

# MEMORANDUM

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***Due to technical reasons this issue of the Memorandum is delayed***

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## LIBERTY EXPANDS INTO BOTSWANA AND MALAWI



SA's number four insurer, Liberty Holdings, will buy stakes in two unlisted short-term insurers in Malawi and Botswana as part of its planned expansion into the rest of Africa, the company said on Wednesday. Liberty will buy Botswana short-term insurer Prefsure and take a majority stake in Malawi-based private short-term insurer Charter Insurance Company, Liberty said in a statement. Financial details about the transactions were not disclosed.

The acquisitions form part of Liberty's strategy of growth into Africa, which has a growing number of people who can invest in insurance to protect their wealth and assets.

"Liberty aims to become one of the leading insurers in the growing East, Central and Southern African regions," said Liberty CEO Thabo Dloti.

Charter has a 5% market share in Malawi while Prefsure services Botswana's retail consumer market. Liberty is majority-owned by Standard Bank, which has also expanded its presence on the continent in recent years. (Reuters 19-10-2016)

## IRISH FIRM POSTS RECORD PRODUCTION IN THIRD QUARTER IN MOZAMBIQUE

Irish mining firm, Kenmare Resources says it posted healthy production in the third quarter of 2016, and a decline in operating costs in Mozambique, APA can report.

Kenmare Resources, which operates the titanium minerals dredge mine at Moma, in the northern Mozambican province of Nampula, said in a media statement emailed to APA on Tuesday that its results for the third quarter, the production of finished products between July and September was a record and "Moma is on track to achieve record finished product output for the full year".

The mine produces ilmenite, titanium, iron oxide, rutile and zircon (zirconium silicate).

Kenmare said its ilmenite production in the third quarter was 243,500 tonnes, 12 per cent higher than the previous quarter, while zircon production increased by 48 per cent to 19,700 tonnes.

The company says the total shipment of finished products in the quarter was 280,800 tonnes, which compares with 190,000 tonnes in the third quarter of 2015.

The main consumer of ilmenite is China and the ilmenite price in China has risen by 70 per cent so far this year, while the mine's cash operating costs per tonne trended downwards over the quarter.

The Kenmare managing director, Michael Cargill said in the statement that the record output of finished products in the third quarter demonstrated the benefits of a stable power supply to the mine and of the increased mining of higher grades of ore.

He believed that Kenmare "is well positioned to benefit from increasingly favourable operational and market dynamics in 2017". (APA 18-10-2016)

## KENYAN LEADER WOOS US INVESTORS

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Tuesday said Kenya has one of the best business environments for any entrepreneur willing to invest and he urged American investors to consider investing in the East African nation.

Speaking when he held discussions with board members of US Chamber of Commerce US-Africa Business Centre (USAfBC) who paid him a courtesy call in Nairobi on Tuesday, Kenyatta said for the last three years, Kenya has undertaken legal and political reforms which are aimed at making the country one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world.

“Before I leave office, I want to make Kenya one of the top fifty attractive investment destinations in the world,” said the President.

He said the media freedom, judiciary independence and many other reforms being undertaken in the country are aimed at creating a stable society which would enable any investor have a desire to set shop in the country.

When asked about the challenges facing Kenya because of the European Union trade agreement with the East African Community member states, he pointed out that the challenges facing the Economic Partnership Agreement are temporary.

“The reality on the ground is different, we have a tripartite agreement between EAC, COMESA and SADC which I think needs to be fast-tracked because what matters to our people is business,” said the President.

Kenyatta pointed out that Kenya has no favourites in doing business but is willing to engage all willing partners to accelerate economic development.

He singled out the partnership between the government and some private companies including major US firms in providing efficient medical services through the Managed Equipment Services (MES), pointing out that there are many more opportunities for investors willing to engage the government in providing social services.

He noted that there are so many areas of investment in the infrastructure, information, communication and technology, health, education and agriculture sectors.

He urged the USAfBC members to seek to partner with the Kenyan private sector who would help them penetrate the local and regional markets.

The USAfBC is holding its first ever board meeting in Africa in Nairobi.

The US chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses in the United States.(APA 18-10-2016)

## BARCLAYS AFRICA: LOOKS LIKE NO SINGLE BUYER WILL TAKE CONTROL



Is Barclays Africa (BAGL) destined to become an orphan with no parent company? It has been five months since the book build in which UK lender Barclays Plc disposed of 12,2% of its holding in BAGL to a wide range of shareholders (see Financial Mail May 12-May 18). That was the easy part, and with 50.1% of the shares, Barclays is just a handful of shares away from relinquishing control.

BAGL deputy CEO David Hodnett says the process has not taken longer than expected, as there was always a two- to three-year horizon for completion.

BAGL and Barclays Plc have the complex task of ensuring that the operational separation of the two groups is orderly and, of course, that it preserves value for both sets of shareholders.

Barclays was at least able to give some news to impatient shareholders and analysts last week.

It has sold its 150-year-old Egyptian subsidiary to Attijariwafa Bank, the largest bank in Morocco, for US\$500m. Barclays Plc and the then Absa could not agree on the right commercial terms to buy Barclays in Egypt or Zimbabwe, and officially BAGL has no regrets.

Andrew Vintcent, a portfolio manager at ClucasGray, says he can't see any reason why most shareholders wouldn't want to increase their holding in BAGL through a second round of book building.

"It is on a dividend yield of 6,5% and a p:e of nine, and a book build would be at a discount to that. And it's not as if it is a bad business. It is well managed with a strong SA brand in Absa."

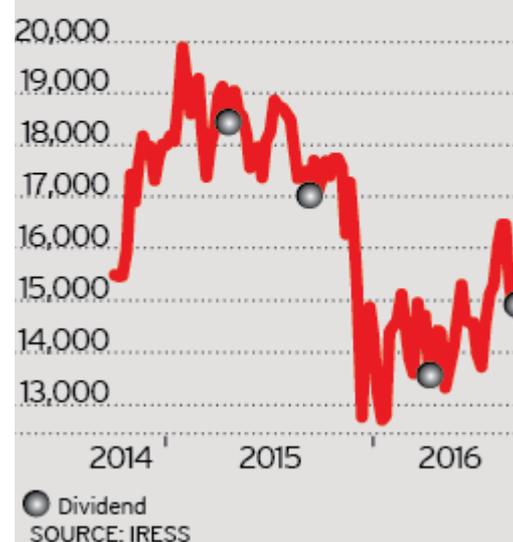
In the half year to June, BAGL, under CEO Maria Ramos, had headline earnings per share growth of 7%, as good as market leader FirstRand.

And BAGL has continued to evolve in spite of the distraction of the divorce.

Hodnett, a competent executive, has been put in charge of the entire SA banking business and promises the component businesses will work much closer together, while former Tiger Brands head Peter Matlare — though he has a controversial past — is in charge of African operations and has already done a lightning tour of all the operations, no doubt relieved that there aren't any flour mills.

Barclays will be forced to consolidate BAGL in its accounts until it reduces its holding to between 15% and 20%. The next step is likely to be a big-bang sale of about 30% of BAGL.

**UPTREND**  
Barclays Africa share price (c)  
— weekly



Perhaps 5%-10% of the equity can be brought in to rebuild the staff incentive scheme. Besides the book build among a wide range of shareholders, and possibly some new foreign institutions, there are talks behind the scenes to build a black empowerment consortium to take a 10%-15% stake. But unlike the Batho Bonke consortium, which sold its interest in Absa four years ago, the members of this consortium will be expected to pay their own way.

The Public Investment Corp (PIC) is leading the discussions. "The PIC is still keen on participating in a consortium that could buy a further stake in BAGL," says Deon Botha, head of corporate affairs, "though nothing concrete has come out of these discussions yet."

Botha says the PIC wants potential partners in the consortium to be in a position to fund their portion of shares.

But it is likely that the PIC will stop short of becoming the shareholder of reference. It does not own its funds, nor are they government's assets. They are managed on behalf of the members and pensioners of the Government Employees Pension Fund. And they require a liquid balanced portfolio, not a financial services empire. It is also not clear if the PIC qualifies strictly speaking as a BEE shareholder.

Botha says the Reserve Bank would have to approve before the PIC could become a shareholder of reference in any bank.

One name always comes up when cash-flush black empowerment companies are discussed and that is African Rainbow Capital (ARC), controlled by billionaire Patrice Motsepe and the rest of the Ubuntu-Botho consortium, which is Sanlam's empowerment partner.

ARC co-CEO Johan van der Merwe says its preference is to take investments of at least 25% in niche companies such as asset manager Colourfield Liability Solutions and insurance broker Indwe Risk Services.

It recently broke this rule, however, to take a 10% holding in Alexander Forbes. An investment of, say, 5% in BAGL would take the bulk of ARC's remaining free cash, though of course it has plenty of scope to gear.

The highest-profile interest in taking control of BAGL came from former Barclays CE Bob Diamond's Atlas Merchant Capital in conjunction with his joint venture partner in Africa, Ashish Thakkar.

Of course, next to Motsepe they look rather puny. Atlas Mara was always too small to take control of BAGL; its market cap of about R6bn is dwarfed by the R70bn value of Barclays' half share in BAGL. Its ticket to the game was the partnership of the giant private equity firm Carlyle.

But the SA Reserve Bank has made it clear that it does not want private equity investors controlling one of the big four banks. Carlyle promised to put in permanent capital and also to have a caring, sharing attitude and not take the traditional slash-and-burn approach typical of the private equity industry. But they remain pariahs at Church Square, as does its Dubai-based competitor Abraaj, which has formally pulled out of the bidding.

After the experience of Barclays, which is pulling out of SA for the second time — now after a sojourn of just 12 years — the Reserve Bank should have a more jaundiced view of the value of a shareholder of reference. A few names have come up as potential buyers, all in the Middle East and East Asia, such as Qatar National Bank and the China Construction Bank. And all these banks operate more discreetly than, say, Diamond, so they won't talk until they are absolutely ready.

But it looks increasingly likely that BAGL will revert, as it was in Absa days, to being an independent widely held bank. (BD 15-10-2016)

## **WORLD BANK PLEDGES US\$1BN TO SUPPORT AFRICA'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

The World Bank has pledged US\$1 billion to support the agriculture sector in sub-Saharan Africa, APA learns here Tuesday.

The amount, according to the World Bank Director for the African Region External Communication (AFREC) Haleh Bridi, represents an increase from US\$700 million since 2006.

A dispatch from the World Bank quoted Bridi as making the pledge during the celebration of this year's "End Poverty Day" held Monday during which the world's largest financial institution renewed its commitment to increase its support to the region's agriculture sector.

Bridi identified the lack of effective policy to govern the continent's agriculture sector as the weaker point, rather than the acquisition of land, finance, machines and capacity, as argued by some participants in Monday's event.

She noted that policy on agriculture plays a critical role in helping the sector as there are needs for resilient centers to upgrade agriculture.

Some participants, including those from Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia, argued that bank investment does not match the reality in their respective countries.

They said they want the World Bank to revisit its strategies to ensure that the support achieves its anticipated outcome.

This year's "End Poverty Day" was celebrated under the global theme "Food and jobs: fighting poverty through sustainable agriculture."

The discussion focused on how Sub-Sahara Africa can use agriculture to, end poverty. (APA 18-10-2016)

## UGANDA'S CENTRAL BANK FURTHER REDUCES LENDING RATE BY 1%

Uganda's central bank, the Bank of Uganda, has reduced its lending rate to other banks also known as the Central Bank Rate (CBR) from 14% to 13%.

This is the fourth time in a row that the Bank of Uganda is reducing the rate this year.

While announcing the October monetary policy statement to journalists in Kampala on Tuesday morning, Governor of the Bank, Professor Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile said the CBR cut was informed by better prospects within the economy, especially inflation, which remains within the Bank's target.

Mutebile says the move is aimed at facilitating domestic economic growth amid a core inflation projected to remain around 5% in the medium term over the next 12 months.

"Given that core inflation is forecast to remain around the medium term target of 5 percent over the next 12 months, there is room to support the domestic economic growth momentum especially against the ongoing global economic slowdown. Therefore, the Bank believes that there is scope to ease monetary policy," Mutebile said in a statement.

According to the monetary policy, the economy is projected to grow by 5.0% in the 2016/17 financial year.

The Bank's expectation is that commercial banks will also react to ease of the CRB by reducing interest rates on their loans although this is not an automatic case, said the statement. (APA 18-10-2016)

## FLEDGLING AIRLINES ARE CLIPPING MANGO'S WINGS



New entrants to the domestic market such as Fly Blue Crane and FlySafair are putting pressure on South African Airways subsidiary Mango, which recently posted its second loss in its 10-year history. Mango is also in the hunt for a new CEO following Nico Bezuidenhout's departure earlier in 2016. Bezuidenhout was head-hunted by Fast Jet.

SAA's integrated annual report shows Mango made a net loss in 2015-16 despite a 21% increase in passenger numbers.

More details have not been made available.

A R100m facility remains open "for Mango to utilise at its own discretion as and when it needs cash funding. SAA does not expect Mango to utilise the facility within the next 12 months," SAA said in the report.

Mango spokesman Hein Kaiser said Mango was "in a closed period vis-à-vis its results".

It would issue a statement "in due course" following their annual meeting, scheduled to take place "in the next couple of weeks".

"Mango will soon commence the search for the new CEO," Kaiser added.

"Advertisements for the position will be placed as soon as all governance processes are in motion," he said.

Parent company SAA made a R1.5bn loss in 2014-15. Mango has seen increased competition from new entrants including Skywise, Fly Blue Crane and FlySafair that have put it under much pressure.

The Competition Commission is in the process of investigating a possible breach of the Competition Act by SAA and Mango after a complaint by the DA.

In September Comair, the British Airways affiliate, reported a 12% decline in profit to R193m in the year to June and blamed a weaker rand.

Comair CEO Erik Venter said in June that the airline was "happy to hear that the Competition Commission will launch an investigation into the dealings between SAA and Mango".

Transport economist and aviation expert Joachim Vermooten said SAA's decision to keep 10 Boeing 737-800 that were meant to be replaced by smaller A-320s meant about 50% more airlift was in the market. "There is too much capacity in the market at the moment, that is in the mainline routes," he said. (BD 10-10-2016)

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### **MOZAMBIQUE HOSTS CONFERENCE ON TOURISM INVESTMENT**

Mozambique's Culture and Tourism Minister Silva Dunduro on Tuesday opened an International Investment Conference on Tourism that aims to discuss public policies to promote tourism as economic development vector for the country.

Officially opening the conference, Dunduro said issues discussed during the meeting are expected to serve as guidelines for better coordination of actions between the government and the private sector.

The Mozambican official said, however, that the conference is the way that the Mozambican government will continue to develop for the private sector to be more active and feel part of public policies that favour

the reduction of social inequalities in the country.

According Dunduro, tourism represents US\$1.5 trillion of global income each year and handles about 1.1 billion international arrivals.

The conference, running under the theme "Tourism, the Shaper Factor of Social and Economic Growth", is on the sidelines of the fourth edition of the "Discover Mozambique" international tourism fair.

The fair is taking place in the capital Maputo and aims to encourage investment in tourism and to promote debate on the best ways of contributing to the development of the sector. (APA 18-10-2016)

## THE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL REALITY OF MIGRATION IN CITIES: EU-FUNDED PROJECTS HOLD SIDE EVENT AT UN HABITAT III CONFERENCE



The EU-funded MIEUX (Migration EU eXpertise) initiative and MC2CM project (Mediterranean City-to-City Migration) yesterday held a side event at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) held in Quito, Ecuador on 17 – 20 October. The aim of the event is to explore the role of cities in the migration agenda, illustrating the urban reality of migration, as well as its complex ramifications and opportunities at local level.

The MC2CM “city-to-city” project works with nine major cities from both sides of the Mediterranean to address these issues. The idea is to collect diverse experiences from various cities, increase the knowledge base on urban migration, nurture a peer-to-peer dialogue among the participating cities to support mutual learning and, finally, engage in actions based on the findings and experiences.

Together with their partner UN Habitat, MC2CM and MIEUX have defined five objectives for the event at Habitat III which recently announced the participation of more than 35 000 participants:

1. illustrate how cities address the multidimensional reality of migration by developing effective local strategies and policies;
2. discuss the role of supranational level and multi-level governance in addressing this urban dimension of migration;
3. draw on preliminary results of the MC2CM project, currently bringing together nine cities: Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangiers, Tunis, Turin and Vienna;
4. present the MIEUX initiative which supports local authorities to better manage migration;
5. receive input and ideas on how to improve migration governance at city level through dialogue, knowledge and action.

(EEAS 18-10-2016)

## OUTGOING UN CHIEF URGES ALL TO DEMOLISH WALLS OF POVERTY, EXCLUSION

Outgoing United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon has called on governments and people around the world to break down the walls of poverty and exclusion that continue to plague so many people in every region.

In a statement issued here Monday to mark the day, Ban said as the world observes the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, nations around the world must build inclusive societies that promote participation by all as well as ensure that the voices of all those living in poverty are heard.

The UNSG thinks that poverty is both a cause and consequence of marginalization and social exclusion and as such to fulfill the promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, the humiliation and exclusion of people living in poverty must be adequately addressed.

Ban said UN member nations are approaching the first year of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said the 2030 Agenda is a universal vision for peace, prosperity and dignity for all people on a healthy planet, noting that achieving such objective is inconceivable without fulfilling the mandate of SDG-1 to end poverty in all its forms.

According to Mr. Ban, humiliation and exclusion are powerful drivers of social unrest and, in extreme cases, the violent extremism that is troubling so many parts of the world.

He indicated that in most instances, people living in poverty respond to these societal ills with stoic resilience as they work to escape the degrading reality of their daily lives.

According to Mr. Ban, over one billion people are living in extreme poverty and more than 800 million endure hunger and malnutrition, noting that, "poverty is not simply measured by inadequate income, but it is also manifested in restricted access to health, education and other essential services."

"The duty of all governments and societies is to address systemic socio-economic inequalities and facilitate the engagement of all people living in extreme poverty so they can help themselves, their families and their communities to build a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for all," Ban indicated. (APA 18-10-2016)

## UEMOA: INTERBANK TRANSACTIONS INCREASES TO 5.2 PERCENT IN AUGUST



The weekly average volume of interbank transactions in West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) zone recorded a 5.2 percent increase in August compared to the previous month, APA learned on Tuesday at the headquarters of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) in Dakar. This volume stood at CFA159.1 billion francs during the period under review against CFA 151.3 billion francs in July, an increase of CFA7.8 billion francs (CFA1 francs equivalent to \$0.0017).

The weighted average rate of transactions stood at 4.62 percent against an achievement of 4.85 percent a month earlier.

On the market, the average transactions volume increased to 11.4 percent, to stand at CFA 66.1 billion

francs. The weekly average interest rate stood at 4.15 percent, being stable compared to previous month. (APA 18-10-2016)

### **TANZANIA: WE WON'T ACCEPT CONDITIONAL AID, VICE PRESIDENT REITERATES**

The Vice President, Ms Samia Suluhu Hassan, has reiterated that the government won't give in to stringent conditions by some of the donors in order to get financial support.

She said the government will use its own resources to build its economy.

The VP made the remark when addressing wananchi at Msamvu, Morogoro district, as well as in Gairo district during stop-overs on her way to Dodoma at the weekend.

Ms Hassan said the government would gladly accept support from well-intentioned Good Samaritans who don't attach strings to the aid, but would reject outright, support to which conditions that run counter to the country's principles are attached.

"We cannot accept funds on condition of, say, endorsing same sex marriages. This cannot be tolerated. We shall run our country using our own money and resources," she stressed. The VP also emphasized the civic and patriotic obligation of wananchi to pay taxes.

"We need to ensure that we pay taxes drawn from the money we make in our various businesses in order to bring about the development of our country," she emphasised, adding: " We can only build our country if we collect enough internal revenue and we are the ones to do so. We don't need to depend on donors," she said.

On land disputes between farmers and pastoralists, the VP hit out at some grassroots leaders as the major source of the problem.

She said some village leaders have been colluding with some financially well to do people by selling off land and being bribed in return.

"Those who would be conclusively established to be involved in the dubious deals would face the full force of the law," she declared.

She urged pastoralists and farmers to love each other and stop fighting for land.

"Peace between you farmers and pastoralists is of great importance. If you quarrel sit down, talk over the issue and reconcile; but don't fight," she stressed, as she relayed a message from President Magufuli on the issue.

Ms Hassan called on wananchi to report to the authorities, suspicious characters who could be criminals, some of whom reportedly live in nearby forests. (BD 18-10-2016)

### **KENYA TO SEEK SUGAR SAFEGUARD FROM COMESA**

Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto is expected to request an extension of the sugar safeguard from Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Countries (COMESA) to the country at the ongoing 19th Heads of State and Government Summit in Madagascar.

Kenya is seeking the extension considering the current safeguard which was granted in 2015 is due to expire in February.

A critical evaluation shows despite the gains made by the sugar industry in Kenya during the period of protection, the country is still unable to compete on equal terms due to in-built structural weaknesses such as a highly fragmented land tenure system.

Kenya has already exhausted the allowable maximum limit of 10 years for capping cheaper imports.

The expiry of the quota tariffs in February will expose the Kenyan market to stiff competition from sugar made cheaply from within the trading bloc.

The East African nation produces about 600,000 tonnes of sugar a year, compared with annual consumption of 800,000 tonnes. The deficit is covered by strictly controlled imports.(APA 18-10-2016)

### **NEW EGYPTIAN-SAUDI FIRM TO BUILD \$1BN-STEEL COMPLEX IN SUEZ CANAL REGION**

The Egyptian Suez Canal Authority (SCA) signed on Tuesday a partnership agreement with a Saudi organisation on forming a joint-stock company to establish an iron and steel factory in Ain Sukhna in eastern Egypt.

SCA Chairman Mohab Mameesh stated that the new factory would be built on a plot of land owned by the authority to operate with the capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of steel annually.

Mameesh clarified that the partnership agreement is worth US\$500 million while the contracted investments are estimated at US\$1 billion.

The chairman added that the set-to-be-built plant is set to be the core for establishing a complex for iron and steel industries.

The newly-formed company is named Suez Canal for Iron and Steel, Mameesh noted.

He added that the partnership agreement comes among SCA policy to upgrade its affiliates and forming new partnerships with international firms and organisations to boost national income and provide more job opportunities for the youth.

On the other hand, the Saudi organisation affirmed that the signed partnership is a beginning for a number of contracts that target establishing more industries in Egypt through Saudi-Egyptian cooperation between economic and industrial authorities from the two countries.(APA 18-10-2016)

### **EU PROPOSES FIRST RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO INCREASE FOOD AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY**



The European Commission presented today a proposal for a Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area - [PRIMA](#). The first partnership of its kind in the Mediterranean basin aiming to develop much-needed [novel solutions for sustainable water management and food production](#).

*"EU research and innovation is open to the world so we can tackle global challenges together. This Euro-Mediterranean partnership is an excellent example of where pooling knowledge and money can make a huge difference. It will bring more clean water and food to the people, boost local economies and create jobs. Through PRIMA, research and innovation will play a crucial role in addressing the root causes of migration,"* said EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas.

The Commission's proposal already includes Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. The participation of Germany is currently under negotiation. As the initiative is evolving over time, more participants are expected to follow, both EU and non-EU countries.

Funding for the EUR 400 million partnership will come from the participating countries (currently around EUR 200 million), matched by a EUR 200 million contribution from the EU through its current research framework programme Horizon 2020. The partnership is scheduled to run for 10 years, starting in 2018. (EEAS 18-10-2016)

[The PRIMA initiative](#)

[Question & Answer on PRIMA](#)

## RWANDA CHAMPIONS MOROCCO'S RETURN TO AU



Rwanda's Foreign Affairs and Cooperation minister, Louise Mushikiwabo said it was time Morocco rejoined the African Union (AU) more than thirty years after it left the organization's forerunner the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of events linked to King Mohammed VI's official visit to Rwanda, on Wednesday, Mushikiwabo declared: "It is time for Morocco to join its African brothers and sisters".

She said her country was "very positively" welcoming Morocco's quest for reintegrating into the "African family".

The head of Rwandan diplomacy added: "For Rwanda, Morocco belongs to Africa, it is an African country. The kingdom is a founding member of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and so we strongly welcomed Morocco's request to officially return within the African family, the rest is procedural".

According to Mushikiwabo, several African countries had welcomed the return of Morocco within the pan-African organization.

She said the reasons which precipitated Morocco's absence from the AU for 32 years, "can all be discussed within the African family."

In September, Morocco officially requested to rejoin the AU, an organization it left in 1984 in protest against the admission of the Arab Democratic Sahrawi Republic (RASD).

“The Kingdom of Morocco has officially submitted a request for access to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and thereby become a member,” said an AU statement, two months after Morocco expressed its wish to return. (APA 19-10-2016)

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