

MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION

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EUROPEAN UNION STEPS UP EFFORTS TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The European Union adopted a programme under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) worth €17.5 million to address the terrorist threat in the Middle East and North Africa.

Terrorism and radicalisation leading to violent extremism continue to pose a significant threat to states and societies in the Middle East and North Africa. This three-year programme will address drivers and threats from terrorism in the region to foster human security and build resilience in both states and societies.

Federica **Mogherini**, High Representative/Vice-President, said: "*We are increasing as a priority our work and cooperation on counterterrorism with partner countries. We have developed a network of counterterrorism experts that are deployed in key countries and a series of counterterrorism dialogues with our partners to exchange best practices and to learn from each other. The best way to address radicalisation and violent extremism effectively is by working together, in a comprehensive and concerted way.*"

The programme will include a first component to contribute to strengthening the capacity of state actors that play a key role in countering terrorism and violent extremism. The second component of the programme will focus on partnerships between authorities, youth and communities to address underlying factors that can make communities vulnerable to violent extremism.

The European Union's security is directly linked to the security and stability of its neighbourhood. In order to ensure prosperity, stability and security for all, the EU has been working towards enhancing the coherence between internal and external security policies, as outlined in the [Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy](#). This programme will be coordinated with other initiatives in the region, including from EU Member States, and feed into EU counter-terrorism, as well as bilateral and regional dialogues. (EU 14-09-2017)

[Council Conclusions on Counter Terrorism, 19 June 2017](#)

[More information on the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace](#)

CHINA'S AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE CALLS FOR GREATER TWO-WAY BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

The Chinese Embassy in Mozambique plans to strengthen cooperation with the Mozambican Chamber of Commerce (CCM), in order to improve the business relationship between the two countries, said Ambassador Su Jian.

The ambassador also said at the end of a visit to the CCM facilities that China's embassy services will "make an additional effort to attract more investment and get more Chinese companies to come to Mozambique and more Mozambicans to go to China."

Su Jian pointed out that China has already invested about US\$7 billion in Mozambique, positioning itself as one of the largest investors in the country, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

"We have a mission to get companies to communicate in order to establish more partnerships and work together for the benefit of all," concluded the Chinese ambassador to Mozambique.

CCM Vice President Arlindo Duarte stressed that the chamber wants to attract more investment to Mozambique, "not only in cash, but also knowledge transfer." (15-09-2017)

NO EVIDENCE OF KENYAN BALLOT TAMPERING, SAYS EU

Observers found some technical problems but no evidence of vote-rigging in Kenya's presidential election last month, the EU said on Thursday, based on random checks of tallies from polling stations. The finding was announced as Kenya gears up for a rerun of the contest between President Uhuru Kenyatta and challenger Raila Odinga on October 17, after the Supreme Court nullified Kenyatta's victory citing irregularities in the tallying process.

Credible elections would boost Kenya's role as East Africa's richest economy and a stable Western ally in a region roiled by conflict. But problems with the vote could spark unrest: 1,200 people died in violence after a disputed 2007 election.

Bolstering the court's findings of technical irregularities, the EU said in a statement it had examined 1,558 randomly selected scanned polling station results forms from 82 constituencies. A small percentage were unreadable, others had mathematical mistakes, and others were missing data or signatures.

The country had nearly 41,000 polling stations and 290 constituencies.

Odinga alleged that the original vote was marred by fraud and is threatening to boycott the rerun unless some demands are met, including the resignation of key election board officials.

But the EU said it did not find anything indicating deliberate manipulation of the vote in the forms it examined. "There was little variation in the patterns of anomalies ... and no obvious advantage to one camp or another."

However, the observers noted that more than a quarter of polling stations were late in posting their manually completed tallying sheets online. In some cases they only did so after the legal deadline for the opposition to mount court challenges to the results had passed, they noted.

The EU urged the election commission to use standardised forms with security features such as serial numbers to reduce the opportunities for confusion in the upcoming polls.

It said the electoral board must do a better job of publicly explaining the processes it would follow in tallying the vote.

In a separate development on Thursday, governing party legislator Ngunjiri Wambugu filed a court petition seeking to have Chief Justice David Maraga removed for gross misconduct in connection with the annulment of the election.

"Chief Justice Maraga needs to be censured, I believe he has participated in gross misconduct, which is unprofessional. I believe that gross misconduct is trying to influence a presidential election," Wambugu told reporters. (Reuters 14-09-2017)

TEEN FIANCÉE ACCOMPANIES SWAZI MONARCH TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

King Mswati III of Swaziland has left in the company of his 18-year-old fiancée to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York, APA can report on Sunday.



The king left the capital, Mbabane early on Sunday when he was seen off by his 14 wives, princes, cabinet ministers and other senior state officials.

This is the first international trip that the king has undertaken in the company of his new fiancée, Sphelele Mashwama whom he picked during the annual Reed Dance ceremony early this month when he dismissed criticism of the lavish ceremony for its last absolute monarch.

King Mswati III, who has a personal fortune estimated at \$200 million will attend the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly due next week in New York.

The Assembly will be held under the theme, "Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and Decent Life for All on Sustainable Planet".

Discussions will centre on making a difference in the lives of ordinary people, prevention and mediation for sustaining peace, climate change and human rights. (APA 17-09-2017)

CABO VERDE AIRLINE STILL HAS NO AIRPLANES TO FLY ITS ROUTES

An "expressive number" of passengers of Cape Verdean airline TACV are still retained in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), the airline said on Thursday in a statement, adding that it has cancelled 36 international flights since the beginning of September and sent more than 3,000 passengers to other airlines.

TACV, which cancelled almost all its flights to Europe, the United States and Brazil due to a breakdown in the engine of the only airplane it operates, also reported that between 1 and 13 September it cancelled 30 flights "initially scheduled to operate with the B757" and 6 more flights "as a result of an identical breakdown on the EuroAtlantic B767," which TACV has been leasing since July" to meet the demand of the high season.

Cape Verdean Finance Minister Olavo Correia admitted on Thursday that the cancelled flights have a "significant impact," saying that the government will bear all costs and that workers' wages will be guaranteed.

The Cape Verdean public airline is in the process of restructuring with a view to its privatisation, and the government has signed a one-year management contract with the Icelandair group.

With accumulated liabilities of over 100 million euros, the company only offers international flights after the government negotiated an exclusive contract with Binter Cabo Verde to offer connections in the domestic market. (15-09-2017)

KENYA'S OPPOSITION WANTS CHANGES AHEAD OF THE ELECTION RE-RUN IN OCTOBER

Kenya's main opposition has set a series of preconditions it says are necessary for a re-run of last month's annulled presidential vote to be credible, after accusing the electoral authority of preparing "another sham election".

They include replacing personnel at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission who "abetted fraud", and live media coverage of results declarations at the country's 290 constituency tallying centres, National Super Alliance co-leader Musalia Mudavadi told reporters in Nairobi on Thursday.

On September 1, Kenya's supreme court annulled the August 8 presidential vote, in which President Uhuru Kenyatta was declared the winner, after finding there were "irregularities and illegalities" in the process.

The ruling marked the first time an African court overturned the results of a presidential election. The re-run, set for October 17, has increased uncertainty in East Africa's biggest economy as it clouds the outlook for the country, where growth is already slowing.

Mudavadi said the commission had failed to acknowledge that the court had found it culpable. "The commission wants to proceed as if the illegalities and irregularities never happened and as if it were never indicted by the same supreme court," he said. "We see no evidence that the commission is making a good faith effort to conduct a fresh election that fulfills the letter and spirit of the judgment."

The opposition alliance leader, Raila Odinga, has threatened to call his supporters onto the streets to prevent the re-run from taking place if the commission's CEO refuses to step down.

On Monday, the commission signaled there will be no changes to its executive body when it announced that "one team with a common vision" will handle the election, with CEO, Ezra Chiloba, being tasked with assessing the "implementation challenges" exposed in the August vote. (Bloomberg 14-09-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE SHOULD SEEK TO INCREASE DOMESTIC SUGAR CONSUMPTION

Mozambique needs to increase per capita domestic consumption of sugar and at the same time identify alternative markets to the European Union, particularly the United Kingdom, the Mozambican Sugar Producers Association (Amapo) president said in Maputo.

Rosário Cumbe was speaking at a conference organised by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Sugar Producers Association, intended to analyse the implications of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union on the SADC countries' sugar sector.

The European Union is, according to data presented at the meeting, the third largest producer and the second largest consumer of sugar in the world, with the United Kingdom absorbing more than half of the production of SADC countries within the EU.

Cumbe also said that sugar producers in SADC member countries should look at their own regional markets.

Cumbe, who is also the chief executive of Tongaat-Hulett, which manages the Xinavane sugar mill in Maputo province, pointed out that the SADC market has a sugar deficit of around 2 million tonnes, thus providing a huge number of consumers in countries such as Angola, Tanzania and DR Congo.

Mozambique, with an installed capacity to produce 550,000 tonnes of sugar, produces 460,000 tonnes, with consumption of around 220,000 tonnes. Consumption increasing to 15 kilogrammes per person would be enough to absorb total annual production. (15-09-2017)

PRO-BIAFRA INDEPENDENCE PROTESTERS ARRESTED IN NIGERIA

Tensions mounted between Nigerian security forces and pro-Biafran supporters on Thursday, after renewed protests calling for independence and clashes targeting the police.

In the capital of the southern state of Rivers, Port Harcourt, 32 people were arrested after two days of demonstrations and the death of one police officer.

In neighbouring Abia state, supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group targeted police in the commercial hub, Aba, and the capital, Umuahia.

Police vehicles were seen with smashed windscreens and officers fired warning shots, while there were reports of petrol bombs thrown and bonfires set to restrict movement. A police station in Aba was burnt down, said state police spokesman Geoffrey Ogbonna.

"We are investigating the incident but no arrest has been made," he said, but denied reports that the commissioner of police's residence in Umuahia was attacked.

A three-day dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in Abia on Tuesday to prevent clashes after IPOB leaders said troops killed five of its members.

The army has denied the claims.

Abia state governor Okezie Ikpeazu said he recognised the presence of troops had been a cause of "great concern" but they would be withdrawn from Aba and Umuahia by Friday.

"With the expected exit of soldiers from the streets, we must warn that we will not tolerate agitators and protesters taking over the streets for any reason," he added.

IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu has been charged with treasonable felony and is currently on bail pending the resumption of his trial in the capital, Abuja, next month. His arrest in October 2015 and detention was the catalyst for a new wave of demonstrations calling for independence for the Igbo ethnic group that dominates the southeast.

The issue is a sensitive one in Nigeria, as a previous unilateral declaration of an independent republic of Biafra in 1967 sparked a bloody civil war that lasted 30 months. More than 1-million people died, most of them Igbos, from the effects of war, famine and disease.

Kanu, who also runs Radio Biafra, has vowed a nonviolent approach to force a referendum on self-determination.

"We have chosen the track of peaceful agitation, non-violence, persuasion, logic, reason, argument," he said in an interview in May.

But an enhanced military presence in the region since the start of this week has stoked deep-seated tensions.

Officially, the military says it has deployed troops as part of an operation — codenamed "Python Dance II" — to tackle rising crime.

A video clip has been circulating online, purportedly showing soldiers punishing IPOB members by forcing them to drink muddy water while stripped to the waist.

The army said it would look into the claims, vowing that any soldier found guilty of breaching its code of conduct "will face (the) full wrath of the military justice system".

In Port Harcourt, Rivers state police spokesman Nnamdi Omoni said nine IPOB supporters were arrested after a sergeant attached to the force riot squad was killed on Wednesday.

IPOB members allegedly seized his rifle. Several other officers were injured and a patrol van was burnt in the incident.

Twenty-three others were held on Tuesday after an attack on the city's police training school, he added.

Nigeria has long suffered sporadic flare-ups of ethnic tensions but President Muhammadu Buhari has said the country's unity is non-negotiable.

Human rights groups have accused the military of abuses in trying to maintain order, claiming that at least 150 pro-Biafra supporters were killed in the last two years. Hundreds more have been injured.

(AFP 15-09-2017)

MOROCCAN AIRPORT RANKED WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL

The Marrakech-Menara Airport in Morocco has been ranked as the world's most beautiful.

The honour was bestowed on it thanks to the magnificence of its new terminal, according to a recent classification by Skyteam, an alliance of airlines.

Fourth in a previous ranking, Marrakech-Menara Airport beat Singapore's Changi Airport, and moved just ahead of Doha and Hong Kong, with Denver, US completing the Top 5.

“On arrival, passengers are treated to a modern airport that pays tribute to the great cultural heritage of Morocco, inspired by Islamic architecture, with domed glass ceilings and, of course, a lot of light” reads a comment from Skyteam.



The new terminal in Marrakech-Menara, which was commissioned in December 2016, meets the desire to make the airport a real asset to reinforce the attractiveness of the other city, which remains one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, officials of the National Airports Office (ONDA) explain.

The ranking for the 12 most beautiful airports in the world is as follows:

1. Marrakech Menara Airport
 2. Singapore Changi Airport
 3. Hamad International Airport (Doha)
 4. Hong Kong International Airport
 5. Denver International Airport
 6. Bangkok International Airport
 7. Heydar Aliyev International Airport (Baku)
 8. Barajas Airport (Madrid)
 9. Beijing Capital International Airport
 10. Chicago O'Hare International Airport
 11. Tokyo Haneda Airport
 12. Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport
- (APA 15-09-2017)

OPEN BORDERS UGANDA IS THE MOST REFUGEE-FRIENDLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

Upon arrival in Uganda, refugees receive a work permit, 900 square meters of land and permission to remain forever. How is the small country in the middle of Africa able to do it?



It wasn't that long ago that Selena Gaba was afraid for her life. Last August, dead bodies were turning up almost every morning in the back alleys of her neighborhood in the city of Yei in South Sudan.

Gaba is convinced the murderers were government soldiers. On the search for rebels, she says, the troops ruthlessly hunted down and killed members of the Kakwa people on the assumption that they all support the rebellion.

So one morning, Gaba simply left, taking along three of her children, five grandchildren and four neighbor children who had lost their parents. It took them three days to reach the Ugandan border. At night, they would hide from armed men in the bush and twice slept in churches. When 40-year-old Gaba arrived in the Bidi Bidi camp in northern Uganda, she didn't have any belongings left aside from a dented, sooty aluminum pot.



Selena Baba, 40. Eight of the children in the picture were among the 12 with whom she fled from Yei in South Sudan.

Today, less than a year later, Gaba has started a small business and owns 900 square meters (10,000 square feet) of land. She sells fried snacks at a small stand, owns two small shacks and her biggest concern at the moment is where to find soap.

You Are Welcome to Stay, Forever If You Want

Such a fate is possible for refugees in Uganda because the country has the most welcoming refugee policy in the world. Its borders are always open. In 2016, no other country took in more migrants than Uganda, a small nation located almost exactly in the middle of Africa.

The refugees' journey leads them to an initial reception facility and then, just days later, to land ownership. Each family receives a parcel measuring 30 by 30 meters on which they are allowed to build a house and an outhouse. The message is clear: You are welcome to stay - forever if you want.

There is plenty of space in the region because Ugandans don't like to settle here. The city of Arua, a regional crossroads for trade and traffic - and even a small airport - is 80 kilometers away. From there to the Nile, which flows from Lake Victoria to the north, the land is barren and the climate is arid. But for people from South Sudan who escaped the war, it is a safe place.

A Lesson from Their Own History

Uganda's refugee policy, which has resulted in the acceptance of almost 1 million South Sudanese war refugees thus far, is informed by their shared culture. The Kakwa and other ethnic groups live on both sides of the border, which was drawn by British colonial powers in the late 19th century. There has been lively border traffic between southern South Sudan and Uganda for decades, and there are hardly any cultural differences. Furthermore, many Ugandans are fully aware that there are good reasons to flee to a neighboring country. Not far from here, in northern Uganda, the Christian militia Lord's Resistance Army, led by warlord and alleged war criminal Joseph Kony, terrorized the population for more than 20 years.

There have been, to be sure, complaints from host communities that the burden has become too great along with isolated reports of conflicts over limited resources. But the government and aid workers consistently pair such warnings with an appeal to the international community to provide Uganda with more resources so it can continue to offer such friendly treatment to the world's fastest-growing refugee population. So far, they've yet to consider deviating from their open-border approach.

Uganda's Open-Door Refugee Policy



Amule Thomas Satimun, 26, fled with his pregnant wife and his mother.

Soro Godwell, the girl in Christine's arms, is one day old in the photo. She was born in Uganda's Mvepi initial reception camp.



Almost 1 million refugees from South Sudan, which is being torn apart by civil war, have been allowed into Uganda. The country has the most open, generous refugee policy in the world.



The UN's World Food Program likewise provides rations, including cereals, beans and oil, to the refugees.

Uganda's refugee policy isn't purely altruistic. For the underdeveloped northwestern part of the country, the international aid pouring in is extremely helpful. Aid groups have bulldozed hundreds of kilometers of roads into no-man's land and communities now exist where previously there was only rocky, thorny bush.

Refugee Suffering Feeding the Boom

Camps have become villages and the influx of food, water and medical supplies from international aid organizations translates into a lot of money coming into the country. About 40 aid organizations have now registered with the prime minister's office and they employ thousands of people, most of them local

Ugandans. They must be housed and they need offices, trucks and cars along with drivers to operate them.

Markets, housing and restaurants are shooting out of the ground, representing several hundred thousand euros in investment made possible by the needs of a million people without possessions - and by the daily work and trade carried out by the South Sudanese refugees.

Furthermore, as one aid worker says off the record, the government in Kampala makes sure to skim off a portion of each project's budget. He says around a quarter of the money his organization earmarks for aid projects in the country flows into Uganda's state coffers.

The total has quickly swelled to several million euros - of which far too much ends up in the private bank accounts of corrupt elites. [Several years ago, Human Rights Watch \(HRW\)](#), among others, found such corruption to be a central problem facing Uganda - and also criticized donor countries and aid organizations for how they deal with that corruption.

Pledges of Improvement Follow Every Scandal

To be sure, [international aid - including that from Germany - is frozen](#) following every major scandal, such as the one in the mid-2000s which saw \$4.5 million disappear from AIDS and malaria-prevention programs. But the tough reforms that were promised afterwards, HRW claims, ended up being cosmetic at best. And the aid money began flowing into Uganda again a short time later.

Even without the money being diverted from the NGOs into the state budget, Uganda should be doing better than it is. The economy has expanded continuously since 2000, and GDP has almost quintupled in the last 15 years to more than 24 billion euros.

But the UN's World Food Program is still feeding people in the northeast, an employee from a local aid organization complains. "Tanzania and Kenya have established large grain storage facilities for periods of drought. They plan ahead. Here in Uganda, nothing happens." Hunger and need is a political problem in Uganda, says the man, who asked to remain anonymous.



President Museveni (center), pictured here with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and a young refugee.

Such anonymous criticism is easier to ignore when your country is known as the most welcoming in the world. The government of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, it also provides the opportunity to claim that the West has a cold heart. In a June [interview with the Berlin-based daily Tageszeitung](#), Uganda's refugee minister, Musa Ecweru, condemned the EU for closing its borders to refugees and said: "Our borders remain open."

What, then, matters more? The country's noble intentions or the selfish calculations of the governing clique in Kampala? For Seleba Gaba and the 12 children, the question is academic. She has two huts and can take care of herself, thanks to the food aid she receives - though she wishes she had better access to hygiene products and a less monotonous meal plan. Furthermore, schools need to be built for the children. Only that will provide them with a future - in Uganda or elsewhere.

Gaba wonders what the future might hold for her. "On my rations card, it says 2040. I will be looked after here until then." That, though, is not what she wants. Even if she is welcome to stay, she would like to return to South Sudan. Yei is her home, but the murderous gangs of President Salva Kiir and the dozens of rebel groups are preventing her from returning. As grateful as Gaba and the other refugees are to Uganda for opening its doors to them, most of them want peace - and to go back home (UN 13-09-2017)

ETHIOPIA'S TELECOMS TO BLOCK 2.7M CLONED MOBILE PHONE SETS

Ethio telecom has warned that it will block all cloned mobile telephone sets if clients failed to change them within a year.



According to the telecoms company, about 2.7 million cloned mobile phones sets are currently in use in the country.

In a press release issued on Friday in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, the company said there are 58 million mobile phone subscribers in the country.

Abdurahim Ahmed, corporate communication officer at Ethio-Telecom, said the company had registered the identification number of all mobile phones that are in use in the country.

Following the registration, it managed to identify that 2.7 cloned million mobile telephone sets are in use by subscribers.

The registration helps prevent thefts and illegal entry of below standard mobile phones, thus creating healthy competition for local manufacturers and importers of mobile phone sets, Abdurahim said.

Those clients who use cloned mobile phone sets will get notification via short text message or other means, according to the officer.

If any SIM card supporting telecoms devices are not registered by Ethio-telecom until 17 September 2017, they will be neutralized, he said.

Ethio-telecom previously known as Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation (ETC) is an integrated telecommunications services provider in Ethiopia, providing internet and telephone services.

Ethio telecom is owned by the Ethiopian government and maintains a monopoly over all telecommunications services in the country. (APA 15-09-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA: CELL C SLASHES INTERNATIONAL ROAMING RATES TO 58 COUNTRIES



Cell C offers new international roaming rates to 58 countries.

South African telecommunications company, Cell C, announced on Tuesday 12 September 2017 that the company will be reducing international roaming rates to 58 countries covering 99 networks. The company said that the changes are aimed at making the pricing simple and transparent for customers travelling overseas.

The new rates, which will be active from 13 September 2017, will allow customers roaming on any of the listed countries to pay a standard R10 per minute for making and receiving calls, R10 per MB for data and R2.99 per SMS on certain networks in these countries.

The only exclusions to these are:

- Emtel Mauritius, where customers will pay R20 per minute for calls and R20 per MB for data;
- Netone Zimbabwe, where customers will pay R15 per minute for calls and R15 per MB for data

Speaking on the announcement, Cell C Chief Executive Offer, Jose Dos Santos said, “Cell C is continuously working with foreign operators to increase the number of networks and countries where our customers can enjoy a worry-free and predictable roaming experience by providing more affordable roaming rates.”

The company has advised customers to manually select discounted networks when roaming to ensure that they always pay the lowest roaming charges. Cell C highlighted that a detailed list of networks and their associated roaming rates will be available from 13 September 2017 and can be found via <https://www.cellc.co.za/cellic/international-roaming>. This page also provides handy tips on how to better manage your roaming spend.

The telco will continue to offer Wi-Fi Calling as an alternative to roaming, a service that turns any Wi-Fi hotspot into a Cell C base station, effectively allowing customers to make and receive calls as if they were in South Africa, while they are travelling abroad.

List of countries with discounted roaming rates:

Argentina	Congo	Iceland	Namibia	Seychelles
Australia	Republic	India	Nepal	Spain
Austria	Costa	Ireland	Netherlands	Switzerland
Belgium	Rica	Italy	New	Tanzania
Benin	Croatia	Kenya	Zealand	Turkey
Brazil	Czech	Lesotho	Nigeria	UAE
Canada	Republic	Luxembourg	Panama	Uganda
Chad	Ecuador	Madagascar	Peru	United
Chile	Gabon	Malawi	Poland	Kingdom
China	Germany	Mauritius	Portugal	Uruguay
Columbia	Ghana	Mexico	Romania	Venezuela
Congo	Greece	Mozambique	Rwanda	Zambia
DRC	Hungary		Senegal	Zimbabwe

(ITNA 12-09-2017)

SWAZILAND RUNS OUT OF TB, POLIO VACCINES

Swaziland’s public health facilities have run out of Tuberculosis (TB) vaccine known as Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) and polio drugs, APA learnt here on Friday.



Principal secretary for the Ministry of Health, Simon Zwane confirmed that some health facilities no longer have TB and polio vaccines in stock.

He noted that shortage was due to the fact that the government had previously delayed paying drug suppliers, resulting in delays in delivery of ordered drugs.

In this case the ministry has already made purchases of the medicines but they have been delayed by the lead time between the placement of the order and delivery.

“We do not buy directly from the manufacturers but we have to buy through a middle party who also buys the drugs from somewhere else,” he said.

Zwane allayed fears that the shortages would affect children who want the drugs.

“We have already strategized that when the drugs eventually arrive we will start by carrying out catch-up vaccination for the children who have missed it,” he promised.

These BCG vaccine is primarily used against tuberculosis. In countries where tuberculosis is common, one dose is recommended in healthy babies as close to the time of birth as possible.

Zwane also revealed that his ministry was currently working on the recommendations of a task team set up by Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini to find solutions to the shortage of medicine in the country.

He said this “is a process” that would take time as the ministry tries to implement it step-by-step. (APA 15-09-2017)

CONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN MALL MIGHT BE HALTED

The construction of [Tshwane Regional Mall](#) in South Africa might be stopped. This is due to disagreements between the local traders and the developers.

Some local traders apparently refused to relocate from the land assigned for its construction. The traders have constantly refused to make way for the project in spite of a court order obtained by developers in February this year instructing them to do so. The US\$ 100m state-of-the-art mall has so far lost in the region of US\$ 2.6m to US\$ 3m.

“We are eight months behind schedule since October is the completion date,” Project head Shadrack Mthethwa said.

90% complete

However, the concrete work on the eastern side of the mall is over 90% complete. There is currently a growing anticipation among shoppers and the local community.

As a result of a partnership between the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) and Isibonelo Property Services, the mall will provide convenient shopping experience in Mamelodi and the surrounding areas.

Tshwane Regional Mall

The regional mall embraces inclusive growth from its provision for 600 informal trader stalls and a taxi rank to cater for seven taxi associations with 66 routes (areas within Mamelodi, surrounding and long distance such as Groblersdal).

Moreover, this inter-modal shopping mall includes Tshwane Rapid Transport (TRT) station and approximately 1 800 private car parking bays.

The site is located at Mamelodi’s main transport hub at the intersection of Stormvoël & Tsamaya Roads and Waltloo & Maphala Drive. (CRO 13-09-2017)

NIGERIA IN MANHUNT FOR SECESSIONIST LEADER, KANU

The Nigerian army say they are embarking on a manhunt for Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the pro-secessionist Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).



News of the manhunt for Kanu, who has since gone into hiding, comes barely 24 hours after his IPOB was proscribed and declared a terrorist organization.

Army officials told The Nation newspaper on Saturday that IPOB is also under investigation for alleged foreign links.

49-year-old Kanu has not been heard since the proscription of IPOB, with sources suggesting that the fiery leader of a resurgent cause for southeastern Nigeria to break away from the rest of the country had gone underground.

Other top leaders of his group have also gone into hiding.

For the past six months IPOB has been spearheading agitations for a breakaway republic, culminating in recent clashes in the city of Aba, Abia State between Kanu's supporters and the security forces sent to quell the unrest.

There were reports of casualties when troops allegedly stormed the home of the IPOB leader at Afara Ukwu, Umuahia, Abia State, as part of an ongoing military expedition in the southeast tagged Operation Python Dance II.

Meanwhile The Guardian has reported that the crisis in the southeast has spilled over to Asaba, the Delta State capital, where four people were on Friday night burnt to death, by unknown assailants.

The assailants, who are suspected to be IPOB members reportedly invaded a part a settlement at Abraka Market, at about 10pm and killed three men, one woman and left several others with injuries.

(APA 17-09-2017)

KARIBA SOUTH EXTENSION PROJECT TO BOOST ZIMBABWE'S POWER GRID

In Zimbabwe, the energy and power development Minister, Dr Samuel Undenge, has made a confirmation that work on the [Kariba South Extension Project](#) is progressing well.

"We are happy with the progress and we know that the Kariba South Extension Project is now 92% complete. Everything is on course for its commissioning on 24 December, 2017," Undenge said.

"We appreciate the work and effort that is the contractor is doing (Sinohydro) and Zesa management," he further added.

In 1997, the hydro plant was refurbished. It was then followed by an up-rating process in 2003. The upgrades have enabled the plant to increase its generation capacity to 750MW.

Kariba South Extension Project challenges

The minister said that the initial challenges of foreign currency to pay suppliers were being overcome with the involvement of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

On completion, two new units are going to add a further 300MW to the national grid. Zimbabwe struggles with a daily deficit of between 300MW and 600MW.

More than 300MW of power is majorly imports to offset the supply deficit. Furthermore, there are a number of projects underway to boost supply.

Projects in the pipeline

Undenge revealed that tendering for the Batoka Gorge South Bank, projected to add a further 1,400MW to the national grid, will be out soon.

“In terms of the Batoka Gorge project there are feasibility studies that have recently been complete. Tenders will then follow so that the process kicks off,” he said.

Other projects in the pipeline include the Devil’s Gorge (1,000MW), Hwange Western Area (1,200MW), Tokwe-Mukosi Hydro (15MW) and Gairezi Small Hydro (30MW).

The minister of finance and economic development, Patrick Chinamasa, is currently working on incentives. This aims at making the investment into the energy sector attractive.

“Chinamasa is trying to come up with a regime of incentives so that we make investment into the energy sector by private players more attractive. We need them to develop what government is doing,” minister Undenge said.(CRO 13-09-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE AND MALAWI IN LANDMARK TRANSPORT CORRIDOR DEAL

Mozambican and Malawi have reached a landmark deal to expand the Nacala Development Corridor, a 900-kilometre railroad to strengthen trade between the two countries.



The railroad will cross both countries and run to the Indian Ocean, a statement from the Foreign Affairs and Cooperation ministry in Maputo to APA says.

The agreement will enable the corridor to evolve, “as well as fostering economic growth through the promotion and coordination of economically viable businesses in the transportation, agriculture, commerce, mining and tourism sectors”,

The statement says the deal was formalized on Saturday by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique, Oldemiro Baloi, and the Minister of Transport and Public Services of Malawi, Jappie Mhango.

"The Malawian government has approved [the use of] Nacala railway line to strengthen the relationship between the two countries and also to improve business standard," , said Malawi's Jappie Mhango.

The Malawi official said this will reduce the cost of transport given that railway is the most affordable mode of transport.

The Nacala Development Corridor was formally inaugurated in May after €4.1 billion investment funded by the Brazilian mining company Vale to link its mines in Moatize, in the western part of central Mozambique, to the port of Nacala, from where the coal is exported worldwide.

A section of the railroad between the Mozambican provinces of Tete and Niassa crosses through Malawi, and in addition to exporting a projected 18 million tons of coal per year, the route also transports goods and passengers, unlocking remote areas without adequate communications to date.

Vital to enhancing access to global markets, the project has an initial capacity of transporting up to 22 million tonnes a year of which 18 million will be allotted to Vale's Moatize mine. (APA 17-11-2017)

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Moving Forward in Africa's Agribusiness Sector: A 21st Century Business Partnership in Africa

Des Moines, Iowa | October 17, 2017

The agribusiness sector in Africa is extremely important to the continent's economic development accounting for approximately 40 percent of total economic output and providing employment for roughly 50 percent of the workforce. Despite its importance, agricultural productivity lags behind other developing regions of the globe, undermining Africa's overall productivity and food security. Over the last two decades growth has occurred in several African countries, but work remains. The business sector is a critical link to economic growth connecting policy and regulatory decisions with actual outcomes.

Private and public sector leaders will come together for one day of intense collaboration to identify ways to improve and connect operations in the three major agricultural value chains (production, processing, and marketing / distribution). Building on the World Food Prize, the Forum aims to drive insight and inspiration to catalyze actionable recommendations to effectively engage businesses in Africa's agribusiness sector. These insights and recommendations will be delivered to the United States government and Corporate Council on Africa membership.

REGISTRATION

Registration will open soon.

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MEDIA INQUIRIES

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