

# MEMORANDUM

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## SUMMARY

Kenya named among standout green finance nations	Page 2
Ethiopia launches seedlings plantation scheme	Page 2
EU support women empowerment for sustainable industrial dev. in North Africa and Middle East	Page 3
Sierra Leone: Orange officially takes over Airtel	Page 4
Vilanculos aerodrome in Mozambique closed to international traffic	Page 4
TAIEX and Twinning report results achieved in 2015	Page 5
Mozambique: Japan donates \$12m to repair damaged bridges	Page 5
Opera wins major market share in South Africa and rest of Africa	Page 6
Namibia threatens to suspend mining licenses	Page 6
Botswana: Govt assesses future of coal/nickel mine	Page 7
ENI Group expected soon to award construction of platform for gas exploration in Mozambique	Page 8
Mobile operators help African farmers with advice and managing their administration	Page 8
Number of companies operating in Angola increases 4% in 2015	Page 9
AfDB loans \$104m to Ethiopia electricity project	Page 9
CBC Italy-Tunisia programme presents results at closing conference	Page 10
EBID to fund West Africa projects	Page 10
Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum 2016: Registration now open	Page 11
Egypt nominates candidate for UNESCO top job	Page 11

## **KENYA NAMED AMONG STANDOUT GREEN FINANCE NATIONS**

Kenya has been named alongside other developing countries such as Bangladesh and Jordan as leading the world on green finance, which is essential to meeting sustainable development aspirations, according to a new report from the inquiry into the design of a sustainable financial system.

Released to coincide with the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, the report, Green Finance and Non-G20 Developing Countries, captures the progress being made by 13 countries across Africa, Asia and Central America.

“Today, there are numerous examples of developing countries showing strong leadership on green finance,” said Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment in a statement issued in Nairobi on Monday.

“This is extremely positive, as private capital will be a major contributor to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate commitments,” he added.

In order to reach the \$5-7 trillion a year needed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, the financial system must mobilize finance for specific sustainable development priorities and ensure sustainable development factors are included in financial decision-making.

The report shows how developing countries are leading the world in taking these steps, highlighting the lessons that can be drawn from their leadership in aligning financial market development with national priorities and sustainable development.

“Green finance is burgeoning; it has reached the point of spontaneous combustion,” Nuru Mugambi, Director of Communications for the Kenya Bankers Association.

“But it needs to be aligned. It needs to go beyond the leadership of a few champions and be coordinated across regional trading blocs” he added.

In Kenya, the rapid growth of mobile banking has become a platform to enable renewable energy.

Several companies offer pay-as-you-go solar home systems that use mobile payments to unlock the use of the solar panel and battery system each day.

This in turn enables customers to build up a credit history, which can be used to access additional loans.(APA 18-07-2016)

## **ETHIOPIA LAUNCHES SEEDLINGS PLANTATION SCHEME**

Ethiopia on Monday launched its annual national seedlings plantation scheme with the aim of planting 4.3 billion seedlings on a million hectare of land through the course of the current rainy season. Ethiopia had launched the first annual plantation program eight years ago while celebrating its unique millennium.

Reports, however, revealed that less than 30 percent of the four billion planted tree seedlings have taken root during the reported period.

After declaring the launch of the program, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, said the program has a significant contribution to the success of Ethiopia’s ongoing green growth strategy.

Ethiopia envisaged raising national forest coverage to 30 percent by 2025 from 15.5 percent now, according to the deputy prime Minister.

This is taking place against the backdrop of a protracted famine due to prolonged drought in some parts of the country. (APA 18-07-2017)

## EU PROJECT TO SUPPORT CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST



A High-Level Conference on “Promoting women empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in North Africa and Middle East” will be held in Amman, Jordan, on 20 July 2016 with the support of the UfM EU-funded project “Development of clusters in cultural and creative industries in the South Mediterranean region” (Creative Mediterranean), implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The Conference, which includes addresses and panel discussions, will present an update report on constraints faced by women entrepreneurs in the region, discuss measures and policies needed to promote women economic empowerment, demonstrate the potential of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) in creating economic opportunities for women; facilitate sharing of best practices of successful women entrepreneurs as role model.

Stimulating interactive sessions will identify priority policies and measures needed to facilitate women in business in the 7 South Mediterranean countries (at least one per country), issue recommendations on how to boost the creation and the expansion of successful women-led enterprises in key sectors such as Cultural and Creative Industries and provide a platform for investment promotion, knowledge sharing and networking.

The objective of Creative Mediterranean, implemented in the framework of the EU-funded programme **Private sector Development in the Southern Mediterranean**, is to foster entrepreneurial co-operation in the cultural and creative industry notably through the promotion of promising pilot initiatives demonstrating contribution to inclusive growth. The project then aims at demonstrating the potential for the national and regional development of cultural and creative industries in the Southern Mediterranean, thus opening the possibility through adequate replication and larger scale support from financial institutions to promote new employment opportunities and inclusive growth in the region. (UfM 15-07-2016)

## ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE IN CAPE VERDE RISES IN 2ND QUARTER

The pace of economic growth in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) continued to accelerate in the second quarter of 2016, having developed positively over the same of last year, reported the National Statistics Institute (INE) of the archipelago.

Announcing the figures from the Monthly Economic Survey of Economic Agents for the second quarter, the INE also said that the economic climate is favourable.

The confidence indicator in the tourism sector recorded the highest value of the last eight consecutive quarters, although entrepreneurs have pointed to insufficient demand as the main obstacle.

Residential tourism maintained the upward trend of the last quarter, with the indicator positively evolving from the first quarter, with the outlook remaining favourable. According to the economic agents surveyed, insufficient demand and financial difficulties are the greatest obstacles.

The transport and ancillary services sector was the only one in the quarter to buck the upward trend of the previous quarter, and the sector's outlook is also unfavourable, with business owners pointing to competition and difficulties in obtaining bank loans as the main constraints. (19-07-2016)

## **SIERRA LEONE: ORANGE OFFICIALLY TAKES OVER AIRTEL**

The French telecoms operator, Orange, has officially assumed control of the Sierra Leone subsidiary of Bharti Airtel of India.

The final part of the deal was sealed on Tuesday at a symbolic ceremony in Freetown, presided over by the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM), which regulates the telecoms industry in the country.

The event brings to an end about year-long negotiations. Officials have refused to disclose the money involved in the buyout. But APA learned on Tuesday that the Sierra Leonean government is to receive some US\$30m from the sale as capital Gains Tax.

During Tuesday's signing ceremony, Orange presented a cheque of US\$3.5m as licence fees for the registration.

NATCOM board chairman, Momoh Konteh, hailed the development and expressed the hope that it would bring a change in the telecoms industry, particularly in terms of service quality.

He also spoke about the need to involve local Sierra Leoneans in terms of job opportunities.

We want to see the implementation of the local content policy and we hope you embark on your expansion plans before the end of 2016, he told the new Orange management.

According to the officials, the Airtel Brand will remain in place until early 2017, when the transition is expected to be fully completed.(APA 19-07-2016)

## **VILANCULOS AERODROME IN MOZAMBIQUE CLOSED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC**

Tour operators in the northern part of Inhambane province have expressed their opposition to the Mozambican government's decision to close Vilanculos aerodrome to international traffic, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported.

The tourism operators, the sector which is the main source of income for thousands of people in the districts of Vilanculos and Govuro and the five islands that make up the Bazaruto archipelago, said the closure of the airport to international traffic will end the activity in region.

"Tourists, especially foreign ones, who use existing tourist facilities in the region, will no longer do so as they arrived in the country by air," said one of the operators cited by the newspaper.

Vilanculos aerodrome was opened to domestic public traffic in 1962 and international traffic in April 1997, when passenger traffic increased from 75,000 passengers to more than 200,000 per year.

After benefiting from repair and modernisation works worth US\$10 million, the airfield was considered a tool to boost the economy not only of Vilanculos itself, which has struggled to attain city status, but also of the entire northern region of Inhambane province. (19-07-2017)

## TAIEX AND TWINNING REPORT RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2015



The EU's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) and Twinning, the long-term institution-building instrument, announced a publication of a joint annual report reflecting the results and activities implemented through both instruments in the EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries in 2015. "Today TAIEX and its longer-term sister instrument Twinning continue to be in strong demand as powerful and most effective tools for capacity building and for providing advice and guidance when it comes to EU values, standards and legislation," EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said in the foreword to the report.

The publication explains the essence of the two instruments, presents infographics depicting the results of its work in Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries, success stories from the region and impressions from the experts involved in them. The report also lists areas where it provides assistance, explains how eligible and interested countries could use the two instruments.

**TAIEX** is a demand-driven tool that supports partner countries wanting to join or reinforce their cooperation with the European Union with the approximation of national laws, regulations and quality standards to those of EU Member States in the framework of Cooperation or Association agreements signed with the EU. This year the EU instrument marks the 20th anniversary.

**Twinning** is a unique peer-to-peer instrument bringing civil servants from EU member states to Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions to provide hands-on exchange and information on EU standards and best practices. It also serves to establish direct, on-the-ground-cooperation between peers of beneficiaries and of EU Member States. (TAIEX 19-07-2016)

## MOZAMBIQUE: JAPAN DONATES \$12M TO REPAIR DAMAGED BRIDGES



Japan has confirmed it was donating \$12 million to Mozambique for the rehabilitation of thirteen bridges in the central province of Zambezia and the northern province of Niassa.

The agreement was formalized in Maputo on Wednesday by Mozambique's Deputy Foreign Minister Nyeleti Mondlane and Japanese ambassador Akira Mizutani.

The Japanese ambassador explained that the funds are to be used to repair or replace bridges damaged by severe flooding in January 2015.

Ambassador Mizutani added that this is part of his country's continued financial support to Mozambique.

Originally, these bridges had been built along the road corridor linking Zambezia with Niassa using a \$38 million donation from the Japanese government under an agreement signed in 2013.

However, damage to the bridges caused by heavy rains in Zambezia in 2015 has led to the extra \$12 million being made available for repair works.

Nyeleti Mondlane said that this additional support will boost the pace of renovation of the bridges, which lie along the road linking the districts of Ile in Zambezia and Cuamba in Niassa.

Mondlane added that the financing of the road improvements will lead to the movement of people and goods in Mozambique, especially in the Nacala corridor.

It links with other road infrastructures in Mozambique the building of which Japan has funded. (APA 20-07-2016)

## **OPERA WINS MAJOR MARKET SHARE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND REST OF AFRICA**

Opera, the cellphone browser developer and manager, has gained more than 60% of South African market share and more than 70% of African market share in five years.

The company is now trying to attract premium cellphone users with its Opera Max browser, which manages to compress data, as has been a feature of its other browsers.

This week, a Chinese consortium bought most of Opera, which is a Norwegian company, for \$600m. Opera has 10% of the global mobile market.

Senior marketing manager for sub-Saharan Africa at Opera Software, Jo Crawshaw, said Opera Max was now being directed to SA's Android phone users and developed markets, where users were more likely to own top-end phones.

Users in Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and other African countries had entry-and mid-level phones. Many of those who owned top-end phones had already installed Opera Max.

"Perceptions were that Opera was a browser for feature phones and not for smartphones. But Opera Max has challenged that, and we believe we can attract more top-end smartphones," she said.

Crawshaw said Opera had innovated by introducing built-in ad-blocking, data and video compression, and a built-in virtual private network (VPN).

A VPN is a private network that extends across a public network or internet.

It enables users to receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected to the private network.

Opera Max reduces data consumption across the majority of applications available on Android phones as much as 50%, offering users cheaper mobile internet access.

Furthermore, users who streamed video on Netflix and YouTube could save about 60% of the data usually spent on this media, without a noticeable loss of quality, Crawshaw said.

Opera has said that it expected more than 100-million Android phones to be shipped worldwide with integrated Opera Max by 2017. (BD 20-07-2016)

## **NAMIBIA THREATENS TO SUSPEND MINING LICENSES**

The Namibian Environment of Tourism Minister, Pohamba Shifeta has on Wednesday threatened to suspend mining licenses of companies that flout the country's environmental laws.

Disregarding the importance of environmental impact assessments and mining rights during mining operations, put the Namibian economy at risk, Shifeta said when he addressed the awareness workshop for the Environmental Management organised for lawmakers.

"This poses a serious danger to the environment and human beings because some of these activities contain toxic chemicals that can pose a big risk to the economy," he said.

"We want to sensitize the lawmakers, especially the judiciary and the executive, because they are the ones who implement and execute State programmes" he added.

According to the minister, mining companies are breaking the environmental laws by transporting goods such as sulphuric acid on national roads, dumping of refuse, air pollution and un-assessed or unapproved mining activities.

Last year, parliament passed the Environmental Management Act to promote the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

He said the new law is expected to be published in the government gazette soon. (APA 20-07-2016)

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## **BOTSWANA: GOVT ASSESSES FUTURE OF COAL/NICKEL MINE**



The government in Botswana has created a team of five cabinet ministers to look into its copper and nickel mine operations and outline possible options to improve the country's ailing economy which depends on the extractive industry.

State run {Dailynews } reported on Wednesday that the Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources Mr Kitso Mokaila said the government should consider three courses of action about the mine.

He said these are reinvesting in the mine, placing it under care and maintenance or shutting down operations and assess what impact that could have on its business partners and employees.

Mokaila said these were thought through after recollecting all necessary information about the mine's operations and its business models his ministry.

"As a ministry we approached cabinet concerning the mine and looking at record low nickel prices worldwide. We advised cabinet about the three options all of which are not easy decisions," Mokaila was quoted as saying.

He said one of the options around government reinvestment raises questions about how much would be injected into the mine's operations and what this will mean for other parts of the Botswana economy.

He observed that in the past when Botswana had a sound economy, it was easy to simply consider cash injection with the hope of making decent returns.

"But now any decision on one part of the economy can adversely affect other parts but the decision must be made by government" the Minerals, Energy and Water Resources minister added.

He assured citizens that within the three weeks they were given to present their findings they would have explored all the options and advised the government on an appropriate plan of action.

Botswana's economy has been hit in recent years thanks to the falling price of copper and nickel in the world market due to persistent global economic uncertainties.(APA 20-07-2016)

## **ENI GROUP EXPECTED SOON TO AWARD CONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORM FOR GAS EXPLORATION IN MOZAMBIQUE**

Italian group ENI is expected soon to award the construction of a floating platform for the exploration of natural gas deposits discovered in the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported.

The agency added that a consortium made up of French company Technip, Japan's JGC Corp. and South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries may be selected by the Italian group to build the platform, which has an estimated cost of US\$5.4 billion.

Yonhap also reported that Samsung Heavy Industries, the shipyards of the Samsung Group, will be entitled to US\$2.5 billion of the total amount if the contract is actually awarded to the consortium.

The platform, with an annual processing capacity of 3.4 million tons of natural gas, will be located on the Coral Sul gas field, where it is estimated that there are at least 16 trillion cubic feet of gas, enough to supply a second platform if market conditions are favourable.

In February, the government of Mozambique approved the Coral Sul Project Development Plan, and the ENI group is expected to make a final investment decision before the end of the year. (20-07-2016)

## **MOBILE OPERATORS HELP AFRICAN FARMERS WITH ADVICE AND MANAGING THEIR ADMINISTRATION**



South African mobile operators are breaking new ground across Africa by providing solutions to problems in the agricultural sector, such as helping in the fight against stock theft.

Vodacom has been rolling out a service called "know your farmer" across Kenya, Nigeria and Ethiopia, to help the subsistence farmers with easy access to finances and markets.

Vuyani Jarana, chief officer of the enterprise business unit at Vodacom, said the big data platform was cloud-based and allowed for the registration of a farmer's identity, land marks and any information that could be required by the government, should it need to provide farming subsidies.

"If a government of a particular country wants to boost, say, coffee production by using the platform, it is able to track the farmers via the platform. The government can also offer advice to the different farmers on how to increase their production," he said.

Citing World Bank data, Jarana also said due to risks associated with farming — both on the production side and the market side — smallholder farmers only accounted for about 5% of all private sector funding to the sector.



"Know your farmer" also enables farmers to be provided with advice that can help them increase their yield — all through a USSD mobile service.

The farmers can get advice on any queries related to crop and livestock. "The injection of advice through mobile services will improve the production of the farmer and de-risk production failure," Jarana said. In terms of market information, the major players can trace production trends as well as the expected harvests.

"This enables even financiers to know the production efficiencies of these farmers, attracting for financing and creating liquidity," Jarana said.

He added that such advances in technology also help governments to make direct interventions to improve skills.

MTN also recently launched a livestock tracking solution in Nigeria. Through this solution, which works through a solar-powered system that uses GPS technology, herders are able to track the location of grazing cattle.

The solution also sends emergency alerts to authorities when the livestock is exposed to danger.

The technology is not yet available in SA. (BD 16-07-2016)

### **NUMBER OF COMPANIES OPERATING IN ANGOLA INCREASES 4% IN 2015**

The number of active companies in Angola at the end of 2015 totalled 41,507, an increase of 4.0% compared to 39,884 in business a year earlier, reported the National Statistics Institute (INE) of Angola. INE also said that the companies registered with in Business Units Statistics File at the end of 2015 totalled 139,980, which means that of this total only 29.6% were operating.

The province of Luanda accounted for 55.2% of companies in activity at the end of last year, which was followed in order of importance by the provinces of Benguela, with 8.8%, Kwanza Sul, 5.2%, Huila, 4.5%, Huambo, 3.9% and Cabinda with 3.6%.

By industry "Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles" represented 51.3% of the total, followed by "Hotels and restaurants (restaurants and similar)," "Construction," "Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing," "consultancy, scientific, technical and similar Activities," and "manufacturing" with 9.7%, 5.6%, 4.4%, 4.3% and 3.9%, respectively.

More than half, 55.0% of companies in operation at the end of 2015 were private limited companies, followed by individual enterprises with a total of 41.5%. (20-07-2016)

### **AFDB LOANS \$104M TO ETHIOPIA ELECTRICITY PROJECT**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved \$104 million loan for Ethiopia's power transmission project that will supply electricity to industries in Tigray and Afar states.

According to an AfDB statement to APA on Wednesday, the money in particular will be used for the Mekele-Dallol and Semera-Afdera Power Transmission Supply for Industrial Development and Access Scale-up Project which is in progress.

According to the statement, the project is critical to ensure electricity generated from the power plants is transported to remotely located load centers.

The project is also meant for resolving the prevailing power shortages due to the inability of existing diesel power plants to meet rapidly growing demand in Ethiopia's expanding local potash and salt industries.

Extending the grid will help to create electricity access, replace diesel with cleaner and more affordable

reliable power for industries as well as urban and rural towns around Dallol and Afdera area, AfDB's Director of Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department, Alex Rugamba said.

On its completion in 2019, the project is expected to benefit an estimated 36 rural villages through improved access to electricity and basic social services. (APA 20-07-2016)

## CBC ITALY-TUNISIA PROGRAMME PRESENTS RESULTS AT CLOSING CONFERENCE



The EU-funded Italy-Tunisia Cross Border Cooperation programme is holding its closing conference today in Tunis, gathering representatives of the European Commission, national and regional representatives of projects funded under the programme, as well as public and private partners involved in the programme.

The aim of the event is to present the most significant results achieved by the programme, under which 31 projects were funded with a budget of EUR 25.2 million.

**Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)** reinforces cooperation between regions of EU Member States and Partner Countries on EU's external borders. EU financing for the Italy-Tunisia CBC programme is of €25.1 million for the period 2007-2013. ( CBC 20-07-2016)

## EBID TO FUND WEST AFRICA PROJECTS



BANQUE D'INVESTISSEMENT ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT DE LA CEDEAO  
ECOWAS BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
BANCO DE INVESTIMENTO E DE DESENVOLVIMENTO DA CEDEAO

The Board of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) has approved the funding of several projects across West Africa.

The commitment was made during its 50th ordinary meeting at its headquarters in Lomé, Togo.

During that meeting chaired by EBID President Bashir Mamman Ifo, the Board decided to finance the installation of a clinker production unit by Diamond Cement Guinée in Guinea to the tune of \$22 million.

The Council also authorized \$8 million in an additional funding for the building of a tomato and mango processing plant in Loumbila, Burkina Faso.

It also agreed to restructure the \$10 million EBID debt to InterceI (in Guinea).

EBID is the financial arm of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). (APA 20-07-2016)

## ANNA LINDH MEDITERRANEAN FORUM 2016: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Registration is now open to participate as an international delegate in the Mediterranean Forum 2016 of the Anna Lindh Foundation, which will take place on 24 and 25 October 2016 in Valletta, Malta. It is the region's largest civil society gathering and most influential event of its kind for intercultural dialogue.

This year's Forum aims to accelerate and scale-up the impact and reach of intercultural action to counter forces fuelling polarisation and extremism. The Forum connects a unique regional network of practitioners, policy-makers, media and international donors, united to create together real and lasting change in the face of the region's most pressing problems in the Mediterranean, from the impact of a refugee crisis and climate change to youth unemployment and radicalisation.

Over two days, participants will take part in panel discussions on topics that relate to the potential of the next generation of intercultural leaders, the role of cities in intercultural dialogue, the new opportunities for dialogue from increased human mobility, increased support for the development of creative enterprises, youth voices in action, the power of media in cross-cultural understanding, connecting young leaders in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the role of women in the promotion of dialogue, and the importance of translation of artistic creativity to bridge gaps in mutual understanding.

The Anna Lindh Foundation will ensure coverage of costs within the Forum venue for participants selected through this Call. Registration will be open until 14 August (17:00 Egypt Time – GMT+2).

The **Anna Lindh Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue** promotes knowledge, mutual respect and inter-cultural dialogue between the people of the Euro-Mediterranean region, working through a network of more than 3,000 civil society organisations in 43 countries. Its budget is co-funded by the EU (€10 million) and the EU member states (€6 million). (20-07-2016)

[Register now](#)

## EGYPT NOMINATES CANDIDATE FOR UNESCO TOP JOB

Egypt's Prime Minister Sherif Ismail has officially announced the nomination of Ambassador Moushira Khattab for the post of director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The nomination was made during "the cultural dialogue Egypt, UNESCO and International Cultural Issues," held at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo on Wednesday.

Bulgarian Irina Bokova is the current UNESCO DG who is set to step down later this year after her election to the post in 2009.

Khattab has already gone on an overseas tour among the 58 member states of the UNESCO executive council in a bid to garner support ahead of the election for a four-year term.

The post was initially for a six-year term.

A former Minister of State for Family and Population under ousted president Hosni Mubarak and an ex ambassador to South Africa, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Kattab regards herself as a human rights activist advocating the rights of children and women.

She is also a former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child based in Geneva.

Moushira Khattab is the holder of a PHD on children's rights from Cairo University and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of North Carolina. (APA 20-07-2016)

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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, HTTC, NABA, NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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Our Friends of the EEAS-European External Action Service - Africa Department have just published the issue 6 of AFRICA YEEAS. Enjoy reading!



Final\_Africa\_Yeeas.pdf

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