

MEMORANDUM

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LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE WAR VETERANS BOYCOTT MUGABE'S HEROES SPEECH

Leaders of Zimbabwean war veterans on Monday boycotted a speech by President Robert Mugabe to honour fighters of the independence war, widening a rift with the leader, whom the veterans have asked to step down.

The Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association (ZNLWVA) last month denounced Mugabe, 92, as a divisive dictator, in a jolting rebuke underlining mounting anger over economic woes. The ZNLWVA executive was absent from National Heroes Day celebrations in the capital to honour living and dead fighters of the 1970s liberation war.

This is the first time leaders of the group have failed to attend the celebrations since the association was formed in 1990. The group has anchored Mugabe's election campaigns since 2000, when the first major opposition to the president emerged with the formation in 1999 of the main opposition party Movement For Democratic Change led by Morgan Tsvangirai.

ZNLWVA secretary-general Victor Matemadanda said his group had boycotted Monday's event because it had lost its meaning. "We said as an executive we have no reason to attend because it (National Heroes Day) is not intended to achieve the true goal to honour the war veterans," Matemadanda told Reuters.

"We said because we are being persecuted continuously, there is no reason why we should go there. In fact if you go there, you will never know what they will think, maybe they will think of arresting us or other comrades who have not been arrested." Mugabe's government has arrested and charged war veterans' leaders in a crackdown against his former allies.

In his 50-minute speech, Mugabe did not mention the war veterans but instead accused activist pastor Evan Mawarire of calling for violent antigovernment protests. Mawarire's #ThisFlag movement led a protest in July that closed businesses, government offices, schools and hospitals — the most significant popular defiance of Mugabe in a decade. "If protests are allowed, let them be peaceful, not to be like the ones advocated by Mawarire," Mugabe said.

Zimbabwe is struggling to pay salaries to soldiers, police and other public workers, which could stoke political tensions in a nation plagued by drought, a drop in mineral prices and chronic cash shortages — all factors behind unrest against Mugabe, the only leader independent Zimbabwe has known.

Mugabe's government is drafting a Computer Crime and Cyber Crime Bill, which will allow authorities to seize phones and laptops. It is seen as a bid to curb the use of social media to organise antigovernment demonstrations. Information Communication Technology Minister Supa Mandiwanzira defended the bill, saying it had been planned a long time ago and was similar to legislation in other countries. (Reuters 10-08-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE SEEKING US\$3M TO MINIMISE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

Public Works, Housing and Water Resources Minister Carlos Bonete says the Mozambican government is seeking US\$3 million to pump water from Massingir Dam to feed lower Limpopo River as part of a strategy to minimize the effects of drought in the southern Gaza province currently facing severe food shortages.

The minister said Tuesday that the money is intended to purchase of water pumps which is a priority at the moment.

"The amount of water we need is not little. So we need pumps with high capacity to carry water," Bonete said while addressing the coordinating council of his ministry.

Mozambique's Institute of National Disaster Management says at least 1.5 million people in the country are food insecure and without much water for their consumption and for livestock watering.

Several southern African countries, including Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, have declared national drought emergencies. (APA 09-08-2016)

SOUTH AFRICAN'S BUSINESSES MORE AT RISK OF FAILURE THIS YEAR THAN BEFORE

South African businesses are more likely to fail in 2016 amid low economic growth and tough operating conditions, a study released on Wednesday suggests.

The study by global leader in trade credit insurance Euler Hermes, entitled 2016 — A tough year, forecasts that the failure of South African businesses is more likely and that insolvencies will possibly increase about 10% year on year in 2016.

This would be the first outright deterioration since 2009 and the preceding global financial crisis, the study said.

The South African business environment was troubled by ongoing structural rigidities, including uneasy labour relations and political instability resulting in violent protests, Euler Hermes researchers noted in the study.

The business environment was weighed down by at least four other factors including weak international commodity prices, China's economic slowdown, drought conditions resulting in weakened agricultural output and increased imports of maize and other foods, and uncertainties relating to US monetary policy tightening.

A lack of skilled labour, limited job creation, high unemployment and underemployment, infrastructure bottlenecks and weak public sector delivery were among the structural impediments limiting SA's economic growth, Euler Hermes chief economist Ludovic Subran said.

"With all the challenges businesses are faced with, it affirms that doing business in the current environment means taking certain risks, such as late payments, bad debts, bankruptcies and unpaid invoices. In the short-term, companies may partially recover from these events, but in the long-term the credit risk jeopardises the future of the businesses," Subran said.

COMPANHIA DE BIOENERGIA DE ANGOLA TO PRODUCE 47,000 TONS OF SUGAR

Companhia de Bioenergia de Angola (Biocom) expects to produce 47,000 tons of sugar by this coming October, the end of the 2015/2016 agricultural season, the company indicated in a statement released on Monday.

During the current season, the company based at Cacuso in Malanje province should also produce 16,000 cubic metres of ethanol and 155,000 megawatts/hour of electric power from biomass.

Biocom has to date processed sugarcane to produce 8947 tons of sugar, 2186 cubic metres of ethanol and 8600 megawatts/hour of power.

In the last season the company produced 24,700 tons of sugar, 10,200 cubic metres of ethanol and 42,000 megawatts/hour of power.

Biocom, situated in the Capanda Agro-Industrial Park, is a private company whose shareholders are Odebrecht Angola Projectos e Serviços Lda, pertaining to the Brazil's Odebrecht group, with a 40 percent stake, the Angolan group Cochan, likewise 40 percent, and the state-held Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola (Sonangol), with the remaining 20 percent. (09-08-2016)

TOURISTS GROW BY 14.7 PERCENT IN SWAZILAND

Swaziland has recorded a 14.7 percent growth in international arrivals in a 12-month period ending in May 2016, APA reports here on Tuesday.

Sebenzile Ginindza, the Information, Research and Statistics Officer said, "The largest number of tourist was coming from South Africa followed by Mozambique."

Swaziland received 69 150 tourists during this period most of whom were from South Africa while 17 860 were from Mozambique.

The MTN Bushfire Festival has been listed among the national events that attracted a lot of tourists.

Swaziland will continue to be a busy country between August and September as it will be hosting the 36th Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit, the International Trade Fair and the Reed Dance ceremony.

Hoteliers have already reported, through the Swaziland Tourism Authority, that their facilities have been fully-booked around the last week of August up to the first week of September 2016. (APA 09-08-2016)

ENERGY THE 'LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL' FOR MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMY



Mozambique's energy sector, which includes major projects being launched by Chinese companies, offers the country the best prospects to overcome the current adverse economic period, analysts have indicated.

One recently launched project is the building of a coal-fired power plant in Tete province, a US\$25.5 million investment involving Shanghai Electric Power and Ncondezi Energy. Another planned thermoelectric plant in Tete involves the governments of Mozambique and Zambia.

The most recent report on Mozambique by credit-rating agency Standard Poor's calls attention to current economic and financial difficulties. It estimates real GDP growth of just 4 percent this year, one of the lowest in recent decades, though predicting that it will accelerate to 6 percent in 2017 and 7 percent in 2018, with gas sector investments on the rise, along with those in power and transportation networks.

Construction of most railway track linking ports in the north and centre of the country to new coal deposits should sustain higher coal production in 2016-2019 "provided international coal prices recover from the current low levels," indicates the report.

More significantly, S&P believes that the government and foreign partners in liquid natural gas (ENI and Anadarko Petroleum) will conclude negotiations on this year's investment framework, allowing construction of facilities to begin in 2017-2018.

The Economist Intelligence Unit sees foreign investment staying low in the short term, though recovering slowly beyond 2017 if the government takes sufficient steps to re-establish the IMF programme, which would be a crucial sign to investors that authorities are responding to the economic crisis.

Privatisation of assets should attract some investment, while capital employed in the gas industry may recover in the middle term, it specifies, adding that given slow overall demand for Mozambique's main exports there will be no promise of high returns to attract investors; the government will have to boost efforts to improve the business climate.

China should become one of the main clients for Mozambican natural gas, where it has already made its presence felt. The Chinese National Offshore Oil Corp has obtained the first long-term contract envisaging the annual purchase of from 2 million to 2.5 million tons of gas, a quarter of production capacity at the first liquefaction unit associated to Area 1 of the Rovuma Basin, where Anadarko Petroleum is the lead operator.

Chinese oil companies' interest in Mozambican natural gas had already led Sinopec to buy from Italy's ENI a 20 percent stake in Area 4, next to the one operated by Anadarko, for US\$4.2 billion.

According to Standard Bank, natural gas exports will initially earn US\$67 billion for Mozambique. With six liquefaction plants operational earnings will rise to US\$212 billion.

The final decisions on Mozambique project investment by ENI and Anadarko are expected in coming months. ExxonMobil and Qatar Petroleum should also be involved, Reuters recently reported.

ENI envisages financing of US\$11 billion, selling a 20 percent stake in the Mamba well to ExxonMobil, a deal which could result in US\$1.3 billion in tax earnings for Mozambique. That sum would be equivalent to the 'hidden' debts whose discovery led to cancellation of support from the IMF and other partners. China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (China National Petroleum Group, stakeholder in Rovuma Basin Area 4) will conduct the feasibility study for the 2600 km Rovuma/Gauteng gas pipeline announced last March. Once the investment decision is made, Chinese financial institutions will take on 70 percent of the financing.

Chinese involvement means the project will be a triple winner, the analyst Aubrey Hruby of the Atlantic Council Africa Centre has stated.

"China gains because Chinese contractors get the business; South Africa and Mozambique gain because they secure the gas they need and Zimbabwe and Zambia gain because they also need energy," said Hruby, cited by Interfax. (09-08-2016)

DAKAR HOSTS ROUNDTABLE ON SECULARISM

A roundtable on secularism in Senegal opens in Dakar on Thursday at the initiative of the National Reform Group which aims to deepen and focus national debates on issues of general interest.

"This roundtable aims to deepen the debate in order to contribute to generating the necessary consensus on the specific issue of secularism" the organizers said in a statement on Tuesday.

"During two days, panelists and participants will deepen the debate on issues specifically affecting the issue of secularism of our institutions, analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the models previously applied and, in the context of our changing societies, identify possible convergences for a better future of our nation and Africa," the statement said.

According to the organizers, notions of republic, democracy, secularism, human rights, etc have been debated more or less explicitly by broad sections of society in recent years with a view to the required rebuilding process to adapt to the country's social and cultural realities.

"These notions have been repeated endlessly since independence without the Senegalese people having a real appropriation allowing them to construct meaning with them and enshrine them in a historiography accessible to them," the statement said.

"Secularism is especially often regarded as a foreign body coming from remote historiography and especially imposed in the package of colonization under the false pretext of a civilizing mission," the statement added.

"They are also considered as principles shaping the dominant discourse and the single thought on governance of globalized societies. However, another section of society considers these principles as immutable and adapted to the institutional and political configuration of the state" the statement said. (APA 09-08-2016)

ETHIOPIA: TWO TURBINES INSTALLED AT CONTROVERSIAL DAM



Ethiopia has installed two turbines at a controversial dam being built on the River Nile although an ongoing disagreement with Egypt over the project remains unresolved.

The two turbines will enable the half-completed dam to generate 700 MW, according to Dr Debrezion Gebremichael Minister of Communication and Information Technology who was giving a regular update about the project in Addis Ababa on Tuesday.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam comprises 16 Francis turbines with a total installed power of 6,000 MW.

Power to be generated from the two turbines is expected to improve electricity supply in Ethiopia which produces 3000 mega watt less every year.

Located in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will be the largest power plant in Africa once completed.

The Ethiopian authorities say the dam will catapult the country into one of the world's largest electricity producers and generate \$1 billion annually.

It is also envisaged to benefit downstream countries and Ethiopia's other neighbours with abundant and cheap power supply.

Egypt has been spearheading opposition to the building of the dam which Cairo fears may drastically cut its share of water from the River Nile.

Ethiopia had always dismissed such fears as ill-informed in a bid to assure its neighbor to the north that the environmental impact of the dam project was grossly exaggerated. (APA 09-08-2016)

SENEGAL SETS AFRICA GENDER PARITY BENCHMARK



Senegal is the foremost proponent of gender parity in Africa, a striving which should be applied by other countries on the continent, according to United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A). In a statement on Tuesday ahead of marking African Day of Decentralization and Local Development on Wednesday, the UCLG-A called on political authorities and parliaments to take voluntary action to facilitate women consisting at least 30 percent of local elections lists.

"The example of Senegal which has adopted laws for gender parity should be pondered and imitated" the statement said.

This year's African Day of Decentralization and Local Development will cast a heavy spotlight on gender equity and women's empowerment according to UCLG-A.

This year's commemoration which falls on Wednesday will have as its theme "Gender, equity, and women empowerment key for achieving African's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

According to the UCLG-A sub-themes will look into ways of improving women's representation in local governments across Africa, empower those in rural areas and their role in ending poverty and hunger on

the continent.

The organization which represents local government authorities in Africa said women's representation in political and administrative bodies has been at the heart of its concern for over five years.

"It is indeed during the Africities 2009 Summit in Marrakech, Morocco that the members of our organization have instructed the Secretariat to promote the network of local elected women of Africa (REFELA)" said.

The REFELA founding forum was held in Tangiers, Morocco five years ago. (APA 09-08-2016)

TURKISH AIRLINES TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO SHARM EL-SHEIKH



Turkish Airlines has issued a statement on Tuesday revealing plans to resume flights to the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh on September 10, 2016.

Airlines from Russia, Britain, Germany and other nations suspended flights to Sharm el-Sheikh Airport following the bombing of a Russian passenger plane on October 31, 2015.

The plane disintegrated 23 minutes after it took off from the airport, killing all 224 passengers on board, a tragedy for which the Islamic State had claimed responsibility.

However, satisfied with the security measures in place at the airport, Turkish Airline said its flights from Istanbul to the resort town and vice versa will be resumed to the town, assuring future passengers that it was now sufficiently safe to fly the route.

Turkish Airlines said it will run four flights a week back and forth between Istanbul and Sharm el-Sheikh on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

The flights will take off from Istanbul at 23:30 and arrive in Egypt at 01:45, according to the airline's statement.(APA 09-08-2016)

FRANCE TO BANKROLL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambique is one of several African countries to benefit from a \$2 billion kitty granted by the French government to shore up environmental conservation in underdeveloped nations.

According to local reports in Maputo on Tuesday, an announcement to that effect was made by the French Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy minister, Ségolène Royal after meeting Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi during a working visit to the southern African nation recently.

The French official reportedly said the fund is intended specifically for projects in renewable energy, sustainable exploitation of tourism and marine resources, in particular fishing activity.

Of the amount earmarked for this undertaking to the African beneficiaries, \$2 million will benefit Mozambique.

The funding was announced in December last year by French President Francois Hollande, as the country's contribution to a \$10 billion pledge from the international community in the area of environmental protection in Africa within the framework of the commitments made at the Climate Change Conference or COP21 held in Paris.

At the conference, the fledgling fund, set up under the U.N, was in the spotlight as countries lined up to make public pledges, bringing its total resources to over \$10 billion.

The money is to be spent on projects to help poor countries curb carbon emissions and weather the impacts of climate change with a particular focus on Africa.(09-08-2016)

UGANDA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTED AT 5.5 PERCENT

Uganda's central bank projects Uganda's to grow at 5.5 percent this financial year 2016/2017. The Governor of the Bank of Uganda, Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, while announcing the Monetary Policy Statement for August 2016 on Monday said that Uganda's economy made recovery in the fourth quarter of last financial year 2015/2016 after suffering setbacks in the third quarter.

According to Mutebile, domestic demand is picking up with the economy projected to grow more strongly in financial year 2016/17 at about 5.5 percent compared to the preliminary estimate of 4.6 percent in financial year 2015/16.

The Governor said the economic recovery will be driven by improved private sector credit growth and higher public infrastructure spending.

He, however, warns that risks abound in international economic activity that could weaken Uganda's exports. (APA 09-08-2016)

ANGOLA JOINS CONVENTION OF WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION

Angola has formalised by parliamentary resolution its accession to the International Convention on Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures of the International Customs Organisation, which aims to facilitate world trade.

The resolution approving accession to the convention was initially ratified by the Angolan National Assembly in May 2015 but required official publication to take force, which occurred at the end of July. The resolution's preamble indicates that the convention's member states are committed to "ending disparities between customs procedures" along with customs practices that can cause problems for international trade and commerce, reports Lusa news agency.

Each member country is given 36 months to apply the general rules of this convention, which envisages reducing customs controls to a minimum between members, thereby facilitating and simplifying international trade.

The convention was originally adopted on 25 September 1974 in the scope of the then Customs Cooperation Council, which later became the World Customs Organisation. The current version of the convention ratified by Angola took force in 2006. (10-09-2016)

IFAD ALLOCATES ABOUT US\$50M TO LIBERIA'S AGRIC. SECTOR

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) says it has earmarked nearly US\$50 million for investing in Liberia's agriculture sector.

The disclosure was made by IFAD President Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze at a joint press conference addressed by him and Agriculture Minister Dr. Moses M. Zinnah at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Capitol Hill in Monrovia on Monday.

According to Dr. Nwanze, nearly US\$25 million will go towards two projects, tree crop extension from Lofa to Nimba County and the Community Financing Institutions that cut across 10 commercial banks accredited by the Central Bank of Liberia.

But also I can say to you that IFAD has allocated an additional US\$25million to an undefined area," the IFAD head said.

The stipulated amounts are subject to government's approval both in terms of the area of investment as well as benefiting counties.

The aim, he said, was to afford local farmers and people access to banking services through the accredited banking institutions.

The IFAD boss assured Liberians of his institution's support to Liberia with the aim of generating the needed impact, especially in the lives and on the livelihoods of the country's rural population.

The investment will further ensure the reduction of poverty, ensure food security and promote social development in rural areas.

He noted without investment in rural areas, African countries will not achieve sustainable development.

When you have an institution like IFAD that is investing in people and you have a recipient government that is very responsive, it encourages us to do more, especially when you see success on the ground, Dr. Nwanze said.

He described investment in youth, women and rural people as cardinal to the growth and development of any country.

According to him, IFAD has since 1980 partnered with Liberia and has over 100 programmes in which it is said to be funding tree crops development, community development and has projections to match future demands.(APA 09-08-2016)

CHINA THE TOP INVESTOR IN MOZAMBIQUE IN 1ST HALF-YEAR

China was the top investor in Mozambique in the first half-year with US\$154 million, nearly 60 percent of total foreign direct investment, indicate figures from the Investment Promotion Centre (CPI).

Far behind were next-ranked South Africa (US\$45 million), Mauritius (US\$29 million), the United Kingdom (US\$22 million – 20 million euros) and Portugal (US\$14 million).

The other countries on the list of top ten investors are Turkey, Italy, India, Spain and the United States.

According to the CPI, direct investment approved by Mozambique in the first half-year amounted to US\$478 million.

Of that amount, US\$304 million were foreign direct investment, US\$52 million national direct investment and US\$122 million in loans from subsidiaries and other loans.

The same figures show that all kinds of investment fell sharply, with foreign investment down 54 percent and national investment down 56 percent.

Almost 80 percent of foreign investment approved by the CPI is concentrated in the construction and public works, industry, agriculture and agro-industry sector. More than half (55 percent) is for the provinces of Maputo and Maputo City, followed by 21 percent for Sofala province. (10-08-2016)

ETHIOPIA TO LAUNCH FOURTH HYDRO POWER PROJECT



Ethiopia's Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity said it has finalized preparations to launch construction of the fourth hydroelectric power project next Ethiopian year that will begin after a month. Briefing reporters in Addis Ababa on Wednesday Motuma Mekassa, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity said with an installed capacity of 2,160 MW, the construction of the so called Koisha hydro power project will be built on Omo River in South Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' state of Ethiopia.

The government of Ethiopia MG/abj/APA 2016-08-10 13:39:23 - See more at: <http://www.apanews.net/news/en/article.php?id=4860095#sthash.koT9C8bD.dpuf>

has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an Italian giant construction company, Salini Impregilo, a year ago to build the power plant; the minister said adding the company is now at the final stage to start the construction of the plant since it has secured the loan required for the project from financial institutions.

Of the € 2.2 billion needed for the project, Salini managed to get 1.7 billion Euros from Italian financier. The balance will be covered by the government of Ethiopia, according to Motuma.

The Koisha hydroelectric project, one of the hydro power projects is scheduled to be completed in 4 years time.

The 2,160 MW Koisha project will be Ethiopia's second largest hydro-power plant, next to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

The project has a 170 meter high rolled compacted concrete (RCC) dam and a reservoir with a capacity of 6 billion cubic metres.(APA 10-08-2016)

TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES DOWN 13% IN 1ST HALF-YEAR

The value of trade between China and the Portuguese language countries fell 13.34 percent year-on-year in the first half of the year to US\$41.691 billion, indicate official figures released on Tuesday by Forum Macau.

In the first six months of the year China exported to the eight Portuguese language countries goods worth US\$12.938 billion (-33.78 percent) and imported merchandise worth US\$28.753 billion (+0.63 percent), incurring a trade deficit of US\$15.815 billion.

During the period, Angola and Brazil were responsible for 91 percent of China's trade with the Portuguese language countries, a combined total of US\$38.102 billion, with Brazil accounting for 74 percent of the total.

Trade between Brazil and China amounted in the first half-year to US\$30.937 billion (-9.65 percent), with China selling products worth US\$9.485 billion (-36.43 percent) and importing goods worth US\$21.451 billion (+11.02 percent).

Second-ranked Angola accounted for trade worth US\$7.165 billion (-31.29 percent), with Chinese exports falling 66.01 percent to US\$729 million and Chinese imports falling to US\$6.435 billion (-22.29 percent).

Trade between China and Portugal in the first six months of the year amounted to US\$2.634 billion (+22.55 percent), with Chinese exports up 39.31 percent to US\$1.976 billion and Portuguese exports down 9.96 percent to US\$658 million.

Fourth-ranked Mozambique accounted for US\$855.7 million of trade with China (-28.87 percent). Chinese sales fell 33.74 percent to US\$648.9 million, while Mozambican exports were down 7.54 percent to US\$206.8 million.

The remaining Portuguese language countries (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste and São Tomé and Príncipe) accounted for US\$97 million worth of trade with China in the first half-year. (10-08-2016)

LA GUINÉE ET LE MALI HARMONISENT LEURS TARIFS D'INTERCONNEXION

La Guinée et le Mali ont adopté un protocole d'accord portant sur la suppression des charges liées au roaming et à l'harmonisation des tarifs d'interconnexion, a-t-on appris de source officielle.

Le protocole d'accord a été paraphé lundi, à l'occasion d'une visite d'une délégation malienne à Conakry, sous la conduite du ministre malien de l'Economie numérique et de la Communication, Mountaga Tall.

Cet accord précise que les deux pays à travers cet accord vont supprimer « les charges liées au roaming sur les communications téléphoniques, et du coup harmoniser entre eux, les tarifs de communication internationales relatifs aux voix, sms, data, pour les détenteurs de cartes SIM délivrées par les opérateurs légalement établis dans les deux pays ».

Ce procédé d'interconnexion entre les deux pays va s'étendre aussi à la fibre optique, précise la source. (APA 10-08-2016)

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