

MEMORANDUM

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MOZAMBIQUE: PRESIDENT MEETS RENAMO CHIEF IN JUNGLE HIDEOUT

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi has met the leader of the country's main opposition Renamo party Afonso Dhlakama in his jungle hideout in the mountains of Gorongosa.



It is the first meeting between the two men after they indefinitely extended a ceasefire, raising hopes for a nascent peace process in the country.

A presidential statement emailed to APA on Sunday says Nyusi and Dhlakama discussed and agreed on the next steps in the peace process, which they hope will be concluded by the end of the year.

"They agreed that they would continue their dialogue and closely monitor the work of the two committees, with a view to a new meeting soon to prepare the final steps", reads the statement

Both sides have clashed sporadically since Renamo challenged the results of the 2014 elections.

Analysts say competition over natural resources could also be exacerbating unrest in Mozambique which is on the verge of developing huge offshore gas reserves which could transform one of the world's poorest countries into a middle-income state.

Members of the current government and Renamo fought on opposing sides in a bitter civil war from 1976 to 1992 that killed an estimated 1 million people.

Dhlakama and Nyusi have not met face-to-face since February 2015 and distrust between the two has led to several ceasefires collapsing since Nyusi won the disputed 2014 vote.

Since the poll, Renamo has demanded it rule in the six provinces where it won the most votes, while the government has called for the opposition to disarm before opening discussions.

Early last year, tens of thousands of Mozambicans fled across the border into Malawi to escape violence and alleged human rights abuses.

(APA 06-08-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA'S UNPREDICTABILITY REVEALED BY A SECRET BALLOT

The story of SA simply refuses to be predictable.

On Tuesday, members of the National Assembly will, for the first time, cast a vote by secret ballot on a motion of no confidence against a sitting president. After years of being the ultimate Teflon man, President Jacob Zuma faces a real threat of being toppled.

The speaker of the National Assembly, Baleka Mbete, did what was, up to now, unthinkable for a top-six official in the ANC: she rolled the dice on Zuma's fate. By allowing MPs to vote by secret ballot in the no-confidence motion against the president, the ANC does not have complete control on the outcome.

The ANC simply has to trust that the instructions it will no doubt hammer into its caucus ahead of the vote will be enough to prevent its MPs from breaking ranks. But once they walk into the National Assembly on Tuesday afternoon, it will be their decision and their conscience that will dictate how they vote — with no danger of penalty.

Mbete provided a detailed explanation for her decision at a media briefing on Monday afternoon, quoting at length from the June Constitutional Court judgment granting her the discretion to decide on the voting method. By delaying the announcement until the 11th hour, it was expected that she would opt for the open ballot and was trying to narrow the time available for an urgent court challenge by opposition parties.

However, Mbete stunned the country when she said she had taken “due and impartial consideration of all the factors” and decided that voting on the motion would be by secret ballot.

It was also significant that she noted a secret ballot becomes necessary when “circumstances are toxic” — this in reference to the threats and bullying directed at ANC MPs who indicated they would vote according to their conscience.

Mbete’s decision and her justification also show that she is concerned about her own political fate and remains in contention for a top position in the ANC’s national elective conference, without Zuma’s help.

Even with the secret ballot, the numbers still weigh in favour of Zuma remaining president, but the number of people who vote in support of the motion will reveal his support within the ANC.

The motion requires a simple majority of at least 201 members to vote in favour to succeed.

Of the of the 400-member National Assembly, opposition parties jointly hold 151 seats. Presuming there is full attendance, 50 ANC members would need to vote to support the motion tabled by DA leader Mmusi Maimane.

While there is a three-line whip for the debate, there could, however, be absentees due to illness and overseas travel — and two ANC MPs who have died, which could affect the outcome.

For those ANC MPs worried about supporting an opposition motion, they now have the option to abstain, meaning the ruling party will not have the absolute majority in support of Zuma as in previous cases. So far, four ANC MPs have made it absolutely clear they would vote according to conscience, not the ANC line. They are Makhosi Khoza, Mondli Gungubele, Pravin Gordhan and Derek Hanekom.

Therefore, any number higher than 155 votes in support of the motion means ANC MPs have defied the party’s instruction.

Zuma may or may not survive, but based on Mbete’s decision, and depending on the number of ANC MPs who vote according to their conscience, it is clear that more and more people are no longer prepared to throw themselves under the bus to save him.(BD 07-08-2017)

ENI AWAITS APPROVAL FROM MOZAMBIKAN GOVERNMENT TO PAY CAPITAL GAINS ON DEAL WITH EXXONMOBIL

The payment of US\$350 million in capital gains tax by Italian group ENI is expected to be made by November, and the group is now waiting for the deal with US group ExxonMobil to be approved by the Mozambican government, an official from the Mozambican Tax Authority (TA) has said.

The ExxonMobil group paid US\$2.8 billion in cash to the Italian group for a 35.7% stake in ENI East Africa and, through this company, an indirect 25% stake in the Rovuma Area 4 block in northern Mozambique.

When the government of Mozambique approves the deal, ENI East Africa’s shareholders will be ENI, with 35.7%, ExxonMobil with 35.7% and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) with 28.6%.

The operator and main partner of Block 4 is the ENI group, with a 70% stake, and the remaining partners are Mozambican state-owned Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), Portuguese group Galp Energia and South Korean group Kogas, all with 10% each.

The coordinator of the TA's extractive industry taxation unit, Anibal Mbalango, said that 22 sales are being analysed, adding that 15 transactions had been concluded in the first half of the year, yielding 27.4 billion meticaís (US\$457 million) for the state. (04-08-2017)

NIGER DELTA LEADERS DROP ULTIMATUM AFTER GOVERNMENT AGREES TO LEGALISE MINI REFINERIES

The presidency says the currently outlawed refineries will be legalised by the end of 2017 and provided with reasonably priced crude

Nigeria will legalise currently outlawed mini refineries in the Niger Delta oil hub by the end of the year and supply them with crude at a reasonable price, the presidency said on Thursday, fulfilling demands from community leaders.

On Monday, Niger Delta leaders threatened to pull out of peace talks with the government unless their demands were met by November 1.

"The federal government has started the process of replacing illegal refineries in the region with modular ones," the presidency said in a statement as acting president Yemi Osinbajo met Niger Delta community leaders in Abuja.

Each of the Niger Delta states would receive two modular refineries to start up in the fourth quarter, the statement said.

The community leaders welcomed the outcome of the meeting.

"The meeting was excellent. We met with Mr. Acting President and the discussion was very honest, truthful, forthright. We are very, very satisfied. No more ultimatum," Edwin Clark, head of the community leaders, told reporters.

The government has been in talks with community leaders since last year to end militant attacks on oil production facilities, which cut the Opec member's output by 700,000 barrels a day for several months in last year.

But a military crackdown on thousands of illegal refineries in the southern swamps, which process crude oil stolen from oil majors and state oil firm NNPC, has raised tension.

The refineries process stolen crude in makeshift pipes and metal tanks hidden in oil-soaked clearings deep in the southern swampland's thick bush land.

The Niger Delta leaders had presented President Muhammadu Buhari a list of 16 demands last November to drag the southern swampland out of poverty. The militants then halted attacks to give the talks a chance.

The presidency said it was also discussing with oil majors to move their regional headquarters to the Niger Delta, another demand from communities complaining they do not benefit from the crude in their region.

"There is more consensus," Oil Minister Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu said after the meeting, without elaborating. "Today was an environment of peace, calm, friendliness, and mutual dialogue of issues."

Osinbajo was appointed by Buhari to head Nigeria while Buhari is on medical leave in Britain for an undisclosed ailment.

Oil exports are now set to exceed 2-million barrels a day in August, the highest in 17 months, from as little as just more than 1-million barrels a day at certain points in 2016, thanks to a steady decline in attacks on pipelines. (Reuters 04-08-2017)

INDIAN CONSORTIUM CONSIDERS PRODUCING GAS FROM COAL MINED IN MOZAMBIQUE

Indian consortium International Coal Ventures Ltd (ICVL) is considering the possibility of transforming coal mined in Benga, in the central Mozambican province of Tete, into methanol to feed gas-fired power plants in India, said the Indian Minister for Steel.

Minister Chaudhury Birender Singh told Indian newspaper the Telegraph in Kolkata that the government was considering a proposal to this effect presented by the National Institution for the Transformation of India, known in the country as NITI Aayog.

India has gas-fired power stations with the capacity to produce 25,329 megawatts of electricity, with more than half at a standstill or almost due to lack of fuel.

The proposal put forward by NITI Aayog came after it was found that the shipment of coal mined in Bengo to India had high costs, and it was not yet possible to build a thermal power plant in Mozambique due to the lack of connection to the national grid.

The ICVL consortium is a partnership consisting of five Indian state groups – Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) and Coal India Limited (CIL) – which was formed to acquire stakes in mines abroad and ensure the supply of both coking and thermal coal.

In 2014, the consortium paid US\$50 million for the Rio Tinto group's coal assets in Mozambique, with the Benga mine being the only one of those assets in operation. (04-08-2017)

SUGAR INDUSTRY COULD TAKE YEARS TO RECOVER FROM 2015-16 DROUGHT

The South African sugar industry could take years to recover from the effects of the 2015-16 drought which has led to the industry failing to meet export orders.

SA is a major sugar producer, with the industry contributing 0.6% towards the country's GDP. The sector is responsible for 85,000 direct and 350,000 indirect job opportunities with export earnings of R2.5bn a year.

Sugar cane is grown and processed mostly in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape.

This week, the South African Sugar Association (Sasa), which represents the industry's producers said the drought resulted in a 53% decrease in production in some areas, along with the unprecedented closure of two mills, while other mills had a shorter than normal milling season.

Sasa executive director Trix Trikam said while the production of sugar was sufficient to supply local demand, export supply had to be curtailed. "We did not export during the drought."

In a presentation to Parliament in May, Sasa vice-chairman Suresh Naidoo said besides the worst drought in history, the industry was "under siege" due to high input costs, a low-priced world market and the proposed tax on sweetened drinks, as well as the long-running issue of inadequate tariff protection. Since 2013, the industry has been clamouring for increased tariffs to protect it from imports which affected its financial stability and competitive position. SA uses the dollar-based reference price tariff system as a protection mechanism when the world price drops below a pre-determined reference price. Sasa had applied for an increase in the dollar-based reference price of sugar from \$358 to \$764.64 a tonne. In its calculation of the required tariff, the International Trade Administration Commission (Itac) found the appropriate tariff level to be \$566 a tonne, arguing that a price above that would overprotect the industry and fuel inflation.

Itac also said the level requested by Sasa would disadvantage industrial manufacturers using sugar as an intermediary input, which made up more than 60% of the industry's downstream clientele.

The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry said that between 2004 and 2013, raw sugar cane imports into SA came primarily from the US, followed by low import volumes from Africa, Europe, and Asia. SA mostly exports to the Southern African Development Community region.

Trikam said with the massive influx of imports from the world market, without sufficient tariff protection, the industry "runs the very real threat of having imports displace local production" which would have catastrophic effects on the industry and jobs.

Meanwhile, a report by BMI Research forecasts shrinking surpluses and increasing deficits in sugar for most sub-Saharan countries over the next three years. This comes as exports to the EU are at risk of being displaced when the region's production quotas lapse in September this year.

The report said Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe could be the most affected, while SA will only be able to export 75% of its 150,000 tonne quota to the EU in the 2017-18 period, and would focus on supplying the domestic and regional markets in future. (BD 04-08-2018)

ANGOLA'S LAÚCA DAM STARTS COMMERCIAL ENERGY PRODUCTION

The first of the six 334-megawatt turbines of the Laúca hydroelectric project, under construction on the waterfall of the Middle Kwanza, will start producing electricity on Friday, following load synchronisation tests that started on 9 July, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

In order to make power generation possible at the dam, which has been under construction since 2012, in Malanje, filling of the Laúca reservoir began on 11 March 2017 to collect enough water (2.68 million cubic metres) and drive the dam's six turbines.

This project, Angola's largest civil engineering and hydroelectric power plant, is a US\$4.5 billion public investment, producing more than twice the power of the largest currently operating dam, in Cambambe, at 960 megawatts.

The Laúca facility, a structural electricity sector project that is part of the National Development Plan (2012-2017), will inject 2,070 megawatts into the national electricity grid and when fully completed (in 2018) will allow the beginning of the interconnection process of the northern, centre and southern systems in the country.

With Laúca and adding this facility to the 750-megawatt Soyo combined cycle power plant, the Angolan electricity sector will have an installed capacity of 5,000 megawatts in 2018, while the target is to reach 9,000 megawatts by 2025, to respond to domestic demand.

The Laúca project was the result of an inventory study carried out in the 1950s, requested by the then public company Sociedade Nacional de Estudo e Financiamento de Empreendimentos Ultramarinos (Sonefe) to the Hydrotechnic Corporation (USA), which concluded that seven dams could be built on the Middle Kwanza.

Of the seven dams planned for the Middle Kwanza, three have already been built, namely, the Cambambe, Capanda and now Laúca, and the Túmulo do Caçador, Luime, Zenzo I and Zenzo II dams have yet to be built.

With a height of 156 metres, 1,200 meters in length and an area of 24,000 hectares, including its reservoir, Laúca is the second largest dam under construction in Africa, after the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which may generate 6,000 megawatts of electricity. (04-08-2017)

FRENCH GROUP TO REVAMP MADAGASCAR'S AIRPORTS

An unprecedented \$245m is set to be spent on the airports of Madagascar, one of the poorest countries in the world.

The funding is to be arranged by the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF), a public-private development organisation, and will be spent on the upgrade and expansion of airports in the capital of Antananarivo, in the centre of the country, and the island of Nosy Be in the north.

The bulk of the money will come from the World Bank, the Proparco Development Bank of South Africa, and the OPEC Fund for International Development.



Ivato is the island's largest airport

Passenger handling capacity will more than double at Ivato Airport, which serves Antananarivo. Its runway will be reinforced and resurfaced to allow it to handle wide-bodied aircraft and a 17,500 sq m international terminal will be built with an initial capacity of 1.5 million passengers.

The second scheme will increase the capacity of Fascene Airport at Nosy Be, one of the country's main tourism destinations, to 500,000 passengers a year.

The work will be carried out by [Ravinala Airports](#), a special purpose company formed by Groupe ADP (formerly Aéroports de Paris), Bouygues, Colas and French investment group Meridiam Africa.

Ravinala has been managing the airports since December as part of Madagascar's economic reforms programme, and will continue for the next 28 years.

David White, the chairman of the EAIF, [commented](#): "Efficient and modern airports are one of the foundation elements of progress. They are significant employers in their own right and catalysts for growth in almost every sector of an economy. In Ravinala Airports we have a highly skilled, globally experienced and strongly motivated private sector airport operator. This is very good news for Madagascar."

Hery Rajaonarimampianina, the president of the Malagasy Republic, [said](#): "Any international airports are the symbol of the connection to the world. The work will reflect the modern, dynamic and friendly image of Madagascar."

The EAIF, which is itself providing \$30m over 16 years, is a member of the Private Infrastructure Development Group. Seven governments and the World Bank contribute funds to PIDG. In the case of EAIF, support comes from the governments of the UK, The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as private sector banks, the German development finance institution, KfW, and its Dutch equivalent, FMO.

Madagascar has a nominal per capita GDP of about \$390 in 2016, making it the fifth poorest country in the world. According to the African Business Review, the project is expected to contribute \$71.5 million in taxes to the Madagascan government.(GCR 04-08-2017)

BURKINA FASO, FAO SIGN NEW COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Burkina Faso and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have signed a new country programming framework (CPF) 2017-2020 worth \$90.3 million, the Ministry of Agriculture told APA.



This document will guide FAO's activities in the country over the next four years, as \$13.5 million of the total amount has already been acquired.

This cooperation framework, which succeeds the first CPF 2013-2015, targets three areas of intervention: food and nutrition security; improving incomes of rural populations through sustainable and efficient food and agricultural systems; and governance of the rural sector.

It aims to bring "more innovation, effectiveness and efficiency by engaging in community rehabilitation to lift affected people through assistance to engage them in resilience and development."

Developed with the participation of all stakeholders in the agricultural sector, the country programming framework 2017-2020 is in line with the country's National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) and the National Rural Sector Programme (PNRP). (APA 04-08-2017)

RWANDA : COMMENT KIGALI DEVIENT UNE DESTINATION POUR LE TOURISME D'AFFAIRES



Le Kigali Convention Centre a officiellement coûté 300 millions de dollars, financés par la dette publique.

Pourtant située dans une zone troublée et très loin de la mer, la capitale rwandaise s'est hissée au troisième rang africain pour les congrès, grâce à des investissements massifs dans les infrastructures d'accueil.

Dans le petit monde du tourisme d'affaires, Kigali a créé la sensation : à l'occasion de la publication du dernier classement de l'International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), en juin, la capitale rwandaise s'est hissée au troisième rang africain par le nombre de congrès accueillis. « En 2016, nous avons accueilli 42 conférences [dont 18 ont été retenues pour le classement de l'ICCA] et nous visons le chiffre de 50 pour 2017 », explique Frank Murangwa, directeur exécutif du Rwanda Convention Bureau (RCB, l'office des congrès du Rwanda).

Cet organisme a été créé en 2016 pour appuyer le développement du secteur décidé par le gouvernement. « Créateur d'emplois et générateur de devises, le tourisme a été identifié il y a plusieurs années comme un pilier important pour le développement du Rwanda, mais le pays était surtout connu pour ses animaux sauvages et ses parcs naturels. Le tourisme d'affaires, lui, a été plus récemment ciblé

comme un segment à fort potentiel. Une stratégie a donc été mise sur pied et adoptée en 2013 », explique Murangwa.

Capitale propre

Autonome et structuré comme une société privée, le RCB est aujourd'hui totalement détenu par l'État, mais pourrait ouvrir dans quelques années son capital à des professionnels du secteur. Son directeur exécutif est à la tête d'une équipe de 35 personnes. Leurs missions : veiller à la qualité des conférences, répondre aux appels d'offres pour les grands événements ou encore promouvoir la destination Kigali à travers le monde.

Sur le papier, le Rwanda ne semble pas particulièrement propice au tourisme d'affaires : situé dans une zone troublée – avec le risque terroriste en Afrique de l'Est et l'instabilité congolaise à l'ouest –, (très) loin de la mer et pas vraiment au centre des axes logistiques mondiaux. Pour compenser ces faiblesses, le pays table sur son climat doux, ainsi que sur la propreté, la sécurité et l'aménagement de Kigali, qui compte désormais 8 000 chambres. En un an, avec l'accompagnement actif du gouvernement, quatre hôtels 4 et 5 étoiles ont ouvert leurs portes – Radisson Blu, Marriott, Park Inn by Radisson et Ubumwe Grand Hotel –, ajoutant à eux seuls près de 900 chambres.

Un Sheraton et un Onomo sont aussi annoncés. Inauguré en 2016 et géré par Radisson, le Kigali Convention Centre offre sous son immense coupole un centre de conférences de standing international doté d'une capacité d'accueil de 2 600 personnes. Cette structure est venue en complément du Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village, qui accueillait jusque-là les principaux événements.

Tourisme d'affaires

La politique pour l'obtention du visa a également été largement assouplie et les ressortissants de nombreux pays (africains notamment, mais aussi occidentaux) peuvent désormais accomplir cette démarche à leur arrivée dans le pays. La restructuration de Rwandair et son déploiement vers le reste de l'Afrique, et même vers l'Europe, l'Inde, Dubaï et les États-Unis, permettent d'accompagner la stratégie de tourisme d'affaires. Turkish Airlines, KLM ou Brussels Airlines opèrent également sur le tarmac de Kigali. « En 2016, nous avons accueilli 36 000 touristes d'affaires pour 47 millions de dollars de recettes, se réjouit Frank Murangwa. Ce chiffre croît de 25 % par an. »

La capitale rwandaise devrait continuer à amplifier son offre d'économie du savoir

Il y a trois ans, Kigali se classait au 24^e rang africain de l'ICCA, avec environ 15 000 touristes d'affaires. Pourrait-elle talonner demain Le Cap, Mecque continentale des congrès ? « Une attention croissante est portée à la question du coût de ces conférences, indique Corne Koch, directrice de l'office des congrès de la ville sud-africaine. Kigali pourrait utiliser cette tendance et en faire un des principaux arguments pour convaincre les planificateurs qui envisagent des destinations "de second rang". La capitale rwandaise devrait également continuer à amplifier son offre d'économie du savoir. »

L'avenir de nombreux investissements dépend de la réussite de la stratégie du RCB : le développement du Kigali Convention Centre, qui a pris plus de sept ans, a en effet officiellement coûté 300 millions de dollars (260 millions d'euros), financés par la dette publique. L'État prendra aussi en charge le développement du futur aéroport international de Bugesera, doté d'une capacité d'accueil de 1,7 million de passagers par an, dont la première phase est à elle seule estimée à plus de 400 millions de dollars.



Centre-ville de Kigali

De nombreux investisseurs privés se sont eux aussi lancés ces dernières années dans le développement d'hôtels d'affaires : le Chinois Billy Cheung Yiu Tung aura ainsi misé, entre le Marriott et

le futur Sheraton, pas loin de 200 millions de dollars (avec d'autres investisseurs). Le groupe ougandais Mukwano a quant à lui mis 80 % des 40 millions de dollars qu'a demandés l'hôtel Ubumwe.

L'avenir dira si ces investissements ont été bien ciblés... Au cours de la précédente vague de développement hôtelier, le passage de 600 chambres en 2003 à 4 825 en 2010 avait fait des dégâts : plusieurs investisseurs, incapables de rembourser leurs emprunts, avaient vu leurs biens saisis par les banques.

Le Cap tête d'affiche

Avec 62 conférences accueillies en 2016, Le Cap caracole en tête du classement africain de l'ICCA. Marrakech est deuxième, avec 19 événements. Suivent Kigali (18), Durban (16) et Johannesburg (13).(JA 03-08-2017)

GAMBIAN OPERATOR GETS TELECOMS LICENSE IN SIERRA LEONE

The Gambian owned Mobile Telecommunication Company, QCell, is set to commence operations in Sierra Leone after being granted a license, APA learned in Freetown on Friday.



QCell is a subsidiary of the Qgroup and is described as one of the leading mobile telecommunications operators in Gambia and the only 4G/LTE network there.

Local media in Freetown on Friday quoted Mohammed Jah, Chairman and CEO of Qgroup, as saying his venturing into the Sierra Leonean market was a personal journey for him. Jah, like many Gambians today occupying high positions in the political and private sector in Gambia, had his first degree in Freetown's iconic Fourah Bay College.

The businessman therefore said investing in Sierra Leone would be giving back to the country that helped educate him.

"This is a personal journey for me. I have only one University degree - a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone," he said. (APA 04-08-2017)

NIGERIA'S POSTAL SERVICE UNVEILS NEW ADDRESSING SYSTEM

Nigeria's postal service, NIPOST, has just announced its adoption of the innovative global addressing system what3words (www.what3words.com).

Nigeria is the seventh country to adopt what3words, and the third in Africa. The system is already being used for mail deliveries in Mongolia, Sint Maarten, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Tonga and Solomon Islands.

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and its most populous country with approximately 184 million inhabitants. It has the seventh largest population in the world.



Chris Sheldrick, What3words CEO and co-founder and Barrister Bisi Adegbuyi, Nigeria's Postmaster General

Nigeria's poor addressing system means that only 20% of its inhabitants receive mail at home. 79% of homes and businesses cannot receive deliveries to the door, and the remaining 1% receive their mail using one of the 478,000 P.O. boxes throughout the country. A postcode system does exist, but only 5% of mail gets properly addressed with the postcode, hampering the efforts of NIPOST to improve its quality of service.

An addressing solution

Determined to improve this situation, NIPOST has set itself the ambitious target of increasing home delivery to 70% within the next 2 years and 90% by 2020 through the Mail for Every House Initiative (MEHI), and has adopted what3words to help it achieve these goals. The innovative global addressing system has divided the world into 57 trillion 3m x 3m squares, each with a unique 3 word address. It means that every home and business in Nigeria has a simple and accurate address that is easy to remember and to use. For example ///bracelets.hesitations.mutes refers to the exact 3m x 3m square at the entrance to the main post office in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

Available in 14 languages, with many more currently in development, what3words is used in over 170 countries by governments, postal services, logistics companies, emergency services and NGOs, as well as individuals. It is more accurate than traditional street addresses, simpler than landmark-based directions, and easier to remember and communicate than GPS coordinates. The system has built-in error detection and is available through a free mobile app and API integration. The system even works offline, without a data connection.

"We are very pleased to be collaborating with what3words as an addressing solution with huge potential to unlock opportunities" said Barrister Bisi Adegbuyi, Nigeria's Postmaster General. "Better addressing is a key to NIPOST's agenda, which aims to transform, innovate, and deliver more services to more people all over the country".

E-commerce potential

Young people make up 62% of Nigeria's population, and this is reflected in the significant increase in cross border e-commerce in the country; 53,612 parcels and packets were handled in 2016 (approx. 200 per day) which is up 70% since 2014. The e-commerce market is currently worth \$12 billion, but there is still huge potential for growth. With improvements to infrastructure, innovation around payment systems and a reliable addressing system, Nigerian e-commerce could be set to take off at an incredible scale.

"With a rapidly growing ecommerce ecosystem, Nigeria is a very exciting country to be working with," said Chris Sheldrick, CEO and Co-founder of what3words. "Postal services have a critical role in building a strong economy and NIPOST are firmly focused on the future, and are taking steps to modernise and grow their capacity and range of services." (BD 02-08-2017)

NEW UNECA CHIEF CALLS ON AFRICA TO UNITE MORE THAN EVER

New United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe said there is need for Africa to unite more than ever and take advantage of the gaps being left by the threat against

multi-lateralism following Brexit and the new American isolationist policies, UNECA said in a statement on Thursday.



The first woman, Cameroonian UN chief made the remark while holding discussion with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in Addis Ababa where they renewed their commitment to working together for the economic and social transformation of Ethiopia and the African continent at large.

“Of course there is uncertainty at the moment but what makes us happy is that it is happening at a time when Africa is getting its voice back,” said Ms. Songwe, adding the continent must capitalize on the discord being created by dissenting voices against globalization.” She said

Ms. Songwe, who arrived in Addis Ababa Wednesday night, was appointed earlier this year by United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, and takes over from former Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes.

The two leaders discussed a number of issues, including the urgent need for the continent to strengthen its domestic resource mobilization so it can fund its development; ongoing Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations; intra-African trade; special economic zones; climate change; gender; peace and security.

“We must unite in Africa as others disperse for we stand a better chance of taking the space others are vacating if we stand as one. We can only weather this storm by working closely together for the transformation of our economies but more so if we rely on our own resources.”

The new ECA Chief said Africa’s institutions need to be reformed if they are to meet the continent’s challenges, including resource mobilization to fund the continent’s development.

For his part, the Prime Minister agreed, adding the spirit of Pan-Africanism embodied in the ECA and its sister organizations, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) should continue to spur the continent’s desire to do more for itself.

“The collective role that these Pan African institutions play adds value in a lot of ongoing work for Africa’s transformation,” said Mr. Desalegn, adding the ECA remains a key player in Ethiopia and Africa’s development. (APA 04-08-2017)

VODACOM TO ACQUIRE VODAFONE’S 35% STAKE IN KENYA’S SAFARICOM



Vodacom has acquired a 35% stake in Kenya’s Safaricom

According to reports by [Forbes](#), Vodacom Group, the South African telecoms giant, has announced that they will spend \$2.6 billion (R34,6 billion) to buy out their parent company's (Vodafone) 34.94% stake in Kenyan operator Safaricom. The deal will see Vodacom attain a foothold in the Kenyan telecoms market.

Vodacom Group Chief Executive Officer Shameel Joosub, announced the transaction, which is subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals, in a statement to the press. Joosub said that, "This is an exciting occasion for Vodacom and a unique opportunity to diversify our revenue growth and profitability. Acquiring a strategic stake in Safaricom will provide our shareholders with access to a high growth, high margin, high cash generation business operating in a high growth market. In addition to producing mutually beneficial opportunities for growth, it will create further incremental value through the close cooperation between the two businesses, particularly in driving M-Pesa adoption across our operations." The deal allows Vodafone to minimize their involvement in one of its two main African markets, allowing their South African subsidiary to take their place.

According to [Bloomberg](#), Safaricom makes up 71 percent of the mobile-customer market share in Kenya. The company however is under pressure from lawmakers and regulators who are debating whether it has a dominant position in the market. (ITNA 15--05-2017)

SENEGAL: PRIMARY SECTOR MAINTAINED UPWARD TRAJECTORY IN MAY

Senegal's primary sector, excluding agriculture and forestry continued its upward trajectory which started in April 2017, with a monthly increase of 5.9 percent in May 2017, according to the Directorate of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE).

However, compared with April 2017, when it was at 12.9 percent, growth in the primary sector fell by 7 percentage points.

According to the DPEE, the performance of the sector during the period under review is mainly due to the improvement of fisheries output (plus 18.5 percent).

Livestock activity in subsector virtually stabilized, witnessing a 1 percent improvement over the period.

On an annual basis, growth in the primary sector (excluding agriculture and forestry) was 7.8 percent in May 2017, due to the positive performance of the subsectors (17.6 percent) and livestock (plus 3.9 percent). (APA 06-08-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA 'WORKING ON SCRAPPING VISA FOR ALL AFRICAN CITIZENS'

South Africa is working towards allowing all African citizens to enter the country without visas – but at first "trusted travellers" like diplomats, officials, academics, business people and students will be the only ones to benefit.

The Department of Home Affairs outlines the steps that will be taken towards scrapping visa requirements in its latest White Paper on International Migration, which was adopted by cabinet six weeks ago but not made public yet.

The African Union's Agenda 2063, championed by former AU Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, calls for the scrapping of visa requirements for all African citizens travelling on the continent by 2018 based on the views of the African Renaissance.

The African passport was launched with great ceremony by Dlamini-Zuma and Rwandan President Paul Kagame at last year's AU summit in Kigali.

According to the White Paper, South Africa "fully supports the vision of an Africa where its citizens can move more freely across national borders, where intra-Africa trade is encouraged and there is greater integration and development of the African continent".



It said the current status was untenable. “For instance, on average Africans need visas to travel to 55% of other African countries. They can get visas on arrival in only 25% of other countries. Finally, they do not need a visa to travel to just 20% of other countries on the continent.”

Security-based approach

But the White Paper, which moves South Africa’s approach to immigration from a purely administrative one to a security-based approach, warns that the scrapping of visas needs to happen with caution.

South Africa’s risk-based approach “advocates for an incremental removal of migration formalities for frequent and trusted travellers including diplomats, officials, academics, business persons, students, etc.”

The policy is envisaged as follows: African citizens can enter South Africa visa-free where there are reciprocal agreements.

Visas will only be needed when there are risks of foreign nationals overstaying, security risks like organised crime, terrorism and political instability, civil registration risks, i.e. fraud by foreign governments in issuing documents or an unable or unwillingness to identify their nationals when requested, and for countries “with a high number of nationals who abuse the asylum system”.

One of the countries identified elsewhere in the document as doing such is Zimbabwe.

Key elements of the visa-free regime would be visa-free entry for visits up to 90 days, recognition of visas for third parties, for example regional visas, agreed standards on immigration and border management, agreed standards on civil registration and “sophisticated, real-time risk management, information and intelligence sharing”.

Where visas are required “South Africa should make it as easy as possible for *bona fide* travellers to enter South Africa”, by standardising and expanding the use of long-term, multiple-entry visas for frequent travellers, business people and academics, according to the White Paper.

A list will be developed of countries whose visa adjudication systems are trusted and recognised by South Africa, and technology will be used to establish trusted traveller schemes.

Free movement of African citizens

At regional level, South Africa “should continue to advocate for a free movement of African citizens,” the paper states.

It also says, however, that there has been a large influx of semi-skilled and unskilled economic migrants who couldn’t get visas and permits through the “mainstream immigration regime”.

These had some negative consequences, such as the asylum seeker management system being “abused and overwhelmed by economic migrants”, and then these migrants, and by extension also South African workers, being abused by “some unscrupulous South African employers”.

There has also been “increased trade in false documentation and petty corruption by police and immigration enforcement officials”, and social cohesion has suffered, “as all citizens assume that all migrants from the rest of Africa are irregular and undesirable”.

There has also been a “revolving door” of migrants returning, and deportations to neighbouring countries increasing significantly.

The White Paper, which has a strong focus on attracting more skilled migrants to counter the brain drain, also announces a special dispensation for migrants from the Southern African Development Community, with the focus on giving visas to skilled migrants, traders and small and medium sized business owners.

Visas for lower skilled migrants will be “quota-based”, but details on this still have to be decided.

Home Affairs minister Hlengiwe Mkhize is expected to announce details on the new immigration dispensation in her budget speech in Parliament on Wednesday.

It is expected that the new policy will find its way into legislation by next year. (BD 15-05-2017)

BISSAU, FRENCH FIRM INK THERMAL POWER PLANT DEAL

The government of Guinea-Bissau has signed a contract with French firm Delmas for the construction of a 15-megawatt thermal power plant in Bor, a suburb of the capital.



The proposed power plant will be built with financial support from the West African Development Bank (BOAD), to the tune of nearly CFA16 billion.

The plant will be completed and delivered in 18 months.

Guinea Bissau’s Minister of State for Energy and Industry hailed the deal as a step forward in strengthening the capacity of the country’s power grid.

Pereira said the major problem facing the country in the energy sector is the lack of infrastructure.

Guinea-Bissau’s Electricity and Water Company (EAGB), does not have sufficient power generators.

“The country’s energy distribution network dates back to independence and requires intervention to ensure the quality of the energy” he suggested.

Other energy infrastructures are being built in the country, he pointed out.

The minister also revealed that BOAD has signed a contract with EAGB for the construction of a 30 kilowatt distribution network in the city of Bissau and the building of a network in Bor in addition to an electrification project for 14 sectors in Guinea-Bissau.

“If all goes well with the construction of this 15 megawatt power plant, we can provide electricity to the entire population and meet the country’s needs” he posited. (APA 07-08-2017)

MAROC-NIGERIA : LE PROJET DE GAZODUC OFFICIELLEMENT SUR LES RAILS



Mohammed VI recevait une délégation nigérienne à Rabat ce lundi 15 mai 2017

Lors d'une cérémonie présidée par Mohammed VI ce lundi, le Maroc et le Nigéria ont signé des accords relatifs au projet de gazoduc ouest africain et à la coopération dans le domaine des engrais.

Ce lundi 15 mai, au Palais royal de Rabat, Mohammed VI a présidé la cérémonie de lancement officiel [du projet de gazoduc devant relier le Nigéria au Maroc](#) ainsi que la signature d'accords relatifs à la coopération dans la production d'engrais. La cérémonie s'est déroulée en présence du ministre nigérien des Affaires Etrangères, Geoffrey Onyeama, qui, dans son allocution, a tenu à relayer les salutations de Muhammadu Buhari, le président du Nigéria, absent pour des raisons de santé, au roi Mohammed VI.

« La conclusion de ces accords, quelques mois seulement après la visite de SM le roi au Nigéria, est une preuve de la réussite du partenariat Rabat – Abuja, une réussite à attribuer à la volonté des dirigeants des deux pays d'assurer l'implémentation de projets bilatéraux », a souligné le responsable nigérien. De son côté, le ministre marocain des Affaires étrangères, Nasser Bourita, a présenté les grandes lignes de ce méga-projet « conçu par les Africains pour les Africains » et qui devrait avoir un impact sur plus de 300 millions d'habitants.

Quel tracé pour ce gazoduc ?

Long de 5 000 kilomètres, ce gazoduc titanesque est en fait l'extension du West African Gas Pipeline, qui relie depuis 2010 le Nigéria au Ghana en passant par le Bénin et le Togo. Il devrait désormais longer la côte ouest africaine jusqu'au Maroc pour se connecter *in fine* au marché européen et ainsi renforcer le développement du secteur énergétique dans toute la région.

Pour rappel, un accord de partenariat stratégique a été signé à l'occasion de la [visite officielle du souverain marocain au Nigéria](#) les 2 et 3 décembre dernier entre le fonds souverain marocain Ithmar Capital (ex-FMDT) et la Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), afin « d'appuyer ce projet d'envergure », dont certains, pessimistes, disaient qu'il ne serait certainement pas de cette décennie.

Pour l'instant, le tracé définitif n'a pas encore été révélé publiquement. Mais, l'on sait déjà que si l'option sous-marine était retenue par le Maroc et le Nigeria, le gazoduc devrait déjà coûter à lui seul au moins 20 milliards de dollars.

Coopération Sud-Sud

Lors de la même cérémonie, l'Office chérifien des phosphates (OCP) et l'Association nigérienne des producteurs et fournisseurs d'engrais (Fepsan) ont signé un protocole d'accord pour le renforcement des capacités de production et de distribution des engrais au Nigéria.

Ce partenariat aura pour objectif la création d'une plateforme de production et de distribution d'engrais au Nigéria pour la région, l'établissement d'une carte de fertilité des sols pour l'usage d'engrais adaptés aux sols, ainsi qu'un programme de formation à l'emploi des engrais au bénéfice des agriculteurs nigériens. En ce sens, le Nigéria pourra profiter du savoir-faire marocain dans le secteur du phosphate.

« Un modèle de coopération sud-sud », a tenu à souligner Mostafa Terrab, président-directeur général de l'OCP.(JA 16-05-2017)

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