

MEMORANDUM

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EU STEPS UP HUMANITARIAN AID FOR VICTIMS OF BOKO HARAM IN AFRICA'S LAKE CHAD REGION

The European Commission will provide €58.2 million to help the populations in the Lake Chad basin – a region heavily affected by Boko Haram violence and severe food insecurity.

The European Commission has today announced €58.2 million in humanitarian aid to support the populations in the Lake Chad region in Africa. The funding brings the overall EU humanitarian aid package for the [Sahel region](#) to over €203 million in 2016.

"A full-scale humanitarian crisis has been fuelled by violence in a fragile region. The EU is committed to supporting those displaced and affected by the violence of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin. Our support will target the most vulnerable in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger where more than two and a half million people have been displaced by the terror of Boko Haram alone. Our aid will help provide food, shelter, clean water, and healthcare, as well as protection to the displaced and the host communities. Everything must be done so humanitarian aid workers can deliver lifesaving assistance safely and urgently access those in need" said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** who is currently on a visit to the region.

The violence inflicted by the terrorist group Boko Haram from northern Nigeria has destabilised the entire Lake Chad region, causing large scale displacements of people. To make things worse, there is a high scarcity of food in the region and access to basic services are severely limited. In turn, this makes the local population particularly vulnerable to man-made and natural disasters.

Nigeria is the country most affected by the current humanitarian crisis in the region. An estimated 2.1 million Nigerians are internally displaced, of which 800,000 people in the north-east of the country are facing severe food shortages and are in need of immediate assistance.

In Chad, one million people are now considered severely food insecure and more than 105,000 people have been internally displaced in the Lake region due to violence. Across the border in Cameroon, around 139,000 people have been displaced.

In neighbouring countries like Niger, a recent escalation of Boko Haram violence has led to new displacements, with over 300,000 people forced from their homes in the country.

Total EU humanitarian aid to populations in the Lake Chad basin and in the Sahel in 2016: **€203 700 000**.

Country	Type of assistance	
	Resilience and food	Support for conflict affected population in Lake Chad Basin
Burkina Faso	15 300 000	
Cameroon	2 000 000	9 000 000
Chad	41 000 000	9 200 000
Mali	17 500 000	
Mauritania	10 700 000	
Niger	29 000 000	9 000 000
Nigeria		31 000 000
Senegal	6 400 000	
West Africa regional programmes	23 600 000	
Total EUR	145 500 000	58 200 000

Background

The European Commission has been providing humanitarian aid to local, host and displaced populations aiming to cover the most urgent needs over recent years. While scaling up emergency assistance remains absolutely essential, there is a need for more solid investment in resilience building and development efforts, in parallel, to help provide more sustainable solutions.(EU 15-07-2016)

UBER CHANGES GEAR, MOVES INTO RESTAURANT BUSINESS

AFTER shaking up the taxi industry, internet ride-sharing service Uber is now looking to add its mark on the restaurant business in SA with its UberEats app.

The UberEats app debuted in various cities across the world in 2015 and earlier in 2016, promising to make "getting great food from hundreds of restaurants as easy as requesting a ride". On the UberEats platform customers can order food from any of the dozens of restaurants listed on the app, and Uber then facilitates the delivery.

"Our curated menus feature dishes from the local spots you love and the ones you've always wanted to try. It's the same cashless payment as an Uber ride. So just tap the app, get your food delivered right to your doorstep and enjoy," a recent UberEats job advertisement reads.

Uber spokeswoman Samantha Allenberg said on Monday there was no fixed date for the launch of UberEats in SA.

Responding to reports that the company had advertised key positions for the UberEats platform, including those of marketing manager, general manager and restaurant operations manager, Allenberg said: "We are always exploring our options and looking for the best talent to join our team. So no news yet to report."

The advertisement for UberEats general manager for Johannesburg states that the successful candidate will have the "unique opportunity to scale and develop our food platform in one of our major cities globally".

"This is an intense business side startup role, and you will work with the UberEats operations teams along with headquarters-based engineering, product, and process teams. You will have direct responsibility for the growth of the UberEats business," the job advertisement reads.

The impending entrance of UberEats is likely to eat into Mr. Delivery's market share. Mr. Delivery, SA's premium delivery service which started operating in 1992, has dominated the home delivery and takeaway food sector in recent times. Mr. Delivery was yet to respond to request for comment on Monday.

Uber has faced a number of hurdles since entering SA in 2013. Metered taxi drivers have protested in the Western Cape and Gauteng, claiming that Uber drivers had an unfair competitive advantage due to a lack of regulation for the service, which was dubbed a "market disrupter". (BD 11-07-2016)

BOTSWANA: PRESIDENT GEINGOB DIMISSES NAMIBIA "MIDDLE CLASS" TAG

Visiting Namibian President Hage Geingob on Monday expressed concern that his country had been wrongfully classified as an upper middle income country.

Addressing Botswana's Parliament, Geingob said the middle income tag has denied his country access to soft loans.

Despite that, the Namibian leader was quick to add that "We don't regret it."

Botswana, like Namibia, is also classified as a middle class country and the two neighbouring countries' economies are dependent on diamonds.

Geingob said his country has provided dry port to Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, adding that Botswana is no longer landlocked as it has access to the sea.

On social ills, Geingob said he was aware that Botswana, just like Namibia, is suffering from the same sort of social problems.

Both countries are afflicted by high HIV infection levels.

The Namibian leader said upon assuming office he ensured that he roots out corruption in his country.

"I declared my assets upon taken office as part of doing away with corruption in my country," Geingob said.(APA 11-07-2016)

EXPANSION OF THE COAL TERMINAL IN BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE, AWARDED TO CONSORTIUM

The government of Mozambique has awarded the project to expand the coal terminal at the port of Beira as a concession to the New Beira Coal Terminal Company (NCTB), said Ambrósio Siteo, spokesman for the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The spokesman said the expansion of the terminal is intended to increase transport capacity of the Sena railway from 6.5 million to 20 million tons per year. The railway links Moatize, in Tete province, to the port of Beira, in Sofala province.

Siteo, cited by Mozambican newspaper Notícias, recalled that the Mozambican government in 2014 approved an investment project in which the Vale group was the majority shareholder to increase the transport capacity of the Sena railway.

"The works are well advanced and should be completed in December, but the coal terminal at the port of Beira still has a coal handling capacity of about 6 million tons per year, and therefore we need to speed up the harmonisation of the two facilities," he said.

Siteo, who is also spokesman for the 34th Coordinating Council of the MTC, taking place in the city of Matola, also said the government is committed to increase the handling capacity of the port of Beira.

The spokesman said that the council discussed priority projects linked to the development of the port of Beira, such as the Machipanda line, whose feasibility study has been completed, as well as the recovery of pier 1, which will ensure containerised freight logistics.

New Coal Terminal Beira (NCTB) is a partnership between Mozambican state port and rail manager CFM, with 30% and Indian group Essar Ports Ltd, with the remaining 70%. (15-07-2016)

SALES AT OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY SHINE

Okavango Diamond Company's (ODC) first-half sales rose 23% to \$284m and volumes jumped 35% to 1.75-million carats, boosted by a robust first quarter when inventories were run down, the Botswanan firm said on Friday.

State-owned ODC, which has held five tenders in 2016, is expected to sell 15% of the production of Debswana, a joint venture between Botswana's government and Anglo American's diamond unit De Beers.

"ODC saw a strong recovery in rough diamond prices during the first quarter of 2016 as market inventories were low and diamond manufacturers sought new rough for their factories, following a better-than-expected US retail season," ODC MD Toby Frears said.

"Since then prices have eased back as market demand has softened and underlying prices today remain below where they were at the beginning of 2015," he said. (Reuters 08-07-2016)

S/AFRICA AND FRANCE TO STRENGTHEN TRADE TIES

South African President Jacob Zuma is on a state visit to France aimed at boosting trade and investment relations between Pretoria and Paris in Paris, his office has said.

According to the Presidency, Zuma arrived in Paris on Sunday evening for the state visit which is being held under the theme, "Working together as equal partners to explore opportunities and address the challenges of the 21st century."

The Presidency said the visit will provide a platform for both countries to improve cooperation in various areas – including trade and investment, energy, maritime, agriculture, science and technology, education and skills development, arts and culture, defence, development cooperation and international relations.

"Boosting economic relations and trade are high up on the agenda of the visit. France is an important trade, investment and tourism partner for South Africa," the high office said.

Statistics indicate that in 2015 trade was standing at US\$2.24 billion between the two countries.

France remains an important source of foreign direct investment for South Africa with an estimated investment volume of over US\$1.6 billion.

France is also a major contributor to South Africa's domestic tourism, with a total of 128,438 tourists from France visiting South Africa in 2015, according to the Ministry of Tourism. (APA 11-07-2016)

STATE GUARANTEED LOANS VIOLATED BUDGET LAW IN MOZAMBIQUE

The Office of Attorney General of the Republic of Mozambique said that there had been violation of the budget law in the process of taking on the loans of state companies Ematum, Proindicus and MAM, according to the deputy attorney general and spokesman of the institution.

Taibo Mucobora said that the investigation carried out to date concludes that crimes of abuse of office were committed, which constitute a criminal offence.

The deputy attorney general said that the ongoing investigation aims to gather information both in Mozambique and abroad, which will entail the activation of diplomatic and other appropriate channels with countries that are being identified.

Mucobora did not specify how long it would take to gather evidence, noting only that experts were conducting each step carefully in order to obtain relevant, important, and especially reliable information, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias.

The three public companies – Empresa Moçambicana de Atum, Proindicus and Mozambique Asset Management – took on loans with state guarantees in the total of US\$2 billion. (15-07-2016)

LIBERTY KENYA EYES 10 TARGETS IN ITS ACQUISITION STRATEGY

Standard Bank's subsidiary Liberty Kenya Holdings is considering as many as 10 acquisition targets as part of the insurer's five-year strategy to increase its foothold in East Africa's biggest economy.

"That is on the cards if we can get a suitable candidate," MD Abel Munda said in an interview in Nairobi. "We have a number of companies in the country that would be a good fit if they would be up for acquisition."

Kenya's fourth-largest insurer is making a push to bolster its size in life and property and casualty cover after regulators in June introduced new rules that as much as doubled the amount of capital underwriters need to set aside as buffers in stages through to 2018. Liberty Kenya in 2015 withheld its dividend to cope with the new rules after a decline in the value of its listed equities and bonds contributed to a 36% drop in full-year profit.

Liberty Kenya is a unit of Standard Bank's Liberty Holdings, which has a presence in 17 African countries after following the continent's biggest lender into many of the markets. The stock has declined 26% in Nairobi this year, compared with a 4.6% decline in the FTSE NSE Kenya 25 index.

The new regulations will trigger a rush by "many insurers who are merely getting by" to raise capital, Munda said. "There are companies finding it challenging to comply and may seek partners to try and infuse capital."

New rules

The Insurance Regulatory Authority is also implementing so-called capital charges, which will force companies to park 40% of the value of their property investments and 30% of their stock holdings with the regulator. This comes after the Association of Kenya Insurers lost a bid to convince authorities to delay by two years the implementation of changes to the country's laws that increased the amount of capital companies must set aside.

Short-term insurers need to hold 600-million shillings (\$5.9m) in paid-up capital by 2018, from 300-million shillings previously, while long-term insurers need to set aside 400-million shillings from 150-million shillings previously. The regulator can force companies to boost their capital levels to as much as 20% of net-earned premiums from the previous year based on the authority's own assessment of risk to which the company is exposed.

The implementation of the risk-based supervision model is "likely to enhance compliance, which in turn will improve the solvency of the industry as a whole and lower its risk," Genghis Capital analyst Elizabeth Ndirangu said in a report released earlier this year. It may also result in "less price undercutting" as insurers deemed as more risky will be forced to sell their policies at levels that will help them cope with the higher capital requirements, she said. (Bloomberg 11-07-2016)

UEMOA INTERBANK TRANSACTIONS DOWN BY 9.2% IN MAY

The interbank market of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) witnessed a 9.2 percent decline in transaction late in May 2016, the Dakar-based Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) revealed on Monday.

The weekly average volume of interbank transactions stood at CFA128.7 billion in May 2016 against CFA141.8 billion in April 2016, representing a decrease of CFA13.1 billion.

The weighted average rate of transactions stood at 4.58 percent against 4.57 percent a month earlier, symbolizing a slight increase of 0.01 percentage points.

BCEAO's weekly average trading volume declined by 9.7 percent to CFA52.7 billion.

The weekly average interest rate stood at 4.02 percent, up by 0.01 basis points compared to the previous month's achievements. (APA 11-07-2016)

AIRLINE TICKETS OUTSIDE ANGOLA CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED IN LOCAL CURRENCY

Airline tickets for routes starting outside Angola to Luanda can no longer be paid for in kwanzas from 15 July, said the spokesman for Angolan flagship airline TAAG.

Carlos Vicente told Portuguese news agency Lusa that, like the other companies that fly to Luanda that stopped accepting kwanzas months ago, TAAG is also no longer accepting them "because of the difficulty in repatriating currency."

The issue involves operating expenses such as fuel, which the company has to pay for abroad, in foreign currency, access to which in Angola is currently limited due to the financial, economic and currency crisis affecting the country.

The company's spokesman stressed that in recent months there had been an increase in purchases of tickets in kwanzas, for journeys starting outside Angola with Luanda as their destination, and therefore,

“as of today, all journeys that begin outside Angola must be paid for in local currency, or in euros or dollars.”

TAP – Air Portugal applied the same measure in January 2015, citing the crisis in access to foreign currency that was already felt, Spain’s Iberia stopped flying to Luanda at the end of May and Mozambique’s LAM at the beginning of July.

Angola is the fifth country in the world where airlines face most difficulties in repatriating revenues, which the International Air Transport Association (IATA) says amount to US\$237 million that have been retained for seven months due to a lack of foreign exchange. (15-07-2016)

ANOTHER ZIMBABWEAN CLERIC RISES AGAINST PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE

More clerics in Zimbabwe have joined the ranks of those taking a stand against President Robert Mugabe’s administration over the deteriorating situation in the country.

In a charged sermon delivered on Sunday morning which went viral, one of the country’s most popular religious figures Emmanuel Makandiwa, the founder and "prophet" of the United Family International Church (UFIC) warned of more protests in the country.

"There will be a wave of demonstrations, they would stop, and start again and on the fourth time the situation will get out of hand and foreign peace-keepers will be called. Remember, my prophecy about bees flying to come to bite other bees that will be stinging the people," he said.

Makandiwa’s warning came as the country is gearing up for yet another shutdown scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, again led by the citizens’ movement, fronted by Evans Mawarire, also a church pastor.

However, speaking from the border town of Beitbridge at the weekend, Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko warned that the military could be used to quell future protests. "We will look at our own ways of solving such problems ... we have security forces. We cannot keep snakes growing in our backyards," Mphoko said.

Internet and social media services were not widely available on Wednesday morning, when protesters clashed with the police in Harare and Bulawayo, in the latest displays of public dissent under Mugabe’s decades-long oppressive rule.

At the root of the protests last week were banks running short of cash, police extorting cash from motorists at widespread road blocks, delays in the payment of government salaries, and a ban on many basic imports at a time when the country is suffering from a severe drought that has left millions hungry. Immediately after the protests, the government made an about turn on the payment of salaries for teachers and nurses.

The payment of their delayed June salaries had been deferred to mid-July, but on the back of the protests, teachers were promptly paid on Thursday. Health sector workers were due to receive their salaries on Friday. Soldiers, police and other security services have already been paid.

The Apex Council, the public servants representative body, had urged the government to ensure it paid the outstanding public servants on Monday and Tuesday.

A meeting was to held on Monday between public servants union leaders and the government over the payment of July salaries. Indications are that union leaders will not entertain any government deal that spills over into August.

"... Our position is that July salaries must be paid before the end of the month," chairperson of the Apex Council, Cecilia Alexander, said on Monday.

Speaking at a rally in Bindura on Friday, Mugabe urged public servants to be "patient" and said the late payment of salaries was not grounds for industrial action.

In his Sunday morning service, Makandiwa warned that a section of Mugabe’s inner circle was plotting his downfall. "There are people who are after the president.

There are people working against him. Our president is in trouble. He is paying people that are working against him," he said.

He also described the imports ban put in place earlier this month by the government as a joke. "You cannot promote a product that is non-existent. All this is being done to incite people to revolt.... Remove this joke," he said.

Makandiwa's comments are certain to pique the government, which is already facing off against Mawarire.

Other notable religious leaders to take a critical swipe against the government include Shingi Munyeza, the senior pastor at Faith Ministries.

Last month, Munyeza was questioned by the police after he posted on social media that the country was headed for "severe turbulence" and that the economic policies of the government had failed.

The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance led by Useni Sibanda has proposed for "an all stakeholder dialogue" led by the church to deal with the "root cause" of the discontent which, includes "poverty, corruption, high handedness and misplaced economic priorities". (BD 11-07-2016)

GHANA: 1.1M UNREGISTERED WEAPONS IN PRIVATE HANDS

Ghanaian Interior Minister, Mr. Prosper Bani, has revealed that about 1.1 million unlicensed weapons are in the possession of civilians in the country, APA has learnt here.

Reports on in the capital on Monday, which was widely discussed on various morning shows said the Minister expressed the worry that, out of the 2.3 million weapons circulating in the country, only 1.2 million have been captured on police database.

He therefore called on those in the possession of unlicensed weapons to take urgent steps to get them registered, adding that the law enforcement agencies would ensure that individuals with these unlicensed weapons were arrested and prosecuted.

The Minister made these revelations in Accra to observe UN Day for Weapon Destruction at the Trade Fair Centre, in Accra.

The event, which was organized by the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NACSA), under the auspices of the Ministry saw the destruction of 1400 out of about 2,000 seized guns.

The weapons destroyed ranged from AK 47, G3, double barrel, local mortar, hummer, simplex, Baikal guns, local pistols, spears, bows and arrows. (APA 11-07-2016)

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION IN ANGOLA RECORDS DEFICIT OF US\$397 MILLION FROM JANUARY TO MARCH

Expenditure included in the Angolan State Budget carried out in the first quarter of 2016 exceeded revenues in the same period by 66.202 billion kwanzas (US\$397 million), according to the Secretary of State for the Budget.

Alcides Safeca, presenting the report on execution of the State Budget in the first quarter of 2016 to members of parliament, noted the revenue collected between January and March – 674.858 million kwanzas – accounted for just 10% of the amount forecast for the whole year.

The State Budget for 2016, in its revised version, was based on a price per barrel of exported oil of US\$45, but in the first quarter some sales were made at as little as US\$30, affecting the collection of tax revenues.

Expenditure amounted to 741.060 billion kwanzas, or 12% of expenditure for the whole year, so the budget execution for the first quarter of 2016 recorded a deficit of 66.202 million kwanzas (US\$397 million).

The budget execution figures for the first quarter, the Secretary of State said, had forced the government to use "the legal instrument for expense blocking," which blocks investments and transfers.

The report was approved Wednesday by the parliamentary committees for the economy and finance and was forwarded for discussion and a final overall vote in the parliamentary plenary on 21 July. (15-07-2016)

ANGOLA HALVES GROWTH FORECAST AND CUTS SPENDING AS OIL PRICE BITES

Angola has halved its 2016 economic growth forecast and slashed government spending as lower oil prices hammer state revenues in Africa's largest crude exporter, the finance ministry said on Monday in a rare public communiqué.

Sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest economy will grow 1.3% this year compared with a previous forecast of 3.3% — already a virtual recession relative to the breakneck growth enjoyed in the years after the end of a long civil war in 2002.

Government spending will be cut to \$24bn from \$30bn projected in the original 2016 budget as revenues were also slashed to \$18bn from \$24.4bn, the statement said.

The finance ministry confirmed it had ended emergency financing talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because it had achieved "great fiscal equilibrium".

However, it said it was still committed to a structural overhaul of an economy that remains heavily reliant on oil. The statement, an unusually frank fiscal disclosure by one of Africa's most secretive states, may have been an attempt to ease investor concerns about its withdrawal from negotiations with the IMF, analysts said.

"We tend to think negative investor reaction to the decision by Luanda not to pursue further talks with the IMF may have persuaded the finance ministry to clarify its decision," said Cobus de Hart, analyst at NKC African Economics in Cape Town. "We believe the medium-term macro-economic outlook would have looked rosier had the Fund been involved."

The finance ministry said Luanda had borrowed \$11.46bn between November 2015 and June 2016, including \$5bn from the China Development Bank and \$2bn from other state-backed Chinese lenders.

Total government debt stood at \$47.9bn, including \$25.5bn in external loans, it added, although this figure does not include debt held by state-owned companies such as domestic oil firm Sonangol.

The total debt is equivalent to just under 60% of gross domestic product, according to IMF figures.

Cuts to public services have already had a major impact on the former Portuguese colony, with piles of uncollected rubbish lying rotting in the streets of the capital under half-finished brick office blocks and shopping complexes.

Health experts say the spending reductions are partly to blame for a yellow fever outbreak that started in one of Luanda's vast informal settlements in December and which has spread throughout the country.

The finance ministry also cut its budgetary oil price assumption to \$41 a barrel, from \$45. Crude oil output remained steady at 1.77-million barrels per day, it said. (Reuters 11-07-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE EYES \$3B MACUSE RAILWAY, PORT PROJECT

The chairperson of Mozambique's Zambezia Integrated Development Corridor (CODIZA), Abdul Carimo has said construction of a 500-kilometre railway from the Moatize coal basin in the western province of Tete and a deep water port at Macuse is expected to start in the first quarter of 2017 at an estimated cost of \$3 billion.

According to state-controlled Radio Mozambique, Carimo revealed this following a meeting called to discuss the project in the Zambezia provincial capital Quelimane.

Macuse lies north-east of the Moatize coal-rich province of Tete and close to the port city of Quelimane, Mozambique.

Quelimane is not a coastal town but lies on the Bons Sinais River, some 25km from the Indian Ocean.

Mozambique has signed concession agreements with the Bangkok-based consortium Italian-Thai Development, granting the company the right to construct a coal export port at Macuse and develop of a 525-km railway connecting the port to the Moatize coalfields in Tete province

Carimo explained that the other companies interested in the project included Mozambique's Port and Rail Company and unnamed Asian firms.

The government is targeting 2018 as the completion date for this rail and port project. (APA 11-07-2016)

ANGOLAN GLASS COMPANY INVESTS IN INCREASED PRODUCTION

Angolan glass company Vidrul – Vidreira of Angola will invest US\$60 million in expanding production capacity with the installation of two new furnaces to ensure full glass supply in the country, announced the managing director.

Carlos Martins said the plant currently produces 60,000 tons of glass, "and it is imperative to begin to produce more so that it can satisfy customers and have in stock about 10% of production."

Vidrul is the leading glass container supplier for the Angolan beverage industry, exporting some production to several African countries, including Senegal, Madagascar, Benin, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Guinea, Gabon, Burkina Faso and Congo Brazzaville.

Part of the raw materials for Vidrul's production, more than 70%, comes from bottles collected at rubbish dumps, an activity that occupies a significant number of people in several Angolan cities.

State newspaper Jornal de Angola reported in June that about 3 tonnes of bottles are transported every month from Luena to Luanda, making the container trade a profitable activity in the province. (15-07-2016)

TRADE AFRICA UNIT AIMS TO REV UP EXPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GOODS AND SERVICES

The Trade Africa unit, a newly revamped unit of the Department of Trade and Industry, is due to be launched this week, the department said on Monday.

The Trade Africa initiative is focused on driving SA's exports of manufactured goods and services, as well as creating sourcing relationships on the continent.

Formerly known as the Africa Export Council, the unit will focus on promoting two-way trade between SA and the rest of the African continent.

Spokesperson for the department Bongani Lukhele said the name was changed to reflect the "importance of facilitating the increase of intra-Africa trade more broadly".

The initiative will be unveiled together with the Guidelines for Good Business Practice for South African Companies operating in the rest of Africa.

The launch will take place at a Roundtable Discussion on Intra-Africa Trade at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria.

"The Roundtable Discussion, which is themed Collective Action to Enhance Intra-Africa Trade, is intended to promote collaboration between the government and private sector, as well as key

stakeholders in fostering trade and optimising economic benefits on the African continent," said Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies in a statement.

He said the guidelines aimed at ensuring alignment between government and the private sector when engaging with the continent. (BD 11-07-2016)

SIRLEAF DECRIES ILLEGAL FISHING OFF LIBERIAN COAST

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has said her government continues to be distressed by the plundering of Liberia's fish resources in its largely unpatrolled territorial waters.

Speaking at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia on Tuesday, the Liberian leader complained about illegal fishing activities in Liberian waters of the West African Coast by pirates who pose a challenge to the coastguard.

President Sirleaf receiving from the United States government 18 Land Cruiser Jeeps, two Land Cruiser maintenance jeeps and two 24-foot Boston Whaler boats.

She pointed out that with this support from the US government, officers of the Liberian coastguard will be more capable to meet the challenges posed by illegal fishing off the country's coast.

Liberia like the rest of its neighbours loses tens of millions of dollars in revenue from illegal fishing activities carried out by unlicensed foreign vessels on their territorial waters every year.

West African countries along the Atlantic coastline are not equipped to monitor their territorial waters to locate illegal fishing trawlers.(APA 12-07-2016)

EU DONATES 18 MILLION EUROS TO CABO VERDE TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT

The European Union (EU) will donate 18 million euros to Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) to support projects to combat unemployment, which affects about 16% of the workforce, 34% of them young people, announced the President of the Employment and Vocational Training Institute.

Vargas Melo said that the amount in question is an expense included in the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the project to combat unemployment in African Countries with Portuguese as an Official Language (PALOP) and Timor-Leste (East Timor).

"We still do not know the details of the project implementation, with only the official information of the financing, estimated at 18 million euros."

Cabo Verde and Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste have benefited as part of a project to support the vocational training and employment sector under the 11th EDF. (15-07-2016)

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