

MEMORANDUM

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ANGOLA AND UN SIGN US\$12.1 MILLION AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE ARTISANAL FISHING

Angola and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed on Wednesday in Rome a US\$12.1 million financing agreement for artisanal fishing and aquaculture, the United Nations agency announced.

US\$11.1 million of that amount will be disbursed by IFAD, with the Angolan government contributing the remaining US\$1 million for a project that directly benefits more than 10,000 artisanal fishermen, indicates the statement released by IFAD.

The project also indirectly benefits 5,000 processors and small rural businesses linked to fish marketing, as well as nearly 800 families involved in small-scale aquaculture, notably women who head families, young people and adults from vulnerable groups.

The project will be implemented in the Angolan provinces of Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Luanda and Malange. It aims to reduce poverty and improve food and nutritional security among families dedicated to that activity.

The statement adds that since 1991 IFAD has applied US\$47.2 million in five programmes and projects in Angola, which have generated investments worth US\$101.6 million, benefiting more than 201,600 family households. (28-08-2015)

SIERRA LEONE: CHINA RAISES SCHOLARSHIP QUOTA TO 50

The Chinese government has raised to 50 the number of scholarships to Sierra Leonean nationals, officials said on Tuesday.

Presently the number of scholarship awarded to the West African country by the Chinese government is 34.

Dr. Ebum Strasser-King, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said the new quota would take effect next year.

According to a statement by the ministry on Tuesday, the deputy minister said at a farewell ceremony for the latest batch of 40 students travelling to China for studies under the same scheme.

It added that the students would be leaving for China on Tuesday.

This is the first batch of students to travel to China after the programme was temporary halted as a result of the Ebola epidemic.

Mrs. STrasser-King disclosed that the development was in fulfilment of the promise made by China`s Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his recent visit to the country last month to increase training in human capacity for Sierra Leone.

According to the Education ministry, Sierra Leone has benefitted from 197 Chinese scholarships since 2009.(APA 01-09-2015)

JAPANESE COMPANY PROSPECTING FOR COAL IN MOZAMBIQUE

Technical personnel from a Japanese mining company are currently in Mozambique`s Manica province with plans to prospect for coal in the Mossurize district, the provincial director of Mineral Resources and Energy, Olavo Deniasse, recently stated.

There are indications of the mineral`s presence in that district, though it must still be determined whether there is enough to justify commercial exploitation, Deniasse told the Maputo daily Notícias.

Deniasse did not identify the Japanese company. He explained that prospecting work would begin after the environmental impact study is completed. The aim is to determine the deposit's economic viability and probable lifespan if commercial exploitation is deemed possible.

He nevertheless asserted that all signs indicate the existence of mineral coal in that region of Manica province, given that it is situated in a geological area designated as karoo, a word used in South Africa to indicate a previously swampy region where over the ages peat was transformed into coal deposits. Besides gold, precious and semi-precious stones and limestone, among other valuable minerals, recent research indicates the occurrence of diamonds near the Mozambique/Zimbabwe border and along the Save River in southern Manica province. (02-09-2015)

S/LEONE EBOLA NOT OVER YET, OFFICIAL WARNS

The head of Sierra Leone's National Ebola Response Center (NERC) has warned that the epidemic was far from over, urging citizens to remain steadfast.

Rtd Major Alfred Palo Conteh said recent events in the north of the country sent a clear message against complacency.

He was referring to reports on Sunday confirming that a new case of the virus had been detected after the country went six days into the 42-day countdown to be declared free of the virus.

A swab test result from the corpse of a 67-year old woman in the Kambia district came back positive on Saturday.

I will join His Excellency (President Ernest Bai Koroma) and all others to reiterate the point that Ebola is not over yet and that we all need to remain committed and vigilant until we are declared Ebola free by the World Health Organization (WHO), the NERC CEO told a press briefing in Freetown on Wednesday.

Every partner, every player and every ...stakeholder must be committed and serious about this fight or we will continue registering cases because of our failures to live up to our commitments, he added.

The development in the Tonko Limba Chiefdom has seen WHO and the government deployed a joint team of experts to investigate the source of the transmission, since initial report indicate the woman has not traveled to any region thought to be prone to the virus.

WHO has also used the opportunity to extend the ring vaccination' protocol in Guinea to Sierra Leone.(APA 01-09-2015)

SASOL GROUP SEEKING CONTRACTORS FOR PROJECTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

South Africa's Sasol group is seeking contractors in Mozambique to build a new pipeline to transport natural gas extracted in the country to South Africa, among other projects, indicate advertisements placed in the Mozambican press.

In the ads published in late August the group also states that it aims to contract companies to build facilities in Inhassoro, a coastal city 750 km north of the capital Maputo, to process oil extracted from wells in the region.

The Johannesburg-based group is waiting for the Mozambican government to approve the plans submitted last February, reports Bloomberg news agency.

This unit will have an installed capacity of 15,000 barrels of oil per day, and also handle gas and liquefied petroleum gas.

Sasol's subsidiary in Mozambique, where it has been extracting natural gas since 2004, plans to build a 127 km long gas pipeline across Inhambane and Gaza provinces to reach the group's installations on the other side of the border. (02-09-2015)

EGYPT'S MAY EXPORTS TO COMESA AT \$5.8M

Egypt's exports to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) during May 2015 reached \$5.76 million, compared to \$5.69 million in the corresponding period a year earlier, according to a report by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) published on Wednesday.

CAPMAS said that Egypt's imports from COMESA reached \$22.17 million in the same period, compared to \$6.26 million a year-on-year.

Exports to Zimbabwe hit \$1.49 million in the same month, compared to \$854,000 a year earlier.

Exports to Djibouti also increased to \$1.45 million in May 2015 compared to \$1.25 million in May 2014.

Exports to the rest of the COMESA countries amounted to \$842,000 in May 2015, compared to \$580,000 in May 2014.

Egypt's exports to Zambia went down to \$881,000 in May 2015 after peaking at \$1.302 million in May 2014.

According the report, exports to Mauritius declined to \$1.08 million in May 2015, compared to \$1.70 million in the same month a year earlier.

Egyptian imports from Zambia rose to \$21.43 million in the same month, bettering the \$5.05 million registered last year, while imports from Malawi declined to \$594,000 in May 2015, compared to \$729,000.

Egypt's imports from the rest of COMESA countries dropped to \$143,000 in May 2015, markedly inferior to \$475,000 witnessed in May last year.(APA 02-09-2015)

FIRST FOREIGN CURRENCY SALE BY NATIONAL BANK OF ANGOLA TO EXCHANGE BUREAUX

The National Bank of Angola (BNA) recently carried out the first auction sale of foreign currency directly to exchange bureaux, with transactions amounting to US\$10 million at the average rate of 138.245 kwanzas per dollar, the central bank announced.

A statement posted on the Angolan central bank's website indicated that in the auction the exchange rates used in transactions ranged between 145 and 135 kwanzas.

The central bank explained that 33 of the 48 authorised exchange bureaux in regular operating conditions took part in the auction, an operation framed in the new operational framework for exchange policy established last July.

The new framework envisages auction sessions exclusively for banking institutions and the direct sale of foreign currency to cover priority needs with respect to goods and services, as set out in the government's programme.

It also envisages BNA's direct sale of foreign currency to exchange bureaux, bearing in mind the social extent of operational activity and normalisation of the exchange market.

During the week of 24-28 August BNA sold foreign currency amounting to US\$381.1 million. The average reference exchange rate of the interbank exchange market determined at week's end was 126.409 kwanzas per dollar.

During the week under analysis the central bank also made a debt placement of 23.356 billion kwanzas for current management of the National Treasury, with 20.5 billion kwanzas in treasury bills and 2.6 billion kwanzas in treasury bonds. (02-09-2015)

GAMBIA: GOV'T WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL LOGGING

The Gambian Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Parks and Wild Life, on Wednesday issued a terse warning to all timber dealers against illegal logging on the country's forests. According to the ministry the warning followed reports that some chain-saw machine operators are cutting down trees in some forest parks within Gambian territory, especially in the Central River Region.

The region is the hub for the government's Vision 2016 initiative which seeks to sufficiently cater for the local consumption of rice and end its importation into the country by the start of next year.

The illegal loggers are said to be using licence issued to timber investors who are not authorised to obtain the logs from the country, but can only buy from operators and resell to Chinese investors for exportation.

The ministry said it is therefore warning all operators involved, to stop the illegal logging within the country, noting that the act tantamount to a violation of Gambia's forestry laws and that "anyone found wanting will face the full force of the law."

The Gambia government has been clashing with people engaged in the illegal logging business, leading to temporary ban of the business last year.

This situation has forced many Chinese investors to transfer their business in Guinea Bissau.(APA 02-09-2015)

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ANGOLA REACHES US\$600 MILLION FROM JANUARY THRU JULY

Foreign investment in Angola amounted to US\$600 million in the first seven months of 2015, the head of Angola's National Private Investment Institute (ANIP) announced before a gathering of personnel in Luanda.

Maria Luísa Abrantes specified that 406 companies in nine provinces had been visited from January through July, versus 502 companies visited during the whole year of 2014, indicates the speech cited by the newspaper Jornal de Angola.

ANIP personnel have been visiting companies with which it maintains investment contracts, the aim being to evaluate implementation of projects. Fines are imposed when companies fail to comply with the respective clauses, whereby in July it announced an extraordinary intake of US\$600 million.

During her summary of the agency's activities, Abrantes said its personnel had taken part in 65 seminars and conferences on investment in Angola, 54 in the country and 11 abroad.

Last Wednesday 29 August the Council of Ministers analysed the national private investment policy and the presidential decree replacing ANIP with the Angolan Agency for Promotion of Investment and Exports (Apiex Angola). (02-09-2015)

WORK ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS PARTNERS WITH FIBRECO

Terrestrial connectivity service provider Workonline Communications has partnered with FibreCo Telecommunications.

According to the partnership FibreCo will assist Workonline with the expansion of their South African national network into new areas, allowing Workonline to provide its unique solutions to an ever-growing customer base.

Workonline has forged a partnership with FibreCo to provide redundancy for some of Workonline's major backbone routes. This redundancy is critical for the reliable supply of wholesale national connectivity services.

"The partnership with FibreCo allows Workonline to increase the resilience of its core network and to deliver wholesale and transmission services to the demanding Workonline wholesale client base," says Edward Lawrence, Director – Business Development at Workonline Communications.

Workonline chose FibreCo because of their bespoke service levels and technical flexibility, which was a head above what other fibre network providers could offer. This has allowed Workonline to easily provision a variety of new cutting-edge, carrier-grade services to its wholesale clients. This feeds into Workonline's wider shift into the delivery of increasingly specialised services, such as Optical Transport Networking (OTN).

Workonline first came onto the FibreCo network in mid-2014 and expects the relationship to develop further, from strength to strength.

"As the FibreCo network grows from Cape Town to Durban it will eventually provide the shortest route between the east coast and west coast submarine cables, which will result in the lowest latency and the best speeds for applicable services," says Lawrence. "The result will mean that several underserved areas will become part of the national fibre grid. FibreCo has also assisted Workonline in providing services into areas where the high cost of transmission previously made it unfeasible for Workonline to expand its network. New clients in these areas can now tick their three most important boxes: high speed, low latency and increased resiliency, all this while keeping costs as low as possible."

"FibreCo prides itself on its responsive and flexible approach, allowing us to customise specific commercial and technical solutions for clients. We see this client responsiveness as an important differentiator," says Arif Hussain, CEO of FibreCo Telecommunications. "As FibreCo's open-access fibre network footprint continues to extend across the country even more companies will benefit from Workonline Communications' unique services."

By open-access network, FibreCo means that all clients can have access on the same basis. FibreCo's model facilitates multiple operators, service providers and businesses acquiring their own fibre allowing them to deliver a wider choice of products to their customers – managed by a single entity. (IT News Africa 04-09-2015)

MALI: W/BANK TO PUMP CFA25BN INTO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The World Bank is set to grant CFA25 billion to Mali to foster women's empowerment in the country, according to a document signed recently between the Minister of Population and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The initiative which will be conducted by the UNFPA is called Project of technical assistance to women and creation of demographic dividend conditions.

With the support of technical and financial partners, the government is determined to further face challenges related to population growth which is estimated at 3.6%. (APA 02-09-2015)

MORE THAN US\$2.3 BILLION IN TRADE BETWEEN BRAZIL AND ANGOLA IN 2014

Trade between Brazil and Angola involved more than US\$2.3 billion in 2014, Brazil's ambassador in Luanda, Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta, said on Tuesday in the Angolan capital.

Official 2014 figures from the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade show that Angola exported to Brazil products worth US\$1.261 billion during that year while importing Brazilian merchandise worth US\$1.109 billion.

Bilateral trade figures for the period from January through July 2015 nevertheless indicate a major slowdown, with Brazil, for example, importing Angolan products worth US\$17.8 million, versus US\$487.5 million in the same period of 2014.

During the same period Brazil's sales to Angola fell by nearly a half, from US\$632.6 million from January through July 2014 to US\$353.8 million during the first seven months of 2015.

Rapesta was speaking at the opening session of Brazil Week in Angola, which runs until this coming 15 September. He explained that his country mainly exports food, trucks and other products to Angola, while Angola exports oil to that Latin American country.

He emphasised that Angola may become Brazil's new agricultural frontier, given his country's technological and entrepreneurial capabilities and the fertile land found in Angola.

Brazil Week in Angola takes place during commemorations of the 193rd anniversary of the Latin American country's independence, marked on 7 September. (02-09-2015)

ZAMBIA: ZICTA BEGINS 2015 ICT NATIONAL SURVEY

The Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) is in the process of conducting data collection for the 2015 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) survey.

The data collection drive, which began in the first week of August, 2015, is expected to be completed at the end of September 2015.

According to the [Daily Mail](#), primarily, the survey will seek to update ICT baseline indicators (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa as well as International Telecommunication Union standardised metrics) last collected in 2010.

These indicators capture information on usage and access to ICTs across individuals, households, enterprises and government institutions. The survey will also provide an opportunity for the authority and the government to measure progress made in the adoption and application of ICTs by the identified target groups.

Furthermore, the survey will also include an ICT sector review to measure its size, scope of products and services available, as well as identify any regulatory or policy challenges affecting operators. In collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications, and the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the ZICTA are responsible for the implementation of this survey. (IT NEWS AFRICA 03-09-2015)

NIGERIA SHUTS DOWN SIX POWER PLANTS

Six electricity generating plants have been shut down across the country, causing worry that the relative stability in power supply in recent times may be short-lived.

Nigeria's Guardian newspaper report on Wednesday said that the situation has made power generation to fall uncontrollably to about 4,652 Mega Watts (MW).

The report added that the development came as Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) vowed to eradicate crude oil theft in eight months in the country.

The daily power generation report issued by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and obtained by The Guardian on Tuesday showed that only 16 of the 25 existing power generating plants in the country are currently running.

Besides the fact that most of the power plants are running in partial capacities, it was learnt that the affected six facilities were shut down due to either gas shortage, under rehabilitation, technical damage or fire outbreak.

The affected plants are Afam IV-V, A.E.S power, ASCO, Omoku, Trans Amadi, and Rivers Independent Power Plant. Besides, Egbin power generation dropped to 693MW due to the shutdown of ST 1 for maintenance, and high frequency occasioned by the distribution company's inability to pick its load allocation.

Generation from Ibom Power also reduced to 53.8MW due to guide vane problem, GT 2 maintenance and inability of Port Harcourt Disco to pick load allocation. Geregu was reduced to 188MW due to gas constraints and spinning reserve.

Omoku was completely down due to collapsed towers on Omoku/PH mains 132kV transmission line. Two units from Trans Amadi (GT2 and 4) were said to have tripped off due to reversed power, while the other two units (GT1 and 3) were faulty. AES completely lacked gas supply.

As the nation's generation hits 4,652MW, the estimates show that a peak demand of about 14,630 is actually required for Nigeria to enjoy stable supply.

This, according to the report, shows that the country is having a shortfall of about 9,978MW to meet national demand. (APA 02-09-2015)

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MORE CHANGE

Recognition of the indispensable role played by women in defeating apartheid was the focus of countless speeches, film showings and even fashion shows as the country paused this week for National Women's Day, a public holiday.

Women's Affairs Minister Susan Shabangu kicked off the activities with a speech on Pan African Women's Day, celebrated on the last day of July.

"This year marks 59 years since the 1956 Women's march to the Union Buildings where women protested against the pass laws which among other things restricted their freedom of movement," she began.

"The march by 20,000 women challenged an oppressive system that deepened inequalities in terms of race and gender, and contributed to the current triple challenges of inequality, unemployment, and poverty."

The Minister urged citizens to "take a journey" beginning from the era of Manthatisi (the female warrior), Princess Mnkabayi, Princess Mantsopa, Queen Modjadji, Charlotte Maxeke and her ilk through to the generation of 1956 and beyond.

"This journey depicts the leadership role that these foremothers provided in the various stages of the evolution of our society and links it to the 21st Anniversary of the democratic South Africa and the impact of the policies of the country in changing the quality of life of South African women."

Women have made major strides and are no longer "at the bottom, almost slaves," observed the former ANC leader Dr. Ruth Mompati, who passed earlier this year in May. "Now women are in Parliament, at all educational levels, holding positions in business."

Still, more needed to be done, she said at the time. "We should ask what our country should be doing – particularly a country that has been liberated by both men and women."

Media activist Gugulethu Mhlungu picked up the challenge, citing a report released by President Jacob Zuma during his National Women's Day address.

“Earlier this week, the 2015 Women’s Report confirmed what we already knew,” she said. “Women in South Africa are still, on average, paid 15 percent less than men in the same positions. And that’s a conservative estimate.

During Women’s Month, she said, the issue of gender inequality is seen as a special cause and worse, it gives men a free pass.

“Much like Youth Month, where only black youths are expected to do something about fixing society, the work of ending female oppression in South Africa is largely seen as the work of women themselves.

Even the Department of Women’s theme for 2015 – Women united in moving South Africa forward – suggests this is a job just for the women. “It’s catchy and has the right sentiment – but for another year we will focus on what women must do, which women are already doing.”

Pres. Zuma, in his speech, acknowledged the legacy of white privilege which still discriminates against black women today.

“If we are to succeed economically as a country, women must participate at both the micro and macro levels of the economy. They must not be relegated to micro operations and the informal economy as has been the case.”(IPS 11-08-2015)

NIGERIAN LEADER WARNS OF ECONOMIC DECLINE DUE TO FALL IN OIL PRICES

President Muhammadu Buhari has warned that with the fall in oil prices, Nigeria risked economic decline, if it failed to manage its resources prudently.

Buhari told members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) during a meeting at the Presidential Villa, Abuja on Tuesday that they should take their audit reports seriously.

A statement by the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Femi Adesina, said that Buhari urged them to support his administration’s efforts to restore probity, prudence and transparency.

Buhari said with declining prices of oil exports, Nigeria must begin to properly manage its available resources or face developmental stagnation and decline.

The President stated that accountants should help the government “to go back to the days of real accountability in the management of public funds.

“The annual audits of government ministries, agencies and departments, which your members undertake must be taken more seriously. People must be made to properly account for whatever government funds are entrusted to their supervision.

“Let your audit reports on our MDAs be thoroughly, professionally and dispassionately done to ensure greater probity in the management of our national resources.”

In his remarks, the ICAN President, Olufemi Deru, hailed the renaissance of the nation’s value system and the reinvigoration of the war against corruption by Buhari. (APA 02-09-2015)

UAE IS LARGEST BUYER OF ANGOLAN DIAMONDS

About 95 percent of the diamonds mined in Angola in July were sold to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which was followed by Hong Kong with 3 percent and Belgium and Israel, both with 1 percent, the Ministry of Geology and Mines said.

The statement also said that over 865,000 carats of diamonds were extracted and sold in the period under review, which provided income of US\$115 million, at an average price of US\$133 per carat.

Compared to June, when 748,000 carats of diamonds were extracted and sold, with a value of US\$92.9 million at an average price of US\$124 per carat, there was an increase in the quantity and value of 15.66 percent and 24.22 percent, respectively.

These increases were due, according to the Ministry, to the Catoca mine increasing production by 3.83 percent and the fact that in July higher quality diamonds were traded, in a process that usually takes place every two months.

Industrial diamond production in July involved the Catoca, Cuango, Camútwe, Chitotolo, Somiluana, Calonda, Luó and Luminas mines of the twelve active mines in Angola.

At these mines there was total production of 764,000 carats, worth US\$90.7 million, sold at an average price of US\$118 per carat, with artisanal production, involving seven of the twelve operators accredited to purchase rough diamonds, representing 101,300 carats with a value of US\$24.6 million at an average price of US\$243.51 per carat. (04-09-2015)

MALI MINING CONFERENCE SLATED FOR NOVEMBER

The Malian capital Bamako will in November host its sixth Mining and Petroleum Conference and Exhibition which brings together mining and petroleum experts and stakeholders from around the world to discuss the latest trends in the extractive industry.

A statement by its organizers on Thursday confirmed that the conference will last from 17th to 19th November during which discussants will rub minds on the new perspectives and challenges of the industry and assess opportunities for iron ore, bauxite, manganese, cement and limestone as constituted in Mali's new mining vision.

Increasing the Contribution of the Mining sector to Mali's Economy is the theme of the conference which will be under the patronage of the country's Prime Minister, Modibo Keita.

The conference which will attract officials from global financial institutions such as, the World Bank, IMF, African Development Bank, and the African Union is to feature twenty sessions focussing on the African and Malian mining and petroleum sectors, as well as a trade exhibition, social networking activities and business meetings.

JMP'15 is an exceptional opportunity to network and share experiences between the delegates, as well as showcasing the latest advancements in the mining environment and its link with economic development the statement from the organizers said.

Government representatives, directors and leaders of extractive industry companies, as well as mining and petroleum experts will be taking part.(APA 03-09-2015)

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