

# MEMORANDUM

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## EXTRA - WEEK END EDITION

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## UN OFFICIAL: MORE DEVELOPMENT DOESN'T MEAN LESS IMMIGRATION

François Crépeau, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said today (18 June) that the assumption that more development aid would reduce immigration was wrong.

Crépeau, a Canadian national and a Professor at Montreal's McGill University, met with Brussels officials, and the press, to talk about his annual report to the Human Rights Council on the management of the external borders of the European Union and its impact on the human rights of migrants.

The debate on the root causes of immigration is skewed, Crépeau said, because politicians make the equation that more development means less migration.

"Wrong! All the research I've seen shows that more development means more migration. Because all the people who wanted to go for a long time and didn't have the means to, suddenly have the means to go, and they go," Crépeau said.

He gave Italian migration to North America as an example, which grew continuously from 1945 to the oil crisis of the 1970s, reaching its peak in the '70s, and finally slowing in the 1980s.

"For 30 years the immigration continued, when the Italian economy was booming. So more development usually means more migration, over a generation. If the idea (is) that we should do more development to reduce migration, we are on the wrong footing," Crépeau said.

He added that this didn't mean that the developed countries should not help other countries to develop, but that if politicians thought that putting €500 billion in Africa was going to reduce migration in the next five years, this was an illegitimate expectation.

Crépeau's main message was that Western politicians were driven by their electoral constraints and didn't have the courage to admit that immigration wasn't a threat, but an opportunity for their countries. He welcomed the European agenda for Migration the European Commission had recently proposed, mainly because it admitted that saving lives was more important than protecting borders.

But he added that he realised how difficult it has been to draft this European Agenda for Migration, and how difficult it would be to rally the support of the states around it. In fact, EU ministers on Tuesday rejected the main elements of the proposal.

The UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein recently said that the EU could easily take in one million refugees.

Crépeau also said that the "global North" could take one or even two million Syrians over five years without difficulty.

EurActiv asked him how he could propose millions, when EU countries couldn't agree on the distribution of 40,000 migrants from Italy and Greece to the rest of the EU.

The UN official said the numbers were confusing, because nationalist and populist discourses are dominating the debate.

"They are making as (though) 20,000 was a huge number. 20,000 people is 0.00004% of the population of the EU. This is minuscule. It's an extremely small number. Any country of the EU can afford that," he said, point out that Germany had accepted 400,000 Bosnians during the Yugoslav wars for several years.

"If we frame the question in the terms of the nationalist and populist movements, yes, it's a huge problem. If we try to frame it otherwise, it's not a big problem. And the million over five years I'm talking about is not a huge problem. We did that for the Bosnians 20 years ago. This is something we can entirely manage if we frame the question properly."

Asked about the Hungarian authorities planning to erect a fence on their border with Serbia, Crépeau said, "This is a nationalist populist response." He argued that erecting fences was only entrenching the smugglers. (EurActiv 01-05-2015)

## AFRICAN CURRENCIES SLIDE DESPITE RATE HIKES

Five sub-Saharan African central banks have bucked a global trend by increasing borrowing costs this year to ward off inflation and defend their currencies. They have had little success.

On Tuesday, Uganda's central bank boosted its benchmark rate by 100 basis points for the second time this year, while Namibia raised its repurchase rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday. Kenya, Angola and Ghana have also tightened monetary policy and SA has indicated it will follow suit soon. Brazil is the only major emerging market outside Africa to have increased rates this year.

While Federal Reserve chairwoman Janet Yellen announced an unchanged monetary policy stance on Wednesday, the prospect of US rates rising later this year has placed currencies globally under pressure. African nations have fared worse than most due to the compounding effect of lower prices of commodities that account for the bulk of their exports. The price of Brent crude oil is down 44% over the past 12 months, while copper has dropped 14% in London trading.

"Many sub-Saharan economies are paying a heavy price for not having implemented tighter fiscal and monetary policies when market conditions were favourable," said Nicholas Spiro, MD of Spiro Sovereign Strategy in London. "It's one thing for vulnerable sub-Saharan economies to hike rates. It's another to restore financial stability at a time when market sentiment remains fragile, oil prices have fallen sharply and the Fed is preparing to hike rates."

Ghana's cedi has tumbled 26% this year against the dollar, Angola's kwanza and Uganda's shilling have fallen 14% and Kenya's shilling has declined 7.2%. Namibia's dollar, which is pegged to SA's rand, is down 5.7%. While inflation has slowed in Namibia during the course of this year, it has been accelerating in the other five nations.

At least 15 central banks in sub-Saharan Africa set interest rates monitored by Bloomberg.

Some African governments have to shoulder part of the blame for the deterioration in their currencies, said Razia Khan, head of Africa macroeconomic research at Standard Chartered in London. "There has been a material deterioration in fiscal policy across a number of countries.

"Plans for increased spending and the admission of larger-than-expected fiscal deficits will keep up the pressure on monetary policy in order to compensate and deliver some semblance of macroeconomic stability."

The benchmark lending rate stands at 22% in Ghana, 13% in Uganda, 10% in Kenya, 9.25% in Angola, 6.5% in Namibia and 5.75% in SA. US rates have been near zero since 2008.

"The model of increasing interest rates to strengthen your exchange rate can only take you so far," Antoon de Klerk, a fund manager at Investec Asset Management said.

"If you continue importing and people see your exchange rate depreciate from year to year, as happened in Ghana, then it does not matter if you pay 9%, 10% or 11% for money, it's simply not enough to attract capital."

The International Monetary Fund last month lowered its growth outlook for sub-Saharan Africa by 1.25 percentage points to 4.5% for this year.

While higher rates may damp consumer demand and further dull the region's economic prospects, the effect will be limited, said Cobus de Hart, an analyst at NKC African Economics.

"In a lot of African countries, growth is primarily driven by primary industries, such as mineral extraction," he said. "The effect of higher interest rates is not as large as compared with more developed countries."

Central banks in countries such as Ghana and Kenya are raising rates to defend their currencies and reduce price pressures on imports rather than target consumer demand, said Yvonne Mhango, an economist at Renaissance Capital. "Very few households borrow to consume in sub-Saharan Africa."

Several other African countries may also have to raise rates as concerns over a depreciating currency and deteriorating inflation outlook outweigh those about growth. Top of the list are Mozambique, where the new metical has dropped 15% this year against the dollar, and Zambia, which has seen a 14% decline in the value of its kwacha.

"Longer term, a stable macroeconomic backdrop is the best guarantee of future growth," said Ms Khan. (Bloomberg 19-06-2015)

## **MALAWI FINALLY MIGRATES TO DIGITAL BROADCASTING**

The Malawi government has announced that it has finally migrated its broadcasting services to digital from analogue which was used previously.

Digital migration is the transferring of broadcasting services from analogue to digital signals for radio and television.

Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture Kondwani Nankhumwa told journalists in the capital Lilongwe on Wednesday that the switching off of the analogue signal which is in line with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) resolution for member countries to migrate to digital TV broadcasting by June 17, 2015 will be done in two phases.

"Malawi is on the right course because it is one of the few countries in southern African region to switch off analogue television and start digital broadcasting," he said.

The switch to digital will be done in two phases starting with Mzuzu in northern part and Zomba in Southern region by June 17, he said.

He said in some parts of the country they will be switched off ninety days later which will be on September 17, 2015.

According to him, so far there are only four countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who have made the best strives in that regard including Namibia, Tanzania, Mauritius and Malawi.

While the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting is applicable to both radio and television, the process will first involve television broadcasting only, he said.

In 2006, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) set June 17, 2015 as the deadline for member states to switch to digital terrestrial broadcasting from the analogue broadcasting. (APA 17-06-2015)

## **BLACKBERRY LEAPS INTO AFRICA**

BlackBerry Limited has launched its latest smartphone, the BlackBerry Leap, in Nigeria and South Africa. According to the mobile device manufacturer, the BlackBerry Leap features the BlackBerry 10.3.1 operating system, and a five-inch HD display. Additionally, the company revealed that its latest smartphone offers more than a full day's battery life.

According to the company: "With up to 25 hours of heavy use, the BlackBerry Leap will power through even your most demanding day." Additionally, the company revealed that the BlackBerry Leap comes standard with support for encryption, built-in malware protection, and back-up, wipe and restore features.

BlackBerry has done away with the traditional keyboard and revealed that the BlackBerry Leap will feature a touchscreen keyboard, which features error correction, and multi-language support.

Much like the [BlackBerry Z3](#), the BlackBerry Leap features Android App compatibility. The device also features The BlackBerry Assistant, which according to the company, is its first digital assistant that can be used with voice and text commands to help users manage work and personal email, contacts, calendar and other native BlackBerry 10 applications.

According to Martin Fick, senior product manager, BlackBerry South Africa: "The Leap is currently available at Vodacom Stores within South Africa; however, other mobile operators will begin to offer the smartphone over the next few weeks."

Orange is currently selling the device for R3990 (\$323 USD dependent on exchange rate). In Nigeria, online retailer, Jumia, is selling the device for NGN 67,000 (\$336 USD dependent on exchange rate). (IT Africa News 10-06-2015)

## FIRST CONFERENCE ON ENERGY OF THE CPLP



The CPLP - Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries, whose members are Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, East Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea- Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé e Príncipe, organises the First Energy Conference of the CPLP. Georgia, Japan, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal and Turkey are observers. The Conference will take place in Estoril near Lisbon, Portugal, next 24th and 25th of June.

The Conference aims to recognise the value of the existing capacity in this Community to affirm itself as a global player in the world energy field, and to show the ability to be an intercontinental platform for political and diplomatic coordination, technical financial economic cooperation partner, promoter to the creation of business and production of wealth, agent in the production of investigation, science and technology and driver of a global model of energy sovereignty and development.

The following link <http://www.energiacplp.org/> will provide all the details and registration.

## NAMIBIA AMONG AFRICA'S FIRST DIGITAL MIGRATIONS

A senior Namibian official has said that his country together with Mauritius and Tanzania are the only nations in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Africa in general that have met the digital migration deadline which falls on Wednesday.

Albertus Aochamub, the Director General of Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) that was tasked by the government with driving the digital migration process, said Namibia has reason to celebrate after meeting the ITU dateline, that came at the cost of N\$400 million (\$32 million).

He told media that Namibia has reached the coverage rate of 70 percent of the population.

“Countries such as Namibia who have switched off analogue broadcasting are fine, but those that will still come on stream, if our signals in Namibia interferes with broadcasting in Botswana or in Angola or even in South Africa that have not switched off, it means they cannot go to ITU and ask for protection from Namibia” Aochamub explained.

“We are the first movers and we therefore has advantage that no one can interfere with us,” he added.

In 2006, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) set June 17, 2015 as the deadline for member states to switch to digital terrestrial broadcasting from the analogue mode. (APA 17-06-2015)

## MOZAMBIQUE SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

Mozambique Thursday signed a loan agreement with the government of Japan for US\$250 million to implement the second phase of the development project of the port of Nacala, in Nampula province, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

The contract for the loan, announced recently, was signed in Maputo by the Minister of Economy and Finance of Mozambique, Adriano Maleiane and the resident representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Mozambique, Katsuyoshi Sudo.

The funding will allow the transfer of the container terminal at the south pier to the north pier, which will have a greater handling capacity with modern equipment and more space for parking.

This investment is the most important part of a series of aid packages provided by JICA to renew and increase the capacity of the port of Nacala.

For the first phase, JICA provided about US\$27 million for emergency works in 2012 and about US\$66 million in 2013. (12-06-2015)

## **DANGOTE CREATES ADDITIONAL 28,000 JOBS WITH NEW TRUCK SCHEME**

A truck ownership scheme, newly introduced by the Dangote Group, is expected to create additional 28,000 new jobs. The scheme will empower qualified Nigerians to become self-employed truck entrepreneurs.

Dangote Group, through its cement subsidiary, will provide a minimum of 7000 trucks for eligible Nigerians to become truck officers who will in turn hire drivers and a minimum of two assistants, who will be driving the trucks to deliver Dangote cement to its distributors spread across the country.

A statement from the Company said; “we have 7,000 trucks to share with intelligent, hardworking and committed individuals with business acumen who would like to deepen their entrepreneurial skills in the transport/haulage business, willing to manage and operate a truck, if necessary by appointing their own driver (who should pass the institutional screening, orientation and training process).

The package, the Group said include total support for the benefiting entrepreneurs, through provision of first class maintenance support, fuel and other resources available at its facilities.

To be qualified for the scheme, Dangote explained that, each applicant must be professional, who must ensure at all times the availability of his/her truck for loading at the plant level and off-loading at the customer/depot locations, which is to serve with excellence all of our cement customers with our product. While the would-be entrepreneurs must be a graduate, the truck drivers need not be a graduate and both would work together to ensure the success of the new product delivery strategy.

“To become a bonafide owner of the truck, among other considerations, the truck entrepreneur must have logged a minimum of 400,000 km. On meeting the mileage target, a nominal amount will be paid by the truck entrepreneur and this amount will be provided to the truck driver who would have assisted the truck entrepreneur in meeting this target, the money will represent a discharge payment to the driver.

“Any driver so discharged above can again apply and be engaged to work with another truck entrepreneur”, the Group added.

By this, Dangote said it was up-scaling the quality of its customer service delivery and then take the advantage of this new strategy to create jobs for teeming jobless Nigerian.

Just last week, the President of the Group opened its Cement plant in Ethiopia during which he charged governments at all levels to see job creation and poverty alleviation as the potent means of improving the standard of living of African people.

He also stated that only African can rise up to the economic challenges of Africans better than foreigners and therefore the need to ensure the growth of the real sector by providing the enabling environment to thrive.

Dangote, had at another forum in Lagos recently explained that his foray into petrochemical and agric industrial sub sector was part of his own contribution to reduce unemployment in the country, saying if more Nigerians are economically empowered through gainful employment, the poverty would have been reduced to a minimal level.

Dangote who has ventured into the construction of refinery and establishment of fertilizer plants in parts of the country, said the task of reinvigorating the nation’s economy rests more on the shoulders of the private sector and urged other investors to lend government a helping hand in this direction.

According to him, the task of government is more of providing the enabling environment for the private sector to thrive through the right policies and infrastructural provisions.

He stated that he was optimistic that the present federal government would focus on those issues that would help the private sector perform optimally, noting that no government anywhere has ever succeeded without the input of the private sector.

Dangote still urged the government not to relent in helping the Organised Private Sector (OPS) by intervening in other areas of their operations in which the inclement climate under which they operate has hampered them from attaining installed capacities. (BD 16-06-2015)

## **POOL OF BANKS LEND CAMAIR-CO 25 BILLION FCFA FOR ITS RELAUNCH PLAN**

Cameroon Airlines Corporation (Camair-Co) and a pool of banks signed a loan agreement amounting 25 billion FCFA for the national airlines to relaunch itself, APA notes.

The loan was granted by Ecobank in leadership posture, but also by Afriland First Bank, the Commercial Bank of Cameroon (CBC) and United Bank for Africa (UBA).

This is the first phase of the financing, the total needs of which amount to 30 billion FCFA.

This budget will be dedicated for the purchase of new aircraft and of maintenance equipment.

Camair-co which is currently provided with one Boeing 767-300ER, two Boeing 737-700 and two Chinese MA-60 planes, intends to bring its fleet to 9 aircraft.

The company constitutes 100% of public capital and it officially started its operations on 28 March 2011, is today drowning in heavy debt and is regularly shaken by staff strike and disillusioned passengers. (APA 17-06-2015)

## **KENYA: GOOGLE TO BACK USD 700 MLN WIND FARM?**

According to a report by [CNBC](#), Google is allegedly in talks to become an investor in a USD 700 million, 40,000 acre Lake Turkana Wind Power Project – which is located in Kenya.

The project's 310 megawatt capacity is expected to boost Kenya's installed energy capacity by 20 percent.

According to the report, if the deal is finalised, Google would be a minority stakeholder; however, Google has declined to comment on its involvement.

According to CNBC's sources, no deal has been finalised as of yet. Kwame Parker, head of power and infrastructure for East Africa at South Africa's Standard Bank, noted that if Google did take a stake, it would be a significant vote of confidence for investors considering African power market entry. Parker helped arrange financing for Turkana but declined to comment more specifically on Google's plans.

Most of Google's renewable energy investments have been domestic, largely in wind and solar farms in places like West Texas and California's Mojave Desert, but the company is also looking beyond. In 2013, Google invested USD 12 million in South Africa's Jasper Power Project. (IT Africa News 12-06-2015)

## **ZAMBIAN GOV'T ACCUSED OF BLEEDING ECONOMY**

The opposition Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) on Wednesday sharply criticized Zambian Finance Minister Alexander Chikwanda for what it termed as an impending economic disaster for the country.

FDD secretary general Antonio Mwanza told journalists in Lusaka that the announcement by Chikwanda early this week that the country's national budget was in deficit by 20 billion Zambian Kwacha (about US\$270 million) was unprecedented and a total disaster for the country.

He said reckless borrowing by the Patriotic Front (PF) government to finance an ambitious infrastructure development programme was to blame for the deficit, which is close to half the total budget for 2015.

Chikwanda told Parliament on Tuesday that the government was facing a deficit of the K20 billion and asked lawmakers to approve the government's plan to borrow K60 billion (about \$810 million) to be able to meet the requirements for the 2015 budget.

Mwanza, however, observed that efforts by various stakeholder to slow the PF government from its path of borrowing had been met with arrogance and warned that the country now faced an economic crisis, which he claimed was the first time this had happened in post-independence Zambia.

He called for the resignation of Chikwanda whom he said was to blame for the huge external debts Zambia had accumulated in the three-year period of the PF reign that is running to over US\$4 billion. (APA 17-06-2015)

## ZIMBABWE HARVESTS SHRIVEL AS RAINS AND GOVERNMENT FARM SUPPORT DRY UP

For many years, Miriam Hlabangana, a farmer in Gwanda, about 150km south of Bulawayo, planted and harvested enough maize to not only feed her family but sell some excess to buyers from Bulawayo and beyond.

That abundance was the product of the small piece of land her late husband was allocated by the government about 15 years ago, at the height of Zimbabwe's land reform programme, and the government support she received in the form of fertiliser and maize seed — as well as her own hard work on the land.

But in the past few years everything — the free fertiliser and seed, even the rain — has disappeared, she said.

"I am now asking my (grown) children to send mealie meal from South Africa," Ms Hlabangana said, referring to the ground maize that is a staple food in the region.

Her grain silo is nearly empty, at a time of year when she normally would have been busy with a winnowing basket, preparing maize for customers.

In Zimbabwe, cuts in government subsidies for small-scale farmers and a shifting climate that has altered planting seasons and brought long dry spells has made working the land much harder for the country's subsistence farmers.

"I have the land, but I don't know what do anymore because of successive poor harvests," Ms Hlabangana told Thomson Reuters Foundation.

### Food aid planned

Already millions of Zimbabweans in the rural areas, where up to 70% of the country's population live, will require food assistance this season according to assessments by the government and the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET).

President Robert Mugabe in May assured farmers such as Ms Hlabangana that they will not starve, as the government was putting in place measures to provide food assistance.

But Ms Hlabangana, like many other farmers who previously provided the bulk of the country's maize reserves, say being fed by someone else is humiliating.

"I want to eat the fruits of my own labour," she said.

Zimbabwe's maize harvest is expected to fall by 35% this year compared to 2014, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

That means the country will need to import about half the maize it requires in 2015, at a time when harvests in neighbouring South Africa and Zambia, its regular source of imports, are also falling.

Small-scale farmers — including beneficiaries of the country's land redistribution programme, which saw land seized from white farmers — contributed 80% of Zimbabwe's total maize production during the 2013-14 growing season.

Joseph Made, the country's agriculture minister, blames the declining harvests on climatic shifts that have cut rainfall to the country's rain-fed fields.

Declining government support is also playing a role, however.

During the 2013-14 growing season, the government pumped \$161m in free maize seed and fertilizer into 1.6 million household farms, according to Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa. But Zimbabwe's 2014 agriculture ministry budget has fallen by more than half, from \$390m in 2013 to \$174m in 2014, Mr Chinamasa said.

That has resulted in less money to support small-scale farmers this season, Mr Chinamasa said. He accused banks of being reluctant to step in and offer cheap loans to farmers to help make up the shortfall.

However, many resettled farmers in Zimbabwe do not have title to their land, which prevents them from accessing bank loans, experts said.

### **Money for irrigation reservoirs**

Amid these funding challenges, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) in March released \$72m to assist smallholder farmers in three of the country's 10 provinces with irrigation infrastructure.

Matabeleland South, Ms Hlabangana's province, is not among those benefiting.

Brazil, also in May, advanced a \$98m dollar loan to Zimbabwe, through its More Food for Africa Programme. The money will pay for tractors, tillers and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes.

However, Tapuwa Mashangwa, an agro-business consultant based in Bulawayo, said small-scale farmers need more help to reclaim their place as major contributors to Zimbabwe's national food security.

That includes, among other things, the creation of more water reservoirs and better drainage systems to help deal with worsening weather extremes, such as drought and flooding, he said.

"It is not a case of one solution solves all," he said.

In May, the Economist Intelligence Unit's annual Global Food Security Index (GFSI) said policy and infrastructure changes were driving improvements in food security in sub-Saharan Africa.

Zimbabwe, however, appears to be going in the opposite direction as lack of support to small-scale farmers like Ms Hlabangana, worsening weather and problems like unclear land ownership hit efforts to build production, experts said. (Reuters 15-06-2015)

### **NIGERIA TO DEMAND OVER \$9M SEIZED BY SOUTH AFRICA**

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has said that the government will demand the release of the \$9.3m seized from some agents of the immediate past administration of Goodluck Jonathan by the South African authorities on September 5, 2014.

The money was meant for the purchase of arms in South Africa.

Nigeria's Punch newspaper report on Wednesday said that President Buhari told Nigerians resident in South Africa at the Nigerian Consulate in Johannesburg that he would seek a review of the cases of Nigerians currently in South African prisons and those pending in courts when President Jacob Zuma visits Nigeria.

I'm told there are 83 Nigerians in prisons here (South Africa); I don't know what they have done, but I spoke to the President of South Africa this (Monday) afternoon.

He (Zuma) wants to come to Nigeria. There are issues he knows which he wants to talk about. I will certainly talk to him; I hope our ambassador will send a comprehensive report about the court cases and about those who lost properties during the xenophobic attacks recently.

And at that time, I will attempt to ask him about our \$9.3m which was not correctly transferred, Buhari said.

A month after the September 5, 2014 seizure, the South African authorities reportedly impounded another \$5.7m, claiming that both funds were to be used for illegal purchase of arms.

However, Nigeria's National Security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki, said the transactions were legal and urged the Zuma government to stop actions that could degenerate to a diplomatic showdown between the two countries.

Indications later emerged that an aircraft conveying the \$9.3m belonged to the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria and a close confidant of Jonathan, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor.

Oritsejafor denied knowledge of the arms deal. (APA 17-06-2015)

### **ONLINE JOB PORTAL BEGINS OPERATIONS IN SENEGAL**

Everjobs, an online job portal, recently started its operations in Dakar. During a press conference, Co-founder and Managing Director for Africa Eric Lauer introduced the company officially to the public.

Everjobs will support Senegal's plan to establish itself as an emerging country by 2035. The initiative, known as 'Plan Senegal Emergent', places promoting youth employment at the top of its agenda.

Eric Lauer, Co-founder and Managing Director at Everjobs Africa said, "Heads of HR are concerned that a lack of basic CV writing knowledge and poor interview preparation resources have contributed to a fall in employability among its youth. Furthermore, a widespread risk of counterfeit CV's has affected HR trust in applicants. Many of them are actually currently trying to repatriate some of Senegal's best talent who have worked and studied abroad."

According to Lauer: "Recruiting managers are finding it difficult to hire those with technical expertise immediately as there are time lags in the recruitment process, particularly in the construction industry. In this industry, heads of HR are looking for graduates with state-certified diplomas and strong proven skills, so it's therefore important for candidates to gain experience in a large firm that provides high-quality training. Conversely, Everjobs addresses the need to focus on certain industries with high turnover rates such as hospitality or banks."

"We aim to facilitate the growing market in Senegal by tackling these challenges head-on as it will save both employers and job seekers a lot of time. Our mission is to promote transparency in the labour market." concludes Lauer. (IT Africa News 12-06-2015)

### **BRITISH ENVOY URGES BOTSWANA TO INVEST IN GREEN ECONOMY**

The British High Commission in Gaborone has called for collaborative efforts with the government to provide solar energy to Botswana, especially investing in a greener economy.

Speaking at the European Climate Diplomacy Day in Gaborone on Wednesday, Deputy High Commissioner to Botswana Oliver Richards said Botswana must take advantage of the plenty sunshine hours it has.

Richards advised Botswana to take the path of investing in a greener economy, which although might be costly in the beginning, would benefit the country in the long run.

"The UK does not have as much sunshine as here but we managed to invest in a successful solar power plant," he said.

Like other southern African countries, Botswana enjoys long hours of sunshines per day, estimated to average 2,500 hours per year. (APA 17-06-2015)

### **TRANSPORT FIRMS SEE AFRICAN TRADE PACT CUTTING PAPERWORK**

Logistics companies are looking forward to cheaper, less bureaucratic movement from the Cape to Cairo. African leaders last week signed a free-trade pact creating a common market spanning 26 countries, from Egypt to SA.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) is home to about 650-million people and has a total gross domestic product of more than \$1-trillion.

The move is aimed at ensuring that less "onerous" documentation is needed to traverse the continent within the area, and at creating a duty-free trade region.

However, "large, nontariff" barriers, such as poor infrastructure and inefficient customs procedures, remain a challenge to such agreements according to research from the South African Institute of International Relations.

Trade among African states accounts for only 12% of total African trade, compared with 55% in Asia and 70% in Europe.

Over the past three years, SA has exported an average \$16.8bn in goods to countries in the tripartite region, according to the Department of Trade and Industry. This amounts to 18.3% of the country's global exports.

Maersk Line Southern Africa MD Jonathan Horn said the TFTA would allow for a review of duties payable when crossing borders, and ultimately, duty-free trade among participating countries.

"The current situation is that there are several customs regimes involved, and it is onerous from a documents perspective," said Mr. Horn. "We should see a reduction in the bureaucracy, which should drive down the cost of moving goods into and out of Africa."

DHL Express sub-Saharan Africa vice-president for operations Oliver Facey said a single administrative document, or single customs declaration to cover the end-to-end movement of goods, would help standardise, format and reduce paperwork. "The removal of trade barriers would enable countries to increase their earnings, penetrate new markets and contribute towards their national development," Mr Facey said.

African Union (AU) trade and industry commissioner Fatima Haram Acyl said the AU was working to make the customs process on the continent electronic, to avoid onerous documentation requirements. This is part of the AU's goal to establish a continental free-trade area by 2017. She said infrastructure would be an "enabler" of the free-trade area as there was already investment in transport and energy infrastructure.

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said the domestic markets that formed part of the free-trade area were too small individually, by global standards, to support economic diversification and industrialisation.

"Creating larger markets with greater critical mass will enhance the African investment proposition. It is also the only way Africa will be able to decisively move up the value chain and become a more effective player in the global economy," said Mr. Davies. (BD 15-06-2015)

## **BOTSWANA TO REGULATE CIGARETTE TRADE**

Botswana plans to introduce a new law that will ensure that cigarettes are sold from licenced premises only, an official revealed Wednesday.

Ministry of Health environmental health officer Ephraim Rapalai told APA that the proposed Tobacco Control Bill was aimed at regulating the sale of cigarettes.

The official said the ministry hoped the proposed legislation would adequately address challenges such as underage smoking.

"Our biggest challenge is the prevalence of underage smoking," he said.

Rapalai further said one of the challenges they encounter in trying to control tobacco and its illicit trade by the tobacco industry.

"Trying to control tobacco with its illicit trade in the industry has been a mammoth task," he said (APA 17-06-2015)

## CHINA TO FINANCE SOLAR PLANT IN KENYA AS COOPERATION DEEPENS

China has signed an agreement to assist Kenya to set up a 50 Megawatt solar plant, which will be one of the largest solar plants in Africa, Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Liu Xianfa said on Friday.

Liu told a media briefing in Nairobi that the energy plant will be located in northeastern Kenya's Garissa county.

"China Import-Export Bank will provide a concessional loan to Kenya in order to complete the renewable energy project," Liu said.

The project will boost the development of the Garissa region especially in employment creation and help to reduce extremism and terrorism in the region.

Garissa is the site where 148 people were killed in a terror attack conducted by Somalia-based militant group Al-Shabaab in April this year.

After the attack, Chinese nationals in Kenya have donated approximately 67,000 U.S. dollars to the families of victims and survivors.

"After extensive research and mutual exchanges between the two countries, China has listed Kenya as one of the pilot countries to benefit from industrial cooperation with China," Liu said, noting that Kenya was selected due to its solid industrial foundation, sound regulatory regime as well as robust financial market.

He stated that the solar plant project is likely to succeed due to Kenya's strong influence in the East and Central African region.

China is Kenya's largest source of financing, largest construction project contractor and its second largest trading partner.

Data from the Chinese embassy in Kenya shows that bilateral trade between the two countries reached over 5 billion U.S. dollars in 2014, which is a 53 percent increase from the year 2013.

Chinese contract investment into Kenya in 2014 stood at around 600 million dollars, which represents a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

According to the ambassador, cooperation in the areas of science and technology has also expanded in recent years with the construction of the Sino-Africa Joint Research Center at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

And in April this year, the Chinese government has handed over the second batch of equipment to the National Youth Service, which Liu said is aimed at improving the employment for Kenyan youth. (15-06-2015)

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