Ecowas meets Niger ousted president and junta leader

Putsch leaders are 'open to dialogue' but pursuing their own three-year transition plan back to democracy

A delegation from West Africa's main regional bloc Ecowas on Saturday met Niger's ousted President Mohamed Bazoum and held talks with junta leader General Abdourahmane Tiani in the capital Niamey.

The West African group is pursuing diplomatic ways to reverse the July 26 coup.

The coup leaders' acceptance of the mission could signal a new willingness to negotiate after the bloc on Friday doubled down on its threat to use force as a last resort to restore democracy.

It said an undisclosed "D-Day" had been agreed for possible military intervention.

While previous Ecowas missions have been rebuffed, Saturday's delegation was met at Niamey airport by the junta-appointed prime minister, an Ecowas source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The group that flew in was led by Nigeria's former military leader Abdulsalami Abubakar and included Ecowas commission President Omar Touray.

Nigerian presidential spokesperson Abdulaziz Abdulaziz posted a photo of the delegation meeting Bazoum.

"After meeting .... (junta leader) General Abdoulrahmane Tchiani, the Ecowas delegation in Niger have also visited President Mohamed Bazoum this evening," he posted on X.

He did not share details on the outcome of talks.

There was no immediate comment on the negotiations from the junta, which has detained Bazoum since seizing power despite international calls for his release.

But in a televised address to the nation on Saturday evening, Tiani said neither coup leaders nor "the Nigerien people want war and remain open to dialogue."

He cautioned that Niger was ready to defend itself if needed. "If an aggression were to be undertaken against us, it would not be the walk in the park that some believe," he said.

After meeting .... (junta leader) General Abdoulrahmane Tchiani, the Ecowas delegation in Niger have also visited President Mohamed Bazoum this evening

In the meantime, Tiani said the junta was pursuing its own agenda and would launch a national dialogue to consult on a transition back to democracy, which "should last no longer than three years."

Ecowas has taken a harder stance on the Niger coup, the wider region's seventh in three years, than it did on previous ones. The credibility of the bloc is at stake because it had said it would tolerate no further such overthrows.

Niger also has strategic importance for regional and global powers because of its uranium and oil reserves and role as a hub for foreign troops involved in the fight against the insurgents linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State.

Underscoring the interests at stake, the US state department said on Saturday it had sent a new ambassador to Niger whose "diplomatic focus will be to advocate for a diplomatic solution that preserves the constitutional order."

But the junta's vow to resist external pressure to stand down has been applauded by many in Niger.

Thousands of its supporters gathered at a stadium in Niamey on Saturday where the crowding was so great it prompted the postponement of an unofficial census of civilian volunteers for non-military roles if Ecowas does resort to force. — *Reuters*

Thousands flee wildfires on Spain's Tenerife, Canada's west coast

Wildfires on the Spanish island of Tenerife that have forced thousands to flee their homes remained out of control on Sunday, while in Canada, the number of people under evacuation orders doubled in the province of British Columbia.

Canada's western-most province declared a state of emergency on Friday as out-of-control fires ripped through interior British Columbia, partially shutting some sections of a key highway.

In Tenerife, orange flames lit up the night sky from Saturday into Sunday on hillsides just above the lights of inhabited areas, while thick black smoke billowed high into the air.

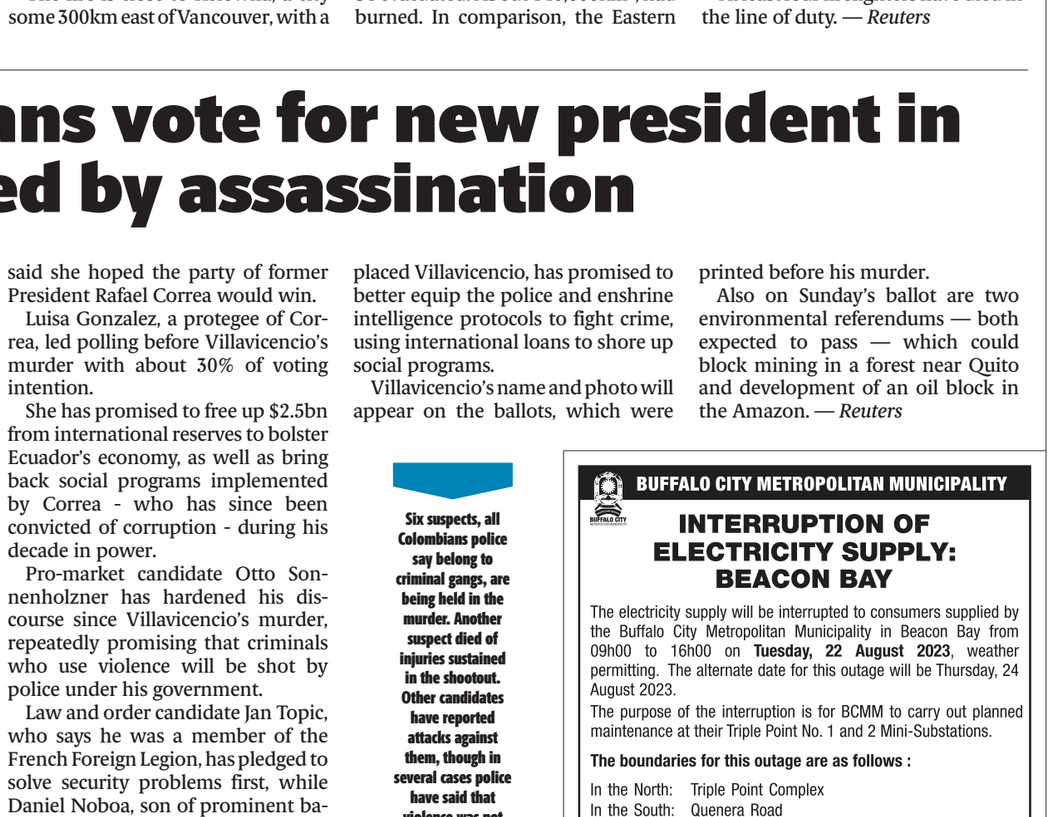
Late on Saturday, emergency services said the fire was affecting 10 towns, although 11 had been evacuated as a precaution.

Fernando Clavijo, Canary Islands' regional leader, said the largest firefighting deployment in the history of Tenerife had so-far prevented the loss of any homes.

The blaze broke out on Wednesday in a mountainous national park around the Mount Teide volcano, Spain's highest peak.

In Canada, British Columbian premier Daniel Eby said some 35,000 people were under an evacuation order, and a further 30,000 were under an evacuation alert.

Eby said the province is in dire need of shelter for evacuees and firefighters and ordered a ban on non-essential travel to make more temporary accommodation available. Officials also urged residents to avoid operating drones in the fire zone, saying it could impede firefighting efforts.



BURNING BRIGHT: The night sky is orange over the mountains after evacuations in the northern villages of Tenerife as wildfires rage out of control on the biggest of Spain's Canary Islands at the weekend. Picture: REUTERS/ NACHO DOCE

The fire is close to Kelowna, a city some 300km east of Vancouver, with a population of about 150,000.

By Friday, the fire had grown more than a hundredfold in 24 hours and forced more than 2,400 properties to be evacuated. About 140,000km², had burned. In comparison, the Eastern Cape's total area is 169,580km².

The fires have drained local resources and drawn in federal assistance as well as from 13 countries.

At least four firefighters have died in the line of duty. — *Reuters*

Ecuadoreans vote for new president in poll marred by assassination

Ecuadoreans went to the polls on Sunday to choose a new president and legislature they hope will lead the country out of a spiral of violence and economic troubles after a campaign darkened by bloodshed.

Candidates have pledged to fight sharp increases in crime, which the current government blames on drug gangs, and improve the struggling economy, whose woes have caused an uptick in unemployment and migration.

Security has taken centre stage in the contest since the August 9 murder of anti-corruption candidate Fernando Villavicencio, a former investigative journalist and lawmaker, who was gunned down while leaving a campaign event.

Six suspects, all Colombians police say belong to criminal gangs, are being held in the murder. Another suspect died of injuries sustained in the shootout. Other candidates have reported attacks against them, though in several cases police have said that violence was not directed at the hopefuls themselves.

"It makes me so ashamed that the country is going this way and deteriorating because of bad governments," said Monica Barba, 47, who said she hoped the party of former President Rafael Correa would win.

Luisa Gonzalez, a protegee of Correa, led polling before Villavicencio's murder with about 30% of voting intention.

She has promised to free up $2.5bn from international reserves to bolster Ecuador's economy, as well as bring back social programs implemented by Correa - who has since been convicted of corruption - during his decade in power.

Pro-market candidate Otto Sonnenholzner has hardened his discourse since Villavicencio's murder, repeatedly promising that criminals who use violence will be shot by police under his government.

Law and order candidate Jan Topic, who says he was a member of the French Foreign Legion, has pledged to solve security problems first, while Daniel Noboa, son of prominent banana businessman and former candidate Alvaro Noboa, has centered his campaign on job creation.

Environmentalist Indigenous candidate Yaku Perez has said he would revise mining concessions that do not comply with environmental and social rules and ask creditors for breathing room. Christian Zurita, who replaced Villavicencio, has promised to better equip the police and enshrine intelligence protocols to fight crime, using international loans to shore up social programs.

Villavicencio's name and photo will appear on the ballots, which were printed before his murder.

Also on Sunday's ballot are two environmental referendums — both expected to pass — which could block mining in a forest near Quito and development of an oil block in the Amazon. — *Reuters*

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BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

INTERRUPTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY: BEACON BAY

The electricity supply will be interrupted to consumers supplied by the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in Beacon Bay from 09h00 to 16h00 on **Tuesday, 22 August 2023**, weather permitting. The alternate date for this outage will be Thursday, 24 August 2023.

The purpose of the interruption is for BCMM to carry out planned maintenance at their Triple Point No. 1 and 2 Mini-Substations.

The boundaries for this outage are as follows :

In the North: Triple Point Complex
In the South: Quenera Road
In the East: Green Belt
In the West: St Helena Road

As the power may be restored at any time between these hours, consumers are warned to treat all apparatus as being live throughout the whole period. It is strongly recommended that all non-essential appliances be switched off or disconnected from the supply during this period in order to prevent damages thereto when the supply is restored. ***(5527)***

M. Yawa City Manager DD 18+21/08/23 *11285*

MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION BOARD

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE DETERMINATION OR RE-DETERMINATION OF MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES.

NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 28 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION ACT, 1998 (Eastern Cape)

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 28 of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act, 1998 (Act No. 27 of 1998) of the decision of the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) to hold public meetings on the proposed determination or re-determination of municipal boundaries as set out in the Schedule.
Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings.

At each public meeting a representative of the Board will:
(a) explain the issues the Board has to consider, including any options open to the Board, if any;
(b) allow members of the public attending the meeting to air their views on these issues; and
(c) answer relevant questions.

For more information contact **ayanda@demarcation.org.za** or send a fax to **086 524 8643**.

SCHEDULE

DEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	AFFECTED MUNICIPALITIES	TIME	DATE	PLACE
DEM6578	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Mhlontlo Local Municipality (EC156), O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15), Elundini Local Municipality (EC141) and Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14) by excluding a portion of Matolandile traditional council from the municipal areas of Elundini Local Municipality (EC141) and Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14), and by including it into the municipal areas of Mhlontlo Local Municipality (EC156) and O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15).	Mhlontlo Local Municipality (EC156) O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15) Elundini Local Municipality (EC141) Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	10H00	01 September 2023	Esizindeni Great Place, Mbinja A/A, Tsolo
DEM6506	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Mbhashe Local Municipality (EC121), Amathole District Municipality (DC12), Dr. A.B. Xuma Local Municipality (EC137) and Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13) by excluding Mbanga administrative area from the municipal area of Mbhashe Local Municipality (EC121), and by including it into the municipal area of Dr. A.B. Xuma Local Municipality (EC137) and Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13).	Mbhashe Local Municipality (EC121) Amathole District Municipality (DC12) Dr. A.B. Xuma Local Municipality (EC137) Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	10H00	04 September 2023	Komkhulu, Mbanga A/A. Dutywa
DEM6612	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Mnquma Local Municipality (EC122) and Mbhashe Local Municipality (EC121) by excluding Hlobo and Emgcwe administrative areas from the municipal area of Mnquma Local Municipality (EC122), and by including them into the municipal area of Mbhashe Local Municipality (EC121).	Mnquma Local Municipality (EC122) Mbhashe Local Municipality (EC121)	10H00	05 September 2023	Qoliwe Junior Secondary School, Hlobo A/A, Ngqamakhwe
DEM6599	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EC139) and Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (EC131) by excluding Hofmeyer community (portions of Wards 28 and 34) from the municipal area of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EC139), and by including it into the municipal area of Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (EC131).	Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EC139) Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (EC131)	10H00	05 September 2023	Spitskop Farm, Molteno
DEM6609	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EC139) and Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (EC131) by excluding the Hofmeyer community from the municipal area of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EC139), and by including it into the municipal area of Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (EC131).	Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EC139) Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality (EC131)	10H00	06 September 2023	Town Hall, No 24, Molteno Street, Hofmeyer
DEM6580	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality (EC129), Amathole District Municipality (DC12), Blue Crane Route Local Municipality (EC102) and Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10) by excluding Bedford town community from the municipal areas of Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality (EC129) and Amathole Local Municipality (DC12), and by including it into the municipal areas of Blue Crane Route Local Municipality (EC102) and Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10).	Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality (EC129) Amathole District Municipality (DC12) Blue Crane Route Local Municipality (EC102) Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	10H00	26 September 2023	Msobomvu Community Hall, Bhongweni Location, Ntlama Street, Bedford
DEM6501	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Ngqushwa Local Municipality (EC126), Amathole District Municipality (DC12) and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF) by excluding Nxwashu/Tyip-Tyip village from the municipal areas of Ngqushwa Local Municipality (EC126) and Amathole District Municipality (DC12), and by including them into the municipal area of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF).	Ngqushwa Local Municipality (EC126) Amathole District Municipality (DC12) Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	10H00	27 September 2023	Sekunjalo Training Centre (Tyip-Tyip), Main Hall, R346 between King William's Town and East London.
DEM6500	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Intsika Yethu Local Municipality (EC135) and Sakhisizwe Local Municipality (EC138) by excluding Lower Seplan and Emaqwathini villages from the municipal area of Intsika Yethu Local Municipality (EC135), and by including them into the municipal area of Sakhisizwe Local Municipality (EC138).	Intsika Yethu Local Municipality (EC135) Sakhisizwe Local Municipality (EC138)	10H00	28 September 2023	Lower Seplan Shearing Shed, Lower Seplan A/A, Cala
DEM6587	Proposed redetermination of the municipal boundaries of Amahlathi Local Municipality (EC124), Amathole District Municipality (DC12) and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF) by excluding eThembeni village from the municipal areas of Amahlathi Local Municipality (EC124) and Amathole District Municipality (DC12), and by including it into the municipal area of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF).	Amahlathi Local Municipality (EC124) Amathole District Municipality (DC12) Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	10H00	29 September 2023	eThembeni Tribal Hall, eThembeni Village

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