

# MEMORANDUM

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## **ANGOLA SHOULD “RECTIFY” EXCESSIVE IMPORT TARIFFS, WTO SAYS**

Angola should “rectify cases where customs duties and other taxes exceed the average level” of 10.9 percent, said the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which offered to provide “technical assistance” to help the Angolan authorities.

“WTO members noted that Angola has introduced a number of measures to replace imports” and said that “the new customs tariff was significantly raised, from 2 percent to 50 percent, with a simple average of 10.9 percent, an increase compared to 7.4 percent in 2005,” according to a recently published document.

The document presents the conclusions of the two-day meeting and notes “the members called for Angola to “rectify the cases where customs duties and other taxes exceed the average levels” of 10.9 percent, and several members “invited Angola to clarify the state of the law that defines import quotas, which has not yet been put into practice.”

In the Policy Analysis of Angola by WTO members, the second since 2006, “the members suggested to Angola to reduce production costs through lower import tariffs and facilitate trade to enhance competitiveness and promote local production.”

The new Angolan customs tariff generally increases taxes on imported products that may, according to the government, be produced in the country, thus encouraging the expansion of local production and develop the economy, but has been criticised for, in some cases, not considering its repercussions, particularly a predictable rise in prices and the inability of various sectors of the economy to replace imports. (12-10-2015)

## **NEW BANKNOTES COME INTO CIRCULATION IN CABO VERDE**

The new 500 and 5,000 escudo banknotes are already in circulation in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), with the 200 escudo note honouring poet Jorge Barbosa (1902-1971) and the 5,000 escudo note featuring the country’s first president, Aristides Pereira (1923-2011) weekly newspaper A Semana reported.

The 500 escudo banknote also highlights the island of Santiago, the birthplace of Jorge Barbosa, a founder of the Claridade literary movement that marks a phase of contemporary aesthetics and language in Cabo Verde and which called for cultural, social and political emancipation of society, bringing attention to the realities of daily life.

The newspaper also wrote that the poetry of Jorge Barbosa translates the archipelago’s problems and the social drama of the Cape Verdean people, in constant struggle with adversity due to drought, famine, emigration, isolation and insularity.

The 5,000 escudo banknote is also a tribute to the home of Aristides Pereira, Boa Vista Island, and depicts a landscape with the chimney of a pottery factory buried by sands in the foreground. (09-10-2015)

## **ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION TO SCALE-UP FLAGSHIP DEBATE PROGRAMME “YOUNG ARAB VOICES”**

The Anna Lindh Foundation and the British Council have announced their intent to scale-up the flagship debate programme “Young Arab Voices” (YAV). The announcement took place at an event in Tunisia entitled ‘Intelaqa Jadida’ – A New Start’ with the participation of YAV partners, media and national institutions.

The Anna Lindh Foundation and the British Council are working closely with the European Commission on plans to develop the next phase of “Young Arab Voices” in the framework of the EU’s renewed Neighbourhood Policy, and with the Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

Launched in 2011, YAV has already involved more than 90,000 young people in debate activities across Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, and is now opening up debate hubs in Lebanon and Palestine as well as activities at a Euro-Med level. The programme is built and delivered principally through partnerships with universities, schools and NGOs, ensuring the involvement of young people from diverse social and geographical backgrounds across the region.

The **Anna Lindh Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue** promotes knowledge, mutual respect and inter-cultural dialogue between the people of the Euro-Mediterranean region, working through a network of more than 3,000 civil society organisations in 43 countries. Its budget is co-funded by the EU (€10 million) and the EU member states (€6 million). (EU Neighbourhood 08-10-2015)

### **MALAWI'S MEDIA FOCUSES ON MEDICAL DOCTORS 14-DAY ULTIMATUM TO GOV'T**

Medical doctors 14-day ultimatum to government to recruit the recently graduate medical doctors within its health system, panic over three-day collapse of the New Building Society (NBS), one of the country's listed commercial banks system, are the stories published in the Malawi newspapers on Wednesday. The Daily Times newspaper has carried a story on medical doctors under their umbrella body of Medical Doctors Union of Malawi (MDUM) threatening a nationwide strike demanding government to recruit 51 recently graduated doctors in its health delivery system.

According to a statement published jointly with the Society of Medical Doctors (SMD), describes the government's failure as retrogressive in a country that still struggling to meet the minimum acceptable numbers of medical doctors to safely service.

It said they have continuously been told that the leading factors in human resource shortages in the health sector are inadequate outputs from the Health Training Institutions amongst others including emigration, resignations and deaths.

The doctors said it is inexcusable for the government to fail to absorb the new doctors.

The Nation newspaper has written a story on NBS Bank system collapse, causing panic and frustration among customers who were unable to withdraw money from their accounts.

The bank's Chief Executive Officer, Bernadette Mandoloma attributed the chaotic scene to a crash of the bank's system but assured customers that their funds were safe.

According to her, the bank's priority was to ensure that the system is fixed for the customers to transact but at the meantime they are yet to establish the problem for it is the first of its kind.(APA 07-10-2015)

### **ANGOLA PRESENTS PROPOSAL TO EXTEND ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF IN SEPTEMBER**

Angola has already presented the United Nations with a proposal to extend the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, the minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Chikoti said Friday in Luanda.

"These issues take time, since it is a question that will be analysed on the basis of international law," the minister said on the sidelines of the International Conference on Maritime Safety and Energy, organised by Angola, with the support of the United States and Italy, which ended Friday in Luanda.

Chikoti said the Angolan defence minister, João Lourenço, who had made the official delivery of the Angolan proposal at the United Nations last September.

"First we must understand the position of other countries. Angola has its vision, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the [Republic of] Congo, Gabon, Namibia have their own views, which may end up intersecting. That's why these are matters that take a long time and can lead to bilateral negotiations between the countries," said the minister, cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa. (12-10-2015)

## **EU NAVAL OPERATION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKERS ENTERS NEW PHASE OF ACTION**

The EU naval operation against human smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean, 'EUNAVFOR MED - OPERATION SOPHIA', yesterday moved to its second, during which ships will conduct boarding, search, seizure and diversion, on the high seas, of vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking.

In order to accomplish this highly operative part of the mission, member states have agreed to enhance the Force by deploying more assets at sea. At the moment EUNAVFOR MED - OPERATION SOPHIA can count on [6 naval units](#) (the Italian flagship "Cavour", 2 German, 1 UK, 1 French and 1 Spanish warships) and 7 air assets among planes and Helicopters. 3 more vessels will join the naval Force in the Area of Operation in few weeks.

In its first phase, the operation patrolled on the high seas gathering information detecting and monitoring the smuggling networks. The ships also contributed to save more than 3,000 migrants' lives performing several rescues at sea. (EU Neighbourhood 08-10-2015)

## **FRENCH CHAMBER, NIGERIAN BOURSE TO PARTNER IN DEVELOPING NIGERIAN MARKET, ECONOMY**

The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Movement for the Enterprises of France (MEDEF) are forging a new partnership that will lead to more opportunities for the Nigerian economy and the stock market.

Nigeria's Leadership newspaper report on Wednesday said that the NSE stated on Wednesday in Lagos that the partnership would strengthen both the Nigerian stock market and the country's economy.

It added that during the visit of the French delegation to the NSE, the President of MEDEF, Mr. Pierre Gattaz, expressed excitement at the promising business environment of Nigeria.

"Nigeria is the first African country to be visited by the MEDEF in their quest to ensuring the fulfilment of their ambition to winning new markets worldwide and creating one million jobs in five years.

"We are not here for a week or a month, we are here for a long lasting sustainable partnership," he said.

He called on all French companies established in Nigeria to participate in the development of the country.

Gattaz, who came in company of delegates from 50 other companies and the French Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. H.E. Denys Guer, promised to bring in diverse investment commitments to the country. (APA 08-10-2015)

## **NEW CEMENT PLANT IN MOZAMBIQUE BEGINS PRODUCTION IN OCTOBER**

Cimentos da Beira, the latest cement producer in Mozambique, plans to export some of its cement production to neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe and Malawi, in addition to supplying the domestic market, said the managing director of the company.

The plant, with an annual installed cement production capacity of 800,000 tons, is expected to start operating later this month, after testing the substation that will supply electricity to start production of normal and specific concrete.

Cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias, the managing director of the company, Wouter Trollip, said the plant already has over 40,000 tons of clinker in stock in order to start cement production as soon as the power supply is guaranteed.

With British and South African investment of about US\$45 million through the company's London-based Ambrian plc, Cimentos da Beira employs 70 workers and guarantees it has followed internationally accepted standards of filters with high dust reducing capacity.

Sofala province now has three cement plants, notably Cimentos de Moçambique, which has been operating for many years with Portuguese investment and the recent Austral Ciment, an Austrian investment, both located in Dondo. (12-10-2015)

## EU FULLY BACKS FINAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON LIBYA TALKS

EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini said the presentation of the final package of the Libyan political agreement by the UNSG Special Representative Bernardino León *"marks an important step towards concluding the difficult negotiations of recent months,"* expressing the EU's full support for the text.

*"The Libyan delegates have displayed a sense of responsibility, leadership and a spirit of consensus at a critical time in the history of their country,"* added the High Representative emphasising that *"there is no time to waste in the formation of a Government of National Accord, so that it may - with the full recognition and support of the international community - begin working for the benefit of all the Libyan people."*

Mogherini reiterated that the EU stands ready to offer immediate substantial political and financial support - worth €100 million - to the new government. (EU Neighbourhood 09-10-2015)

## NIGERIA LIFTS BAN ON RICE IMPORTATION

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Col. Hameed Ali (rtd) has ordered the immediate removal of rice from import restriction list and the re-introduction of import duty payment at land borders.

The Public Relations Officer of the NCS, Mr. Wale Adeniyi, told journalists on Wednesday in Lagos that the restriction, which was only applied at the land border stations before now, had been lifted by the Comptroller General of the NCS.

Adeniyi explained that all rice imports through the country's land borders by rice traders would attract the prevailing import duty of 10 percent with 60 percent levy.

According to him, rice millers with valid quota allocation will also attract a duty rate of 10 percent with 20 percent levy on rice importation.

*"Over the years, importation has been restricted to the seaports because border authorities have found it difficult to effectively monitor and control importation of rice."*

*"When the decision to ban it (rice) was taken, it was not an effective measure because smuggling of the product thrives with people using different means of conveyance, including small trucks, bicycles and even animals – putting them on donkeys and some actually carry it on their heads."*

*"These new measures will be for customs to reorganise their anti-smuggling operations in the border areas and ensure that all those importers through the borders bring their rice through approved routes and pay their extant duty,"* he added. (APA 08-10-2015)

## MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR OF STATE-OWNED TELECOM

Mozambique's state-owned telecommunications company Telecomunicações de Moçambique (TdM), which is making a loss, has been frozen in time and is unable to position itself in the current competitive market, the Minister of Transport and Communications said in Maputo Friday.

Minister Carlos Mesquita, who was speaking at the end of a visit by Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário, said the company had resources that needed to be well managed to reverse the current loss-making situation and called for TdM to restructure in order to operate in a competitive market.

At the time, the minister said the project to merge TdM with state mobile phone company Moçambique Cellular (mCel), which also is in a difficult economic situation, needed to move forward.

"We can start thinking about sharing infrastructure to reduce operating costs," advised the minister, adding that attention should be paid to investments "because TdM has been frozen in time and is unable to position itself in a competitive market," according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

Virtually all public companies, Moçambique Celular, airline LAM and now TdM, visited by the Prime Minister are currently making a loss, which has been a concern for the current government. (12-10-2015)

## 5+5 DIALOGUE MINISTERS WELCOME UfM'S ROLE AS UNIQUE FORUM OF COOPERATION GATHERING ALL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The final declaration of the 12th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the "5+5 Dialogue", held yesterday in Tangiers, welcomed the *"key role of the UfM as a unique forum of cooperation gathering all Mediterranean countries in a platform for dialogue and partnership"*.

They also agreed on the need to *"reinforce the role of the UfM within the future configuration of the European Neighbourhood Policy"* and pleaded for the *"reinforcement of synergies and complementary that exists between the UfM and the different processes of regional cooperation, in particular, the Western Mediterranean Dialogue "5+5", the PA-UfM, the ARLEM and the Anna Lindh Foundation"*.

Discussions focused on the serious humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean caused by the explosion of migration flows, an increase in radicalisation and security threats both in the North and the South. The meeting also addressed themes at the core of the activities of the UfM: security, economic growth and Mediterranean youth, and more specifically on economic growth and the role of young people in the search for solutions to the challenges faced by this region. (EU Neighbourhood 09-10-2015)

## NIGERIA MAY REVIEW FOREIGN EXCHANGE POLICY

The Nigerian government has announced that it is in the process of reviewing the recent foreign exchange policy, which banned 41 items from sourcing foreign exchange from the interbank forex market.

Nigeria's This Day newspaper report on Thursday said that President Muhammadu Buhari, who was represented by Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo, at the 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) in Lagos, explained that the policy was introduced to boost local production and protect the nation's manufacturing sector.

He, however, noted that there could be the need to reign the policy towards ensuring that all the associated grey areas are properly looked at and any aspect of the policy that requires amendment resolved.

"We are going to have negotiations with the operators of the manufacturing sector to seek ways on how foreign exchange control can be eased to enable the items that are not eligible for foreign exchange to

be covered,” he said.

He added that efforts were on top gear to boost power supply in the country, stressing that by the middle of 2016, power supply in the country will shoot up to about 5,000 megawatts.

“We have already carried out a survey of some transmission assets in the country and we believe that when these assets are completed, Nigeria will experience increased power supply. We are discussing extensively on power supply on a daily basis because we believe that the manufacturing sector is critical for economic growth and job and wealth creation,” he said.

In his speech at the event, the former South African President, Dr. Thabo Mbeki, noted that the continent loses at least \$50 billion every year through trade mis-pricing, which would make an important and positive contribution to the continent’s development efforts, including industrialisation.

“As we indicated, regarding the need for national cooperation in developing the Industrial Revolution Plan, so do we need similar cooperation to defeat the scourge of illicit financial outflows.

“I am therefore suggesting that MAN and the rest of the corporate sector should take it as one of their tasks in the context of the industrialisation of Nigeria to join hands with the government and civil society to fight against the illicit financial outflows,” he said. (APA 08-10-2015)

## **JAPAN GIVES FOOD AID TO MOZAMBIQUE AND CABO VERDE**

Japan has donated 11,000 tons of rice to Mozambique, with an estimated value of US\$5.1 million, the Japanese Embassy in Mozambique said in a statement issued Friday in Maputo.

“Japan considers food insecurity is a serious problem in the country and, therefore, has been providing food aid to Mozambique since 1977,” the statement said, adding that 2,500 tons would be destined for southern Mozambique, 3,300 tons for the central region and 5,300 tons for the northern region.

The Japanese Embassy in Mozambique also said Japan had donated around US\$170 million in food aid since 1977.

The governments of Japan and Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) are also due Monday in Praia to sign a food aid donation agreement worth US\$2 million, included in the 2015 Japanese financial year.

“This assistance (...) has a positive impact in Cabo Verde at various levels,” according to a government statement, pointing to benefits in terms of food security, supporting the balance of payments and job creation.

As well as food aid, Japan’s government has provided aid to Cabo Verde for sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, telecommunications, sports, water supply, health, education, transport and infrastructure. (12-10-2015)

## **SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TOURIST PORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: EU PROJECT TO HOLD FINAL CONFERENCE IN TUNISIA**

The EU-funded project for the Management of Port areas in the Mediterranean Sea Basin (MAPMED), implemented under the CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme, will hold its final conference on 13 and 14 October in El Kantaoui, Tunisia.

The event will focus on the results achieved by the project with regard to monitoring and reduction of marine pollution in coastal areas of the Mediterranean. In particular, partners from Italy, Greece, Tunisia, and Egypt will showcase tools designed for the eco-efficient remediation of contaminated water and sediments of tourist ports.

The conference is part of the efforts of MAPMED to transfer good practices to local institutions and concerned authorities in order to contribute to a more sustainable management of tourist ports.

The objective of **MAPMED** (MAnagement of Port areas in the MEDiterranean sea basin), funded under the CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007/2013, is to improve the environmental sustainability of tourist coastal areas in the Countries of the Mediterranean Sea Basin through the optimization, validation and transfer of tools to guide institutional authorities in the sustainable management of tourist ports with regard to monitoring and reduction of marine pollution.

The **ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007/2013** is a multilateral cross-border cooperation programme funded by the European Union under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. It aims at reinforcing cooperation between the EU and partner countries' regions located along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. (EU Neighbourhood 09-10-2015)

### **LESOTHO, SOUTH AFRICA SIGN MOU ON COOPERATION**

Lesotho's Ministry of Social Development has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with its South African counterpart on co-operation in the field of social development on Wednesday in Bloemfontein, South Africa, APA can report.

The Minister of Social Development Molahlehi Letlotlo said the MOU would concentrate mostly on vulnerable people in the two countries particularly children.

He said the two countries face the same challenges and therefore should have the same plan to solve those challenges.(APA 08-10.2013)

### **GUINEA-BISSAU STARTS RECEIVING ELECTRIC POWER FROM DAM BUILT BY CHINA**

Guinea-Bissau will start receiving part of the electricity produced by the Kaleta dam, built by Chinese state-owned company in neighbouring Guinea-Conakry, an official from the Energy Ministry, Lansana Fofana said.

Officials responsible for building the dam, which is now starting to operate and is one of the largest in the region, said one third of electricity production would be sent to neighbouring countries including Guinea-Bissau, a country that after the 2014 elections is now emerging from troubled political and economic times.

The Kaleta dam was built by China International Water & Electric Corp. at a cost of 526 million euros and was delivered in July, ahead of schedule, tripling the country's power production capacity and bringing an end to chronic electricity shortages.

"This will give us a real basis for our economy because without electricity there is no development," Lansana Fofana, who is responsible for the supervision of the new hydroelectric facility, told local newspapers.

Chinese companies are also involved in real estate projects in the capital, Conakry, and in the extraction and export of bauxite, a metal used in aluminium production, of which Guinea-Bissau has ample reserves that had started to be explored when the 2012 crisis hit the country.

With the situation in Bissau currently more stable and the economy benefitting from the good results of cashew production, the country's main export, there has been renewed interest in the country from Chinese investors.

At the presentation of a project by China's Avic in Bissau at the beginning of October, the chairman of the Guinean Chamber of Commerce, Braima Camará said Guinea-Bissau "is no exception" in terms of Chinese investment in Africa, which was "proof of the potential investment and business" in the country.



Avic, which already operates in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, signed an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce to build a hotel, a hospital and for production and processing of agricultural products.

For agriculture, Guinea-Bissau will provide land for the cultivation of rice for local consumption and export, while the Chinese company will provide technical staff and funding.

The 2014 laying of the first stone of the future Palace of Justice, to be built and paid for by China. was a sign of a return to official cooperation.

Last year the Cooperation and Development Fund for China and the Portuguese-speaking countries announced it was examining 50 projects, including some in Guinea-Bissau. (12-10-2015)

## **BOTSWANA WOOS SOUTH KOREA, ANGOLA INVESTORS**

Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) on Thursday said that it will embark on a trade and investment mission to Angola from 12 to 13 October and to South Korea from 23 to 24 October this year.

Both trips will coincide with President Ian Khama's visit to the respective countries.

A statement from BITC says the Angola missions is organised in conjunction with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the South Korean mission organised in conjunction with the embassy of Botswana in Japan.

During both missions, BITC will host business seminars and one on one meeting for Botswana participating companies and local companies in the said countries.

The seminars will facilitate opportunities for trade and investment in both countries through presentations and panel discussions.

The objective of the missions are among others to create awareness for Botswana as a potential leading investment destination for outward foreign investment from the South Korea and Angola as well as create trade and investment opportunities for private sector from South Korea and Angola. (APA 08-10-2015)

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