MEMORANDUM

N°105/2016 | 18/05/2016

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.
More than 1,556 Memoranda issued from 2006 to end of 2015. More than 18,350 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.
Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

2006 – 2015, 9 Years devoted to reinforce Europe – Africa Business and Development

SUMMARY

TANZANIA: DAR INVITES OMAN TO INVEST IN SUGAR SECTOR

Tanzania has invited Omani companies to invest in sugarcane production in the country, in a move aimed at meeting local demand.

The invitation was extended to the Omani Minister for Industry and Trade Dr Ali Bin Masoud during his recent visit to the country to lobby for investment opportunities.

Tanzania has been facing a sugar shortages since President John Magufuli placed a ban on imports. The price per kilo has risen from Tsh1,800 ($0.82) to Tsh2,500 ($1.14).

Earlier, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Mwigulu Nchemba announced that the government had set aside 294,000 hectares to be allocated to companies looking to develop sugarcane plantations.

The minister said the land would be allocated to investors through a tendering process, to be co-ordinated by the Tanzania Investment Centre.

Mr Nchemba said that the Tanzanian government is currently campaigning to attract small and medium investors to inject their capital into sugar factories. He said that the actual demand for sugar in Tanzania stands at 420,000 tonnes per year while local production stood at 304,007 tonnes last year.

Tanzania’s Minister for Industry and Trade Charles Mwijage said the country has been looking for sugarcane producers from Oman to invest in the cultivation of the crop.

Tanzania and Oman last month established a company to co-ordinate investments and business between the two countries. Registered as Oman Tanzania Investment Company, the firm has put up $25 million as starting capital to be disbursed to private investors as loans.

Dr Masoud was accompanied by more than 100 business executives from Oman, who included 12 (The East African 07-05-2016)

EGYPT TO ESTABLISH SKYTRAIN WORTH $4.5BN

Egypt's Prime Minister Sherif Ismail met on Tuesday with the Canadian ambassador in Cairo and representatives of Bombardier Inc. to discuss the establishment of a monorail (a single rail skytrain) to link Giza and 6th of October City.

The project, in which the multinational Canadian transportation company will play a part, aims to facilitate means of transport for Giza residents, and will be a step toward solving the problem of overpopulation in urban centers, said Ismail during the meeting.

"The Cabinet attaches great importance to the transport sector during the current period," he stated. "[We are] propelling the studies on the project forward especially studies on the economic aspects of maintenance, operating cost and the project's funding aiming to see them completed as soon as possible," he added.

Cabinet Spokesperson Hossam al-Qawish said the meeting dealt with details on the cost and means of funding the project, the stages of implementation, train capacity, joint investment between the government and Bombardier Inc. in terms of the implementation, maintenance and management processes, and the company's partnership in a number of other projects in the transport sector.

The skytrain enjoys many advantages in terms of ease of construction and the use of environmentally friendly energy.

The rail line is planned to be 35 km long, divided over ten stations and will transport about 270,000 passengers a day. The journey time from Giza to 6th of October City will be 38 minutes.

Sources from within the National Authority for Tunnels revealed that the project is expected to cost $4.5 billion (1$=8.78 EGP) and will be constructed in three stages. The sources criticized the project, though, describing it as a luxury, adding that the money should be funneled instead into developing the metro lines.

This, they said, would help alleviate the overcrowding problem in Greater Cairo.(APA 11-05-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL PRECIOUS STONES FAIR

The city of Nacala, northern Mozambique, from 12 to 15 September will this year host the first edition of the International Precious Stones Fair, said the Nampula provincial director of Mineral Resources.

Olavo Deniasse said that the fair, which is expected to be annual, aims to “enhance mining by national operators, which are internally not finding space to market their production,” according to Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias.

“The event will also serve as a place for the different actors dealing with materials related to mining, including precious metals and their derivatives to exhibit and sell their products,” added the provincial director of Mineral Resources.

The choice of Nacala for the first edition of the International Precious Stones Fair, according to Deniasse, was due to the city having a deep water port and more recently have a new international airport, “enough conditions to attract national and international operators to exhibit their products.”

The international gem fair will be hosted before the commemoration of the days of the city of Nacala and the Island of Mozambique, which are celebrated on 16 and 17 September, respectively. (11-05-2016)

‘GREAT WALL OF AFRICA’ PLANNED TO HOLD BACK THE SAHARA

A massive-scale project proposed by the African Union, partly funded by the EU, will see a wall of trees erected at the edge of the Sahara, in an attempt to prevent the desert encroaching further.

It’s a project to rival the Great Wall of China and Game of Thrones’ formidable barrier that protects the inhabitants of Westeros from the horrors to the north. The Great Green Wall is Africa’s solution to the rapidly expanding Sahara desert. It would eventually see a wall of greenery extending from Senegal on the Atlantic cost to Djibouti on the Gulf of Aden.

In 2007, the African Union officially launched the project, but it has been mooted for decades, since Richard St. Barbe Baker, a British environmental activist, suggested it back in the 1950s. The aim is to prevent the further degradation of soil and desertification of local communities in 14 countries. The wall, which would be 15 metres deep, forms part of a development programme in sub-Saharan countries which has already exported its ideas to other parts of the world such as Haiti and Fiji.

To assess the project’s progress and the challenges that lie ahead, the participating countries will be meeting this week in Dakar, Senegal, where a state-of-play about the “next wonder of the world” will be presented. The nations involved in building the Great Green Wall are under no illusion that the project is a magic bullet to stop desertification.

“Countries like Senegal have replanted a lot, but it gets to a point when that’s not enough,” said Nora Berrahmouni of the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), one of the international bodies taking part along with the European Commission and the World Bank.

In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, they are working on using medicinal and edible plants, with an emphasis on water conservation. Projects such as those being pushed by the FAO have put a special emphasis on using local varieties that are adapted to the climate and conditions of the region. Traditional planting and management techniques are also being used, so that local people will be able to take care of the wall once it is completed.

The main criticisms that have been levied against the idea revolve around the one-size-fits-all approach that has been taken to the problem. The huge variety of landscapes, environments and cultures to be found between Africa's west and east coast has caused people to question whether such a project really is the best way forward.

However, the plan's proponents have pointed out that the additional projects being run and the participation of local communities means that the people who need it most are being given a way in which to support themselves and their families. Reclaiming land from the desert means that wildlife benefits and a surge in eco-tourism is expected to be another knock-on effect.

The paradox of the wall means that it will serve to unite countries, not divide them. At the border regions of Mali and Niger, many of the local communities have ignored national boundaries in order to collaborate with each other on plant propagation and water conservation schemes. UN land governance expert Camilla Nordheim-Larsen highlighted that the opportunities being unearthed by the development projects means that the causes that lead people to migrate are being addressed.

UN figures estimate that over 60 million Africans could be forced from their homes over the next five years because of desertification and climate change, and that by 2025, two thirds of the continent's cultivatable land could have been lost. "This is going to build up the resilience of local communities and give young people a reason to stay," Nordheim-Larsen added. (EurActiv 0-05-2016)

EGYPT'S ANNUAL CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION ROSE BY 10.9 PERCENT IN APRIL

Egypt's monthly consumer price inflation rose by 1.5 percent in April compared to March, the official statistics agency said in a statement on Tuesday.

This increase results for the rise in prices of vegetables, fruits, rice, grain, poultry, and clothing, the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) added.

The annual consumer price inflation rose to 10.9 percent in April from 9.2 per cent in March.

The government said in November that it is keeping the prices of key goods under control.

The central bank hiked interest rates in December and March, citing inflationary pressures as a motive.

The government also decided to offer additional ration points, with a 20 percent increase, starting June to curb the impact of the dollar's unstable exchange rate. The central bank devalued the Egyptian pound against the dollar in March by around 13 percent.

The cash-strapped Egyptian government is currently facing the consequences of years of political turmoil triggered by the 2011 Uprising that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak, halving the country's foreign reserves and scaring away tourists and investors.(APA 11-05-2016)

OPENING OF HYPERMARKET IN ANGOLA HELPS DEVELOP ECONOMY

The Candando hypermarket will help develop the food and non-food sector in Angola said Tuesday in Luanda the minister of Trade, Fiel Domingos Constantino, speaking at the opening ceremony.

The minister also said that opening of another commercial establishment shows that "there is still much to do in Angola in terms of setting up a modern commercial distribution chain."

This hypermarket is the first of a network of 10 units to be built over the next five years with an estimated investment of US$400 million, which will focus on local, Angolan production.

For this first store, the group has signed contracts with 15 domestic producers, which will provide 90 percent of vegetables and more than 40 percent of fruit, totalling some 300 tons per month.

In total, the group estimates it will purchase 225 tons of Angolan products per week from all provinces, such as fresh fish purchased almost entirely at the beaches between Ambriz and Porto Amboim.

The first store of the Contidis distribution group, which is inside the Shopping Avenida shopping centre, is wholly owned by businesswoman Isabel dos Santos, it was inaugurated in the presence of five Angolan ministers (Trade, Industry, Fisheries, Agriculture and Economics) and occupies an area of 10,000 square metres. (11-05-2016)

A LOOK AT ZIMBABWEANS' LIVES ON COMMERCIAL FARMS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A new book, Zimbabwe's Migrants and South Africa's Border Farms: The Roots of Impermanence by Maxim Bolt, tells the story of the lives Zimbabweans build on commercial farms across the border, as they escape crises at home. This is an edited extract.

SA's great spinal road, the N1, runs from Cape Town to Zimbabwe. Past Johannesburg, Pretoria, and hundreds of miles of green Highveld; over the subtropical ridge of the Soutpansberg at Louis Trichardt; through the flat, dry, scrubby mopaneveld (bush dominated by Mopane trees) of the Limpopo Valley, and the bustle, trade, and exhaust fumes of Musina town.

Then it collides abruptly with the border, near SA's northernmost point. Following the Limpopo River westwards, rather than crossing into Zimbabwe, means tracking a military service road and an endless serpent of razor wire coils, the centrepiece in an undulating strip of sandy no man's land. This defensive line, punctuated by garrisons, was erected during the "border war" of apartheid's twilight. Its electric wires are now set to "detect". The patchwork of repairs shows that the fence is not as formidable as it might seem.

Across the road, gaps in the foliage expose the tomato fields, cotton plantations, and citrus orchards of white-owned farms, and the regimented brick blocks or ramshackle mud houses of their labour compounds. The occasional bakkie shuttles between estates, garrisons, and the border post and town to the east. But the spaces between sites of settlement are quiet. A turn in the road, and there is not a soul to be seen.

A precarious life

The emptiness is vital for people hoping to cross the dry Limpopo riverbed undetected, climb and cut through the fence, and make their way southwards. A sparsely populated landscape is also a danger. Game farmers find corpses slumped against trees in the silent, parched expanse of mopaneveld – their postures exhausted, their empty water bottles still in hand. The bush stretching back from the border is a sea surrounding islands of crop farms and their working populations.

Undocumented migrants generally try to stay out of sight – with good reason. So, at 6am one April morning in 2008, South African soldiers newly posted to the area were all the more perturbed by the sight of hundreds of "border jumpers". In the biting cold of dawn, they crowded outside a farm, just off the border road, a stone's throw from the garrison. Conspicuously undeterred by the soldiers' presence, they were looking for work.

At Grootplaas Estates, recruitment for the harvest was under way. In the yard outside the farm's workshop, women who had been employed in previous years stood in rows. Some jostled; others rushed forward. All hoped to be selected first for jobs in the "packshed", sorting and boxing the farm's oranges and grapefruits for export.

Marula, the black foreman, and his team of work supervisors struggled to maintain control. Even Willem, the usually aloof white farmer-landowner, in khaki two-tone shirt and shorts, came over to call for order. The real fight would be at the yard's perimeter fence, where most job seekers waited. As usual, cross-border networks had relayed the recruitment date at least as far as Beitbridge, the Zimbabwean border town some 50km to the east.

The soldiers entered the yard, but the crowd of "illegals" clearly saw the recruitment process as trumping any state presence. Willem approached them, his Alsatian at his heel. If the soldiers left his recruitment alone, they would have a list of workers' names by the end of the day – a gesture towards distinguishing between those undocumented Zimbabweans who were farm workers, and those who were simply "border jumpers".

Eventually, the recruitment roll was completed: two teams of 30 male pickers and one of 30 female pickers; and 40 men and 80 women for the packshed. There would be further recruitment, but surprise and disappointment were unmistakable among the huge crowd left outside the gate.

There was a more immediate concern. The line between workers and border jumpers had been drawn, for now. Those left in the crowd were simply “illegals”, incongruously arrayed in front of a South African military patrol. People scattered into the citrus orchards, chased briefly by a soldier before he tripped over his gun strap and dropped his magazine.

Most would walk a few kilometres to the neighbouring estates, hoping for work there. Some would soon be back for the next round of recruitment at Grootplaas. Once the soldiers had gone, a few men and women approached supervisors and the white production manager, trying one last time to find employment through quiet negotiation.

A fugitive existence

At the moment of recruitment, diverse people, with diverse hopes and plans, become divided into clear groups. On the one hand are those without employment. In the eyes of soldiers, these are simply “border jumpers”, transients fleeing Zimbabwe’s crisis, with no claim on the border as a place of labour. On the other are “workers”, built around a core of permanent employees – 140 at Grootplaas – whose presence is legitimised by their attachment to the farm.

Many new arrivals do indeed live a fugitive existence. The Limpopo River presents risks: from drowning or crocodile attacks when it is in flood, to abuse, assault, or rape by magumaguma – gangs that operate along the border – or by South African soldiers. Some arrivals on the farms lack basic resources for immediate survival, robbed of money, mobile phones, and even South African contact numbers. On the farms themselves, aggressive border policing leaves recruits vulnerable to deportation raids.

Migrants’ experience of transience is one of temporal fragmentation. Fast-shifting, unpredictable circumstances require constant navigation, as personal projects collapse, and norms formerly taken for granted cease to produce intended effects. Displacement and the search for employment foreground a distinctly spatial dimension. As migrants seek shelter and work, and as they attempt to avoid apprehension, connections to places are tenuous at best. Crisis and transience here mean not only living from day to day, but also looking over one’s shoulder, and figuring out where to go next.

On the border farms, recruitment renders migrants’ transience starkly visible. Yet, away from the ritual of recruitment, distinctions between people become more complex. The farms and their settled work forces represent sites around which diverse people gravitate. The majority of workers hail from Zimbabwe, but many have relatives elsewhere in SA with whom they remain in constant contact. Large numbers of Zimbabwean seasonal workers are employed on the farms each winter, and while some stay for the whole harvest, others quickly move on southwards into SA. Others again, who lack employment, are connected to workers through kinship, friendship, and sexual relationships. (BD 09-05-2016)

NAMIBIA TO EXPORT BEEF TO HONG KONG

Namibian meat producers can now export beef to Hong Kong, after the latter issued health certificate for importing the commodity from abattoirs in Windhoek and Okahandja, in the country’s central region. Milton Maseke, Chief Veterinary Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry confirmed the clearance from Hong Kong on Wednesday, saying the new development will open up an alternative market for Namibian beef.

This is a positive development and effectively ends our negotiation process with the Hong Kong Veterinary Authority for the export of beef to that country.

"It is time to start now physically moving products from Namibia to Hong Kong he said.

The official emphasised that local beef can enter the Hong Kong market as soon as the country's biggest meat processor, Meatco acquires a certificate of import to that effect.

The challenge now for our producers to try to meet the demand in Hong Kong by increasing our production as the demand is expected to be more than what we produce he added.

The Hong Kong deal comes after Namibia and China signed a protocol on Veterinary Health Conditions and Quarantine that will pave the way for Namibia to export beef and mutton to the Asian country.

China and Hong Kong markets offer an opportunity for Namibia to diversify its export meat market, which is heavily dependent on South Africa.

Namibia exports 17, 000 metric tonnes of meat per year to its southern neighbour, with 10, 000 and 1, 850 metric tonnes to the European Union and Norway.(APA 11-05-2016)

WORLD BANK ANNOUNCES SUPPORT TO CABO VERDE IN 2017

The World Bank has about US$25 million available to invest in several projects in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) in 2017, said Tuesday in Praia Louise Cord, the World Bank director for five countries in West Africa.

Cord, who in addition to Cabo Verde is the face of the World Bank in Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania, Tuesday had a meeting with the Cape Verdean government to prepare the definition of projects to be funded.

She added, however, that the World Bank intends to support actions focused on macroeconomic stability, reduction of the weight of the state, private sector development and job creation for young people.

The Finance Minister. Olavo Correia, said after the meeting that “the World Bank’s support is very important for the reform of the Cabo Verde economy and the creation of a stable macroeconomic framework.”

“The support of the World Bank in terms of technical and financial assistance is very important for Cabo Verde to be a safe country that is viable from a political, social and economic point of view and attractive to domestic and foreign investments,” said Correia.

The minister also said that the current government of the archipelago will support the private sector and seek to improve the business climate by creating a reliable, safe and efficient legal system. (11-05-2016)

SOUTH AFRICA: COMAIR FIGHTS TO STAY IN THE AIR

Comair, which was given a deadline of Wednesday to reduce its foreign ownership, said on Tuesday its lawyers would argue that the regulator could not carry out its threat to suspend its licence due to technicalities.

The operator of kulula.com and British Airways’ South African domestic flights said it had taken the precaution of launching an urgent application to interdict the Air Services Licensing Council (ASLC) from suspending its domestic licence Wednesday, pending the outcome of a review by a court of law.

Comair is 11.5% owned by British Airways via Brit Air, according to its 2015 annual report. Its largest shareholder is Bidvest, which owns 27% via BB Investments, followed by Allan Gray, which owns 12.9%.

Two years ago, FlySafair lodged a complaint with the licensing council, claiming Comair’s foreign ownership was higher than allowed by South African law.

Comair said it made a detailed submission to the council arguing this was not true, but before the council made a decision, the terms of its members expired.

It then restarted this process with the council’s new members. Although FlySafair dropped its complaint last year, the new members of the licensing council continued with the case.

Comair said in Tuesday’s statement its "view and that of its external legal advisers is that the ASLC has not commenced suspension proceedings in accordance with the act".
"The company stresses that the disagreement with the ASLC does not relate to the safety of the company’s operations. The disagreement with the ASLC relates exclusively to a shareholder regulatory issue," Tuesday’s statement said. (BD 10-05-2016)

NAMIBIA: EXPORT LEVY BILL CLEARS FIRST HURDLE

The National Council, the second house of the Namibian parliament, on Wednesday passed the Export Levy Bill, without amendments.

The Bill was referred to the house for review by the National Assembly in April.

The new law seeks to impose export levy on unprocessed or semi-processed export goods in the natural resources sectors, such as mining, marine and forestry.

Most of mineral and marine products are exported in semi-processed or unprocessed form.

As a result of this it was felt by Namibians that the country is losing out on the benefits of value addition and commodity based industrialisation.

The export levy, which is now expected to sail through the National Assembly, is expected to improve Namibia's value share in its abundant natural resource base as well as encourage local beneficiation of value addition on goods before they are exported.

The export levy that will be administered by the Directorate of Customs and Excise will be capped at 2 percent, with the government expecting to realise N$130 million ($8.6 million) during the 2017/18 financial year.(APA 11-05-2016)

NIGERIA RAISES PETROL PRICES

Nigeria has announced a new price regime for petrol with the highest being $0.77 (N145) per litre, but labour unions have kicked against the increase.
The Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) said in Abuja on Wednesday that the new price regime was coming into effect immediately, discarding the prevailing price of $0.34 (N68).

The Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, however, advised its retail stations on the outskirts of major cities to sell at prices lower than N145 per litre.

In a statement, the agency said that this review became imperative in the face of extreme difficulties faced by petroleum product importers in sourcing foreign exchange".

The agency said that to meet the consumption demand of the nation, importers will henceforth be permitted to source for their foreign exchange requirements from the secondary sources.

PPPRA is conscious of the difficulties that Nigerians have been going through in the last few months and to ameliorate this situation we shall continue to modulate pricing in accordance with prevailing market dynamics thereby ensuring fair value to all citizens, it said.

Mixed reactions have been trailing the announcement of the new price regime.

Mr. Joe Ajaero, a factional President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), said that removing subsidy without fulfilling the agreement reached with the unions was nothing but a betrayal.

We do not in any way support full deregulation of the downstream petroleum sector.

The other faction of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) said that it would resist the recent increase in prices of petroleum products by the federal government.

NLC General Secretary, Dr. Peter Ozo-Eson, said, ``the unilateral increase in prices of petroleum products by government represents the height of insensitivity and impunity and shall be resisted by the NLC and its civil society allies".

Calling the new electricity tariff as unjustifiable, he said the new price regime brought on by the devaluation of the Naira and inflation was another policy measure that would make life miserable for ordinary Nigerians.(APA 11-05-2016)

FIRST EU-ALGERIA BUSINESS FORUM ON ENERGY TO BE HELD IN ALGIERS

Algerian and European companies working in the sectors of renewable energy, energy efficiency and gas are invited to take part in the EU-Algeria Business Forum to be held in Algiers on 23-24 May.
The Forum will bring together the main Algerian and European political and economic decision makers, and will explore the means of support and implementation of the renewable energy and energy efficiency plan adopted by the Government of Algeria in 2015.

It will also be an opportunity to promote partnerships between European and Algerian companies in the energy sector. (EC 10-05-2016)
EU-Algeria Business Forum website

SENEGAL: PRIMARY SECTOR RESUMES UPWARD TRAJECTORY

The activity of the primary sector in Senegal (excluding agriculture and forestry) which dropped during the first two months of 2016, has resumed its upward trajectory.
The Dakar-based Directorate of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE) revealed that the sector had witnessed a 2.4 percent increase in March 2016.

This reflects the performance of livestock (+2.4 percent) and fisheries sub-sectors (+2.3 percent), it said.

On an annual basis, the activity of the primary sector increased by 2.2 percent during the period under review, thanks to good performance of the fisheries industry (+13.2 percent).

However, DPEE noted that these results were partially offset by the underperformance of the livestock sub-sector which slumped by 0.8 percent.(APA 11-05-2016)

SWAZI CENTRAL BANK GIVES $72 000 IN DROUGHT AID

The Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) has donated $72 000 towards the alleviation of drought affecting almost 300, 000 people in the country.
About $35 000 will go into food aid while $37 000 will fund the provision of clean water and sanitation to communities that are hardest hit by the drought, according to CBS Governor Majozi Sithole.

Speaking in Mbabane on Wednesday, Governor Sithole said the money will assist in the country's aim to implement the Drought Mitigation Plan which requires over $50million to be implemented over a period of five years.

International funders like the United Nations and China and Taiwan have already extended financial assistance towards the mitigation of drought after Prime Minister, Barnabas Dlamini declared it a national disaster last February.(APA 11-05-2016)

LA COMMISSION PROPOSE L'OUVERTURE DES NÉGOCIATIONS AVEC LE NIGÉRIA SUR UN ACCORD DE RÉADMISSION

Aujourd'hui la Commission européenne propose l'ouverture des négociations avec le Nigéria sur un accord de réadmission. Cet accord vise à assurer que les processus d'identification et de retour au Nigéria de ressortissants nigérians qui n'ont pas le droit de rester dans l'Union européenne, soient rapides et efficaces. Un tel accord respectera les droits de l'homme et assurera que les obligations de l'Union européenne et le Nigéria sous le droit international tel que la Convention de Genève soient pleinement respectées. Dans son Plan d'action de l'UE en matière de retour du 9 septembre 2015, la Commission européenne s'est engagé à ouvrir de nouvelles négociations sur des accords de réadmission avec des pays d'origine clés. L'article 13 de l'accord de Cotonou engage également les contractants à négocier de tels accords sur demande. La recommandation de la Commission doit maintenant être adoptée par les états membres du Conseil pour que la Commission puisse commencer les négociations avec le Nigéria. (EC 11-05-2016)

AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL BE SLOWER - ERNST &YOUNG

Africa's economic growth is likely to be slower in the intervening years than in the earlier decade, according to the latest rating by Ernst & Young using a barometer to gauge the level of appeal and success.
The baseline projection of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 2016 is now reduced to 3%, while it was estimated at 6.1% in April 2015", Ernst & Young points out in its rating.

According to the international audit firm, the main reasons behind the relative slowdown are not specific to Africa given that they are the same factors affecting the global economy.
This situation is blamed on a general economic slowdown in emerging markets and, especially, the rebalancing of the Chinese economy, continued stagnation in most developed economies, falling commodity prices and rising costs of borrowings.

However, although the growth in the region is relatively slow, two-thirds of sub-Saharan African economies still growing at rates surpassing the global average, and the region will remain in second position in terms of the speed of progression globally in the near future, behind emerging Asia, Ernst & Young indicates.

According to the firm, this is also corroborated by the gradual increase in the number of foreign direct investment projects (FDI) in Africa in 2015, an increase occurring at a time when the total number of FDIs plummeted by about 5 percent across the world.

In terms of investments, the next few years could be difficult, not because of the lack of opportunities, but due to the fact that these opportunities are likely to be more unequal than they have ever been" Sugan Palanee, head of the African market department at Ernst & Young firm opines.

He believes it was now more important than ever for companies and investors, which sometimes put strong emphasis on the development of short-term economic growth, to adopt a factual and granular approach to assess the business and investment opportunities in the long term.(APA 11-05-2016)

FINLAND COMMITS €4M TO SOMALI REHABILITATION

Finland and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the former to provide € 4 million to the bank's administered Multi Partner Fund (MPF), a multi-donor trust established for the rehabilitation of war-torn Somalia under a so-called New Deal.

In a statement released in Nairobi on Wednesday, Tarja Fernandez, the Finnish Ambassador to Somalia said his country's development co-operation is focused on least developed countries and fragile states.

Finland lays particular emphasis on strengthening the developing countries' own economies to promote employment, livelihoods and well-being, Fernandez remarked.

The MPF is a tool to foster Somali economic recovery and governance reforms, including federalism, and it suits well Finland's comprehensive approach to peace and development.

Finland joins the MPF at an exciting time. We are starting to see the roll out of the portfolio on the ground and a new level of sophistication in our engagement with the Somali authorities.

The MPF is proving that the country systems are a viable means of delivering development programs in Somalia,â€• Bella Bird, World Bank Country Director for Somalia said in the statement issued in Nairobi on Wednesday.

One of the New Deal principles reflected in the Somali Compact is the commitment to build and use country systems.

With a portfolio focus on recipient-executed projects, the MPF is a vehicle for building and using country systems, ensuring ownership and capacity internalization for sustainability.

In total, donors have committed $185 million to the MPF.(APA 11-05-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, and other organisations.
The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) to their Members.

www.acp.int www.aheadglobal.hu www.camaratenerife.com

www.africacncl.org www.elo-online.org www.helafrican-chamber.gr

www.htcc.org.hu www.norwegianafrican.no

Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be