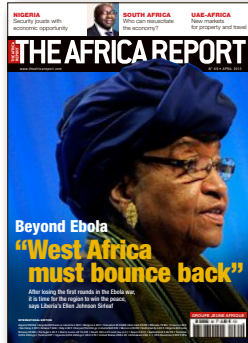


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NIGERIA – WHOSE VICTORY?

With the emergence of Muhammadu Buhari as Nigeria's new president [*'The real security vote', TAR69 Apr 2015*], the word on the street now is victory. But it is imperative to state that the defeat of Goodluck Jonathan isn't the victory of the electorates. Yes, the people voted for a man of their choice but the question of who/what made that man their choice remains unanswered. For those who understand a bit about Nigeria's presidential power play, one key factor that determines the outcome is [the candidate's] relationship with Nigeria's 'Five Pillars' – Gen. Theophilus Danjuma, Ibrahim Babangida, the Emir of Kano, Olusegun Obasanjo and the Oil Mafias. Unfortunately for President Jonathan, all these stood against him. This is a victory for democracy, it is a good step for politics but it isn't a victory for the people per se – rather a change of clothes for the 'Five Pillars'. Adekoya Boladale, Convener, Advocacy for Better Leadership (ABEL), Nigeria, via email



be enforced by military and economic means. Ghannouchi is therefore willing to compromise with his bitter enemies in order to keep a share of Tunisia's political power, offering concessions and keeping a low profile. Ennahda accepted to hold minor government positions, notwithstanding the fact it is Tunisia's second party in terms of number of votes. Just as Morocco's PJD found a niche inside the ruling Makhzen, Ennahda is entering Tunisia's elitist spheres of power. This is the long path to political Islam.

Youssef Cherif

Tunisian political analyst via email

STEEL IS NOT DELIVERING

Demand for steel is very high in Africa and in Nigeria in particular [*'Steele reserve required for takeoff', TAR68 Mar 2015*]. Africa's failure to meet the needs of the steel industry holds back its economy and is a result of successive governments neglecting this priority. Apart from Egypt and South Africa, African nations are conspicuously missing from the 2014 World Steel Association's report on steel production, consumption and exportation. That Nigeria does not feature among the world's top 50 steel producers says a lot about its "21 functioning steel rolling mills". All the

world's leading economies are also steel producers and until the steel sector is developed, African economies will continue to move at a snail's pace.

Dr. Anthony Nkem Ede

Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria, via email

STEALTH POLITICS

[**Ennahda leader**] **Rachid Ghannouchi** is getting close to Morocco's Abdelilah Benkirane in his political strategy [*'Battle for the soul of the state', TAR67 Feb 2015*]. The Troika era taught him there was still a radical opposition to political Islam in Tunisia, which could

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

I read with interest your opinion piece by Beata Kasale [*'How struggling made us strong', TAR67 Feb 2015*]. Women don't need to prove that they can hold the top jobs – they do that the world over – but they do need more employers to support them with the flexibility to get there. Single mothers are raising the next generation of the workforce and setting a great example for them in the process. The employers who recognise that and facilitate the way for women to progress in their careers while also raising children will get the best talent. My employer's consideration for my circumstances is crucial to me being effective at my job.

Kate Hamshar

via email

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