

MEMORANDUM

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KHARTOUM DOWNPLAYS S/AFRICAN COURT'S ORDER AGAINST BASHIR

Sudan has downplayed the decision by the South African High Court to temporarily ban its President Omar Al-Bashir from leaving the country as "completely irrelevant".

The court on Sunday had ordered that Bashir be held in South Africa until the outcome of an application calling for him to be handed over to the International Criminal Court (ICC) is decided.

Speaking for the first time since the order, Sudan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamal Ismail told journalists in Khartoum on Sunday that Bashir would return after the African Union Summit currently holding in South Africa.

Ismail claimed President Bashir's trip is "proceeding as normal".

He said the court order does not have any implications on President Bashir's participation at the AU summit, insisting that the Sudanese leader is not under any risk of arrest or detention while in South Africa.

"It is difficult to give details of President Bashir's schedule, but he will return to Khartoum when the main session is over. This could be today or tomorrow. I will not go into the details" the Sudanese minister said.

"Then and now things are normal and there is no risk to the president whatsoever" Mr Ismail added.

The High Court in South Africa earlier on Sunday ordered that President Bashir be prevented from leaving the country until the outcome of an application calling for him to be handed over to the ICC is decided on Sunday.

Mr. Bashir who touched down at Johannesburg airport on Saturday to attend the 25 African Union Summit is the subject of an indictment by the ICC over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the troubled Sudanese region of Darfur.

The court demanded that Bashir should not be allowed to leave until a hearing of the application is made and decided upon.

An application filed at High Court in Pretoria called for the South African authorities to arrest the Sudanese leader and hand him over to the ICC in The Hague to be tried for alleged war crimes during the conflict in Darfur.

The ICC said South Africa as a signatory to its founding statute is under an obligation to arrest Bashir who has visited several countries in Africa and the Middle East since the indictment against him in 2009, his hosts refusing a request to hand him in.

Sources say this is unlikely to change given the uneasy ties between the ICC and the African Union whose officials accused The Hague of pursuing a deliberate and exclusive campaign of witch-hunt against leaders on the continent.

ICC judges Saturday issued an urgent decision by which they asserted that South Africa is under obligation to arrest and surrender President Bashir after arriving in the country.

According to the ICC, a South African delegation had met with officials from The Hague court days earlier to excuse the nation from the obligation of apprehending Bashir who was indicted twice over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the troubled Sudanese region of Darfur.

Bashir who was welcomed to Johannesburg by senior officials of the South African government is attending the AU summit being chaired by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

The summit is likely to be overshadowed by the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan

and Burundi.(APA 14-06-2015)

NIGERIA APPLIES LAW ON PETROLEUM SECTOR

The inspection team of the Weights and Measures department has commenced action to enforce a legal metrology law in filling stations for dispensing petrol to customers in Abuja.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Ambassador Abdulkadir Musa led the team on Saturday.

During the inspection at the Mobil filling station, Lugbe, Airport Road, it was discovered that the dispensing pumps at the station short-changed customers from their two operational dispensing pumps by 2 litres 69 mls for every 20 litres of PMS (17.31 as 20 litres) while other dispensing pumps dispensed 18.66 litres for every 20 litres.

Other filling stations inspected by the team were NNPC Sabon Lugbe, NNPC, Durumi, Area 1, Total Filing station, Herbert Macaulay way, Forte Oil Olusegun Obasanjo Way, and Total filling station, Wuse zone 6. NNPC filling station Sabon Lugbe one pump was sealed for re-calibration and others were within tolerance level stipulated by law.

Abdulkadir reiterated that government was committed to enforcement of legal metrology laws in all sector of the economy warning of serious consequences for those cheating customers because they are desperate to get fuel.

He added that, it was not only in the oil sector that Nigerians feel the impact of the department but also in the operation of the Automated Payment Machine (ATM) in the banking sector and telecommunication as well as correct measurement in the market.

“Whatever we are doing now is to send messages to those defaulters that we are now standing on our feet and we are now going to be effective in regulating weights and measurements act in the oil and gas sector.

"I assure you that what happened in the past will no longer be because now, Nigerians know what we can do.

"We had synergize with the oil major and stakeholders in the sector and they are well informed of our statutory responsibilities of ensuring that trade is fair, correct and transparent” he added.

Director Weights and Measures, Mr. Adeyinka Sikuade, said that it was extremely disappointing that motorists were being short-changed in the filling stations.

He said that the department would continue to embark on such exercise throughout the federation in order to establish that marketers conform with fairness and standards.

He said that maximum permissible error allowed at dispensing pumps is 60 mls, adding that the departments in collaboration with stakeholders were working on the portion of the act on penalty that will deter erring stations from cheating.

“On penalty for defaulters now, we still have stronger area that prevents such erring stations from operating by sealing them or removing their nozzles and ensuring that they cannot conduct any business from such pumps until it is corrected” Sikuade stressed.(APA 14-06-2015)

HIGH TRANSPORT COSTS LIMIT COMPETITIVENESS IN EAST AFRICA

In East Africa, high transport costs, poor infrastructure and underdeveloped logistics services limit the competitiveness and inhibit the integration of both the landlocked and transit countries into the regional and global market, a top World Bank official said on Tuesday.

Pierre Guislain, senior director for the World Bank's Transport and ICT Global Practice said in a statement that increasing the integration between the different modes of transport through development corridors can significantly improve connectivity and contribute to higher growth in the region.

Guislain was speaking on Tuesday during the East African Community (EAC) and the World Bank convention to assess the challenges and opportunities in improving connectivity along key trading corridors to facilitate regional integration in East Africa.

The Integrated Corridor Development convention, held at the UNESCO headquarters, brought together representatives from major bilateral and multi-lateral donor organizations, to discuss solutions to facilitate the funding of corridor development in land-locked countries, such as Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

"The EAC views the implementation of the Intermodal Strategy projects as a critical input in the reduction of transport costs in the region, said Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the EAC.

The realization of a strong EAC Common Market is predicated on the development of efficient infrastructure in the region. Our partnership with the World Bank, therefore, is greatly appreciated, Sezibera added. (APA 09-06-2015)

AFRICA'S VISA CONUNDRUM IS CRYING OUT FOR POLITICAL WILL TO FIX IT

The best African passports to have are those from The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire or Kenya. Why? Because travellers with these passports need visas for just 41% of African countries, lower than the average of 55% of countries requiring Africans to have visas for other African countries.

The worst to have is a Somali passport, even though the country does not require visitors to have visas — rather unsurprisingly.

These findings from research conducted by McKinsey were part of a broader discussion at the recent African Development Bank annual meetings in Abidjan, where business people, politicians and others raised questions about why the free movement of people across the continent, enshrined in the founding principles of pan-African organisations, is still difficult. The issue is one of the sticky items on the agenda of the Tripartite Free Trade Area negotiations, which are scheduled to be launched at this week's African Union summit in Johannesburg. The free trade area, due to be launched in 2017, will cover an area stretching from Egypt to Cape Town.

Many of those governments around the table will be the same officials who have visa regimes in place for fellow Africans.

At the African Development Bank meeting, delegates asked why government officials and diplomats could travel freely through the continent with diplomatic passports but business people, who are called on to be partners in developing Africa, could not.

The visa restrictions Kenya briefly imposed on South Africans last year did not include holders of official or diplomatic passports — ironic, seeing as it was the actions of officials who put the regulations in place. A business passport was mooted at the Abidjan discussion for regular travellers and investors. Business people have their passports stuck in embassies for weeks trying to get visas for multiple countries.

This is not contributing to economic development but adding to the cost of doing business. For informal traders, a visa could cost a month's salary or more. Work permit issues are preventing companies from moving professionals throughout their pan-African operations.

There has been some movement. Nationals of Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), for example, qualify for an Ecowas passport. In the East African Community, citizens of the five states can now use identity cards or driving licences instead of passports to move across the bloc.

SA and others could learn a lot from the East African Community. But the political will is not universal. As long as politicians exempt themselves from visa regulations in Africa, widespread change may be a while coming.

Rwandans maintain that the benefits of bringing new talent and visitors with money to spend far outweighs the potential problems of troublemakers.

It is those who want to bring their money in, either to shop, go on holiday or invest, who are bearing the brunt of visa hassles.

Africans tend to get short-term visas for SA, for example. They are now choosing to avoid SA and take their money to countries, such as the UK and US, that offer visas for up to 10 years.

Ethiopia, despite hosting the African Union, still has visa restrictions for many Africans.

As SA has shown, illegal immigrants get into countries that do not have properly enforced controls. Visas do not stop them.

Africa's development challenges, high unemployment rates and security issues are factors used to determine immigration policy. But there are surely ways to deal with these problems that are about economic interests, not defensive actions. Many countries do skills audits and link immigration policies to their economic needs, for example.

As African countries deepen free trade, it is time to consider the free movement of people who are boosting Africa's development. These are not just politicians but talented professionals, African investors and many others. (BD 08-06-2015)

SHELL SUPPORTS TRAINING OF 300 MIDWIVES IN NIGERIA

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) is spearheading the training of 300 midwives, who will support the government's effort at deploying more skilled health workers in rural communities.

Nigeria's Punch newspaper report on Tuesday said that the 18-month midwifery certification training, which commenced in 2014, aims to produce skilled and motivated change agents in the hinterland, where statistics show that 45 percent of women are delivered of their babies with the help of unskilled birth attendants, thereby increasing the risk of maternal and infant mortality in such areas.

It said that a statement by the SPDC noted that the initiative is sponsored by the company's Joint Venture in collaboration with the governments of Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Imo, Abia and Akwa Ibom states, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The statement quoted the SPDC's acting Regional Community Health Manager, Dr. Akinwumi Fajola, as saying during the cheque presentation ceremony in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, that "This is a unique intervention that invests not only in the individual beneficiaries, but also in the people hoping to benefit from their newly acquired skills." (APA 09-06-2015)

OCEAN FOCUS AT ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN FIJI



Major issues related to seas and oceans will be the subject of a keynote debate by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) next week in Suva, Fiji, covering development-related dimensions of climate change, biodiversity, renewable energy, fisheries, maritime security, oil and seabed minerals.

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), which meets for its 29th session from 15 to 17 June, brings together lawmakers from across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific as well as Members of the European Parliament to engage politically and take joint stances on a number of issues of common concern.

The event is scheduled to be opened formally by the Prime Minister of Fiji Rear Admiral (Rtd) Voreqe Bainimarama and the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament Hon. Jiko Luveni, along with JPA Co-Presidents Hon. Louis Michel for the European Parliament and Hon. Fitz A. Jackson (Jamaica) for the ACP.

[\(Download full programme/ agenda\)](#)

It follows separate meetings of the ACP Assembly from 10-12 June, and meetings of the joint standing committees (on Political Affairs; Economic Development, Finance and Trade; and Social Affairs and the Environment) from 13-14 June.

[\(Read ACP Secretary General's speech at the ACP Parliamentary Assembly\)](#)

Given the location of the session in the Pacific region, the keynote debate will focus on "Seas and Oceans", with the participation of the President of Kiribati H.E. Mr. Anote Tong amongst other high-level speakers. Rebuilding after Cyclone Pam, which devastated several Pacific countries in March this year, will also be one of two urgent topics on the agenda, in addition to discussions on the political situation in the Central African Republic.

"We will discuss issues that affect Small Island Developing States such as climate change, and the particular vulnerabilities that may not be faced by countries on the continents. There needs to be a recognition to the unique challenges SIDS face, which affect their long-term sustainable development," said JPA Co-Chair Hon. Fitz Jackson.

Moreover, reports by the standing committees will be deliberated, leading to joint resolutions on the following issues: The financing of investment and trade, including infrastructure, in ACP countries by the EU blending mechanism; Cultural diversity and human rights in ACP and EU countries; and the Challenges and opportunities in education and vocational training in ACP countries.

There will also be two debates without resolutions - on natural resources, with the expected participation of the Minister for Planning of Papua New Guinea Hon. Charles Abel, and on improving internal revenue generation capabilities in ACP states.

Question time sittings are also scheduled with EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica on Monday 15 June, as well as the President-in-Office of the EU Council, Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs Edgars Rinkevics, and President-in-Office of the ACP Council, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Vanuatu Hon. Serge Vohor. Assembly members will also have discussions with the Fijian authorities, including Finance minister Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly is a democratic, parliamentary institution which aims to promote and defend democratic processes in the ACP-EU partnership framework through dialogue and consultation, and facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the European Union and those of the ACP states. It meets for full plenary sessions twice a year, alternating between a European country or an ACP country as host.

The JPA plays a unique role of parliamentary scrutiny over the other institutions, holding formal debates with the European Commission and the ACP and EU Council Presidency every session. It holds important powers of scrutiny over the Country, Regional and Thematic Strategy Papers for the ACP regions and countries, ensuring there is proper parliamentary discussion and analysis of current and planned spending of the European Development Fund. As a consultative body, the JPA adopts resolutions and make recommendations to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers with a view to achieving the objectives of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. (ACP 12-06-2015)

OVER 12,000 KILOMETRES OF ROAD NETWORK BUILT IN ANGOLA

More than 12,000 kilometres of roads have been built or rebuilt in Angola, the country's Minister for construction, Waldemar Pires Alexandre, said Friday in Luanda cited by Angolan news agency Angop. Speaking at the "First Friday Club," an event promoted by the Angola-US Chamber of Commerce, the Minister stressed the need to move on to another model which will preserve existing investments.

He noted that there are several factors leading to disrepair of the roads as a result of often less than ideal management of the facilities provided in the country.

Pires said his ministry was working with the Ministry of Finance on a new road maintenance model financed by the Road Fund, which is currently undergoing restructuring.

The new model, which is still being studied, aims to promote participation of former soldiers and young people, "many with nothing to do" in work to conserve and maintain roads, the minister added. (08-06-2015)

GHANA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY TO AUDIT 3,400 FUEL STATIONS

The Ministry of Environment and Science has established a task force to audit over 3,400 fuel stations in the country for safety compliance, following an explosion at the GOIL Fuel Station near Kwame Nkrumah Circle last Wednesday.

This will help to ensure that they operate within the required safety limits to prevent any unforeseen occurrence during the rainy season.

It is suspected that a fuel leakage facilitated the explosion that together with floods claimed more than 200 lives last Wednesday.

The sector Minister, Mahama Ayariga, said on Monday that the exercise would not spare any station that falls short of the required safety standards, warning that stations within densely populated areas, would be screened to ensure they posed no threat to the residents.

Meanwhile, APA has learnt that a fuel station in Tema operated by Total Ghana, has been closed down for fuel leakage, a sign that authorities will not spare any defaulting station. (APA 08-06-2015)

ANGOLA INVESTE PROGRAMME APPROVES 55 PROJECTS SINCE JANUARY

The 17 banks that joined the Angola Investe programme have approved 55 projects valued at 6.7 billion kwanzas (US\$60 million) since the beginning of the year, the minister for the Economy said Thursday in Luanda.

Speaking at the ceremony to award diplomas of Excellence for 2015 to 575 small and medium-sized Angolan companies, Abraão Gourgel praised the fact that the support of the banks was not confined to periods of greater financial windfall in the country, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

The minister highlighted the role that the Credit Guarantee Fund has played not only by allowing access by projects to credit on better terms, but also in monitoring the implementation of those projects.

Project monitoring, better preparation of entrepreneurs and greater knowledge of Angola Investe make it possible to see, despite 2015 being a year of restrictions, that the basis for the programme is in place in order for it to continue to support companies throughout the year.

Since the end of 2012 the Angola Investe programme has approved 397 loans to small and medium enterprises with an estimated value of around 2.8 billion kwanzas and of this total, 256 loans have been provided to promoters.

The PME Excellence 2015 awards are an initiative of Banco Millennium Angola to distinguish Angolan companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for their economic performance, financial strength and professionalism. (08-06-2015)

GHANA APPOINTS NEW DISASTER MANAGEMENT CHIEF

Ghana's President John Mahama on Tuesday appointed a new Director for the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), widely seen as a move to deal with the aftermath of last week's deadly explosion which claimed over 150 lives.

The acting Director is Brigadier General Francis Vib Sanziri who replaces Mr. Kofi Portuphy, according to a statement from the Office of the President.

Sanziri's appointment comes at a time the NADMO is distributing relief items to victims of fire disaster and flood across Ghana.

Kwabena Bediako, a political analyst, who is an engineer by profession, told the {African Press Agency} that the appointment is long overdue since Mr. Portuphy is currently the chairman of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), a situation which put a political tag on the NADMO.

The challenge for the new director is to ensure equitable distribution of relief items and the various funds set up to support flood victims.

Hundreds of people were sheltering from the rains at a petrol station in Accra when a nearby tanker exploded.

As a result of the torrential rains that pounded the city and its environs, many homes, particularly in the low-lying areas were flooded, prompting most of their inhabitants to look for safety in other areas. (APA 09-06-2015)

ECOBANK NAMES CITIGROUP EXECUTIVE AS NEW CEO

Pan-African bank Ecobank Transnational Incorporated has named Ade Ayeyemi as its new group CE, it said on Monday.

The 52-year-old, currently head of Citigroup's sub-Saharan Africa division, will replace Ecobank CEO Albert Essien who is retiring at the end of June after a tenure that began in March 2014 when the board fired his predecessor Thierry Tanoh.

Mr. Ayeyemi, who is Nigerian, will lead a bank headquartered in Togo that has operations in 36 African countries and with assets of \$22.5bn at the end of 2013, according to the bank's website.

Nedbank acquired a 20% stake in Ecobank last year and Qatar National Bank (QNB) also holds a similar stake in the company.

"We are delighted to have secured Ade as the person to lead Ecobank through the next phase of its development and beyond as a world-class pan-African bank," Ecobank group chairman Emmanuel Ikazoboh said.

Ecobank's board fired Mr. Tanoh after a crisis over governance that led to divisions within the bank's leadership. Mr. Tanoh has since won a judgment in a court in Togo against the bank for wrongful dismissal and a separate one in Ivory Coast for defamation. Ecobank has appealed both decisions.

(Reuters 08-06-2015)

DR CONGO BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO GIVE BANK'S CAPITAL RELIEF

DR Congo's banks would receive up to 50 percent capital relief on any transaction that is secured with a credit risk guarantee supplied by African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI), the vice governor of the Central Bank announced on Tuesday.

At a press conference held in Kinshasa, Mr. Jules Bomboko Assango made the ground breaking announcement that will bring a competitive advantage to the banking industry.

The announcement places ATI in the unique position of being the first multilateral of its kind to be granted this standing based largely on the strength of its credit rating.

Within most African countries, central banks require commercial banks to reserve a prescribed minimum capital in proportion to their loans and advances to cushion against default by their customers.

This is known as the regulatory capital reserve ratio, which can be higher than 12 percent in some markets.

This restriction has historically placed African banks at a disadvantage when competing with international banks. Without capital relief, local banks face a tighter fiscal environment and cannot lend at the same levels as their better capitalized international counterparts, notes Jef Vincent, ATI's Chief Underwriting Officer. (APA 09-06-2015)

ANGOLAN LEADER SEEKS NEW CREDIT IN CHINA

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on Monday headed to China for his first official visit in seven years as his country, Africa's second-largest oil producer, struggles with falling oil prices.

Mr. dos Santos, who has ruled since 1979, only makes rare trips abroad from the former Portuguese colony, which remains one of the world's poorest countries despite its natural resources.

Mr. dos Santos was invited for a three-day visit to China by President Xi Jinping, reported the government daily Jornal de Angola.

Beijing has extended nearly \$15bn of credit to Angola since 2004, including help to finance major infrastructure projects such as roads, rail lines and new cities.

Angola draws about 70% of its income from oil, and falling prices have hit government revenue hard. The country saw a decade of strong growth after the civil war ended in 2002, with development boosted by oil reserves.

Mr. dos Santos could seek new credit from Beijing, according to reports in the Portuguese press.

China is forecast to accelerate its crude imports this month.

The Asian nation will start buying more to take advantage of low prices and ample supply to fill emergency stockpiles, according to ICIS China, a Shanghai-based commodities researcher.

China, the world's second-largest oil consumer, may add 100,000 barrels a day in emergency supplies during the rest of this year and another 200,000 barrels a day next year, PIRA Energy Group, a consultant in New York, said last month. (AFP, Bloomberg 09-06-2015)

S/AFRICAN OCEANS TO UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES IN ECONOMY

South Africa's oceans have a vast potential to unlock the country's vast wealth development opportunities estimated at US\$77 billion to the economy, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Barbara Thomson has said.

Speaking Monday during the celebrations of World Oceans Day in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape

Province, she said the use of various marine resources in the country's ocean space had increased.

"We thus need to develop a proactive approach to understand our oceans capacity and role to ensure socio-economic emancipation while protecting this vast and fragile environment," Thomson said.

She added: "We aspire to create partnerships while strengthening existing ones to develop means and ways to share the wealth of the ocean for the benefit of all South Africans."

Thomson said the Ministry of Environmental Affairs would continue its efforts to protect and maintain the country's marine biodiversity.

"Aspects of climate change, ocean acidification, pollution, unsustainable coastal area development and unwanted impacts from resource extraction need to be addressed for human well-being, environmental prosperity and integrity," Thomson said.

The UN-inspired World Oceans Day is aimed at raising awareness about the significance of the marine environment and promotes the role of the oceans as well as the importance of conserving and protecting the marine environment. (APA 09-06-2015)

SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES PLAGUED BY CYBER-ATTACKS

A typical attack on South African assets averages 9Gbps and lasts 17 minutes. A large attack may last a couple of hours, according to Fryer.

The speed of technological change is leaving gaping holes in highly sensitive company IT infrastructure. These vulnerabilities are being targeted by cybercriminals at an increasing rate as South Africa is starting to feel the heat from attackers across the globe.

It was revealed at the 2015 Security Summit, in Johannesburg, that South Africa is the most attacked country on the African continent over the past six weeks.

Vernon Fryer, Chief Technology Security Officer at Vodacom, presented alarming statistics from the Vodacom Cyber Intelligence Centre revealing a 150% increase in the number of DDOS attacks in the last 18 months in Africa. These attacks occur where multiple compromised systems, usually infected with a Trojan, are used to target a single system causing valuable downtime to assets like websites.

A typical attack on South African assets averages 9Gbps and lasts 17 minutes. A large attack may last a couple of hours, according to Fryer. These attacks are not specific to any sector or organisation. Cybercriminals are adaptable and tend to follow the money.

Jason Louw, forensic cybercrime-fighter, maintains that, "99% of all global phishing attacks originate from organised crime. The problem is that we've seen very few prosecutions in SA cybercrime."

Symantec's Antonio Forzieri says that one in 214 emails sent in South Africa last year was a spear fishing attack. Don't let the exotic naming fool you. These attacks can cause serious personal distress, financial loss and are achieved by the simple click of a malicious link in an email.

Interestingly, the effectiveness of a spear fishing attack rises from three to 70% when private personal info is included. Most times this information is accessed easily online or hacked through open source websites," says Ignus Swart from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

It is no wonder then, that cybercrime statistics recently posted by the South African Banking Risk Information Centre show that South Africans lose in excess of R2.2 billion to internet fraud and phishing attacks annually.

Are South Africans sufficiently protected by legislation?

It is a little known fact that only 28 countries in the world currently have a cyber security policy in place. South Africa is one of them, but its policy is heavily criticised.

Professor Basie von Solms, director of the Centre for Cyber Security at the University of Johannesburg, says a single point of contact is needed for cyber security in the South African Government.

“The AU Convention shows SA is far behind as far as cyber security is concerned. Government and private sector must work together to cyber secure SA.” he added.

Is it all doom and gloom?

There are those that believe that we can win. Hacktivist-turned-security-expert and Gigaom Research analyst, as well as recent TED Talk speaker, Keren Elazari, says the answer lies in decentralising the current systems.

“When it comes to the global financial ecosystem we are at a massive shift point, moving from traditional 20th century finance that is centralised to a new financial world with micro payments, digital payments, digital wallets, crypto currencies and other forms of payments.”

Elazari is convinced that as this change occurs it will empower small companies and individuals to have a bigger say in their own cyber security.

Mustapha Zaouini, CEO of payments company PayU, explains that as payment ecosystems develop, the threat of attack from unsuspecting sources such as third parties will increase.

“It is going to get very complicated for the ordinary business to keep track of all the innovation to thwart cybercrime. So it is vital that basic security measure are in place and that online companies keep things as simple as possible. We have seen this among our small to medium-sized merchants. The more aware you are of the risks, the more secure your online assets will be. Vigilance is key.”

According to van Solms, small businesses are reported to be the largest growth area for cyber attacks, adding 31% of all attacks targeted small businesses, as they are less prepared to handle cyber risks. Another reason to use providers who are credible.

“Our payment systems are secure in South Africa, however, security is a culture that needs to be integrated into our daily lives. This applies to small and large companies as well as individuals and starts with password management,” says Zaouini.

This year’s Security Summit highlighted that while tenacious attackers and equally dedicated IT security companies compete for the latest technological dominance, all we can do is play our part with common sense when it comes to privacy and online security. (IT Africa News 08-06-2015)

KENYA’S GOVERNORS END STALEMATE, SIGN \$391M MEDICAL DEAL

Kenya’s Governors in all the 47 Counties on Tuesday finally agreed to sign up to the 38 billion shillings (\$391 million) medical equipment deal been rolled out from the national government.

The agreement brings to an end a deadlock that lasted for months pitting the national government and the governors who had declined to sign the deal, with the governors accusing the government of refusing to consult over the deal.

The new medical equipments are aimed at providing specialized healthcare through an innovative project where manufacturers install and manage modern machines in Kenyan hospitals across the country.

Under the project launched in February by President Uhuru Kenyatta, every county is supposed to have two hospitals fully equipped with state of the art facilities.

The project will provide each of the selected hospitals with modern theatre equipment, surgical and sterilization equipment, laboratory equipment, kidney dialysis equipment, ICU facilities, digital X-ray machines, ultrasound and imaging equipment.

While addressing the press in Nairobi, Council of Governors Chairman Peter Munya said they agreed to sign the deal after consultation with the national government but said pending issues will have to be solved first.

We don't want to be seen as a barrier to Kenya's accessing healthcare, said Munya, adding there are many thorny issues that need to be ironed out.

The governors raised constitutional issues to do with procurement procedures, tendering and the need for consultation.

However the governors mainly feared their budgets will be slashed considerably to cater for the cost of maintaining the medical scheme, but seemed to have bowed to pressure after receiving assurances the government will bear the costs. (APA 09-06-2015)

RWANDA: JUNE TEA EXPORT EARNINGS RISE TO \$29.7M

Rwanda's tea export earnings increased to \$29.7 million in first week of June, up from \$28.7 million at the end of May, a new report from the National Agriculture export Board (NAEB) has indicated.

This is against the back drop of declining tea prices at the Mombasa auction. Prices dropped marginally from \$2.88 per kilogramme last week to \$2.86 per kilogramme.

Overall, tea prices have dropped to \$2.86 in a period of 12 months from \$2.92 previously. The decline is attributed to an increase in tea production globally.

Statistics from NAEB indicate that the country's production capacity increased from 11,707 tonnes to 12,190 tonnes over the period.

The report also indicates that out of the 584 tonnes produced, 362 tonnes were sold through auction, fetching over \$1.04 million. A kilo was sold at an average price of \$2.87.

George William Kayonga, the NAEB chief executive officer, attributed rise in value of Rwanda's tea exports to increased productivity and good quality of the country's tea leaves.

Corneille Ntakirutimana, the NAEB head of tea division, said they are focusing on quality and value-addition to ensure the sector stays profitable.

"Due to price fluctuations, we ensure standards to stay competitive. We also keep sector players regularly informed about market trends so that they respond accordingly," Ntakirutimana told *Business Times* yesterday.

Projections

Recently, the NAEB unveiled a new strategy to increase exports at an average annual growth rate of 24 per cent. The strategy will see annual tea export receipts increase to a tune of \$94.9 million by 2018 from \$ 65.7 million in 2013.

The export body also plans to distribute over 43 million tea seedlings within the next one and a half years. The initiative could see the country's annual tea export earnings double to \$147 million by 2017, according to NAEB.

So far, over 13.7 million tea seedlings have been planted across the country.(New Times 09-06-2015)

KENYA'S INFLATION SLIPS TO 6.87 PERCENT IN MAY

Kenya's month-on-month inflation declined from 7.08 percent in April to 6.87 percent in May, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) disclosed on Tuesday.

According to CBK, the month-on-month food inflation declined from 13.42 percent to 13.20 percent in April and May.

However, the month-on-month inflation non-food non-fuel (NFNF) inflation has risen over the last three months from 3.16 percent in March to 3.53 percent in April and 4.15 percent in May, CBK said. (APA 09-06-2015)

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