

# MEMORANDUM

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### SUMMARY

World Humanitarian Day: EU humanitarian action	Page 2
ECOWAS tells defaulting members to comply with common tariff	Page 3
South Sudan's Machar flees to Kinshasa	Page 3
Angola's balance of payments posts surplus in 1st half	Page 4
Residents of Swazi capital deal with acute water shortage	Page 5
SwitchMed: 45 green entrepreneurs from the Southern Med. supported in launching their businesses	Page 5
Tourists protected in Angola with travel insurance	Page 6
Ethiopia to build two new dams with an outlay of \$600m	Page 6
How poor data affects Africa's ability to make the right policy decisions	Page 7
Companies in India and China lead investment in Tete province, Mozambique	Page 8
Botswana diamonds contribute to decline in mining production	Page 9
Drought disaster averted, but millions will go hungry	Page 9
Thousands of jobs lost in Mozambican mining industry	Page 10
Malawi company eyes S/Leone investment	Page 10
South Africa: Deal signed for Chinese automotive plant in Coega	Page 11
Agricultural business centres open in Mozambique	Page 11
Ethiopia introduces multi-sectorial approach to prevent Zoonotic diseases	Page 12
South African Market weaker as risk-on rally fades	Page 12

## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY: EU HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Every year on August 19, the European Union adds its voice to those who honour the invaluable contribution of humanitarian workers who risk their lives every day to save the lives of others. World Humanitarian Day marks the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, when 22 humanitarian workers were killed.

### A world leader in humanitarian assistance in times of unprecedented crisis

Together with funding provided by EU Member States, the European Union is the world's largest donor of humanitarian aid.

Overall, humanitarian assistance from the EU budget in 2015 helped more than 134 million people caught up in natural disasters or conflict in over 80 countries across the world.

For 2016, the European Commission adopted its highest ever initial humanitarian aid budget to date of €1.1 billion. The record budget was proposed as global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and displaced persons as a result of armed conflict, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.

While natural disasters such as the earthquake in Nepal affected millions of people in 2015, armed conflicts have been the greatest driving force of humanitarian needs.

Last year was marked by four major emergencies (Syria, Iraq, Yemen and South Sudan), according to the United Nations highest crisis level standards. 2015 witnessed the highest levels of forced displacement since the Second World War.

Consequently, a large part of EU humanitarian aid goes to refugees and displaced people with the European Commission providing more than €1 billion or some 73% of its annual humanitarian aid budget in 2015 to projects helping refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). The biggest part of humanitarian aid for refugees consists in food assistance and nutrition (47%). Other main sectors are health (13%), water, sanitation and hygiene (10%), shelter and non-food items (9%) as well as protection (8%).

Given these unprecedented humanitarian crises in 2015, the European Commission targeted humanitarian aid to those most in need and most vulnerable, and by strengthening its policy response. At the first-ever [World Humanitarian Summit](#) in May 2016, the EU welcomed the launch of the "Grand Bargain", to redirect at least US\$1 billion dollars over the next five years to the frontline of humanitarian action where it is needed most.

All humanitarian aid is impartial and independent, and is provided to non-governmental and international organisations, the United Nations and the Red Cross societies.

### Humanitarian workers: an increasingly dangerous job

Over the past two decades, humanitarian challenges have become more and more complex and humanitarian organisations are facing growing problems in gaining access to those in need. In the past 19 years, nearly 4000 humanitarian workers were victims of major attacks and more than one third of them were killed<sup>[1]</sup>. The majority of the victims of attacks are nationals serving in their own countries.

Despite a reduction of attacks on aid workers from 2013 to 2015, this does not mean that the profession has become safer. This is because the numbers of attacks declined because fewer aid workers could be deployed to the field due to volatile security situations. As a result, millions of people in need can be left without life-saving support if insecurity forces aid organisations to suspend operations or pull out of dangerous regions.

Attacks against humanitarian personnel are a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law which seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict on civilians. It spells out the responsibilities of states and non-state parties during armed conflict and defines basic issues, such as the right to receive humanitarian assistance, the protection of civilians, including medical and humanitarian workers, and the protection rights of vulnerable groups.

The principles that guide humanitarian action – humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – also have their basis in International Humanitarian Law.

The European Union is committed to promoting global respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The European Commission also finances training in IHL to civilian and military personnel engaged in EU crisis management operations. (EC 19-08-2016)

## ECOWAS TELLS DEFAULTING MEMBERS TO COMPLY WITH COMMON TARIFF



The President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Alain Marcel de Souza on Thursday called on the six member states that have not yet done so to implement the Common External Tariff (CET).

Speaking in Dakar, Senegal de Souza said: "We noted with concern that, to date six states are still missing namely Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia and Sierra Leone. If the reasons given for the non-enforcement of CET are justified, the fact remains that our community space cannot accommodate such a situation for a long time".

He was speaking at the opening of a Ecowas Finance Ministers meeting on the implementation of the CET, the final blueprint of which was validated in October 2013 during an extraordinary session.

Its entry into force was scheduled for 1 January 2015.

ECOWAS-CET is the common import tax for all products from countries that are not part of this space. This means that each ECOWAS member country will apply it to non-ECOWAS nations.

35 percent has been added to the tariff nomenclature on specific property in the name of economic development, to serve as a protective cover against some aspects of EPA threat to protect community products.

Before the introduction of this fifth tax category, the other four were 0 percent for essential social goods (health products, some cereals); 5 percent for essential goods, raw materials and capital goods (fertilizers, agricultural equipment); 10 percent intermediate products; and 20 percent to consumer goods (finished goods).

Alain Marcel de Souza said that the existence of two or more tariff regimes in the same community space will inevitably result in the application of different tariffs on the same products.

"This situation is a source of distortions to trade, and quite detrimental to regional integration, cohesion between member states and the functioning of the free trade area. Therefore, I reiterate my call to these states to implement CET by late 2016," he said. (APA 18-08-2016)

## SOUTH SUDAN'S MACHAR FLEES TO KINSHASA



South Sudan's former rebel leader and former vice-president Riek Machar had escaped to the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) following violent clashes in July, an official said on Thursday.

"Riek Machar is currently in DRC, in Kinshasa, and wants to go as soon as possible to Ethiopia," an aide told AFP. An earlier statement from Machar's SPLM-IO party said the leader had been "evacuated to a safe country within the region", without naming the DRC.

Civil war broke out in South Sudan in December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused Machar, then his deputy, of plotting a coup. The fighting has split the world's newest country along ethnic lines and driven it to the brink of collapse.

A peace deal signed between the government and rebels a year ago has so far failed to end the conflict. And in August Juba was rocked by several days of heavy fighting between Kiir's forces and those loyal to Machar.

Machar's whereabouts had been unclear since the fighting flared in Juba between July 8 and 11 and led to his outgunned and outnumbered forces being chased from the city by government troops.

He was subsequently replaced as vice-president on July 25 by Taban Deng Gai, a former friend and ally. Deng warned on Wednesday that Machar should stay out of politics to allow peace, despite previously indicating that if Machar returned to Juba he would stand aside.

Machar's intention to travel to Ethiopia, a regional power broker that hosted peace talks through the Igad trade bloc, suggests he has no intention of being cut out of negotiations or pushed from power.

Several former rebel commanders have warned they consider Deng's elevation to vice-president to be "treason".

Also on Wednesday, the UN launched a probe of a hotel attack in South Sudan, in which soldiers raped women and assaulted aid workers, while UN peacekeepers allegedly failed to act. The abuses now being probed by the UN — specifically, a July 11 attack on the Hotel Terrain in the capital Juba — took place during the violence that engulfed the city for four days in July.

Last Friday the UN Security Council approved a US-drafted resolution to strengthen the 12,000-person peacekeeping mission with 4,000 additional troops drawn from regional armies and equipped with a more aggressive mandate. Juba has yet to accept the resolution.

Meanwhile UN chief Ban Ki-moon has expressed disappointment over the failure of talks between the Sudanese government and rebels on a cease fire in Darfur and two other conflict zones.

The talks on a cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan were held in Addis Ababa last week after three prominent rebel groups signed a roadmap brokered by AU mediators for ending the conflicts in the three areas.

Their signing of the roadmap, which had already been signed by the Sudanese government, had raised hopes of a breakthrough after successive rounds of abortive talks. (AFP 19-08-2016)

## **ANGOLA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSTS SURPLUS IN 1ST HALF**

Angola's balance of payments ended the first half of the year with a surplus of US\$6.744 billion, an annual increase of 13.5%, the Finance Ministry said in Luanda.

That figure includes a negative accumulated variation of imports of 54% and 32.7% for exports by 32.7%, according to the statement issued.

The statement cited Finance Minister Armando Manuel speaking to members of the Angolan parliament on Monday ahead of the approval of the revised 2016 General State Budget proposal.

The minister also told MPs budget execution had recorded a surplus of US\$711 million in the first half of the year and that domestic financing in the period amounted to US\$1.022 billion.

The national currency, the kwanza, saw an annual depreciation of 47.5% and an accumulated depreciation in 2016 of 33.9% against the dollar, with the average exchange rate set at 162.15 kwanzas per dollar.

Manuel said a restrictive monetary policy had been adopted to mop up the surplus liquidity that could put pressure on domestic prices.

In this sense, he said, the country's monetary authority, the National Bank of Angola, made adjustments in interest rates in the first half of the year, with the marginal lending rate increasing to 20%. (17-08-2016)

## RESIDENTS OF SWAZI CAPITAL DEAL WITH ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

As part of efforts to deal with the current scarcity of water caused by the ongoing drought that has hit the country this year, residents of the Swazi capital, Mbabane have resolved to take one bath per day, APA learns here on Tuesday.

Water has become scarce in Swaziland due to the persistent drought caused by the El Nino weather syndrome and the commodity is being rationed in most areas like Mbabane where taps literally run dry for up to four days a week.

The residents have held numerous meetings trying to forge a way forward to survive the water shortage, even calling for the Swaziland Water Services Corporation (SWSC) to import water from Mozambique's Indian Ocean.

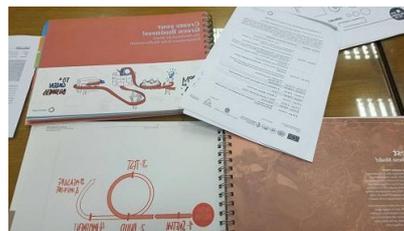
SWSC however said such a proposition was impractical because it involved affordability and willingness.

Among the tips that were shared during these meetings was also to flush toilets once after three uses, as well as to stop washing cars.

There are however predictions by the Swaziland Meteorological Services reflecting normal rainfall in October this year.

The drought was declared a national disaster in March 2016 and has seen the setting up of a National Drought Emergency Mitigation and Adaptation Plan worth \$80 million that the government will execute over a five-year period. (APA 16-08-2016)

## SWITCHMED: 45 GREEN ENTREPRENEURS FROM THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN TO RECEIVE SUPPORT IN LAUNCHING THEIR BUSINESSES



As part of the EU-funded SwitchMed programme, 45 green business canvases from the Southern Mediterranean region will be chosen by an International High Level Jury to enter an incubation business phase of eight months during which they will receive support to boost their green ideas with the supervision of a local mentor.

Specifically, the mentor will help build a more solid business plan as well as to test the prototypes of the products and services.

The best 45 business ideas will be receive:

- 50 hours of incubation services and one-to-one coaching counselling;
- Tailor-made technical assistance;
- Support to define a specific crowdfunding campaign;
- Opportunity to participate in a Regional Match-making event (in the scope of SwitchMed Connect 2017) in order to present their viable green business projects to national and international financing organizations and potential investors such as banks, business angels and private equity funds.

The **SwitchMed sustainable consumption and production programme** aims to promote a switch of the Mediterranean economies towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economy, including low emission development, through demonstration and dissemination of methods that improve resource and energy efficiency. It also seeks to minimise the environmental impacts associated to the life cycle of products and services, and, as opportune, to promote renewable energy. (Switch Med 18-08-2016)

### **TOURISTS PROTECTED IN ANGOLA WITH TRAVEL INSURANCE**

The Angolan Institute of Tourism Promotion (Infotur) and national insurance company ENSA, have partnered to launch travel insurance, as part of a memorandum of understanding signed in Luanda on Monday, the Angolan press reported.

The product called “national tourism insurance” protects tourists while travelling in any part of Angola, and will be sold by Infotur through travel agents, according to Angolan state news agency Angop.

The national director of Infotur, Eugénio Clement, said at the signing of the memorandum that the launch of “National Tourism Insurance” will increase the demand for exotic locations and promote adventure sports in the country, ensuring greater security against unforeseen events.

Travel agencies and tourism insurers must, when scheduling tourist activities, take travel insurance into account as it will be mandatory, Clemente said adding that ENSA is preparing the terms of the insurance that will be part of the tourist packages. (17-08-2016)

### **ETHIOPIA TO BUILD TWO NEW DAMS WITH AN OUTLAY OF \$600M**

Ethiopia has finalized preparations to build two dams with an outlay of \$600 million on Awash River in Afar state of the country, APA learns on Tuesday.

Awash Basin Authority which in charge of building the two dams in pastoralist’s inhabited area said detailed plans of the dams’ construction have been finalized.

Director-General of the Authority Getachew Gizaw told APA that one of the dams to be constructed in Awash-Fentale district of Afar Regional State will have a capacity of carrying 470 million cubic meters water.

He said the dams are among those planned to be built in the Awash Basin during the country’s Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-2) period which will expire after five years.

The dam is intended to benefit tens of thousands of pastoralists in the area and help prevent flooding in Middle Awash that stretches from the Awash Sebat town to Afar Gewane districts.

According to the director, the dam will irrigate not less than 40,000 hectares and alleviate water shortage in the desert area.

The second dam to be built on Logia River will be utilized for fishery development and animals rearing, he added.

The second dam will irrigate 10,000 hectares and sustainably prevent the flooding of Lower Middle Awash. Constructions of the dams are set to begin this Ethiopian budget year.(APA 16-08-2016)

## HOW POOR DATA AFFECTS AFRICA'S ABILITY TO MAKE THE RIGHT POLICY DECISIONS

African policy makers are increasingly called on to use evidence-based research to inform development decisions. But this requires the rigorous collection of data as well as a co-ordinated system to disseminate it.

This is why the Kenya-based African Population Health Research Centre is advocating for national policies to enable strong data systems.

### What is data-driven decision-making in the world of policy making?

Data, and especially data of good quality, are essential for national governments and institutions to accurately plan, fund and evaluate development activities.

Basic development indicators are essential for an accurate picture of a country's development status. This includes a country's progress towards specific development goals and improving its citizens' socio-economic conditions. In fact, solutions to social and economic problems are often inseparable from the statistics.

You cannot build schools without knowing how many children need to be enrolled. Private investors need to know what resources are available in a given country before putting in their money. A country needs to know what it grows and where to prevent famine. Donors can only know whether their aid is changing lives if they have data.

Data is the first step, but then you need analysis.

In general, development programmes entail measurable results. Development decisions should be informed by data. But more importantly this data must be turned into information that is easy to understand and useful to end users. You sometimes hear people say, "The data speak for themselves." But they don't.

Data is the first, crucial step. Then you need smart, objective analysis to make sense of the data and shape the narrative. Once the data supply side is up to par, the hope is that decision makers at all levels will increasingly demand relevant information to lay the foundation for policy making and budgeting.

### How good are African governments at making data-driven decisions?

Like everyone else, African governments and their development partners need good data on basic development metrics. To be of value, such data must be accurate, timely, disaggregated and widely available. This is not the case in many African countries.

Given the circumstances, you can imagine how difficult it is for African governments to make data-driven decisions. This situation is often compounded by the lack of an entrenched culture of data use. More often than not it is difficult to ascertain existing programmes' effectiveness or whether available resources are being allocated to address the most urgent and serious development issues.

What Nigeria's rebasing tells us

You probably heard how Nigeria became the biggest economy in Africa overnight in 2014. This happened simply on account of changing the method of calculating GDP – the so-called rebasing. The review ought to have been carried out every three or five years. But in this case it wasn't done for decades.

This suggests that for years, decisions in one of Africa's largest economies were based on data that were not credible or accurate or timely. This is the story of many countries in Africa. In 2015, 65% of the Millennium Development Goals' indicators for countries in Central Africa were either estimated, derived from statistical models, or were last measured prior to 2010.

The truth is that data in Africa are not produced on time, are not frequently produced, are of poor quality and are not accurate. This makes it difficult to make data driven decisions.

### Where are the data gaps?

A joint working group, the Data for African Development Working Group, of which I was part, posed that very question a few years ago. Actually, the paucity of accurate, reliable and timely data has been a recurring issue. It continues to be a major constraint to the effective monitoring and evaluation of interventions and development programmes across countries in Africa.

Estimates on health and other socio-economic outcomes are often uncertain and are not systematically produced. This makes it difficult to generate evidence about the effectiveness of existing policy.

There have been gains in the frequency and quality of censuses and household surveys over the past 30 years or so. But the building blocks of national statistical systems on the continent remain weak.

### **What are the essential building blocks?**

The building blocks fundamental to the calculation of almost any major economic or social welfare indicator include data on:

- Births and deaths;
- Growth and poverty;
- Taxes and trade;
- Land and the environment; and
- Sickness, schooling, and safety.

As of 2013, none of the 60 countries with complete vital registration is in Africa. This situation is brought about by four main issues that we can call political economy challenges:

- Lack of autonomy and stable funding for national statistical systems;
- Misaligned incentives contributing to inaccurate data;
- Dominance of donor priorities over national priorities; and
- Limited access to and usability of data.

These are the issues that African countries should address to drastically improve data systems and quality of data needed for development.

### **What can be done about these data gaps?**

The focus should be on the underlying challenges facing national statistical systems. The following actions would help improve the production, quality and use of data in Africa:

- Fund more and fund differently. For example, increase domestic funding and allocate predictable budget, and experiment on pay-for-performance agreements with donor funding;
- Build institutions that can produce accurate, unbiased data. For example, enhance national statistical offices' autonomy or try out public-private partnerships; and
- Prioritise the core attributes of data building blocks: accuracy, timelines, relevance and availability. To achieve this, build quality control mechanism, open data, accountability for improving data quality.

These changes must be initiated and led by governments. But donors and local civil society groups also have a major role to play. This process can help modify the relationship between donors, governments and the producers of statistics to work in harmony with national statistical priorities.

We cannot afford to continue with business as usual. Fortunately, a number of national statistical offices across Africa are taking steps to improve the serious challenges facing their systems. More work and more investment needs to happen. And at an accelerated pace. (BD 19-08-2016)

## **COMPANIES IN INDIA AND CHINA LEAD INVESTMENT IN TETE PROVINCE, MOZAMBIQUE**



India and China head the list of countries with the largest number of foreign investments approved by the Single Service Desk (BAU) in the Mozambican central province of Tete, in the first half of the year, according to official sources.

The Executive Director of the Single Service Desk in the province, Domingos Macajo said that in the first six months of the year 82 licenses had been awarded, of which 19 were granted to Indian investors and 18 to Chinese, with Nigeria in third place with 17 licensed companies.

Macajo also told Mozambican news agency AIM that Portugal, South Africa, Kenya, Brazil, Pakistan, Japan, Somalia, Zimbabwe and Guinea are other countries on the list of companies licensed by BAU. The Executive Director of the Single Service Desk in Tete province said that in the same period 352 licenses had been issued for various activities, including wholesale and retail trade, services, transport of passengers and goods and industry.

BAU is part of the government platform on public sector reform, with the aim of improving public services through simplification, flexibility and speed of administrative procedures related to the licensing of economic activities. (18-08-2016)

## **BOTSWANA DIAMONDS CONTRIBUTE TO DECLINE IN MINING PRODUCTION**



A report by Statistics Botswana indicates that the Index of Mining Production stood at 90.2 in the first quarter of 2016, showing a negative year-on-year decline of 5.6 percent from 95.6 during the 2015 first quarter, APA learns here Tuesday.

According to the report, the main contributor to the decline in growth of mining production was diamond production, which negatively contributed 4.6 percentage points.

The report says diamond production shows the sixth consecutive year-on-year decrease, having declined by 5.3 percent in the first quarter of 2016 as compared to the first quarter of 2015.

Although less in weight, copper in concentrates also contributed to the overall Index of Mining Production decline with negative 4.3 percent.

However, copper-nickel-cobalt matte, soda ash and gold contributed positively to the overall mining production, with contributions of 2.8 percentage points, 0.5 and 0.1 of a percentage point respectively during the first quarter of 2016. (APA 16-08-2016)

## **DROUGHT DISASTER AVERTED, BUT MILLIONS WILL GO HUNGRY**

Agricultural experts say although governmental response has helped cushion the blow of the drought in Southern Africa, 18-million people will go hungry by December this year.

Julie Dana, a specialist in disaster risk financing and insurance programmes at the World Bank, on Thursday said the capacity of governments to manage emergency responses to drought was getting stronger.

However, there was still need for coordinated contingency plans which encompassed prearranged financial assistance, said Dana.

She was speaking at a discussion hosted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (Agra), an alliance of African farming communities that seeks solutions to problems farmers face and helps gain access to agriculture markets.

"In this crisis we do still see that uncertainty is creating a stasis in action and slow response, so these nonmarket-friendly (government) interventions not being transparent about exactly what everyone in the system is going to do creates (inaction)," she said.

Dana also said the slow response and uncertainty had given rise to costs that will have to be carried by governments, international partners, donors and ultimately communities and households.

"Import parity (of maize) from Malawi and Zambia has increased between \$400 and \$500 per tonne. That's a huge increase over six months, while everyone is trying to figure out what's going to happen.

And that translates to tremendous costs of over \$20m in addition to response costs," she said.

Lewis Hove from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN in SA said although the worst impact of the drought had been averted, it was still critical to assist farmers to build up resilience to survive the next drought.

"If this drought had happened 30 or 40 years ago, this could have been a famine and people could have died," Hove said.

Chris Nikoi, a director at the World Food Programme's Southern African region, was also part of the panel discussion on the issue.

"In most of Africa, farmers eat what they grow ... they buy very little. So (this) drought is very real," he said.

Nikoi said 40-million people on the continent were facing food insecurity and "18-million are definitely going to need daily (food) assistance to meet their daily calorific requirements by December".

Nikoi also said the continent needed \$535m, of which \$200m was required urgently, in order to meet the needs of people between October and December. (BD 18-08-2016)

## **THOUSANDS OF JOBS LOST IN MOZAMBIKAN MINING INDUSTRY**

Mining companies operating in the Moatize coal basin in Mozambique's Tete province, have eliminated at least 4,000 jobs since 2015 due to a drop in coal prices on the international market, said a provincial official.

Portásio Aurélio, head of the Department of Mineral Resources of the Tete Provincial Directorate of Minerals and Energy Resources, told Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias, that Vale Mocambique, a subsidiary of Brazilian group Vale, was the company that had fired more Mozambican workers, with 2,348 of the 3,937 jobs lost.

In the same period Vale Mocambique fired 520 foreign workers, of a total of 535 that are involved in coal mining across the province.

Aurelio also said that if the current situation does not change in the near future, some of these mining companies are at risk of losing the investments made, particularly in processing units and logistical ore transport, among others.

In the first half of the year coal mining yielded taxes on production in the amount of 166.3 million meticals of 5.591 billion forecast for the whole of 2016. (18-08-2016)

## **MALAWI COMPANY EYES S/LEONE INVESTMENT**

The Malawi-based Malbro Investment Group has expressed intension of investing in Sierra Leone, APA learnt Wednesday.

A delegation headed by the Group's Chairman, Noel Maluza, is in the country as guest of the Sierra Leone Investment Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA).

Reports speak of a possible \$120 million investment the company is eyeing.

Malbro is engaged in multi sectoral projects, including mining, shopping, hotelier, real estate, and renewable energy.

State officials say the group is on a feasibility study in Sierra Leone.

“We want to provide a unique investment proposal for Sierra Leone,” said Maluza.

Raymond Gbekie, SLIEPA's Chief Executive Officer, said the visit by the team is part of Sierra Leone's post-Ebola Recovery programme.(APA 17-08-2016)

## **SOUTH AFRICA: DEAL SIGNED FOR CHINESE AUTOMOTIVE PLANT IN COEGA**



The Coega Development Corporation has signed a R11bn investment deal with the Beijing Automobile International Corporation for a completely knocked down automotive manufacturing plant in the Coega Industrial Development Zone (IDZ).

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said in a media statement the investment was "significant" and deepened SA's economic relationship with China.

"The size of this investment demonstrates confidence by China and confidence in South Africa as an investment destination. The investment is strategic and is a major project in terms of our bilateral relationship and a key project supported by the Interministerial Committee on Investment", the minister said.

He added that the project positions the Eastern Cape as an automotive hub and has the potential of deepening the component supply chain, job creation and economic development.

The Coega IDZ which is adjacent to the Port of Ngqura and a few kilometres from Port Elizabeth harbour, is the only IDZ to be designated with a custom control area enabling qualifying investors to benefit from customs duty and VAT incentives.

Over the last four years the Coega Development Corporation has signed up 54 new investors with a combined investment value of R31.9bn. (BD 18-08-2016)

## **AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CENTRES OPEN IN MOZAMBIQUE**

Twenty-three agricultural business centres due to open in Mozambique will increase the production capacity of small farmers in the centre and north of the country, said the US ambassador, at the opening ceremony of the pilot centre.

This centre, opened in Chimoio, Manica province, central Mozambique, is a partnership between the governments of Mozambique and the United States, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), involving grain purchase and sale of seeds and fertilisers, as well as technical support for production and mechanised harvesting.

Ambassador Dean Pittman recognised the inefficiency of distribution and market access, leading to crop failures and food insecurity of small-scale farmers and expressed the hope that this new approach to agriculture would reduce poverty and malnutrition in Mozambique.

The centres, known as “3I Farmers Empowerment Hubs” are managed by the Export Trading Group, which provides most of the funding and will focus on the operation of the marketing outlets for agricultural equipment.

In addition to six centres in Manica, the project with an estimated cost of US\$30 million, includes the opening of 17 centres in districts with agricultural potential in the provinces of Tete and Zambezia (central Mozambique) and Nampula (north). (18-08-2016)

## **ETHIOPIA INTRODUCES MULTI-SECTORIAL APPROACH TO PREVENT ZONOTIC DISEASES**

Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health has introduced a multi-sectorial approach through its 'National One Health Program' to prevent Zoonotic infectious diseases which are spreading in an increasing rate in the East African nation, APA reports on Wednesday.

National and international stakeholders are holding a three-day workshop in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa under the theme ‘Strengthen National One Health Platforms’ with the aim of alleviating such health risks to people, livestock, wildlife and the environment.

Caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi, a zoonotic diseases covering anthrax to Zika, is a disease that can be spread between animals and humans. Scientists estimate that more than 6 out of every 10 infectious diseases in humans are spread from animals.

Zoonoses that result from various anthropogenic, genetic, ecologic, socio-economic, and climatic factors currently account for about 75 percent of newly emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), according to reports at the workshop.

The diseases are now getting more attention as concerns are growing about the risks in Ethiopia and other African countries.

Dr. Abraham Haile, Research Team Leader of Zoonotic Diseases at the Ethiopian Public Health Institute said Ethiopia is working on anthrax, Leptospirosis, dog bite, burcellosis and parasite diseases, the five prioritized zoonotic diseases.

The workshop is expected to draw out concrete commitment from the stakeholders to offer effective responses for a number of diseases which transmit from animals to human beings.

Dr. Misrak Mekonnen, State Minister of Livestock and Fisheries said “This One Health Program is important to identify where the hot spots are going to be and how we can do better land-use or urban planning to prevent problems from occurring”.

Ethiopia will implement the livestock master plan in the next five years to manage farm wastes that might contain antibiotics, and infectious agents, it was learnt. (APA 17-08-2016)

## **SOUTH AFRICAN MARKETS WEAKER AS RISK-ON RALLY FADES**

South African markets were weaker across the board on Friday with the previous day’s risk-on rally fading on renewed talk about a possible US interest rate increase in September.

Higher US interest rates usually support the dollar in risk-off trade.

Comments by two US Federal Reserve officials on Thursday night were more hawkish than the sentiment indicated in the Federal open market committee (FOMC) minutes for July, released earlier in the week.

New York Fed president William Dudley expressed optimism about the outlook for hiring and growth in the US economy, while San Francisco Fed president John Williams said the central bank should move to raise interest rates "sooner rather than later", Dow Jones Newswires reported.

The US leading indicator rose a monthly 0.4% in July from 0.3% in June.

There were no other important data released on the day. Commodity prices were lower and the Brent crude price softened, although it held above \$50 a barrel.

The JSE all share closed 0.41% lower at 52,772 points and the blue-chip top 40 dropped 0.41%.

Platinums retreated 2.21%, food and drug retailers dropped 1.67%, and general retailers were 1.07% lower. Banks retreated 0.89% and resources shed 0.71%.

The all share ended the week down a marginal 0.07%. It is up 4.1% for the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 0.12% lower at the JSE's close. The FTSE 100 had lost 0.20% and the Paris CAC 40 had retreated 0.89%. Germany's Dax was 0.52% lower.

Global markets are in disarray about the US rate trajectory which has resulted in choppy trade becoming the norm.

Analysts said US economic data had been mixed lately, supporting a recovery in US GDP growth, but was probably still too low for the US Federal Reserve to risk interest-rate increases with confidence later in the year. US inflationary growth had also not been firm enough to support rate increases.

Stanlib economist Kevin Lings said although the US leading indicator was higher in July, it was still not robust and only indicated modest growth.

"Although some improvement in US growth is expected in the second half, the rate of expansion is likely to still be modest and, at 2%, well below the average GDP growth of 3%," Lings said.

He said the data indicated the US was unlikely to return to recession conditions. "But it also reflects limited inflationary pressure from economic activity over the coming year," Lings said.

The Fed has set 2% consumer inflation as the likely level at which it will increase rates again. Latest headline consumer inflation is at an annual 0.8% and core inflation is at 1.6%.

Among individual shares on the JSE, petrochemical group Sasol was up 1.19% to R38 and Kumba Iron Ore gained 2.30% to R141.18.

British American Tobacco picked up 0.84% to R853.72, with industrial group Bidvest gaining 0.57% to R156.57.

Nedbank, which has rallied more than 10% this month, gave up 0.43% to R226.53. Standard Bank lost 1.93% to R150.04 after gaining 7% on Thursday following the release of its interim results. Capitec was off 2.17% at R607.52.

Discovery was down 2% to R122.50 and Sanlam dropped 1.76% to R65.70.

After trading 2% weaker Truworths ended the day flat at R84.02 as the market adopted a more sober view on the full-year results released on Thursday when it dropped 8.2%.

Woolworths ended the day down 2.13% at R89.21.

PSG shed 2.08% to R195.18. It has lost 12.6% in the year to date.

The rand weakened more than 10c against the dollar in late afternoon trade as the greenback clawed back some lost ground against the euro.

At 5.45pm, the rand was at R13.5168 against the dollar from R13.3744 at the previous close. It reached a worst level of R13.54/\$ in intraday trade.

It was at R15.3067 against the euro from R15.1911 previously, and at R17.6578 against the pound from R17.6159 previously.

The euro was at \$1.1324, from at \$1.1355.

South African bonds were also weaker in late trade, taking their cue from the weaker rand.

At 5.54pm, the benchmark R186 government bond was bid at 8.470% and offered at 8.460%, from 8.395% at the previous close.

The R207 was bid at 7.800% and offered at 7.795% from a previous close of 7.730%.

South African futures tracked the JSE and global markets weaker as investors began to price in the greater likelihood of a US interest-rate increase this year.

At 5.35pm the local near-dated top-40 Alsi futures index was 0.38% weaker at 45,961 points, with 23,278 contracts traded from 29,796 on Thursday. (BD 19-08-2016)

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