

MEMORANDUM

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EU BOOSTS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTS BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

The EU has mobilised a substantial assistance package worth €235.7 million to foster socio-economic development and support better living conditions in the Southern Neighbourhood partner countries.

This assistance is provided through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and is particularly important in the context of the EU's efforts to address all aspects of the [refugees crisis](#).

Of this package, €162 million will support bilateral cooperation that will benefit citizens in Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine through the creation of increased economic opportunities, institution-building, improving living conditions, as well as the protection of citizen's rights and the most vulnerable sectors of society.

€73.7 million will target improved cooperation at regional level; mainly helping to address regional challenges requiring a common approach such as migration, job creation and socio-economic inclusion, as well as the continued integration of civil society in political dialogue.

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, commented: *"I am delighted to announce this new EU support for the Southern partners, which will enhance socio-economic development and job creation in the region and help to make a difference in key sectors such as urban and private sector development, energy and water. This investment will further support institution-building and the protection of citizen's rights, while also tackling major regional challenges such as migration and the integration of civil society in political dialogue. This substantial funding is, yet again, clear proof of the EU's continued commitment to support our partner countries' efforts in increasing economic opportunities and improving the living standards of citizens and vulnerable groups."*

The newly-adopted bilateral programmes will support cooperation in three Southern Neighbourhood countries:

Egypt: €59 million will support the country in the areas of human rights, private sector development, urban development, energy and water. Programmes focus on improving the quality of life of Egyptian citizens by promoting inclusive economic growth, improving the living conditions in some of the poorest areas of the Greater Cairo Region, as well as fostering reforms in the energy and water sectors. In addition, it supports measures to strengthen citizen's rights and the role of the Egyptian civil society.

Lebanon: Economic development and increased economic opportunities as well as support to create better living conditions for vulnerable groups will be targeted through a €15 million assistance package. In particular, these programmes will assist Lebanon in the implementation of its Mine Action Strategy and to foster inclusive and sustainable development in affected regions. Further, the EU seeks to improve housing for the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in the country.

Palestine: Through this €88 million support, the EU reaffirms its commitment to the two-state solution and honours its pledges to the Palestinian population. With these assistance programmes, the EU seeks to bring both immediate relief and more long-term benefits to the Palestinians living under very harsh conditions and provide financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority. Programmes will target in particular Gaza and East Jerusalem, which are part of the territory occupied in 1967.

[Regional cooperation programmes](#)

The €73.7 million regional package complements bilateral activities and addresses major common challenges faced by our partners in the South. The continued integration of civil society in political dialogue as well as an enhanced regional dialogue remain key across the board. The fundamental principles underpinning all these actions is to encourage North-South and South-South cooperation, as well as to promote dialogue, exchange views and share knowledge. Furthermore, cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean will be enhanced in areas that have direct impact on the livelihoods of the citizens living in the Southern Mediterranean. (EC 10-09-2015)

KENYATTA INVITES BRITISH PM TO VISIT KENYA

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has invited UK Prime Minister David Cameron to officially visit Kenya by early next year, local media report here Monday.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Kenyatta asked Mr Cameron to visit Kenya early next year for bilateral

and multi-lateral talks.

In the letter, Kenyatta states that Kenya is satisfied that the two countries' relations, which are based on historical bonds, have been warm and cordial.

"It is therefore my desire that we deepen these bonds of friendship and fraternal co-operation further, for the mutual benefit of our peoples," states the letter seen by the Standard newspaper.

"In this regard, it is my pleasure to extend to you Prime Minister an invitation to make a state visit to Kenya in the early part of 2016. The visit will accord us an opportunity to consult on a wide range of issues of mutual interest at the bilateral and multilateral levels," reads the letter signed by the President.

The invitation comes barely a month after Kenya hosted US President Barack Obama. (APA 07-09-2015)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SUPPORTS BETTER ACCESS TO MEDICINES IN POOREST COUNTRIES

The Commission agreed to support the least developed countries' call for easier access to cheaper medicines by means of an indefinite exemption from World Trade Organization (WTO) intellectual property rules for pharmaceuticals.

The Commission today agreed to support the least developed countries' (LDCs) call for easier access to cheaper medicines by means of an indefinite exemption from World Trade Organization (WTO) intellectual property rules for pharmaceuticals. This exemption allows generic medicines to be imported, and produced locally, regardless of patents, for example when licenses are not available. It means producers of generics and international programmes can supply drugs like HIV treatment in affected countries without fear of patent infringement suits.

Commissioner Malmström said: "*The poorest countries of the world need effective access to medicines. Although patents stimulate innovation in developed and emerging economies, intellectual property rules should be a non-issue when the world's poorest are in need of treatment. This exemption will give the least developed countries the necessary legal certainty to procure or to produce generic medicines. I am confident that the Council will support this approach, and that the EU will take the lead in the WTO in this field.*"

The WTO granted a time-limited exemption before to these countries, but the Commission believes that extending it indefinitely would give legal certainty for long-term supply as well as enhance local production of much-needed medicines.

The Council must now decide on the Commission's proposal. This will determine the position to be taken by the Commission on behalf of the European Union in the WTO special Council on intellectual property – the TRIPS Council. That body will take a decision on the request from LDCs for an indefinite exemption at its 15-16 October 2015 session.

This step complements the Commission funded development programmes for supply of essential medicines in developing countries and reinforces the coherence of the EU approach on development policy.(EC 10-09-2015)

GAMBIA LAUNCHES NEW ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

The Gambian government in its drive to enhance the country's economic development has conceived the idea for the implementation of a sustainable development action plan to boost its economy.

To kick start the process, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology on Tuesday, launched a new task force body dubbed, "Thematic Working Group on Human Capital Formulation of the National Development Plan."

The group formally inaugurated at the Law faculty of the University of Gambia, is meant to strategised and come up with a comprehensive data on the country's human capital, as a means of fostering development, succeeding the Program for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE).

The new task force body comprising members from all relevant public institutions, in a bid to come up with comprehensive data and formulation strategies to ensure availability of human resource capital for all sectors of national development.

"As the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PGAE) 2012-2015 is coming to an end, there is need for a successor plan", the Minister of Higher Education Research Science and Technology, Dr Abubacarr Senghor, said in his launching statement.

Minister Sengore also called for more commitment among members of the functionary group to the actualization of the country's development goals.(APA 08-09-2015)

FUNDING OF MIGRATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD REGION

The Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM) adopted in 2011 provides the general framework for the EU engagement in migration in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood.

It identifies four domains for action: legal migration and mobility; fight against irregular migration; asylum and international protection; migration and development.

The Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM) adopted in 2011 provides the general framework for the EU engagement in migration in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood and identifies four domains for action: legal migration and mobility; fight against irregular migration; asylum and international protection; migration and development.

The EU's international engagement on migration in this region is therefore **multi-faceted**. It stems from the commitment to address root causes of displacement and forced migration by the use of foreign policy tools, including prevention and resolution of conflicts, enhancing the nexus between migration and development and by mainstreaming migration into development programmes, while also addressing human rights abuses and strengthening migrants' and refugee rights.

The EU's approach to addressing migratory challenges in its support to its Southern neighbours is in particular drawing on the following foreign policy instruments:

1/**political dialogue** and **technical and financial support** to Southern Neighbourhood partner countries,

2/**regional frameworks** encompassing Mediterranean and African countries,

3/ **contribution to tackling security crises and conflicts** having an impact on migratory flows, the latter of concern in particular for Libya and Syria.

By doing so, the EU's approach combines a wide range of financial instruments acting in a complementary way, drawing on the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), thematic funds such as the migration and asylum programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), and a series of other instruments, ranging from humanitarian aid to Common Security and Defence Policy actions. Programmes developed jointly with Member States are also a growing feature of the EU support on migration (in particular the programmes put in place in the framework of the mobility partnerships in Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and the assistance to Syria).

The total amount of **on-going EU support specifically on migration in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood region** amounts to approximately **€192 million**.

Maghreb countries

Morocco

The current support on migration to Morocco amounts to some **€20 million** and stems from the mobility partnership concluded in 2013 between the EU and Morocco. It ranges from institutional support to the new Moroccan State policy on migration (€10 million), promoting the access of regularised migrants to the EU for the purposes of education, health and employment, to supporting specialised civil society

organisations which provide migrants with first help and adjustment services as well and which contribute to fighting racism and xenophobia. Support to the Moroccan diaspora is also provided (the "Sharaka" programme, €5 million), which facilitates the management of legal migration and enhances the contribution of the Moroccan diaspora to the country's development. Smaller complementary measures involve the provision of technical expertise in the drafting of State legislation on asylum and trafficking of human beings.

Algeria

The current support on migration to Algeria amounts to **€1,9 million** and aims at supporting the creation of business and employment opportunities through the involvement of migrants in local development of their country of origin.

Tunisia

The support on migration to Tunisia has recently been refocused with new programmes amounting to **€8 million**.

A €3 million programme was launched in early 2015, aiming at supporting the Tunisian authorities in putting in place an integrated border management system, as well as contributing to international protection of and promotion of the rights of migrants. The EU-Tunisia mobility partnership will also benefit from a support programme of €5 million addressing labour migration, circular migration as well as the issue of migration and development. In the framework of the Security sector reform programme adopted in July 2015, an important component of the EU support will be devoted to border management.

Libya

The past years have witnessed a significant investment in migration projects in Libya (€42.7 million committed between 2011 and 2014). The on-going support on migration amounts to **€22,1 million** and includes the following programmes:

- Promoting resilience among vulnerable and at-risk populations through a community-based approach - €2.9 million;
- Promoting a rights-based management of migration in Libya (two components, one implemented by the International Federation of the Red Cross - €6,2 million; and the other by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development – €3 million);
- Prevention and management of irregular migration flows from the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean Sea - €10 million.

Similarly to Syria, the migration crisis in Libya is also addressed through regional programmes of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (see below).

Mashrek countries

Egypt

The current support on migration to Egypt amounts to **€3,4 million**. It is mainly channelled to governmental and non-governmental actors to protect human rights of migrants along the East African route, to prevent and fight human trafficking and to provide legal advocacy for refugees.

Jordan

The current support on migration to Jordan amounts to **€11 million**. The country benefits from a €2.5 million programme supporting the implementation of the mobility partnership with the EU, as well as from an €8 million programme supporting border guards in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees crossing the Syrian-Jordanian border.

Lebanon

The current support to migration in Lebanon amounts to approximately **€16 million**. It covers the setting-up of an integrated border management system in the framework of a broader programme dealing with the Lebanese capacity to enhance security and stabilisation. Complementary programmes are provided

through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, aiming at supporting and empowering migrants in Lebanon.

Syria

The support on migration towards Syria aims to address the current refugee crisis and encompasses support to neighbouring countries that host Syrian refugees. The EU effort is considerable, with **nearly €4 billion** of EU and Member States funds committed so far to address the crisis by means of humanitarian aid, support to stabilisation and development inside Syria and to Syrian refugees abroad and their host communities in the neighbouring countries. An additional €1 billion was pledged by the EU and Member States at the Kuwait III pledging conference in March of this year.

Apart from the funding provided by ECHO, two EU flagship initiatives that bring together EU and Member States expertise and funding towards an integrated European response are also of significant:

- the *Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP)* to Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq aims at building a knowledge base on the socio-economic impact of refugees on host communities, enhances political dialogue with local and national authorities, provides protection of refugees as well as longer-term livelihood support, whenever possible to host communities and refugees alike. A number of Member States are co-funding the efforts (EU contribution - €12,3 million).
- the recently established *EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis ("Madad")*. It aims to provide a coherent and reinforced response to the Syrian crisis on a regional scale, responding to the needs of refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries, as well as to the needs of the communities hosting refugees and host country authorities, with a view to promoting resilience and early recovery. With Italy and Germany also contributing to the Trust Fund, strategic priorities and initial projects amounting to €40 million were adopted at its first Board meeting on 29 May 2015.

Regional/global programmes

The current EU support to regional and global programmes dealing with migration issues in the Southern Neighbourhood amounts to **€57,9 million** (notwithstanding programmes financed under the Rabat and Khartoum process). They include:

- the *Euromed Migration programmes* (for an amount of respectively €5 and 7 million for the third and fourth phases) aiming at fostering cooperation on migration issues between the South partners and EU countries, as well as between the South partners themselves;
- *Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPP)* are currently in place in North Africa (covering Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, and whenever possible Libya, with certain actions possible in Niger or Mauritania) and in the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq);
- The work of the *European Asylum Support Office (EASO)* and *Frontex* in Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan is currently supported (€1 million);
- In relation with the crisis in Libya, the following regional programmes are currently implemented:
 - Increasing the capacity of the authorities of the North African countries to tackle irregular migration and illicit trafficking by strengthening their border surveillance systems (SeaHorse-Mediterranean Network): €4.5 million;
 - Stabilizing at-risk communities and enhancing migration management to enable smooth transitions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya ("START"): €9.9 million.

Migratory issues are also addressed in a **more global manner, taking into account the migratory routes**. As an example, the setting up of an interactive map on migration in Africa, the Middle-East and the Mediterranean region is currently supported. More importantly, the support provided by the EU to the Rabat and Khartoum processes should be highlighted.

- **The Rabat Process**

The Rabat Process was launched at the first Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in July 2006 in Rabat. It brings together governments of 55 European and African (North, West & Central) countries, together with the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The objective is to enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration more broadly (legal migration and mobility; prevention of irregular migration and measures to counteract

it; migration and development; international protection), as well as to identify common priorities in order to advance operational and practical cooperation.

- **The Khartoum Process**

The Khartoum Process was launched at a Ministerial Conference in November 2014 in Rome. It is led by a Steering Committee comprised of five EU Member States (Italy, France, Germany, UK, Malta), five partner countries (Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan) and the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the African Union Commission. Its objective is to establish a long-standing dialogue on migration and mobility aimed at enhancing the current cooperation, including through the identification and implementation of concrete projects. In the first phase, the focus will be on addressing trafficking in human beings and on smuggling of migrants.

Finally, the Commission has just decided to establish an European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa of €1.8 billion, in which a window of **€200 million** will provide support to Northern African countries.(EC 10-09-015)

MOZAMBIQUE LEADER UNVEILS AFRICA'S LARGEST \$300M EUCALYPTUS NURSERY

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi, on Monday unveiled Africa's largest eucalyptus nursery for plants for the production of paper, in the central province of Zambezia, APA can report.

It is an investment of Portucel Mozambique, a Portuguese company dedicated to manufacturing and sale of paper, owned 80 percent by the Portucel Soporcel group and 20 percent by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The project, located in the heart of Zambezia, employs more than 130 skilled Mozambican employees (APA 08-09-2015)

GAS PROJECTS IN MOZAMBIQUE THREATENED WITH OVERSUPPLY

The two largest natural gas exploration projects in Mozambique are likely to be postponed due to an impending oversupply in the world market, energy consulting firm Wood Mackenzie has warned.

About 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas were recently discovered in the Rovuma basin by two consortia led by US company Anadarko Petroleum and Italy's ENI, which are undertaking surveys on adjacent oil blocks.

Speaking to Mozambican news agency AIM, Noel Tomnay, vice president for the natural gas sector at Wood Mackenzie, warned "there is a feeling that, with the slowdown in the growth prospects of liquefied natural gas, a window of opportunity may have been lost."

Tomnay said the major buyers of natural gas in Asia appear to be in no hurry to conclude new contracts because there will soon be an oversupply after the completion of projects that are already in the implementation phase.

A study by Wood Mackenzie showed that the global supply of LNG hovers around 250 million tons per year and there is additional capacity for production of 140 million tons per year, which are currently under construction.

Anadarko Petroleum has been trying to secure contracts for the sale of 12 million tons of LNG per year produced at its project in the Rovuma basin, which it hopes to open in 2020.

The director of Anadarko in Mozambique, John Peffer, told financial news agency Bloomberg that that company had already secured the advance sale of 90 percent of production, which it needs to proceed with the natural gas liquefaction project. (10-09-2015)

S/AFRICA TO PLAY PART IN FOREST CONSERVATION

South Africa is determined to be part of the global response to the challenges relating to forest conservation, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has said during the 14th World Forestry Congress being held in the Indian Ocean port city of Durban.

The five-day congress which started on Monday, brings together governments, non-profit organisations, forest industry and forest communities to seek consensus on important challenges facing forests and the world, from climate change to habitat loss and threats to rural livelihoods.

It is being attended by local and international delegates, including African Union Commission Chair Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Director General of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Jose Graziano da Silva.

"We are confident this congress will help map the future of the forestry sector as a critical pillar of the sustainable development of our planet.

South Africa is determined to be part of the global response to the global challenge of addressing the challenges that face all of us as human being, particularly in relation to how we can conserve our forests, Ramaphosa said.

The congress, which is an event of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), is themed "Forestry and People: Investing in Sustainable Future."

The thorny issue of food security is expected to take centre stage as many states, especially African countries, have vast land not used for agriculture. Forests have historically been the source of more than just wood as many communities still harvest a wide range of food products from the forest environment. (APA 08-09-2015)

NEW PROJECT TO COUNTER RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN SAHEL-MAGHREB REGION

A new pilot project to counter radicalization and violent extremism in the Sahel-Maghreb region was launched in Brussels today during a meeting attended by high-level officials from the EU and the UN.

The initiative will integrate international, regional and local resources to support the countries of the region in countering the growing threat of violent extremism.

This project, financed with €5 million by the EU and implemented by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), will run for four years and promote deradicalization activities in the region through the development of more responsive and inclusive societies. A key component will be the involvement of civil society actors – including NGOs, victims of terrorism, media, cultural associations, women and youth organizations – as primary partners in the implementation of activities.

While being context-specific and people centred the project will facilitate the sharing of experiences, guidelines and good practices in the region and among the different stakeholders. ([EU Neighbourhood 10-09-2015](#))

UGANDA, KENYA AUTHORITIES TO MEET OVER SUGAR DEAL

Uganda and Kenya have set a meeting on September 9-10 to resolve the dispute over the sugar deal allowing Uganda to export her sugar to Kenya.

According to a statement by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), the meeting to be held in Kampala will be attended by the Uganda and Kenya Revenue Authorities, sugar producers across the two countries and the East African Community (EAC).

During his recent visit to Uganda, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta discussed with President Yoweri Museveni, possibilities of Uganda exporting sugar to Kenya.

However Kenya's main opposition leader Raila Odinga spiked off a sugar standoff after he questioned the sugar deal when, according to him, most Kenyan sugar factories are on the verge of closing down.

He contended that the sugar importation from Uganda would kill off the Kenyan sugar industry.

This month's meeting will not be the first time URA is meeting Kenya Revenue Authority officials over the same issue.

Last year in July, a meeting was convened at Serena hotel in Kampala to discuss the sugar issue and Kenya authorities promised to allow Uganda exports into their country which never happened. (APA 08-09-2015)

EU APPROVES FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH CABO VERDE AND GUINEA-BISSAU

The European Parliament Wednesday approved new fisheries agreements with Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) and with Guinea-Bissau, which in Cabo Verde's case will allow 71 vessels from Spain, France and Portugal to fish for tuna and other species.

The agreement between the EU and Cabo Verde was signed a year ago, in August 2014, but was approved Wednesday by the European Parliament, and Cabo Verde will receive 550,000 euros (nearly 60 million escudos) in the first two years and 500 thousand euros in each of the following two.

Cabo Verde will therefore receive 2.1 million euros (228.1 million escudos) in the four years of the term of the agreement, 360,000 euros more than it received under the previous fisheries agreement.

The contract also provides for a monitoring mechanism, strengthening monitoring and surveillance capabilities and support to local fishing communities to promote sustainable fisheries management in the archipelago.

The agreement between the EU and Guinea-Bissau provides for fishing by vessels from Spain, Italy, Portugal, France and Greece for three years.

Guinea will receive 9.2 million euros per year, of which 6.2 million are a payment for access to the resources of the economic zone of Guinea-Bissau and 3 million to support the development of the Guinean fisheries industry. (10-09-2015)

MILAN EXPO ACCORDS KENYA OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE ITS POTENTIAL

A carnival mood engulfed the Milan Expo 2015 on Tuesday as President Uhuru Kenyatta launched Kenya's new international brand, a rare opportunity to market the country at the international arena.

The seven days of events and celebrations started with a parade led by President Kenyatta as he toured various stands.

The President said the exposition accorded Kenya a chance to showcase emerging investment opportunities in various fields as well as entrenching the country's position as a preferred tourist destination.

"We look forward to leveraging this year's Expo to attract more concrete forms of cooperation with Italian

economic operators,” President Kenyatta said.

President Kenyatta was speaking at the Milan Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy, when he kicked off the ‘Kenya Week’ where a series of events have been planned to market Kenya as a “land of unlimited possibilities”.

Kenyatta assured that Kenya is a hospitable country that is unique in many ways. He said the presence of a large number of Italian companies in Kenya, especially in the tourism sector, was a testimony of the country’s position as a suitable investment destination.

He said the expo – which brings together over 150 countries and directly or indirectly touching the lives of more than 20 million people globally – enabled sharing of experiences among participating countries, particularly in dealing with the challenges related to food security. (APA 08-09-2015)

CONSORTIUM RAISES FUNDS TO FINANCE 275,000 COMPANIES IN ANGOLA

The Angolan consortium formed by the Banco de Poupanças e Crédito (BPC) and the Angola Business Corporation (ABC) is raising funds to create 275,000 micro, small and medium enterprises in the country, said Wednesday in Luanda the chairman of the consortium.

The consortium’s chairman, João Paulo Tomás, said at the end of a meeting in Luanda with representatives of the CBH Bank of Switzerland that the company has been seeking external financing to strengthen the intervention capacity of BPC.

Tomás also said the consortium had chosen the Swiss market to secure financing for several projects, all of them included in the National Development Plan for 2013/2017, according to Angolan state news agency Angop.

The chairman of BPC bank, Paixão Júnior said the meeting had made it possible to open a bank account to facilitate correspondence between the two banks. (10-09-2015)

NIGERIAN SENATE BEGINS PROBE OF POWER SECTOR

The Senate has begun probe of the power sector under the administrations of three former Presidents, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the late Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar’Adua and Dr. Goodluck Jonathan.

Nigeria’s Guardian newspaper report on Tuesday explained that the Senate is seeking explanation for the releases and expenditures made from May 29, 1999 to date.

The report said that the Ministry of Power and government agencies in the power sector were given till September 3 to submit 30 copies of reports detailing everything about finance, including expenses, remittances from the Federation Account, and accompanying receipts.

It added that a flurry of activities was noticed in the agencies last week as the chief executive officers and top management staff of the government departments were putting finishing touches to the required documents.

According to the report, a correspondence from the Senate Adhoc Committee on Power, signed by the Clerk of the Committee, Cletus Ojobo, had given September 3 as the deadline for submission of the documents.

The report also said that the Senate has now summoned the Ministry of Power, the agencies and the electricity distribution companies (Discos) to the National Assembly this week to defend their submissions and get cross-examined by the panel.

It was gathered that many of the agencies and Discos would appear before the Senate on Wednesday.

However, the report noted that some stakeholders have expressed reservations about the planned probe, saying the lawmakers are playing to the gallery.

They described the move as an effort to garner popularity for a Senate that is allegedly struggling to court respect and support of the Presidency.

The report recalled that in the last session of the Senate, and indeed since 1999 that civil rule returned, there hasn't been any quality outcome from the incessant probes in the National Assembly, and especially in the Senate.

"Shortly after the exit of President Obasanjo, there were outcries that the power sector should be investigated to uncover how over \$12 billion reportedly spent to upgrade power infrastructure was simply stolen and pocketed by the politicians manning the Power Ministry," the report added. (APA 08-09-2015)

S/AFRICA TO REPATRIATE AFRICAN REFUGEES

Some 2,000 Angolan refugees, many of whom have lived in South Africa for as long as 18 years, will soon face deportation to their homeland following the withdrawal of their refugee status, senior Home Affairs Ministry officials confirmed on Thursday.

According to the officials, the Angolans will be joined by at least three other African countries whose citizens are next on the deportation list.

The additional refugees facing repatriation are from Liberia Rwanda and Sierra Leone, the officials said.

The move is part of Pretoria's new strategy to repatriate refugees once peace and stability have returned to their home countries, the officials added. (APA 10-09-2015)

CAMEROON AND MALI RE-INTRODUCE ENTRY VISAS

The logic of obligatory entry visa which was abolished since 1964, was reciprocally re-introduced by Cameroon and Mali, APA learned on Thursday from relevant offices of the ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yaounde.

The ministry which justified this measure by an adjustment regarding migration policy now in force within the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and the security situation in the country, however, specified that the visas will continue to be free in both directions.

Holders of diplomatic and service passports as well as some professional categories are excluded from this requirement.

The Cameroonian authorities, however, reassured both countries citizens on the fact that the re-introduced entry visas will in no way dull bilateral relations with Mali. (APA 10-09-2015)

ADOPT TERM LIMITS, ECOWAS LEADERS TOLD

The West Africa Civil Society Forum (FOSCAO) at the end of a two-day session in the Senegalese capital Dakar on Thursday urged leaders of member countries of the Economic Community of West African States to adopt the additional protocol on the limitation of their terms in office.

We, West African civil society organizations gathered in Dakar on 9-10 September 2015, have denounced constitutional reforms aimed at maintaining heads of state in power. In order to stop this, we urge the heads of state of ECOWAS to adopt the additional protocol on the limitation of presidential terms Djibril Badiane, the chairman of the Senegalese section of the FOSCA Platform said as he read the final statement.

To bring West African leaders to do so, FOSCAO plans to stage a symbolic protest during the ECOWAS summit to be held in Dakar on Saturday.

FOSCAO further invited political parties from which heads of states cannot be disassociated• to play an important role in the definition of strategies to promote good governance for the sake of regime change.

We encourage civil societies to initiate advocacy campaigns for the limitation of presidential terms in all member states, the FOSCAO statement emphasised.(APA 10-09-2015)

NEW KISS OF LIFE FOR MOGADISHU

Like a snake shedding its old, scraggy skin for a new one, the Somali capital Mogadishu is slowly reinventing itself anew despite security still being a burning issue in the city and other parts of the strife-torn country nestled in the Horn of Africa.

As a strong indication of the city's renewed confidence, Mogadishu hosted a ministerial summit by the regional Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) late last year, wining and dining some of the continent's most important players to discuss economic and social revival in this hitherto troubled country.

Just over two years ago, this would have been a suicidal mission by regional ministers who gathered there to review the post-conflict situation for this country plagued by more than two decades of bloody civil conflict and clan hostilities that have accounted for tens of thousands of deaths and driven millions as refugees in neighbouring Kenya and elsewhere.

Since 2012 when a 21, 000-strong African Union force began expelling Shabaab militants from Mogadishu and tighten their grip around the Somali capital, sporadic attacks hitherto regularly witnessed across this city of over 2 million people have gradually petered out.

Three years later they have become few and far between, the recent twin bombing of a hotel that killed more than 25 people and recent suicide attacks near the presidential palace notwithstanding.

Hosting the Intergovernmental Authority on Development has shown Mogadishu in full confidence if not in full flight from the ills of the past to the glories of the future said Abdi Yarow Arale, a security expert who believes this is heralding a new dawn for the city, the beginning of the end of the country's cycle of seemingly unending violence which has been a near-permanent feature of Somali life since strongman Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991.

Arale says security around Mogadishu has also been boosted by Shabaab's withdrawal from other peripheral provinces thanks to heavy military pressure from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) backed by what remains of the country's battered army.

The ability of the militants which started as a virulent offshoot of the Islamic Courts Union whose members were disbanded and fled abroad has been heavily compromised, prompting them to employ more brazen urban guerrilla warfare tactics.

Shabaab fighters still launch suicide attacks and sporadic raids on the city and other parts of Somalia but these have been few and far between without any discernible regularity like in the past when they held sway in more than half of the country including the important cities of Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo.

"That is good news, but it will be even more meaningful if further support is given to the government of Somalia and regional states and administrations to provide much needed social services to the population in these areas who have not enjoyed such services for a great many years" Uganda's Foreign Affairs official, Simmun Yinki observes.

Yinki's Uganda is one of several countries contributing troops to the AMISOM peacekeeping force which is largely credited for the rebirth of a new Mogadishu where increased security has led to renewed business activity and a bumper building industry.

To the average outsider the city is synonymous with crumbling infrastructural decay after decades of war, violent inter-klan conflicts, chaotic poverty and neglect.

A trip down memory lane reveals this city as literally a theatre of war, a ravaging war zone where lawlessness reigned supreme and allegiance to clans offered the only protection for those deciding not to flee the general atmosphere of mayhem and resultant carnage.

Commuting from one district of the city to the other was always fraught with the gruesome risk of death from shelling, bombing and ubiquitous gunfire that was provoked by a sense of suspicion and fiery rivalries over turfs.

In the past two years however, the truth about Mogadishu is no longer that bloody and stark as the details that supplied the narrative unfold slowly and gradually reveal an inspiring tale of the city's uncelebrated resilience.

It symbolises the triumph of order over chaos and the sounds of cranes and building machines on construction sites taking over from the bursts of machine-gun fire from rooftops and hanging parapets.

The physical signs of conflict from pockmarked buildings to huge road craters are receding from the panoramic view of Mogadishu, a once beautiful and vibrant city straddling the Indian Ocean and in its own right a crossroads of economic, social and cultural significance.

The capital has been witnessing an unprecedented construction boom over the past few years with new high rise buildings sprouting in many of its districts like blooming mushrooms on newly watered grasslands.

From Darusalaam city with its 600 housing units to other development and refurbishments of hospitals, schools and airports to a \$100 million Urban Renewal project, Mogadishu is buzzing with life, namely the sights and sounds of construction works as old offices, stadiums, banks and garbage plants are refurbished while new tall buildings spring up everywhere to make a bold statement on the skyline.

Before the war broke out in 1991 and set the stage for the mayhem that would follow, Mogadishu lived its reputation as the White Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

It was a true hub of business activity in East Africa and rivaled Nairobi the capital of neighbouring Kenya for idyllic tourism along its white sandy beaches festooned by beautiful coral reefs, according to Simmun Yinki.

The shine on the White Pearl is fast regaining its past lost glory he says.

There is good cause for this optimistic confidence not only in the booming construction industry.

Petty traders and ambitious Somali entrepreneurs returning from the United States, the United Kingdom and other western countries are trusting the security climate enough to lead the charge towards a brisk business revival in Mogadishu in a way which many of its citizens hope would catch on with the rest of

the country still far removed from the business centre of gravity.

A new business style by the Somali Diaspora derived from western capitals is the trend in the city where entrepreneurs have not hesitated to launch commercial banks and business fledglings genuinely aspiring for international standards.

Since the first branch of the International Bank of Somalia (IBS) opened in Mogadishu in October 2014, thousands of Somalis have opened personal and business accounts, applied for loans, and even paid for goods and services abroad by transferring funds to that end, according to IBS chief executive officer Hassan Yusuf.

Yusuf says, the new bank applied for and was issued a SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) code, a unique identifier used to transmit messages and money transfers between financial institutions.

Politics, one of the main causes of Somali divisions that led to open conflict is also being given the magic kiss of life.

The Mayor of Mogadishu, Hassan Mohamed Hussein explains to the {African Press Agency} that his administration is so confident about security that it would organize local elections for the city in 2016.

If this comes off, it will be the first time in years that Mogadishu residents will take part in free elections to choose district commissioners.

I am in no doubt we can pull this one off without any security hitches along the way. It will be an unprecedented exercise in democracy in Mogadishu by people who want to lead by example for the rest of the country to follow Hussein enthuses, pounding his right fist in a triumphant wave.

All this would have been impossible to even contemplate without the presence of peacekeepers' boots on the ground Hussein indicates gesturing towards the direction of the main AMISOM base located a few minutes' drive from the heart of the city.

The political front is normalizing with the completion of a draft constitution, the creation of federal states as well as the integration of the national army and eagerly anticipated national elections.

As part of the nascent federal structure, the Somali government has achieved the formation of Jubba and Southwest administrations, while two others in the central states will soon be formed cuts in the spokesman of the Interior and Federalism Ministry, Abdifitah Dahir Mire.

According to him, prioritizing the security of the country in order to implement the strategic goals for 2016 is the main preoccupation of the Somali government aside from ensuring that citizens reap the tangible benefits from the country's newfound peace.

In 2011, 21, 500 troops contributed by Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Djibouti and Sierra Leone under AMISOM and a rejuvenated Somali National Army upped the ante against al-Shabaab militants, driving them from 80 percent of the territory they once controlled as the military campaign forced underground pockets of insurgents still holed up in a liberated Mogadishu.

In August 2014, the Somali government troops backed by AMISOM launched Operation Indian Ocean to clear remaining pockets of Shabaab bases in the countryside including what remained of pirate hideouts along the country's coastline, the longest in continental Africa.

AU Special Representative Maman Sambo Sidikou says Shabaab elements have been constantly on the run with some of their leaders either surrendering to the authority of the Somali government or being killed in action or through US airstrikes.

Others have even defected to the government, crippling the Islamist organization's ability to maintain its grip on its former strongholds like the port city of Kismayo, says Mohamed Yusuf Osman the spokesman

of Ministry of National Security.

And the big powers are responding to the newfound belief in Somalia.

After more than 24 years of diplomatic absence in Somalia, the United States has announced a new ambassador for the country although she has been shuttling between her seat in Nairobi and Mogadishu during her tour of duty.

The United Kingdom's diplomatic mission was one of the first to reopen its old embassy compound which was spruced up for the purpose for which it was built when Britain was a colonial power in some parts of the country.

France, Italy, Japan and South Korea will follow suit as Mogadishu slowly feels the beat of its international pulse once again.

Perhaps no other development in the arena of diplomacy articulated the world's growing confidence in Mogadishu and by extension Somalia better than the visit by Turkish President Reccip Teyip Erdogan at the head of a high powered delegation.

Erdogan pledged millions of dollars in reconstruction aid to Somalia as a re-emergent Turkey vows not to be outdone in supporting the rebuilding process in the country.

A famous Somali proverb castigating the folly of cowardice mocks cowards as full of unnecessary precautions.

In the mirror of a new Mogadishu, a growing number of Somalis in and out of the country are seeing themselves as a brave new army of progressives throwing caution to the wind to supplant war, famine and death with a fresh start imbued with hope and vitality.(APA 10-09-2015)

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