

MEMORANDUM

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The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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EU TO MOBILISE EXTRA BILLION EUROS FOR SYRIA REFUGEES AS TUSK WARNS GREATEST TIDE OF MIGRANTS YET TO COME

With a warning that *“the greatest tide of refugees and migrants is yet to come”*, the EU has said an additional €1 billion at least would be mobilised for help to Syrian refugees in the region through support to international organisations such as the UNHCR and the World Food Programme.

Speaking last night after an EU summit on the migration crisis, President of the European Council Donald Tusk warned: *“We should be talking about millions of potential refugees trying to reach Europe from Syria alone. Not to mention Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea and other places.”*

EU leaders agreed the focus should be *“on the proper protection of our external borders and on external assistance to refugees and the countries in our neighbourhood,”* Tusk said.

Apart from the billion euro pledge and strengthened control at external borders, measures agreed included a substantial increase of the EU's [Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis](#) to support neighbouring countries, increased cooperation with Turkey and support to the Western Balkans, and increased funding of the [Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa](#). (EU Neighbourhood 24-09-2015)

€63 MILLIONS DE FONDS EUROPÉENS POUR UNE COOPÉRATION ACCRUE ENTRE LES PAYS DE L'OcéAN INDIEN

La Commission européenne a adopté hier soir un nouveau programme de [coopération transnationale](#) entre les pays de l'océan Indien. Deux [régions ultrapériphériques](#) de l'UE, Mayotte et La Réunion, sont impliquées, ainsi que les pays tiers suivants: Union des Comores, Madagascar, Maurice, les Seychelles, le Mozambique, la Tanzanie, le Kenya, les Maldives, l'Inde, l'Australie et les Terres australes et antarctiques françaises. L'Afrique du Sud et le Sri Lanka pourraient rejoindre le programme plus tard. Les investissements seront concentrés dans la recherche et l'innovation, la promotion des échanges économiques, la prévention et la gestion des risques naturels liés au changement climatique, la préservation du patrimoine naturel et culturel de la région, et l'organisation d'activités éducationnelles et multiculturelles. Le [Fonds européen de développement régional](#) investit €63,1 millions dans ce programme, dont le budget total, cofinancement national inclus, atteint plus de €74 millions. (EC 24-09-2015)

MOZAMBICAN STATE-OWNED AIRLINE LAM FACES DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION

State-owned Mozambican airline LAM plans to hire a consultant to assess the economic and financial situation of the company and present options in the short, medium and long term, said Mozambique's Minister of Transport and Communications.

Minister Carlos Mesquita said that this assessment was intended to obtain further insight into the real situation of the company, which according to figures presented to the Prime Minister, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, “is not good.”

“Unfortunately, the economic and financial situation is not good and we are aware of it, as results over the last two years show,” said Mesquita, although he gave no figures to illustrate the situation.

At the private meeting with the airline's board of directors the Prime Minister pointed out, among other things, the importance of compliance with flight schedules, taking into account constant passenger complaints in this regard.

"You have to make an assessment of profitable routes that have to be handled carefully so that the company's revenues are maximised, whilst also strengthening management," said Mesquita, according to daily newspaper Notícias. (23-09-2015)

LOCAL WINE PRODUCERS PLAN TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO AFRICA

South African wine producers are trying to cater for Angolans' thirst for sparkling wine and Nigerian demand for bottles of red to penetrate the African market, according to the country's leading trade body for the industry.

Wine producers aimed to more than double annual sales growth to 5% in Nigeria, boosting profits from Africa's largest economy, Matome Mbatha, of Wines of SA, said in an interview in Cape Town on Thursday.

Exports of mostly red wine to the West African nation had risen to 4.5-million litres a year, while Angola bought 6-million litres, of which 5-million litres were bubbly wine, mostly shipments of JC Le Roux, a low-cost sparkling wine that in SA could retail for less than R52 a bottle, Mr. Mbatha said.

"They are crazy about JC Le Roux" in Angola, "it is the biggest mover in the market," Mr. Mbatha said. "In Nigeria, they really like to consume red wine ... as much as it's hot, they love your Pinotage, your Merlot."

Exporters also aimed to increase sales in Uganda, Kenya and Ghana, which along with Angola and Nigeria, were either preparing to or already did produce oil. Another key growth market was China, the world's most populous nation, where exports increased by more than 30% last year, said Mr. Mbatha. SA is the world's seventh-biggest producer of wine by volume, representing 4% of global output last year. White wine grapes, including Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, are grown and. Red varieties include Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinotage, which was created in SA. The local wine industry employs 300,000 people.

Wine exports declined to 422.7-million litres last year from 525.6-million litres in 2013, according to the Wines of SA's website. (Bloomberg 18-09-2015)

AID PARTNERS APPROVE \$273M FOR MOZAMBIQUE BUDGET

A group of Mozambique's nineteen development partners on Monday approved a \$273 million aid package to support the government's state budget and other development projects for the next five years, APA can report.

The group known as the Programme Aid Partners (PAP), who provide support to the national budget, are the largest grouping of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The MoU was signed by the Mozambican Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleane along with the ambassador of Portugal, José Duarte, on behalf of the partners, who are no longer the G19 and have now become the G14, following the exit of Germany, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway, a media statement from the ministry of Finance and Economy reads.

Between 2004 and 2008, Mozambique received \$1.689 billion in general budget support from the same group.

"Because we share Mozambique's ambition to break the poverty line and the ambition of being amongst the developed countries, we are determined to assist until the country achieves the U.N-backed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015," said the ambassador of Portugal, José Duarte, on behalf of the partners Sheridan said.

PAP comprises the African Development Bank, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden,

Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the World Bank.

It is now a simpler structure that is more agile and light and that will force everyone to be more efficient and should result in work that is more focused on substance rather than the process itself said Duarte.

Under the agreement, the government committed itself to continued poverty reduction, democracy and the respect of human rights.(APA 22-09-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA-BISSAU WANT TO COOPERATE IN THE CASHEW SECTOR

Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau plan to cooperate in the cashew sector, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported, citing sources from both countries who took part in the International Cashew Conference held in the Mozambican capital.

The newspaper also reported that representatives of the two countries have initiated contacts and that Guinea-Bissau, the second largest producer of cashew nuts in Africa with an average of 200,000 tons per year, is seeking information about Mozambique's experience in industrialisation of cashews.

Mozambique, the fourth largest African cashew producer and one of the leaders in cashew nut processing in Africa, intends to improve its knowledge of cashew production.

Africa produces half of the cashew nuts sold worldwide, estimated at 3 million tons, but only processes 10 percent of this production, and Filomena Maiopué, director of the Cashew Promotion Institute (Incaju) of Mozambique, advocated an increase in the processing in countries where cashews are produced, "to guarantee jobs and income that the population needs so much."

The director of Incaju said during the conference that Mozambique plans to produce about 100,000 tons of cashews in the 2014/2015 season, 20,000 tons more than the previous season, but about half of what the country produced in the 1970s when was the world's largest producer with 200,000 tons per year.

Mozambique is currently fourth on the list of the largest cashew nut producers in Africa, a list that is headed by Ivory Coast, followed by Guinea-Bissau and Tanzania.

The International Cashew Conference is the world's largest forum for the product, linking research with production and the market by discussing issues such as business, ethical trade and organic production. (24-09-2015)

INAUGURATION OF EU-FUNDED WASTE TREATMENT PLANT IN BAALBECK

Under the auspices and in the presence of HE Nabil de Freige, Minister of State for Administration Reform, a solid waste treatment plant, built and equipped with support from the European Union, was inaugurated today in Baalbeck. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Marcello Mori, Head of the Sustainable Development Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, Members of Parliament of Baalbeck-Hermel, Dr Hamad Hassan, Head of the Municipality of Baalbeck, Mr. Gianandrea Sandri, Director of Cooperazione Italiana, and representatives from local authorities, the civil society and the company that was awarded the tender contract for the operation of the facility.

The EU covered the cost of the construction and equipment of the treatment plant with a grant of €1,426,000. The works were implemented by the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR). The actual processing capacity of the plant is 70 tons of waste per day. The capacity will be extended to 250 tons within the next two years thanks to upcoming EU funds, which will allow for the treatment of all solid waste generated in Northern Beqaa.

Head of the Municipality of Baalbeck Dr Hamad Hassan thanked the European Union as "the main donor and the solid partner," adding that "this facility required a lot of time and follow up until we reached the starting point that will allow for a change in the environmental aspect of the city and of the touristic and agricultural region. It will be a benchmark for the institutional developmental and strategic work that aims to achieve sustainable development, and

administrative and practical decentralisation. Communities and local authorities could then play their central role in resolving the many issues."

"As we have been reminded by the recent dramatic developments regarding what is called 'the solid waste crisis', Lebanon is characterised by a cruel lack of infrastructure adapted to the treatment of household waste," Marcello Mori said. "It is in this context of acute lack of infrastructure that the European Union intervention in this sector in Lebanon for more than 10 years falls," he added.

Minister Nabil De Freige said that he was pleased to inaugurate the new treatment plant, adding that "thanks to two new funds from the EU for €14 and €21 million we will launch the expansion of the treatment plant, in addition to designing and constructing a sanitary landfill near the plant." "For the first time in Lebanon, we will have a model for a comprehensive treatment of waste that includes a sorting and composting plant, a sanitary landfill and a bio-gas unit for electricity production." The minister also pointed out that "the second stage will depend on the success of the current stage", highlighting the importance of sorting at the source and that "work will begin between the ministry and civil society, especially Arc-en-Ciel Association, to raise awareness about this issue, which will help, amongst other things, to produce compost that farmers can benefit from."

The support provided by the EU for the construction of the Baalbeck solid waste treatment plant is part of a broader EU-funded project on solid waste management currently targeting the Municipality of Baalbeck, to then target the Union of Municipalities of Baalbeck in a second stage and the Baalbeck-Hermel governorate in a third stage. This project also foresees the construction of a sanitary landfill and a pilot bio-digester that can produce electricity out of organic waste. It is expected to be completed by the end of this year. In total 60 municipalities representing 400,000 inhabitants will directly benefit from this EU support.

The project for the Union of Municipalities of Baalbeck-Hermel falls under a larger EU-funded solid waste management programme that will target the municipalities of Zahle and Bar Elias, and the Unions of Municipalities of Jeb Jennine, Srar, Tyre, Nabatieh and Bint Jbeil. Actions funded under this programme, which is also implemented by OMSAR, include the construction and extension of solid waste treatment plants and of sanitary landfills that will be managed by the municipalities themselves. A dedicated technical assistance team will also be recruited to support them to fulfill their duties.

EU support complement the current efforts undertaken at national level to limit upstream production of household waste, as well as efforts of sorting at source which will make the recycling and treatment more effective. In total, the EU has already allocated nearly €77.5 million throughout Lebanon for solid waste management. (EC 16-09-2015)

KENYAN STUDENTS CLASH WITH POLICE OVER DELAY IN RELEASE OF LOAN SCHEME FUNDS

The Kenyan police and hundreds of students from various universities in Nairobi on Tuesday engaged each other in running battles in the streets of the capital as students protested over the delay in disbursement of Higher Education Loan Board (HELB) funds.

The students took to the streets and accused the board for failure to release the funds at the beginning of the semester in September.

The agitated students went on the rampage as they pelted the police and vehicles with stones.

The strike was led by University of Nairobi students' organisation leader Babu Owino.

"We are tired with this incompetent board, we cannot even attend classes because we haven't paid our school fees," Daniel Ouma told APA.

The police later arrested 10 students who they said will be charged for malicious damage of public

property.

However in a statement, HELB later called for patience.

“We call on students to exercise patience as the board works closely with other key stakeholders to finalise the disbursement process,” said HELB. (APA 22-09-2015)

SOUTH AFRICAN ORGANISATION WILL CO-MANAGE NATIONAL PARK IN MOZAMBIQUE

South Africa’s Peace Park Foundation will provide US\$20 million for activities to boost the Zinave National Park, located in the Mozambican province of Inhambane, according to a co-management agreement signed Tuesday.

The agreement signed with the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), of the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development of Mozambique, will allow the development of several biodiversity conservation projects, construction of tourist facilities, management and protection of natural resources and support to community programmes and tourism development.

Under the agreement the Peace Park Foundation will provide the sum announced over the next five years, although the project implementation phase, which is expected to take two years, will consume about US\$9 million.

The Minister of Land, Forestry and Rural Development, Celso Correia, acknowledged the many problems facing conservation areas, one of which is poaching, which the Zinave Park has experienced. Correia also acknowledged that Mozambique did not have a high level of tourist facilities and a well-honed management model like South Africa, Kenya and Namibia, for example, but added that the creation of partnerships like this can make the difference.

The National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) is responsible for sustainable management of the country’s conservation areas for biodiversity conservation and development promotion.

The Peace Park Foundation (PPF) is a non-profit organisation, whose main area of activity is to support the establishment and development of cross-border conservation areas in Africa. (24-09-2015)

KAGISO MEDIA HEADS TO GHANA

Kagiso Media has acquired a 37% stake in Ghana’s Global Media Alliance Broadcasting Company for an undisclosed amount and is busy setting up a direct presence in the West African country.

This is part of the company’s strategy to build a significant media company in SA and in the rest of Africa.

The Ghana transaction was expected to be followed by another transaction in Kenya, Kagiso Media CEO Mark Harris said on Friday.

“We want to create the equivalent of our (South African) Kagiso Media in Ghana. We have not decided whether we are going to call it Kagiso Media.

“We are sending quite a number of people to Ghana. It’s key people from radio and we are sending some sales and creative people too.”

In Ghana, Kagiso Media also owns Reel African, which provides content to the African diaspora overseas.

The new acquisition, Global Media Alliance Broadcasting Company, operates Happy FM, YFM Accra and free-to-air terrestrial television e.tv Ghana. Sabido Investments, which owns e.tv in SA, is a shareholder in e.tv Ghana in partnership with Global Media Alliance.

Kagiso Media is fully owned by pan-African investment company Kagiso Tiso Holdings.

In SA, Kagiso Media’s investments include Kaya FM, Gagasi FM, Jacaranda FM and Urban Brew Studios. (BD 21-09-2015)

NIGERIAN AGENCY WARNS AGAINST CONSUMPTION OF BRAND MAGGI NOODLES

Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC, has warned Nigerians to be careful of the distribution and sales of a particular brand of Maggi noodles produced by Nestle India in the country.

NAFDAC said these noodles contain excess lead and are therefore unsafe and hazardous for human consumption.

"Nestle has recalled its Maggi instant noodles from stores across India, following the report by the Indian Food Safety Regulators of probable lead contamination. Lead exposure causes an estimated 143,000 deaths a year worldwide.

"In view of the potential safety concerns on consumption of the lead contaminated Maggi instant noodles, NAFDAC warns that Maggi instant noodles produced by Nestle India should not be consumed.

"Departmental stores, wholesalers and retailers should also be proactive in ensuring that such products are brought to NAFDAC if they come across any, and under no circumstances should such products be sold," NAFDAC warned. (APA 22-09-2015)

SMES IN MOZAMBIQUE TO HAVE MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM 2016

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Mozambique will have over 572 million meticaís (US\$13.2 million) available to fund their activities, said the Director General of the Office for Accelerated Development Zones (Gazeda).

Danilo Nalá, cited by Mozambican newspaper Notícias, said that a considerable part of the money available from 2016 comes from a fund for SMEs operating in the regions covered by the Zambezi Valley initiative and the Nacala Corridor, and the remaining portion, estimated at 44 million meticaís, would be granted by the Office for Support to Small Investors (GAPI).

This information was provided by the Director-General of Gazeda at the Nampula Investor Conference, which recently brought together over 300 government representatives, Mozambican and foreign businesspeople, academics and politicians, among others. (24-09-2015)

STRONG EIB COMMITMENT IN SUPPORT OF TUNISIAN ENTERPRISES: NEW EUR 50M (TND 110.13M) FINANCING OPERATION WITH AMEN BANK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RÉSEAU ENTREPRENDRE

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is confident that the private sector is set to play a key role in reviving growth and employment in Tunisia and has provided a new line of credit worth EUR 50m (TND 110.13m) to AMEN BANK in support of Tunisian industrial and commercial enterprises. The financing agreement entered into between AMEN BANK and the EIB was signed on Thursday 17 September 2015 by Mr. Ahmed El Karm, Chairman of the Executive Board of AMEN BANK, and EIB Vice-President Mr. Román Escolano.

This is another EIB operation of great socio-economic importance, involving close cooperation with civil society (Réseau Entreprendre) and a key banking sector player (AMEN BANK). Support for development projects can be provided not only to midcaps in Tunisia but also SMEs and micro-enterprises. AMEN BANK undertakes to dedicate 10% of the credit line made available by the EIB to Tunisian micro-enterprises, which will receive a preferential rate of interest. Special attention will be paid to the rapid processing of loan applications and the implementation of rules of good governance within these micro-enterprises. The Réseau Entreprendre association will continue to play a coaching and

supporting role for these enterprises and serve as a primary contact for AMEN BANK in order to facilitate access to finance for these micro-enterprises.

"This finance is vital for Tunisia and the Tunisian people and it concerns all enterprises from midcaps to micro-enterprises", stated EIB Vice-President Román Escolano. "Access to finance is crucial for the development and competitiveness of businesses. It will also generate jobs and promote social inclusion. Thanks to a personalised supply of finance, small project sponsors that are finding it difficult to obtain financing can get a loan and be supported. This will enable them to be integrated sustainably in society whilst preserving and creating jobs. Therein lies the value added of the finance that we are providing."

"This agreement will enable Amen Bank to offer MSMEs a wide range of finance from external resources on acceptable terms. It will serve to finance projects in sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, transport, education, health and general services for up to 10 years on terms in line with the domestic market and can cover both the interest rate and foreign exchange risk. Thanks to Réseau Entreprendre's support, quality assistance will also be provided to MSMEs in compliance with the rules of good governance, which will help ensure the sustainability and viability of these enterprises", remarked Ahmed El Karm, Chairman of the Executive Board of Amen Bank.

In view of the current liquidity squeeze, this EIB support for the private sector via innovative partnerships will contribute to the consolidation of Tunisia's banking sector via the diversification of the sources of finance and the long maturities of the lines of credit offered by the EIB, which are increasingly rare on the market. The concrete results of this new line of credit are expected to have a very positive impact on businesses' access to finance and on jobs in keeping with the previous line of credit signed in December 2012 by the EIB. With the support of Tunisia's banking sector (banks and leasing companies), this line of credit enabled more than 500 projects to be financed, thereby helping to create or safeguard more than 2 800 jobs throughout Tunisia.

The EIB, the leading international development financier in Tunisia, has mobilised substantial resources to meet the expectations expressed by the Tunisian people as best it can and thus support the transition of Tunisia. Since the democratic uprising in January 2011, the EIB has invested just over EUR 1.1bn (TND 2.503bn) in the implementation of new projects in key sectors of the Tunisian economy such as energy, private sector support, infrastructure, education and social housing. In the Mediterranean partner countries as a whole, the EIB has invested EUR 5.2bn since January 2011 to meet the region's ever changing needs.(EIB 17-09-2015)

S/LEONE ANTI-GRAFT AGENCY COMPLAINS IMPERSONATION

Sierra Leone's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has announced a free toll line to complain against impersonators, reports said on Tuesday.

The ACC is concerned that nonmembers of the Commission have been extorting money from unsuspecting members of the public claiming to be working for it.

No ACC staff should ask for, or demand money, or favor from anyone in the performance of their duties, Koloneh Sankoh, Director of Public Education and Outreach, ACC, said in a statement.

The Public is therefore advised to demand and confirm an identification if approached by any person(s) purporting to be staff of the ACC, the statement reads in part, while announcing the 161 free toll provided by the mobile telephone giant Aitel.

The act, according to the ACC, constitutes an offence under the country's Anti-Corruption Act 2008.

Corruption is so endemic in Sierra Leone that it is done almost openly.

A few bad people have taken advantage of the apparent inability of the ACC to respond adequately in terms of staff number by demanding on the spot-payment from people caught engaging in corruption.

The ACC has in the past prosecuted a number of people for this.

The Commission, in its statement on Tuesday, warned that it will continue to do so. (APA 22-09-2015)

HOTELS IN ANGOLA HOST MORE ANGOLANS THAN FOREIGNERS

Hotels in Angola were used in 2014 by about 1 million Angolans and 594,000 foreigners who visited the country, according to the Statistical Yearbook of Tourism of Angola, presented in Luanda.

The publication presented at the opening of the celebrations of World Tourism Day, to be marked Sunday, 27 September, adds that in 2014 the sector employed 212,000 workers and generated revenue of US\$500 million, according to state-owned newspaper Jornal de Angola.

The Director of the Office of Studies, Planning and Statistics of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Januário Marra, who presented the yearbook, said domestic tourism was of increasing value given the high number of Angolans who stay in the country's hotels, unlike what happens with foreigners.

Marra said that foreigners visiting Angola do it, for the most part on business rather than for holidays and leisure.

The Angola Tourism Statistics Yearbook provides data on entries at the country's borders, on the hotel network, accommodation capacity, business value, occupancy rates, development of domestic tourism, impact on employment and concepts of tourism.

The Secretary of State for Tourism, Varo Kaputo said Angola currently has 14,143 rooms and 18,245 beds, and the tourism sector accounts for more than 212,000 direct jobs. (24-09-2015)

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT NIGERIA'S CONNECTIVITY EVOLUTION

Recent research from the [World Bank](#) identified broadband and connectivity as key drivers for economic growth. Therefore, it is not surprising to see many countries and governments around the world investing significantly in their communication infrastructures.

Africa is no exception to this trend, with Nigeria posing an interesting example. In 2014, the country became the [strongest economy](#) in Africa with a GDP of \$568.51 billion USD. With strong figures such as these, the government is looking to continue the momentum with national initiatives like the [National Broadband Plan](#).

The National Broadband Plan aims to improve internet usage and connectivity across Nigeria's states. Its mission statement summarises its objectives eloquently, "The Federal Government of Nigeria recognises the immense socio-economic importance of broadband services to national development and therefore seeks to ensure that the infrastructure necessary to provide ubiquitous broadband services is available and accessible to all citizens at affordable rates."

The end-goal should be applauded and the results of coordinating internal agencies with increased financial investment does appear to be having a positive effect on services. Internet penetration has risen [6% since 2013](#), which shows the importance of long-term planning.

One factor in Nigeria's favour is the country's geographical position and its existing investment in submarine cables. This enables the country to provide connectivity to international firms looking to leverage the West African region, which in turn delivers economic improvements across Nigeria. While submarine cables allow larger volumes of data to be transmitted, it is important to note that directing too much data traffic at an early stage could lead to network disruption.

That said, the city of Lagos is a strong example of a Nigerian city that is investing in solutions to cope with potential network chokepoints. In order to alleviate capacity concerns, Nigeria has decided to build four new hubs in the coastal states of Bayelsa, Cross River, Ondo and Rivers. These hubs will help reduce network vulnerabilities and aid the process of laying land cables to the rest of the country. It should also help accelerate the deployment of network infrastructure and make the process more cost effective for the operators responsible for providing the infrastructure.

Nigerian National Networks

As outlined in the National Broadband Plan, one of the government's key promises is to create a national

network extending across 60 cities, including the capital Abuja, Lagos and the more rural areas in the north of the country. This includes partnering with African telecommunication providers to deploy the consumer side of the strategy and to improve broadband availability.

Again, it is relevant to analyse Lagos. Home to 12% of Nigeria's population and 60% of the country's commercial output, the need for sufficient infrastructure is crucial, especially as the city is home to many international organisations that connect to West Africa's financial exchanges.

As well as the large cities, equally important are the more rural northern and central regions of Nigeria. To handle these areas, Nigeria is considering a series of network towers and a large engineering workforce to improve network availability and to ensure efficient power is distributed effectively.

Even with all of the above measures in place, it is still a little early to pass judgment on the success of the plan. Streamlining the country's workforce via digital methods and using enhanced connectivity to revitalise entire sectors will likely lead to socio-economic improvements. The global appeal of Nigeria as a business centre is also improved. The '30% by 2018' broadband penetration target might turn out to [be slightly too ambitious](#). What is apparent however, is that Nigeria will undoubtedly transform over the coming years, and it will be incredibly interesting to watch its evolution as a digital hub. (IT News Africa 21-09-2015)

PM ORDERS INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF LOSS-MAKING MOZAMBIQUE CARRIER

Mozambique's Prime Minister, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario has ordered that flag-carrier, Mozambique Airlines LAM should hire an independent consultant to analyse its financial woes and propose solutions, APA observes here on Tuesday.

According to state Mozambique News Agency, AIM, Rosario, accompanied by Transport Minister Carlos Mesquita, visited the LAM headquarters and was faced with the picture of a serious deficit.

At the end of the visit Mesquita said Unfortunately the economic and financial situation of the company is not good, and there is an awareness of that. The results have been telling us this for the past two years.

Mesquita believed it was possible to make LAM a profitable company, but for that to happen everyone must be prepared to make sacrifices.

We are going to view this as a challenge, since the company continues to have passengers, said Mesquita. We have to make an internal analysis courageously to know where these problems come from, why they have been coming, and how we can overcome them. •

The Prime Minister said it is necessary to use the services of an independent consultant who will make an X-ray of the state of the company and present options in the short, medium and long term for reversing the financial deficit and going into profit, added Mesquita. He gave no details on the size of the LAM deficit.

During Rosario's meeting behind closed doors with the senior LAM management, according to Mesquita, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of the company keeping to its timetable.

There have been repeated passenger complaints of LAM flights being late or cancelled.

An assessment must be made of the profitable routes and they must be treated seriously, so that the company's revenue is maximized, said Mesquita.

LAM, which last made profit in 1999, is operating with a fleet of only 14 aircraft, making 50 flights a day to 11 domestic and four regional destinations.

When one or more of the planes is taken out of service for scheduled maintenance, the timetable comes under severe pressure. (APA 22-09-2015)

WANT TO BUY LUNCH, CLOTHES, PHONE CARDS? ASK A HARARE POLICEMAN

Walking through the corridors of the homicide section at Harare's main police station, it is the "for sale" signs on office doors that stand out more than the stench coming from the dimly lit underground hallways.

Most Zimbabweans survive through vending and hawking and the police are no exception.

Zimbabwe has been struggling for five years to recover from a catastrophic recession which led to widespread food shortages, fuelling 500-billion percent hyperinflation and prompting it to adopt the US dollar in 2009. Drought and weak global commodity prices have halved this year's economic growth forecast to 1.5%.

It's a far cry from the joy of independence in 1980, when President Robert Mugabe was revered by many at home and the World Bank rated Zimbabwe the most promising economy in Africa.

Now, alongside maintaining law and order in the capital city, some junior police officers sell phone recharge cards and the staple pap served with beef trotters inside their offices to supplement income.

"It is normal, that's how you earn extra money. Everyone wants to eat and make a call," said a police constable who could not be named because she is not authorised to speak to the press.

Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba said she was not aware of the practice, which is against police regulations.

The cost of living in Harare remains unusually high for an emerging economy. The Consumer Council of Zimbabwe estimates an average family of six needs \$580 a month to buy enough food and household essentials. The lowest ranking police officer earns a gross monthly salary of \$527.

Outside the main station, police charge traders at Harare's busiest flea markets a daily rate of \$5 to sell clothes — mostly second-hand and imported from Mozambique, where they are donated by Western charities.

In July, Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa banned imports of used clothes. They are now smuggled instead across the long, poorly-policed border.

As Zimbabwe sheds any veneer of formally regulated commerce, a host of vendor unions claim to represent between 100,000 and 6-million traders, nearly half the nation's 13-million people.

Where did the jobs go?

Zimbabwe had the second most developed industrial base in southern Africa at independence and was among the fastest-growing economies on the continent between 1996-98.

But in 1999-08 it became Africa's fastest shrinking economy, destroying 200,000 jobs outside the agriculture sector.

Power cuts, expensive loans and cheaper imports have helped push the unemployment rate to more than 80%. Mining still generates 52% of Zimbabwe's export income, but this year falling platinum and gold prices earnings are expected to drag down earnings.

Official data show that just 800,000 people, in a population of 13-million, paid tax in 2014. The 530,000 government workers account for more than half of these, while mining jobs have stuck at 45,000 since 1999.

Many have sought work abroad, and their remittances, which reached \$874m last December, have become an important source of income for many families. The central bank expects the figure to reach \$1bn by year end.

Economic analysts say it would take foreign investment, a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade and cheaper international finance to revive industrial output, create more formal jobs and boost tax revenue. Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries president Busisa Moyo says manufacturers are now operating at 36% capacity, near levels in 2008 at the nadir of recession.

"This is a very big worry for the manufacturing sector and commercial sector," Mr Moyo said.

More than 4,600 companies shut between 2011-14, at a cost of 55,443 jobs. Unions say 25,000 employees were sacked after a Supreme Court ruling in July allowed firms to fire workers by giving three months' notice without paying severance packages.

Agriculture, hurt by Mr Mugabe's seizures of white-owned commercial farms in 2000, has struggled to recover, forcing Zimbabwe to import food.

While tobacco farming, traditionally a major earner, recovered last year to near record output thanks to demand from China and financing to growers, it remains unclear just how much vendors contributed to the official economic growth figure of 3.1%. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency has redefined

unemployment to show that 94% of the working population is employed, in the informal sector. That includes vendors.

"We need to come up with measures of transitioning informality to formality. That is fundamental to our growth and recovery," said Godfrey Kanyenze, director of the Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe.

Yet Harare's vendor unions complain the city council won't allocate them space to trade and say police constantly harass them as they jostle to sell school uniforms, fresh vegetables and pirated movies.

Moses Karawira, 26, is a trained car electrician. He spends the day accosting motorists to sell cold water, chewing gum and sweets.

"It's not desirable that everybody is now a vendor," he told Reuters. "If you check all these people, there are so many with the right qualifications but there are no jobs." (Reuters 21-09-2015)

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