

MEMORANDUM

N°127/2016 | 13/06/2016

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

More than 1,556 Memoranda issued from 2006 to end of 2015. More than 18,350 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.

Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

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

SUMMARY

SADC: Cross-border prosecution of anti-competitive conduct on the cards	Page 2
French auto maker plans to establish assembly factory in Egypt	Page 2
Botswana moves up 3 places in world's most peaceful nations	Page 3
EU supports training for Libyan Red Crescent Society	Page 3
Presidents and billionaires drive battle against Africa's deadliest creature	Page 4
Zimbabwe puts forex dealers under the whip	Page 5
Chevron's Angola unit chief backs state oil firm	Page 6
Botswana vows to end extreme poverty by 2017	Page 6
Dangote Group joins Afreximbank	Page 7
Fitch holds South Africa's rating at investment grade	Page 8
Nigeria: Oil revenue dips by 5 percent	Page 8
Namibian police bans public demonstrations	Page 9
E-Platform for Neighbourhood: Register for distance learning and workshops on EU and ENP	Page 9
Mozambique to cut public expenditure by 10 percent	Page 10
Nigerian Banks agree to halt industry's mass sack	Page 11
Euro-Mediterranean Business Cooperation: EUROMED Invest to hold Roadshow in Amman	Page 11
MTN agrees to pay \$1.7bn fine to Nigerian gov't	Page 12
USAID earmarks \$12m for West African Rice Project	Page 12

SADC: CROSS-BORDER PROSECUTION OF ANTI-COMPETITIVE CONDUCT ON THE CARDS

Competition authorities in the Southern African Development Community (Sadc) are teaming up in an effort to tackle cross-border anti-competitive practices.

On Monday eight countries in the 15-member bloc signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will form the basis of their collaboration to strengthen competition law in the region.

SA being the most established competition authority in sub-Saharan Africa was likely to play a significant role in driving the co-operation between the authorities, said Norton Rose Fulbright SA director Jason van Dijk.

"We have been anticipating more formalised co-operation between African competition authorities for some time, as the common message that has emanated from our interactions with the various authorities is the need for greater co-operation and efficient interaction between them," he said.

Van Dijk said it was hoped that the MOU was likely to lead to a more efficient identification of anti-competitive conduct and potentially result in swifter prosecutions.

"It will also hopefully lead to a more co-ordinated and predictable approach to merger investigations, which are likely to be welcomed by firms and other stakeholders involved in multi-jurisdictional mergers," said Van Dijk.

The Eurozone has a similar initiative at work through the European Competition Network.

The network was established to ensure harmonisation between the national competition laws of the 28 European Union (EU) member states and the European Commission (EC) competition law. Its objectives include ensuring co-operation between the competition authorities of the EU member states and the EC in their application of the EC competition rules.

The Sadc members which are part of the MOU are Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, SA, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia.

The seven members that have not signed are Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Commissioner Tembinkosi Bonakele at the Competition Commission SA said: "The MOU provides a framework for co-operation in competition enforcement within the SADC region and we are delighted to be part of this historic initiative." (BD 06-06-2016)

FRENCH AUTO MAKER PLANS TO ESTABLISH ASSEMBLY FACTORY IN EGYPT

A French auto maker plans to establish car assembly factory in the Egyptian market within the upcoming period, Egyptian Trade Minister Tarek Qabil said on Sunday.

The factory is set to operate using high rates of locally-manufactured components.

The minister made these remarks during his meeting with the Vice-president of one of largest French auto makers to discuss company's industrial investments in Egypt and make use of automotive feeding industries base in local market.

Qabil added that the French company plans to contract with Egyptian firms to manufacture automotive components necessary to cover needs of the mother company in France and its branches all over the world.

The minister clarified that automotive industry is a strategic important one to which the government plans to develop in order to attract international firms to invest in Egypt whether in automotive industry or in its feeding ones.

Egypt owns all potentials that qualify it to establish such vital industry since there are more than 15 firms working in car assembly field in Egypt, the minister noted.

On other side, the French official stated that his company plans to invest in Egypt as it sent two missions to Egypt in February and April to study available investments in automotives and its feeding industries

fields. (APA 12-06-2016)

BOTSWANA MOVES UP 3 PLACES IN WORLD'S MOST PEACEFUL NATIONS

The 2016 Global Peace Index (GPI) has once more ranked Botswana as one of the world's most peaceful countries, APA learnt here Wednesday.

In this year's Index, Botswana was ranked as 28 out of 163 countries, up 3 places from last year. This continues to place Botswana above over half of the European region countries surveyed, as well as all five of the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council [i.e. France (46) UK (47), USA (103), China (120) and Russia (151)].

On the African continent Botswana remains behind Mauritius (23).

In addition Botswana was one of only five countries, to achieve a perfect score in the domestic and international conflict domain, the other four countries being Switzerland, Chile, Mauritius and Uruguay.

This year Iceland was once again ranked as the world's most peaceful nation, followed by Denmark, Austria, New Zealand and Portugal. Syria was listed as the world's least peaceful country, followed from the bottom by South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. Panama (49) has the most improved standing, while Yemen (158) saw the biggest drop.

The Index is composed of 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources and ranks 163 independent states, covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population.

It gauges global peace using three broad domains: the level of safety and security in the society, the extent of domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation.

The Global Peace Index is maintained by the Institute for Economics and Peace, which is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress. (APA 08-06-2016)

EU SUPPORTS TRAINING FOR LIBYAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

Volunteers and staff of the Libyan Red Crescent Society participated in two training workshops organised between 16 and 28 May 2016 in Tunis by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with the support of the European Union.

The trainings focused on mental health, psycho-social rehabilitation, socio-economic integration for vulnerable and at-risk groups in Libya (protection) and support to rights-based migration management and asylum system in Libya (migration).

The First workshop was attended by 17 LRCS staff and volunteers from the Protection team drawn from the 8 conflict-affected cities in Libya and addressed psychosocial rehabilitation. The second workshop was attended by 24 participants representing the Libyan Red Crescent focal points from the 16 cities where the Migration project is being implemented with a focus on results based management, more specifically on planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. (EEAS 07-06-2016)

PRESIDENTS AND BILLIONAIRES DRIVE BATTLE AGAINST AFRICA'S DEADLIEST CREATURE

Jakaya Kikwete, the former president of Tanzania, recalled arriving at his cousin's house to find the family arguing about taking their feverish teenage daughter to hospital.

"They were saying: 'No, no, no, it's not malaria'," he said, describing how the family had sought advice from a traditional medicine man who said a jinni, or spirit, had invaded her body.

"They said: 'If you take this girl to the hospital, if she gets an injection, then that jinni (spirit)... will ... suck all her blood'," Kikwete said.

Ignoring their protests, he took the girl to hospital but it was too late. She died from malaria.

Kikwete, who also lost his brother to malaria as a child, is committed to eradicating the disease, which killed an estimated 438,000 people globally in 2015 — making the mosquito, which transmits it, the world's deadliest creature.

He and his wife even appear in television adverts, urging Tanzanians to prepare their bednets before they sleep.

"We are looking at 2040 as the most probable date for a malaria-free Africa," Kikwete, who stepped down as president in November, told reporters at a recent dinner in Dar es Salaam.

"If we continue with the interventions that we have been doing here relentlessly, we should be able to get there."

Global plans to eliminate malaria were abandoned in 1969 as the goal was seen as prohibitively complicated and expensive, despite success in eradicating the disease in the 1950s in parts of Europe, North America and the Caribbean.

The "e-word" has been revived in recent years, with support from the world's richest couple, Bill and Melinda Gates, and US President Barack Obama, who called malaria a "moral outrage".

Bill Gates, who Kikwete describes as a "good friend", aims to eradicate malaria by 2040 and has called for a doubling of funding by 2025.

His goal of permanently ending transmission of the disease between humans and mosquitoes is more ambitious than the Sustainable Development Goal of ending epidemic levels of malaria by 2030.

Spending on malaria, mostly by the US, surged to \$2.7bn in 2015 from \$130m in 2000, while death rates in Africa have fallen 66%, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The most important investment was the roll-out of 1-billion free bednets. Some 68% of malaria cases prevented since 2000 were stopped by these bednets, according to a study by the University of Oxford. Money was also poured into improved diagnostic tests, better drugs, indoor spraying with insecticide and educating the public to use these tools — rather than blaming witchcraft or buying medication blindly over the counter every time they got a fever.

In the Tanzanian town of Arusha, overlooked by the dormant volcano Mount Meru, donor-funded bednets and free tests and medicines have made a significant impact.

In a country with a powerful faith in witchcraft and traditional medicine, health officials have worked hard to persuade people to adopt proven methods of preventing and treating the disease.

"There are very few cases of malaria nowadays," said Pius Dallos, the officer in charge of Kijenge Dispensary, where women sat on wooden benches, cradling their babies.

"Previously ... if you didn't have money, you could die from malaria. But nowadays, everything is free."

But donors' ability to maintain — and increase — funding is by no means certain given sluggish global growth and uncertainties over US funding under a new administration.

"The political will to go that final mile may be hard to sustain because it will remain expensive until the end," Dyann Wirth, a tropical disease expert at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "It's a question of priority."

It is unlikely that Africa, which accounted for nine out of 10 of the 214-million cases of malaria in 2015, according to the WHO, could foot the bill itself.

On the edge of Arusha, Africa's largest bednet manufacturer, A to Z Textile Mills, has been the main source of 50-million free bednets given to Tanzanians between 2009 to 2016.

Giant, noisy warehouses produce insecticide-treated fibres that are woven into round and square blue bednets. Women in green T-shirts work in fast-moving pairs, folding and cutting panels ready for stitching.

Donor funding drives production of the much-needed nets, as many ordinary Tanzanians cannot afford them.

"Demand is not driven by the need (but) by the funding," said factory director Kalpesh Shah, sitting in front of framed photographs of visits by celebrity campaigners such as Bono and Will Smith on the boardroom wall.

Commercial customers accounted for less than 1% of sales, he said. The Gates-funded Global Fund To Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria is the main buyer, followed by the US President's Malaria Initiative.

"The question of sustainability is on everyone's mind," said Daniel Moore, acting mission director for the US Agency for International Development in Tanzania. "Right now, we are carrying the load."

The failure of the global eradication programme, which began in the 1950s, casts a shadow over the latest campaign.

As mosquitoes and parasites developed resistance to insecticides and drugs in the 1960s, malaria rebounded in countries like Sri Lanka where once it had been virtually eliminated.

Resistance is becoming a major problem again. But greater efforts are being made to invest in new products that will keep humans one step ahead of evolution.

New tools are also required to eliminate the parasite from "asymptomatic carriers", people with a few parasites in their blood who don't fall sick but can act as reservoir and spread the disease when they get bitten again by mosquitoes.

As the number of malaria cases falls, it will become harder to maintain the momentum among donors, governments and ordinary people in endemic regions.

"Without the long-term investment of funds and the political commitment to continue the fight, we risk wasting the entire investment," said Wirth.

"We are going to go back to the situation where we are losing 1-million children a year in Africa." (Thomson Reuters Foundation 08-06-2016)

ZIMBABWE PUTS FOREX DEALERS UNDER THE WHIP

Zimbabwe's central bank threatened to cancel the licences of banks and foreign currency dealers found to have violated new exchange control regulations aimed at easing a dollar shortage.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe last week sent a directive changing the way banks and other authorised foreign currency dealers are required to handle export earnings.

The new measures offer an incentive for companies to export their products, according to a copy of the circular obtained by Bloomberg News and confirmed by the central bank.

The regulator also plans to bolster compliance monitoring systems to ensure adherence to the rules, the circular says.

Zimbabwe, which abandoned its own currency in 2009 because of hyperinflation, trades mainly in US dollars, with the rand and euro also used.

Lenders limited cash withdrawals from ATMs last month as the country's ailing economy caused supplies of the greenback to evaporate.

Zimbabwe also introduced so-called bond notes, which will be equal in value to the dollar, while drawing up a priority list of what can be imported into the country using foreign currency.

"Penalties shall be imposed on those authorised dealers that fail to comply," the central bank's directive says. The regulator "will not hesitate to withdraw authorised dealership licences".

Export incentive

In terms of the rules, half of all proceeds from the sale of platinum, ferrochrome and other minerals will be transferred to the central bank's offshore account, the central bank said.

The regulator will then immediately transfer the equivalent amount into the authorised dealer's account for the exporter, while an incentive equal to 5% of the proceeds will be credited to another account set up on behalf of the exporting company.

The rules are being applied "to gradually adhere to the principle of 75% local content by the resource-based sectors of the economy and in order for the economy to benefit from the liquidity derived from the export of its natural resources", the central bank said.

Zimbabwe, a \$14bn economy for which mining is the biggest source of foreign currency, has the world's biggest platinum reserves after SA, as well as chrome, gold and iron ore.

Lenders operating in the country include units of London-based Barclays and Standard Chartered, as well as those of Johannesburg-based Standard Bank and Nedbank.

Land invasions

Tobacco merchants who draw on their offshore facilities to finance purchases and production will have to transfer 80% of the funds to the central bank's foreign account, which then immediately deposits the equivalent amount with the authorised dealer. The remaining 20% will remain in an offshore account of the authorised dealer, the central bank said.

Zimbabwe was the world's second-biggest tobacco exporter and also sold maize, paprika and cut roses to foreign buyers in 2000 — the year that marked the start of land invasions that slashed export income, and caused famines and an economic and political crisis in which gross domestic product more than halved.

Authorised dealers will also retain all of the export proceeds in their offshore accounts for other industries in the economy, ranging from manufacturing and agriculture to telecommunications and transport, the central bank said.

The regulator will then remit 50% of the proceeds sent to its account abroad to the exporting company's overseas bank, it said.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe was also scheduled to start an interbank foreign-currency committee this month, which it will head to ensure "transparency and efficiency in the distribution and management of foreign-exchange resources", according to the circular.

The regulator plans to put in place "an enhanced compliance monitoring framework" and will reconfigure its compliance systems to take account of the new exchange-rate policies, it said. (Bloomberg 07-06-2016)

CHEVRON'S ANGOLA UNIT CHIEF BACKS STATE OIL FIRM

The managing director of Chevron's Angola subsidiary has said he supports the direction state oil firm is taking after President Jose Eduardo dos Santos appointed his daughter to head the company.

A presidential decree carried on Angolan state media last week said Isabel dos Santos, ranked as Africa's richest woman by Forbes, would become chief executive after the firing of Sonangol's board.

"The government has acted. It is clear the direction they want to go. I am always optimistic. I certainly support the direction Sonangol is taking," John Baltz said at a conference of the US Angola Chamber of Commerce when asked for comment.

Angola, currently Africa's top oil producer because of supply outages caused by militant attacks in Nigeria's Niger Delta, said in April it would restructure Sonangol to increase efficiency and profitability.

Analysts were divided about the merit of Isabel dos Santos' appointment last Friday, with some noting that, while she was not necessarily an energy expert, she had a track record of getting deals done.

Others, however, said the appointment could make it more difficult for international banks to do business with Sonangol, given the perception of nepotism it creates. (Reuters 07-06-2016)

BOTSWANA VOWS TO END EXTREME POVERTY BY 2017

The Botswana Government is determined to end extreme poverty by December 2017, state run Daily news reported Wednesday.

The paper quotes Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Dikgang Makgalemele, told Bobirwa Sub-district councillors in Central Botswana that the eradication programme was made to intensify efforts to eradicate abject poverty.

He is quoted as saying that in 2012, government came up with complimentary measures of eradicating poverty with the Vice President Mokgweetsi Masisi as the lead agent of the programme.

He stated that the programme had subcommittee chaired by the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration Mr Eric Molale made of six assistant ministers.

The paper reported that Makgalemele expressed delight that across the political structures there was commitment to eradicate abject poverty.

He is further quoted as saying that one of the strategies that could be applied to fight poverty was through encouraging people especially students to take education seriously, which he said was a weapon to graduate from poverty.

According to the Daily news, inspite of the programme to help people, the Assistant Minister said the programme faced challenges. Such included time taken to assess beneficiaries, poor monitoring and mentoring, failure to supply beneficiaries with equipment upon completion of orientation but the ministry has trained social workers specifically for the programme to speed up the process. (APA 08-06-2016)

DANGOTE GROUP JOINS AFREXIMBANK

The Dangote Group, Africa's leading indigenous conglomerate, has become the latest entity to join the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) as a shareholder.

A statement by Afreximbank on Wednesday said that the Dangote Group completed the process of acquiring equity in the Bank on 30 May 2016 with a "substantial investment".

"I consider Afreximbank a good vehicle for fostering regional integration in Africa which aligns with our vision and mission for growth and development across the continent," said Dangote Group President/CEO Aliko Dangote.

Welcoming the action by the Dangote Group, Dr. Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank, said that the investment was "a strong vote of confidence in the Bank by, arguably, the largest indigenous corporate in Africa."

"The massive investments the Group is making across Africa makes it a partner of choice in the delivery of our Intra African Trade Strategy," continued the President.

"Working with the Dangote Group, we will build supply chain financing across Africa that could reach \$1 billion in the short term, promoting intra-regional trade and growth of SMEs and creating much needed jobs," the statement said.

Afreximbank has four classes of shareholders, divided into classes A, B, C and D, which are made up of a mix of African governments, central banks, regional and sub-regional institutions, African private investors, African and non-African financial institutions, export credit agencies and non-African private investors.

Class "A" shareholders are African states, African central banks and African public institutions, including the African Development Bank, while Class "B" is made up of African financial institutions and African private investors.

Class "C" shares are held by non-African investors, mostly international banks and export credit agencies, including Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Citibank, China Exim Bank and Exim India. Class "D" shares, a tier approved in December 2012, are fully paid par value shares that can be held by any investor. (APA 08-06-2016)

FITCH HOLDS SOUTH AFRICA'S RATING AT INVESTMENT GRADE

SA has now been reprieved by all three of the big credit rating agencies, with Fitch Ratings affirming SA's foreign currency rating and keeping its outlook on "stable" , where many in the market had expected it to put SA on negative outlook.

Fitch, whose foreign currency rating of BBB- is just one notch above subinvestment grade, said the rating "reflects low trend GDP growth, significant fiscal and external deficits, and high debt levels". However, it said these were balanced by "strong policy institutions, deep local capital markets and a favourable government debt structure".

It warned also that political risk had increased since the previous rating review in December, citing the dismissal of finance ministers in December and tension between Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and other parts of government, which "have raised questions about the commitment of the government to sustained fiscal consolidation and prudent governance of state-owned enterprises".

However, said Fitch, the level of political risk in SA was "not out of line with BBB peers".

It emphasised that it looks at political risk mainly in terms of the impact on the economy and public finances. Its base case was still that the government was committed to the fiscal objectives outlined in the February budget, but political tension raised the chances of "policy missteps", Fitch said.

Its affirmation comes after S&P delivered a stay of execution on Friday evening, affirming SA's investment-grade rating even though it had it on negative outlook. It also follows Moody's decision in May to affirm SA's rating, following a two-month review process.

Where Moody's has SA's foreign currency at two notches above subinvestment grade , S&P and Fitch rate SA just one notch above.

All three agencies have expressed concern about SA's low growth rate and rising political risks, and most analysts still expect a downgrade to subinvestment grade by at least one of the agencies by the end of this year.

The Fitch announcement came as Statistics SA announced gross domestic product figures showing the economy's performance was much more negative than expected in the first quarter of this year, with GDP contracting by 1.2% against the consensus forecast of a 0.1% contraction. (BD 08-06-2016)

NIGERIA: OIL REVENUE DIPS BY 5 PERCENT

The revenue of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) dipped in April by 4.99 percent to N102.45 billion from N107.83 billion recorded in March.

The Monthly Financial and Operations Report for April, which was released in Abuja on Wednesday, stated that the Corporation's expenses also dipped by 3.82 percent to N121.88 billion compared to N126.72 billion spent in the preceding month.

It attributed the drop to pipeline vandalism, which forced one of its subsidiaries, the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) to undertake a production shut-in, which resulted in the loss of monthly crude oil revenue of N20 billion.

"NPDC deficit and low revenue in the month of February to March 2016 and April 2016 was due to production shut-in, resulting to loss of entire NPDC's revenue from crude oil sales of about N20 billion occasioned by vandalism of Forcados Export Line," the report said.

It further blamed the poor performance on losses recorded in the operations of the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) from the fuel scarcity recorded during the period.

It said the PPMC, being the sole supplier of last resort, in its drive to bridge the petroleum products supply gap, suffered losses.

According to the report, the shortage of products compelled the PPMC to sometime engage in commercially unfavourable short term arrangements.

Another major contributor to the loss was high operation costs in the Corporate Headquarters, which

included expenses related to the on-going restructuring programme at the NNPC, the report said. (APA 09-06-2016)

NAMIBIAN POLICE BANS PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

Namibian police chief Sebastian Ndeitunga on Wednesday issued a moratorium on all public demonstrations in the capital Windhoek from June 13-18.

In a statement, Ndeitunga said the ban was necessitated by security considerations due to the important international events that scheduled during that period.

The ban comes ahead of a planned mass demonstration being organised by the Affirmative Repositioning (AR) Movement against the construction of new parliament building in Windhoek June 16.

The social pressure movement, made of disgruntled youth are incensed by the price tag of the new legislation house which ballooned from the initial N\$700 million (about US\$47 million) to the newly quoted figure of N\$4 billion.

The group argues that the building is not a priority and that government must divert the money to address pressing issues like building more classrooms, and hospitals.

"Intended demonstrations may proceed after 18 June 2016, following prescribed procedures," Ndeitunga said in the statement.

Important events taking place during the period of the ban includes 31st session of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly taking place from June 11-15 in Windhoek.

The capital also play host the 2016 edition of the Council of Southern African Football Association (COSAFA) tournament starting on Saturday to June 25.

The AR movement, which has been calling for affordable housing and residential land for Namibian youth, has in the past accused the police, especially Inspector General Ndeitunga for conspiring against them. While the later has accused the movement for stoking public violence. (APA 09-06-2016)

E-PLATFORM FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD: REGISTER FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND WORKSHOPS ON EU AND ENP

Since March 2016, almost **700 people** from countries covered by the European [Neighbourhood Policy](#) have already registered for the E-Platform, administered by the College of Europe Natolin Campus, and almost **400 people seized the opportunity** to broaden their knowledge and improve their qualifications. Nowadays, it is almost impossible to consider effective and innovative teaching and learning channels without linking them with the Virtual Learning Environment, Information and Communication Technologies and tools for personalising the education for learners (e.g. B-learning). The development of electronic media, internet, along with widespread use of mobile devices and applications, resulted in a massive increase of interest in information processing and knowledge creation through electronic learning mechanisms.

In step with these educational trends, the College of Europe Natolin Campus, with its mission to foster knowledge about the European integration process, Europe's cultural and historical heritage, and the evolution of EU policies, is putting into operation a unique electronic platform and blended learning instruments.

This comprehensive [project](#), which is **funded by the [European Union](#) with EUR 1,0 Mio**, encompasses and reinforces the understanding of various EU policies, and offers a wide range of **free of charge** educational solutions:

- **The distance learning component**, consisting of 10 knowledge-based e-learning courses and 5 skills-building courses. inter alia: Anti-Corruption, [DCFTA](#), [Human Rights](#) Protection, IBM and Migration Policies, Effective Application for EU Funding, Fund-Raising Skills, and others.
- **An Information Database System (IDS)** with systematised public information and documentation on the EU, ENP, EU-ENP relations, and best practices.
- **An online Expert Forum**, enabling participants' discussions and exchanges with experienced practitioners and scholars working on, or interested in the [European Union](#)- and ENP-related matters.

Furthermore, the online component is accompanied by a series of face-to-face sessions/workshops **for 150 best performing E-Platform participants** (75 from ENP-East and 75 from ENP-South) which will take place in Poland. The participation, as well as training materials, is free of charge (including board and lodging, and travel expenses).

"I consider the E-Platform as a diligent and up-to-date source of knowledge and information concerning the EU, especially regarding selected policies, best practices and human capital investments, as well as a comprehensive and interactive electronic tool that should inspire ENP citizens to enhance their professional expertise and skills, something that is so crucial in the current economic and social climate", highlighted an expert in economic policies of the EU, management and administration, prof. Tomasz Grzegorz Grosse, Head of the EU Policies Unit, Institute of European Studies at the University of Warsaw.

If you have ever considered widening your knowledge on EU- and ENP-related issues, then you should definitely get involved in this professional and educational initiative, and visit our website: <http://www.euforneighbourhood.eu/> (EEAS 08-06-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE TO CUT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE BY 10 PERCENT

Mozambican Finance Minister Adriano Maleiane says his government is taking immediate measures to cut public expenditure this year by 10 percent in move meant to compensate for the fall in revenue resulting from economic slowdown.

The economic slump has forced the government to revise downwards its growth forecast for 2016 from an initial seven percent target to between five and six percent.

Maleiane told the country's parliament on Wednesday that the expenditure cuts would not affect social sectors such as education and health or actions that seek to revive the economy through investment in agriculture and infrastructures.

One of the many headaches leading to liquidity problems for the state is that several of the country's main international partners, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have suspended financial aid.

The aid cut is in protest to undisclosed guarantees given in 2014 by the previous government, headed by President Armando Guebuza, for the loans contracted by the companies Proindicus and the Mozambique Asset Management for US\$622 million and US\$535 million, respectively. (APA 09-06-2016)

NIGERIAN BANKS AGREE TO HALT INDUSTRY'S MASS SACK

Nigerian banks have finally agreed to halt the spate of recent mass sack in the industry after much pressure from the government and the labour unions.

Nigeria's Minister of Labour Chris Ngige had threatened that the licence of banks which engaged in mass sack of workers would be withdrawn, while the unions have warned that they would commence picketing banks that engage in the retrenchment of their workers.

The Managing Director, Standard Chartered Bank, Bola Adelola, told journalists after the bankers committee meeting on Thursday that "obviously, banks understand the implication of people not being in employment especially with what the situation is like in the country. And we are looking at ways we will ensure that we minimise exits from institutions.

"There will always be exits. People will exit the institutions. As a matter of fact, it is something we have discussed in the past with the CBN Governor prevailing on the banks to minimise any exits from the institutions.

"We have noted the market sentiments and am sure that going forward, it will be different but as I said, we must recognise also that there would be reasons why people would leave and it is not just in the banking industry- telecoms and other sectors have had this type of situation before but it is something that we would manage," she said.

Mrs. Adesola also said the framework for a National Collateral Registry was almost ready and when released, it would facilitate the easy access of loans by bank customers.

According to her, based on the guidelines, those seeking loans from banks could use movable assets such as vehicles, fridges, and other home appliances as collaterals. "You are all aware that the Central Bank of Nigeria is developing a National Collateral Registry. (APA 10-06-2016)

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN BUSINESS COOPERATION: EUROMED INVEST TO HOLD ROADSHOW IN AMMAN

The EU-funded project EUROMED Invest will be organising a roadshow in Amman on 18-19 July 2016 focusing on a multi-sector approach within the wider scope of supporting EU-South and South-South business cooperation.

The roadshow will cover the following fields:

- Agro-industry
- Clean Environmental technologies
- Energy
- Transports

The aim of the **EUROMED Invest** project is to boost private business and investment within the Euro-Mediterranean region to contribute to an inclusive economic development. The project activities aim to empower Euro-Med business and investment networks to implement targeted strategies in support of SME development in specific sectors: agri-food, water and alternative energies, tourism, transport and logistics, cultural and creative industries. (EEAS 08-06-2016)

NCC BOSS LAUDS PERFORMANCE OF NIGERIAN TELECOM SECTOR

The Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof Umar Garba Danbatta, has lauded the performance of the nation's telecommunications industry, especially in the first quarter of 2016, which he hopes will even improve in the subsequent quarters of the year.

Receiving a consortium of international investors led by UBS South Africa in Abuja, Danbatta said that the NCC would soon meet with operators over the recent auction of 2.6GHz spectrum, which saw only MTN Nigeria, bid for 6 out of 14 available slots.

"I think we are happy with the level of compliance to regulatory stipulations in general, minus the MTN incident, which cast some sort of shadow in our regulatory drive to ensure sustainability and stability of the industry.

"I am happy, we are putting that one behind us, and this is attested to by recent statistics by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that the industry recorded a growth of 0.5 percent to GDP in comparison to the same period last year.

According to him, in monetary terms this is going to translate to over N1.4 trillion, only in the first quarter of this year.

He noted that while other sectors of the economy is recording negative growth, the telecom industry has been recording positive growth and that it is poised to grow even further in the subsequent quarters of the year. (APA 10-06-2016)

MTN AGREES TO PAY \$1.7BN FINE TO NIGERIAN GOV'T

South African telecommunication giant, MTN says it will pay \$1.7 billion fine imposed on it by the telecommunication regulator, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) for failure to disconnect unregistered mobile phone users in Nigeria.

A statement by the company on Friday said: "MTN Nigeria has agreed to pay a total cash amount of N330bn over three years."

MTN was fined \$3.9bn last year by the NCC and it has since been in negotiations with the NCC and the Nigerian government over the payout. (APA 10-06-2016)

USAID EARMARKS \$12M FOR WEST AFRICAN RICE PROJECT

The support project for the dissemination of improved varieties of rice seeds in West Africa has been launched in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with a \$12-million subsidy from USAID, the Ministry of Agriculture told APA on Friday.

This new initiative led by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) aims to boost the local production of rice.

The two-year project will not only help increase the production and supply of improved seed varieties but also facilitate producer access to new varieties of rice in providing them with more than 7,000 tons of basic seeds and 3,000 tons of certified seeds.

The project buttresses the "ECOWAS Rice Offensive," which aims to reduce rice imports in the West African sub-region, by boosting local production. (APA 10-06-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTCC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTCC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) to their Members.



www.acp.int



www.aheadglobal.hu



www.bcafrica.co.uk



www.camaratenerife.com



www.africacncl.org



www.elo-online.org



www.helafrican-chamber.gr



www.htcc.org.hu



www.norwegianafrikan.no



www.nabc.nl

Fernando Matos Rosa

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