MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

KENYA REVIEWS MINING CODE, SEEKING 'WIN-WIN' FOR STATE AND INVESTORS

Kenya is reviewing its mining code, a year after enacting new legislation, as it seeks to attract investment into an industry that has barely grown over the past five years.

The government is working with the UK Department for International Development-funded Extractives Hub to come up with a revised law that balances investor returns with the government's revenue needs and international best practice, Mines Secretary Dan Kazungu said.

The review was expected to be submitted to the ministry in the next few weeks, he said.

"We want to be attractive, but we also want to get the most out of our resources, based on the spirit of win-win," Kazungu said in an interview June 30 in the capital, Nairobi. "The investor must get a good return on their investment, but win for government, and win for the community as well."

Mining companies are facing similar legislative disruption in other African countries.

In SA, the Chamber of Mines is going to court to challenge new rules in the latest Mining Charter stipulating a larger black economic empowerment stake in mining companies. (BD 04-07-2017)

EIB BROADENS SUPPORT FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN MALAWI

The European Investment Bank has signed a EUR 20.5 million loan agreement with the Malawian Ministry of Finance in support of the Northern Regional Water Board.

The loan will support the Ministry's 2016-2019 investment programme, which aims to optimise the use of available water resources as well as increase the supply capacity, to bridge the gap between supply and demand for the populations of the cities of Mzuzu, Ekwendeni, Chitipa and Mzimba in the north of the country. The project mainly consists of upgrading and extending the water distribution system, upgrading water treatment works, reducing leakages, and improving network management and water supply to low income areas.

EIB Vice-President **Pim van Ballekom**, responsible for operations in Southern and East Africa, commented: "Access to clean water is a necessary condition for the economic development of any country. By enhancing the quality, security of supply as well as the accessibility of this basic need, this project supports the government's Growth and Development Strategy, which aims to reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development. The EIB has been there for the Malawians in recent years and will continue to support the country wherever possible."

At project completion, some 260,000 people will benefit from improved water services, not only from a sanitary point of view, but also in terms of logistics. Through the creation of new water connections, families will require less time to fetch water from often unsafe water sources, thus enabling them to engage more in productive activities. The EIB will also provide a EUR 1.9 million grant to strengthen the project implementation capabilities of the promoter.

On the occasion of the signing of the loan agreement and grant, a technical assistance operation was also formalised with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works to ensure financing for technical assistance in the implementation of critical aviation safety and security equipment at both of Malawi's international airports.

The EU ambassador to Malawi, **Marchel Germann**, indicated that: "The agreements being signed today illustrates the growing portfolio of the EIB in Malawi and the high level of complementarity between the EIB loans and the grants managed by the EU Delegation. These agreements will build on and complement ongoing interventions supported by the EU and EIB in both water and aviation sectors".

In the last decade, the EIB has provided over EUR 120 million in financing to support projects in Malawi. This has included projects to provide access to water as well as the agristorage facility, signed last year. (EIB 04-07-2017)

KENYA: RAILA ODINGA’S HINTS OF STEPPING DOWN, OTHERS GRAB HEADLINES

Opposition Chief Raila Odinga hints of stepping down, details of nigh meetings between political leaders and seven people to watch ahead of August polls, grabbed the attention of major Kenyan dailies on Tuesday.

“Raila hints at when he may step aside,” reported the Standard newspaper which pointed out that National Super Alliance flag-bearer Raila Odinga is hopeful he will win the August election and that his deputy Kalonzo Musyoka will be the coalition's 2022 candidate.

“With the declaration, and with the implication that the outcome of his fourth attempt aside, after this his deal with Mr. Kalonzo will take effect, it means the next time Raila could run is 2027 when he will be celebrating his 82nd birthday,” reported the daily.

“Our night meeting in Kalonzo's residence,” screamed the headline of the Daily Nation which reported that In an interview on Citizen TV on Sunday night, Deputy President William Ruto recounted a tense meeting between him, former Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka, President Uhuru Kenyatta (then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance) and tender baron Jimi Wanjigi.

“Mr. Ruto claimed that Mr. Musyoka told him and Mr. Kenyatta quite bluntly that they should make way for him to run for President because they were going to jail anyway,” reported the daily.

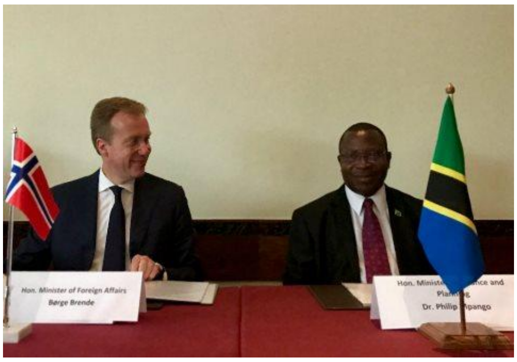
“Seven people to watch ahead of August election,” reported the Star newspaper which pointed out that as campaigns enter the home stretch, the focus is shifting to the officials and institutions charged with ensuring peace before during and after the August 8 General Election.

“These keepers of the peace include Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission chairman Wafula Chebukati and CEO Ezra Chiloba; Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinett; NIS director general Philip Kameru; Supreme Court Chief Justice David Maraga; NCIC chairman Francis Ole Kaparo; and director general of the Communication Authority of Kenya Francis Wangusi,” reported the daily.

(APA 04-07-2017)

NORWAY TO GIVE TANZANIA $10.5M GRANT AS BUDGET SUPPORT

The government of Norway will give Tanzania a grant of $10.5 million as budget support to boost the countries revenue over the next three years.



Norway Foreign Minister Borge Brende announced this on Saturday in Dar es Salaam, when he met with Tanzanian Finance and Planning Minister Philip Mpango.

Norway was impressed by President John Magufuli's drive to end corruption and increase domestic revenues, Brende said.

"A lot of countries have developed by commiting to good governance to end corruption and increase domestic revenues."

Tanzania should ensure its tax revenues are reliable and consistent to be able to finance its development projects, he added. Currently, Tanzania’s revenues are impressive and expected to contribute at least 40 percent of the GDP by June 2017, according to Brende.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Mpango said tax revenues have increased from $376.2 million (Sh 850 billion) monthly in 2015 to $531.1 million (Sh1.2 trillion) every month, this year. This is a far cry from $231.9million (Sh 524.9billion) in 2012, he added.

"This is a great achievement for Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) because they have been able to attain the 4th corporate plan."

Mpango went on to call on Norway to help Tanzania succeed in its oil and gas projects. He said Norway started its oil projects at a lower level before emerging giants of the industry, and their expertise would go a long way to help Tanzania.

Norway’s commitment to accountability led the north European nation to establish a National Wealth Fund for current and future generations, and Tanzania is also in the process of putting such a fund in place, according to Mpango. (APA 01-07-2017)

CONSTRUCTION OF CAMEROON’S GRAND EWENG HEP DAM UNDERWAY

Construction of Cameroon’s Grand Eweng Hep Dam, which is expected to reach completion in 2024 is due within the coming months. The dam which will be constructed on Build-Operate Transfer basis is projected to produce 1,800 megawatts of energy.

Hyfromine Inc, the American company that is in charge of the project have issued a statement stating that preliminary preparations have already started. Francis Maze, the County Manager made the announcement during the course of last week in a follow-up meeting for the committee held in Yaounde.

According to Maze, the work done so far in terms of sufficiency is commendable. The project, which will be the fourth largest in Africa and the biggest private HEP project on the continent, will cost $3Bn.

Upon completion the dam is expected to generate some 1,800 megawatts of electricity, with an annual production estimate of 9,000 gigawatts per hour. The project which is expected to address the problem of load shedding in the country is expected to commence by mid-2019 and end by 2024.

High tension transmission lines of 400,000 volt capacity connecting to the Edea and Calabar grids in Nigeria are also included in the project’s undertaking. Upon completion, the project is set to create both direct and indirect jobs in the tens of thousands. This will be both on site in terms of maintenance and technical support.

Grand Eweng will be 95m in height and 1.9 kilometers in length. A memorandum of understanding to execute the project was entered in 2013 between the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy and Hydromine Inc.

A smaller dam with a capacity of 200 megawatts per year was to be constructed for the purposes of water flow regulation to the other hydro-electric facilities on the same river(CRO 07-06-2017)

EBRD PROVIDES €120 MILLION LOAN FOR MOROCCO SAÏSS WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

EBRD The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing a €120 million loan to the Saïss Water Conservation Project in Morocco that will help protect the country’s agricultural sector from the impact of climate change. The EBRD’s financing for the project for the construction of irrigation infrastructure is being supported by a co-financing grant of €32 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In Morocco, extreme water scarcity is being exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, and the unsustainable use of groundwater is leading to a reduction in groundwater reserves, posing a severe threat to agricultural production and rural livelihoods. The Bank's investment in the Morocco Saïss Water Conservation Project will improve climate resilience with support for the development of a transformative water transfer scheme that will deliver more than 100 million cubic metres of irrigation water to the Saïss plain each year. It will enable a switch from highly unsustainable groundwater to the use of sustainable surface water resources, as well as improving access to best-practice and efficient irrigation techniques. The GCF is a unique global initiative responding to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. It was established by 194 governments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and to help adapt vulnerable societies to the impacts of climate change. Morocco is a founding member of the EBRD and became a country of operations in 2012. To date, the Bank has invested about €1.2 billion in 30 projects in the country. (EBRD 03-07-2017)

ANGOLA'S SONANGOL POSTS PROFIT OF US$68 MILLION IN 2016

Angola oil company Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola (Sonangol) posted net profit of more than 13 billion kwanzas (US$68 million) in 2016, the chairwoman of the company, Isabel dos Santos, announced on Monday in Luanda.

Presenting the results for the previous year, dos Santos said net income and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) of 525 billion kwanzas (US$2.755 billion) reversed the sharp downward trend of the previous two years.

Cited by Angolan news agency Angop, dos Santos stressed that the company kept oil production above 1.7 million barrels a day in 2016, "despite all the constraints associated with the drop in oil prices," making Angola the biggest oil producer in Africa.

Dos Santos noted that the current Sonangol board, which was appointed in June 2016, took on that responsibility in the context of an economic crisis in the country and with the state company registering a 60% drop in revenues compared to 2013/2016, high debt and falling oil prices.

The chairwoman of the oil concessionaire in Angola said that it was possible to increase revenues and reduce expenses by introducing a number of programmes, such as Sonaplus and Sonalight.

Sonaplus involved increasing sales of bitumen, optimising Luanda Refinery products, reviewing lubricant prices and adopting revenue guarantee programmes at Clínica Girassol.

The Sonalight programme is focused on making savings of up to 200 billion kwanzas (US$1.2 billion), and effective savings of 53 billion kwanzas (US$320 million) which have already been achieved in the second half of 2016. (04-07-2017)

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION: INFORMATION EVENTS AHEAD OF CBC MED CALL FOR PROPOSALS

As it prepares to launch its first call for proposals, the ENI CBC Med programme is organising a series of information events in the Mediterranean Partner Countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Egypt and Tunisia.

The call will be launched in the first 10 days of July, with an available budget of €86.4 million. The main topics addressed are:
- Business and SMEs development;
- Innovation and technological transfer;
- Social inclusion and fight against poverty;
- Environmental sustainability.

The events will give participants the opportunity to ask questions to representatives of the Programme managing structures and to national coordinators.
The events in the partner countries will take place as follows:
• Amman, 11 July
• Beirut, 13 July
• Cairo, 18 July
• Tunis, 20 July
• Jerusalem, 25 July
• Ramallah, 27 July

In order to prepare for the event, participants are advised to read the following documents:
• ENI CBC Med Joint Operational Programme;
• Draft Guidelines for Applicants;
• Courtesy Grant Application Form.

The EU-funded **ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme** 2014-2020 offers cooperation opportunities between partners from the Mediterranean area in fields of intervention such as economic development, education and research, social inclusion and environmental protection. (CBCMed 03-07-2017)
CBC Med website

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: COMMISSION PROPOSES ACTION PLAN TO SUPPORT ITALY, REDUCE PRESSURE AND INCREASE SOLIDARITY

With the situation becoming ever more pressing along the Central Mediterranean Route, the Commission is today setting out a series of immediate measures that can be taken by the EU Member States, the Commission and EU Agencies, and Italy itself.

Building on the work of the past two years to save lives at sea and manage the increasing numbers of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean Route, all actors now need to intensify and accelerate their efforts in line with the increasing urgency of the situation and the commitments undertaken by EU leaders. Today's measures should form the basis of discussions at the informal Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Tallinn on Thursday.

European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *"The dire situation in the Mediterranean is neither a new nor a passing reality. We have made enormous progress over the past two and half years towards a genuine EU migration policy but the urgency of the situation now requires us to seriously accelerate our collective work and not leave Italy on its own. The focus of our efforts has to be on* *solidarity – with those fleeing war and persecution and with our Member States under the most pressure. At the same time, we need to act, in support of Libya, to fight smugglers and enhance border control to reduce the number of people taking hazardous journeys to Europe."*

Actions to support Italy and reduce flows

The European Commission proposes a set of measures to be taken now to accelerate the European Union's collective work along the Central Mediterranean Route, including notably that:

The Commission will:

- Further enhance the capacity of the **Libyan authorities** through a €46 million project prepared jointly with Italy;
- Support the establishment of a fully operational Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre in Libya;
- **Step up funding** for migration management in Italy, with an additional €35 million ready to be mobilised immediately;
- Ensure a **full mobilisation of EU Agencies**:
    - the European Asylum and Support Office (EASO) is ready to increase the number of mobile teams supporting processing of applications;
    - the European Border and Coast Guard Agency should urgently examine Italy's proposals regarding Joint Operation Triton;
    - and the European Border and Coast Guard's rapid reaction pool of over 500 return experts is ready to be deployed at Italy's request;
- Launch and finance a **new resettlement pledging exercise**, notably from Libya, Egypt, Niger, Ethiopia and Sudan in conjunction with the UNHCR starting today;
- Work with Libya to strengthen **controls at the southern border**, in cooperation with G5 Sahel countries and Member States with the backing of EU financial support;
- Step up work to secure **readmission agreements** (or equivalent informal arrangements) with countries of origin and transit, with the support of Member States;
- Engage further with **Niger and Mali** under the Partnership Framework to prevent movements towards Libya;
- Continue to work with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to accelerate **Assisted Voluntary Returns from Libya and Niger** to countries of origin, including by providing additional funding;
- Ensure with Member States a full implementation of the **Partnership Framework**, including beyond the original 5 priority countries, using both positive and negative leverages;
- Further to the €200 million mobilised in 2017 for the North Africa window of the **EU-Africa Trust Fund, ensure equivalent funding for 2018 and beyond** from the EU budget and Member States (see table);

Member States should:

- Contribute much more substantially to the **EU-Africa Trust Fund**, to complement the €2.6 billion contribution from the EU's limited budget, in line with their commitments dating back to November 2015 (see table);
- Accelerate **relocation** from Italy by responding more quickly to Italian requests, increasing pledges and pledging more regularly;
- Help **engage with Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria**, alongside the Commission and the European External Action Service, to encourage them to join the Seahorse Mediterranean Network, and call on Tunisia, Libya and Egypt to declare their search and rescue areas and establish a formal Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre;
- Accelerate discussions, in conjunction with the European Parliament, on the **reform of the Dublin system** for allocating asylum applications within the EU to provide a more stable framework for tackling these challenges in the future;
- Mobilise their capabilities, alongside those of the European Border and Coast Guard, to **support the return of irregular migrants** from Italy;

Italy should:

- Draft, in consultation with the Commission and on the basis of a dialogue with NGOs, a **Code of Conduct for NGOs** carrying out search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean;
- Fulfil its own commitments on **relocation** by:
    - registering, as a matter of urgency, all Eritreans present in Italy;
    - centralising and standardising the relocation procedure;
    - enabling the relocation of unaccompanied minors;
    - and showing greater flexibility on security checks arranged bilaterally with other Member States;
- **Implement rapidly the *Minniti law*,** including by:
    - creating additional hotspot capacity;
    - increasing reception capacity and substantially increasing detention capacity to reach at least 3,000 urgently;
    - increasing the maximum period of detention in line with EU law;
    - and significantly speeding up the examination of asylum applications at the appeal stage;
- **Step up returns** by:
    - applying expedited return procedures;
    - making wider use of the rapid procedures and inadmissibility grounds;
    - developing a national list of safe countries of origin;
    - issuing return decisions alongside and together with asylum decisions;
    - considering the use of residence restrictions;
    - and refraining from providing travel documents to asylum seekers.

See the full Commission Action Plan here.
Next steps

The Commission is working in concert with the Estonian presidency of the Council and the measures presented today should form the basis of discussions on immediate support for Italy that will take place at the informal Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Tallinn on Thursday.

The European Union and its Member States have progressively laid out a stronger and more articulated policy response to save lives and better manage migratory flows in the Central Mediterranean (see here).

But the loss of life and continuing migratory flows of primarily economic migrants on the Central Mediterranean route is a structural challenge and remains an issue of urgent and serious concern.

At the European Council of 22-23 June 2017, leaders committed to act decisively now "*by stepping up coordination and delivery on all the elements contained in the Malta Declaration, the Partnership Framework and the Joint Valletta Action Plan, underpinned by sufficient financial resources*."

The Commission is today following up by identifying specific actions each actor can and should take to make good on those commitments.

Italy has already been taking important steps to support cooperation with Libya on migration management and to further improve the implementation of the EU migration policy within Italy. The recent *Minniti law* has the objective of making the Italian asylum and return system much more effective than today, identifying quickly those in need of protection, while taking actions that can facilitate the swift return of economic migrants. (EC 04-07-2017)

ANNEX: EUROPEAN COMMISSION ACTION PLAN ON MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF ITALY AND TO REDUCE PRESSURE ALONG THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE AND INCREASE SOLIDARITY

The loss of life and continuing migratory flows of primarily economic migrants on the Central Mediterranean route is a structural challenge and remains an issue of urgent and serious concern not *only for Europe but also the African continent as a whole. On 30 June, the Italian Minister of Interior, Marco Minniti, addressed a letter to the President of the Council of Ministers, the Estonian Interior Minister Andres Anvelt and to the Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration, Dimitris Avramopoulos, warning that the situation in Italy would soon no longer be sustainable. The issue of migration in the Central Mediterranean will be on the agenda of the informal meeting of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of 6 and 7 July. This is the Commission's contribution for the discussion at that meeting and does not exclude further actions in light of the outcome of the discussions and developments on the ground.*

I. Measures to reduce migratory pressure along the Central Mediterranean Route and increase solidarity

- <u>Better coordination of Search and Rescue activities (SAR) in the Central Mediterranean</u>:
  - Italy should draft, in consultation with the Commission and on the basis of a dialogue with the NGOs, a Code of Conduct for NGOs involved in SAR activities. The Council could possibly endorse such Code of Conduct;
  - Better cooperation between the Italian Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) and neighbouring MRCCs where established or other kinds of operational cooperation to ensure timely and effective intervention;
  - The European Border and Coast Guard Agency to urgently examine Italy's proposals regarding Joint Operation Triton.
  - North African partners, notably Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, should be encouraged to formally notify their SAR areas and establish MRCCs. To this end, Italy should swiftly implement the ongoing feasibility study of the Italian Coast Guard regarding the Libyan SAR capacity with a view to accelerating the establishment of a fully operational MRCC in Libya as this would allow Libya to take over responsibility for the organisation/coordination of a significantly higher number of SAR operations than is the case today.
  - Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria should be encouraged to join the Seahorse Mediterranean Network.
- <u>Step up actions to enhance the capacity of the Libyans to control borders:</u>
  - The ongoing training activities of the Libyan Coast Guard need to be stepped up further and the prioritisation exercise of equipment and maintenance needs to be concluded with the Libyan authorities;
  - The Board of the EU Trust Fund should adopt by the end of July the project on sea and land border management in Libya prepared by Italy jointly with the Commission, for an amount of EUR 46 million.
- <u>Reinforce actions to reduce migratory pressure on Libya and fight smuggling and human trafficking</u>:
  - The information exchange between the relevant Common Security and Defence Policy missions and the European Border and Coast Guard and Europol should be enhanced and this explicitly foreseen in the revised mandate;
  - Assisted Voluntary Returns from Libya and Niger to countries of origin through a joint-initiative with IOM should be accelerated with further funds available, if needed;
  - The Commission will launch a new resettlement pledging exercise in conjunction with the UNHCR starting with those in need of international protection from Libya, Egypt, Niger, Ethiopia and Sudan;
  - The EU and Member States will step up their engagement with Niger and Mali to prevent movements towards Libya;
  - The EU and Member States should work with Libya to significantly and rapidly strengthen border controls at the external borders of Libya (particularly the southern ones) to stem further flows into Libya. This includes enhanced cooperation with G5 Sahel countries and the establishment, with EU financial support of EUR 50 million, of the "Joint Force" decided at the last G5 Summit, which aims at reinstating control at borders in the transit areas of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.
  - The EU and Member States should step up implementation of the Partnership Frameworks, including beyond the five current partnership countries, using both positive and negative leverages, notably for the main countries of origin, including the use of visa leverage as appropriate.
- <u>Achieve real progress in the return of irregular migrants</u>

- *The EU should:*
  - put in place with the full support of Member States well-functioning EU readmission agreements and practical arrangements with third countries without further delay and using all possible levers and incentives;
  - fully mobilise the capabilities of the Member States as well as the European Border and Coast Guard at the request of Italy to support the returns of irregular migrants, notably through the deployment of European return intervention teams from the available pools and the organisation of return operations, covering both charter and commercial flights.
- *Italy should:*
  - apply expedited return procedures;
  - issue immediately together with the asylum decision return decisions for certain categories of rejected asylum applicants;
  - increase the use of the Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration procedures together with IOM.

- <u>Deliver in full the existing relocation commitments</u>
  - Member States need to step up relocations from Italy, showing more flexibility in accepting the applicants Italy proposed for relocation, responding more quickly to Italian requests, increasing their pledges and pledging more regularly.
  - Italy should register as a matter of urgency all Eritreans present in Italy, centralise the relocation procedure to dedicated relocation hubs, and standardise the procedure to enable relocation of unaccompanied minors. Furthermore Italy should remain flexible and agree with certain Member States bilateral arrangements for additional security checks. Italy should facilitate the implementation of the EASO reach-out campaign to identify and register for relocation all potential applicants that arrived in 2016 and 2017 that are still in Italy.
- <u>Member States should urgently provide additional funding for the EU Trust Fund and in particular its North Africa Window to ensure its sustainability for 2018 and beyond, in line with their stated commitments.</u> For its part, the EU mobilised an additional EUR 200 million for 2017, which will soon all be allocated and contracted. The EU is now actively identifying further funding for 2018 from the EU budget.

II. Stepping up implementation of EU migration policy with Italy

In addition to measures to improve the management of flows along the central Mediterranean route, there are actions that can be taken to improve the implementation of EU migration policy in Italy. The recent *Minniti law* has the objective of making the Italian asylum and return system much more effective than today, identifying quickly those in need of protection, while taking actions that can facilitate the swift return of economic migrants who represent the vast majority of migrants arriving to and present in Italy.

- <u>Italy should step-up the full implementation of the *Minniti law, including:*</u>
  - Substantial increase of existing capacity of stationary hotspots (the current 1,600 places should, at least, be doubled). Additional hotspots capacity, should also facilitate securing 100% identification, registration and fingerprinting of all migrants. This would allow disembarkation, initial screening and channelling via the asylum or return procedure to take place primarily in the hotspots (screening of applicants and channelling). Sufficient terminals for Eurodac, the Visa Information System and the Automated Fingerprint Identification System need to be present in each hotspot.
  - The overall structural reception capacity needs to be significantly increased.
  - Detention capacity to be substantially increased to reach urgently at least 3,000. In line with the Commission's Recommendation on the implementation of the Return Directive, prolong the current maximum duration of detention by making full use of the period allowed under EU legislation.
  - Ensure sufficient capacity of judicial authorities and significantly speed up the examination of applications at both first instance and the appeal stage.
- EU to step up funding for migration management in Italy
  - As a short-term action, an initial additional EUR 35 million could be mobilised immediately to support the implementation of the *Minniti* reforms.

- In addition, Italy should take the following steps
  - Use rapid procedures, whereby the application is examined while the applicant is kept in closed centres, to prevent migrants absconding and to facilitate the return of those with inadmissible or manifestly unfounded claims.
  - Make wider use of inadmissibility grounds possible in appropriate cases, notably to declare applications inadmissible based on first country of asylum/ safe third country concepts and make wider use of accelerated procedures, notably when an applicant comes from a 'safe country of origin', or misled the authorities. Give consideration to developing a national list of 'safe countries of origin', prioritising the inclusion of the most common countries-of-origin of migrants arriving in Italy. To give European coverage, Council conclusions identifying safe countries of origin could be beneficial.
  - Use residence/free movement restrictions and avoid providing travel documents to asylum seekers to prevent secondary movements, except for 'serious humanitarian reasons' where appropriate.
- Further EASO support should be made available for the additional actions, in particular for the use of rapid procedures.

III. Towards a sustainable crisis management

To put the arrangements for handling crisis situations on a firmer footing, it is imperative that the European Parliament and the Council make progress on the negotiations on the Dublin proposal as a matter of urgency. A reformed Dublin system as part of a comprehensive approach, including the kind of measures outlined in this note, hold the solution for showing solidarity to Italy and other Member States under pressure while clarifying responsibilities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS RELATED TO MERCHANDISE EXPORTS HAVE NEW RULES IN ANGOLA

The settlement of export and re-export transactions must be carried out through a banking institution duly authorized to operate in Angola, according to new rules and procedures established by the National Bank of Angola (BNA).

The new rules and procedures, published in the Diário da República bulletin dated 28 June, stipulate that intermediation and settlement of the same export or re-export of goods operation by more than one banking financial institution are not possible.

This includes individuals or corporations, exchange residents, holders of rights and bonds, banking institutions operating in Angola and intermediaries in said operations under these new rules, which are intended to adapt the rules governing foreign exchange transactions of goods to the country’s macroeconomic situation.

According to Angolan news agency Angop, the BNA also said that total revenue in foreign currency, resulting from each export operation, must be deposited in a bank account in foreign currency, in the name of the exporting entity, opened at an Angolan bank.

The foreign currency resulting from the exports can only be used by the respective holder to make payments in Angola or abroad, related to export activities, or to make financial investments with banking institutions where the funds are domiciled.

The law, which comes into force 30 days from the date of publication, must be observed by all those involved in foreign exchange transactions to export and re-export goods operating in Angola, the Angolan central bank noted. (04-07-2017)

S/AFRICA: MOTION OF ZUMA'S NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE SET FOR AUGUST

South Africa's Speaker of Parliament, Baleka Mbete has scheduled a debate on the motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma for 8 August in Cape Town, according to her office on Sunday.

Opposition parties Democratic Alliance, the United Democratic Movement and the Economic Freedom Fighters had requested that the motion, first submitted in March and originally scheduled for debate on 18 April, be rescheduled in the wake of a Constitutional Court ruling on the use of a secret ballot after the debate.

"In terms of Rule 129 of the National Assembly, once a motion of no confidence is requested, the Speaker must accord such motion due priority," Parliament spokesperson Moloto Mothapo said.

He said before scheduling the debate, the Speaker "must consult with the leader of government business in parliament and the chief whip of the ruling African National Congress.

"The motion of no confidence must be scheduled, debated and voted on within a reasonable period of time, given the programme of the Assembly," Mothapo said.

He said Mbete has invited "interested parties to submit their views regarding their preferred means of voting on this particular motion – open or secret ballot.

"The views of the parties, considered together with a host of other factors, including the prevailing conditions, would assist the Speaker to arrive at a well-informed and logical decision," he said.

The no confidence motion in Zuma is meant to remove him from power following accusations from the opposition and civil society that the president's is no longer fit to run the country due to his alleged poor management style in the past two years. (APA 03-07-2017)

TANZANIA LAUNCHES MAJOR UPGRADE TO DAR ES SALAAM PORT

Tanzanian President John Magufuli yesterday launched a $421m project to nearly double the capacity of Dar es Salaam's cramped and congested sea port.

The World Bank and UK-funded Dar es Salaam Maritime Gateway Project (DSMGP) will be undertaken by China Harbour Engineering Construction Company (CHEC), a subsidiary of the state-run China Communications Construction Company. It is expected to be completed in 36 months, Xinhua reports.

The plan is to double the port's cargo handling capacity from 13.8 million tonnes last year to 25 million tonnes over the next seven years.

The volume of cargo handled by the port has been growing at an average of 9% a year for the past five years, says the World Bank.

The Port of Dar es Salaam now

As GCR reported earlier this year, work was to include dredging the access channel and turning basin to make the port available to ships with a draft of 14m.

Plans also called for a new container terminal, better railway linkages inside the port and two new berths.

Three roads leading out of the port will be upgraded to six-lane motorways in order to reduce the costly "dwell-time" of 10 days currently afflicting the port.

"The Port of Dar es Salaam is vital for the economies of Tanzania and neighboring countries," said Bella Bird, World Bank country director for Tanzania. "Enhancing its operational potential will boost trade and job creation across the region, and reduce the current cost of $200-400 for each additional day of delay for a single consignment."

The World Bank is lending Tanzania $345m for the scheme, and giving a $12m grant. The bank lists the overall cost of DSMGP as $421m.

The Tanzanian government has contributed about $63m while the UK's Department for International Development contributed $12m. (CGR 03-07-2017)

BOTSWANA'S POWER DEMAND TO SCALE 1,000MW MARK BY 2025

Maximum electricity demand for Botswana is estimated at 681 megawatts (MW) and is expected to rise by nearly 50 percent over the next eight years, the country's Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security Minister Sadique Kebonang revealed on Monday.

Kebonang told journalists in the capital Gaborone that electricity demand is expected to grow by 336MW to 1017MW by 2025.

He further stated that the country’s installed generating capacity stands at 927MW and comprises of the 132MW Morupule A Power Plant, which is under care and maintenance.

He said the plan is to develop the proposed 300MW Morupule Units 5 and 6 through independent private partnerships.

“When other electrification projects are complete, installed generation capacity will rise to approximately 1 200MW with a forecasted excess of 300MW,” said Kebonang.

He spoke of this year current winter, where peak demand is around 550MW adding that it is being met by 3 units at Morupule B Power Plant (450MW nominal). (APA 03-07-2017)

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS LOAN: NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba takes flak from economists for capitulating too easily to SAA's demands for a R2.3bn bail-out

Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba took flak from economists on Sunday for capitulating too easily to the demands of state-owned airline SAA for a R2.3bn bail-out without imposing stringent conditions on the cash injection.

With no measures in place to stem the losses at the flagging airline, the need for a further bail-out seemed inevitable, the economists said.

SAA is said to be losing about R370m a month and to be having difficulty in paying salaries. The airline has notched up an unaudited loss of R1,9bn for the year to end-March 2017, up from the previous year’s loss of R1.5bn.

Chairman of Parliament’s standing committee on finance Yunus Carrim also said the committee would want to know from Treasury what requirements it had imposed on SAA in return for the bail-out “to ensure it functioned far more effectively”.

Treasury’s weekend announcement of the bail-out made no mention of conditions, the first of which — according to University of Witwatersrand senior economics lecturer Lumkile Mondi, economist Mike Schussler and DA deputy finance spokesman Alf Lees — should have been the immediate removal of SAA chairperson Dudu Myeni.

Treasury provided the funds to SAA so it can repay its loan to Standard Chartered Bank. SAA’s other loans amounting to about R6.7bn also matured at the end of June but SAA managed to get these rolled over.

Schussler, chief economist at Economists.co.za, said the unconditional bail-out of SAA would create the impression, particularly among credit ratings agencies, that bail-outs for other state owned enterprises were possible. There was no accountability.

“The thing is that there is no great plan in place for SAA to get itself out of its financial problems. We are bailing them out without anything in place, which must be of concern to the ratings agencies. There should be a quid pro quo for a bail-out otherwise in six months' time SAA will be coming for another billion or three.

“I would like to see an approved plan in place, a competent management and a professional board. The minister should have laid down certain minimum conditions when handing out taxpayers’ money.”

Gigaba could say in response that the board is finalising a long-term turnaround plan, the search for a new CEO is under way and the board is up for renewal in September, but Schussler said the minister should have stipulated these processes as conditions when he announced the bail-out.

Efficient Group chief economist Dawie Roodt said he would have thought the new finance minister would have made some kind of statement to indicate the seriousness with which he regarded the bail-out. He handed over the money too easily, Roodt believes.

Mondi said the bail-out was “very disappointing” given the state of the economy, and it would simply prop up the mismanagement of SAA.

Carrim said the finance committee believed Treasury was failing in its oversight role of SAA. He urged that the SAA board be strengthened, Myeni’s position be reviewed, a CEO be appointed, and the board’s turnaround strategy be finalised as soon as possible. (BD 03-07-2017)

AID WORKERS WARN OF 'DEVASTATING' CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN SOUTH SUDAN

More than 2,500 cases of deadly disease registered since April in world's youngest country that is already under grip of famine

Doctors, aid workers and officials in South Sudan are warning of a "devastating" outbreak of cholera that could kill thousands of people in a country where millions are already threatened by famine.

More than 2,500 cases of the disease have been registered since April, a sharp increase over previous months. The total over the last year has now risen to 8,000, with about 250 confirmed deaths. Experts say this is likely to be only a fraction of overall toll.

With no sign that conflict in the world's youngest country will abate soon, and with the population weakened by years of displacement and malnutrition, there are fears that cholera could spread out of control.

South Sudan's million-strong refugee crisis is a test for the World Bank

Medical staff fear an outbreak in hospitals. There are few functioning medical institutions in South Sudan and these often care for three or four times the number of patients they were designed to accommodate.

At al-Shabbah children's hospital in Juba, where a single bed is shared between three patients, three cases of suspected cholera were reported last week. "The fear is that such an infectious disease in this very overcrowded hospital could be devastating. The children are very weak and we don't have enough drugs. The demand is huge," said Dr Felix Nyungura, director of the hospital.

More than 200,000 people are living in "protection of civilian camps" set up by the UN to provide a haven for those displaced by the ongoing fighting across much of South Sudan. They too are threatened by the disease, which can kill in hours.

"Last year we had cholera incidents in the camp and now the rainy season is here cholera is the big concern," said Thomas Makur, an administrator of a camp where more than 30,000 people live adjacent to the principal UN base in Juba, the capital.

People displaced by recent fighting are at most risk. The international NGO Médicins Sans Frontières has opened a cholera treatment centre near Pieri in the remote north-east of South Sudan.

More than 27,000 people have fled their homes in the region since mid-February after clashes between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and opposition groups.

Last week the UN said the number of people struggling to find enough food each day in South Sudan had grown to 6 million – up from 4.9 million in February. This was the highest level of food insecurity in the country since it gained independence from Sudan in 2011 after decades of intermittent conflict.

Though South Sudan has suffered drought, the crisis has political rather than climatic causes. Violence surged last year after a peace deal between President Salva Kiir and his rival Riek Machar collapsed. Machar has now fled the country, but groups loyal to him continue to fight government forces. The government's authority is limited, with widespread and increasingly chaotic conflict between local factions, cattle raiding and armed robbery.

Almost all protagonists in the fighting have been repeatedly accused of systematic and extensive human rights abuses. (Guardian 02-07-2017)

GHANA: FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SUPPORTS RICE CULTIVATION

One of Ghana's emerging financial institutions, Dalex Finance Company Limited, has extended a warm arm to 10,000 rice farmers in the Northern Region of Ghana, APA learns here Tuesday.

The support comes in the form of credit facilities to enable them expand their farms and improve on their livelihoods.

The Finder reports on Tuesday that the company, in partnership with the farmers' association, Shinkaafa Buni Rice Farmers Association in the northern region, will provide farm inputs such as fertilizer, improved seeds and combined harvesters to ensure maximisation of produce and profit from rice farms.

The Chief Executive Officer of the company, Mr. Kenneth Kwamina Thompson, said his outfit was interested in growing the local rice sector and ventured into partnership with the rice farmers to support them with various items and financial resources. (APA 04-07-2017)

NO FOOD, NO MONEY: CONFLICT AND CHAOS AS SOUTH SUDAN GRAPPLES WITH FAMINE

The rains are now falling, but on a country where people cannot work their fields because of fighting and where food prices are escalating beyond their reach

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There is a strong ethnic dimension to the violence, with civilians frequently targeted because of their tribe. Kiir and Machar come from rival ethnic groups. Civilians who have fled the violence to neighbouring countries say government troops, mostly drawn from Kiir's Dinka tribe, carry out killings and other crimes against Machar's Nuer and other smaller tribes suspected of supporting rebels.

A UN report last year described evidence of widespread atrocities against civilians including massacres, gang rape, abduction of children, unlawful detention and torture. The government has rejected its findings.

Senior UN officials say the combination of violence, ethnic strife, lack of development, climatic factors and international neglect in South Sudan is unmatched anywhere in the world.

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"There are dead ends all around … I think we can still do something but we desperately need international pressure on the parties to go back to the table and be serious about peace," Filippo Grandi, the head of the UN high commission for refugees, said last week.

Aid workers were struggling to raise funds, partly because of frustrations over the lack of progress in peace talks and partly because the scale of the problem was hidden, Grandi said during a visit to Juba.

"They [South Sudan's refugees] don't arrive on the shores of Europe, or Australia or at the border between Mexico and the US. Those are the places where refugees become visible and their voices are heard," he said.

In an interview with the Guardian, David Shearer, the top UN official in South Sudan, underlined the logistical problems of operating in the country.

"No one quite realises the logistical hassles of this place. You can't even move around. Travelling the 600 miles … takes two and a half weeks. In the wet season the roads are just impassable. There are 220 kilometres of tarmac roads in a country the size of France," Shearer said.

More than 2 million people have fled South Sudan, with more than a million now living in neighbouring Uganda.(The Guardian 03-07-2017)

SUDAN, SOUTH SUDAN SECURITY TALKS POSTPONED OVER LOGISTICAL ISSUES

Meetings of the Joint Political and Security Committee (JPSC) between South Sudan and Sudan scheduled to be held in Juba shortly after Eid Al Fitr, was postponed due to logistical reasons, a South Sudanese official said.

Mawien Makol Ariik, the foreign affairs ministry spokesman, on Monday announced for the second time the delay of security meetings to discuss pending issues between the two countries and allegations of rebel support on both sides, rather than using the media to blame each other.

Mr. Mawien told reporter that a new date will be fixed for the talks later on.

South Sudan broke away from Sudan in July, 2011, following a referendum held in January of that year. (APA 03-07-2017)

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