right thing," Mason said.

American blacks admire Cubans, Farrakhan says

Special to Sentinel-Voice

HAVANA — While condemning Washington's three-decades-old Cuban economic embargo, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan on Tuesday said American blacks admired the example set by the Caribbean island and its revolution. The black activist also urged Cubans "not to stop" their fight against racism and oppression.

"There is not a member of the black masses in the United States who is not proud of the example set by Cuba and its revolution, with Comandante Fidel at its head," said Farrakhan, after arriving in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba for a two-day visit to Cuba. Farrakhan was also scheduled to fly to Havana to meet with Cuba's National Assembly President, Ricardo Alarcon.

After Havana, Farrakhan was to continue to Bermuda and then Canada as part of a world tour that has included stops in more than 30 countries since it began in December.

In comments quoted by the Cuban domestic news agency, AIN, Farrakhan said the purpose of his visit was to express support "for the Cuban people and their revolution."

"We condemn the cruel blockade against Cuba," said Farrakhan, referring to the U.S. government's more than 30-year-old economic embargo against the communist-ruled island. Farrakhan, who delivered a speech at Oriente University in Santiago de Cuba, was received on arrival by Juan Carlos Robinson, a member of the Politburo of Cuba's Communist Party and the city's senior party official.

Farrakhan said his organization and Cuba shared common objectives in the struggle for justice and equality and against racism and exploitation. Farrakhan was last in Cuba in 1996 when he met President Fidel Castro. Farrakhan left Havana on Wednesday for Bermuda and then Canada.

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