

# MEMORANDUM

N° 17/2016 | 26/01/2016

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

More than 1,556 Memoranda issued from 2006 to end 2015. More than 18,350 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.

Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to [fernando.matos.rosa@sapo](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@sapo) or [fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be).

2006 – 2015, 9 Years devoted to reinforce Europe – Africa Business and Development

*1,556 published Memoranda from 2006 to end 2015, 18,350 pages of press clips*

## SUMMARY

Ethiopia: Ethiopian Airlines to start New York JFK flights	Page 2
IMF expects Mozambique to become one of the largest economies in Africa	Page 2
Sudan, Ethiopia will conclude the demarcation of their disputed border during 2016	Page 3
Zimbabwe: U.S. Provides Additional U.S.\$5 Million in Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	Page 3
Mozambique guarantees water supply despite severe drought	Page 4
Sonangol will search for gas in 540 square kilometres off the coast of Angola	Page 5
UfM-Palestine talks on the state of play of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and regional challenges	Page 5
Ethiopia gets \$50m FAO emergency plan to protect livestock	Page 5
Israel interested in investing in agriculture and water in Angola	Page 6
Italy-Tunisia: Cross-border cooperation and the challenge of medical technologies	Page 6
Mining company warns of unfair competition in Mozambique	Page 7
Sudan ready for international arbitration over border dispute with Egypt	Page 7
E-commerce drives upsurge of courier shipments in Kenya	Page 7
Namibia: Construction of power plant to begin soon despite controversy	Page 8
Angola reduces oil production in December 2015	Page 9
Viber introduces public chats in Africa	Page 9
Mozambique: China courts partnership to manufacture buses	Page 10
Sovereign Fund of Angola supports social projects in seven provinces	Page 11

## **ETHIOPIA: ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES TO START NEW YORK JFK FLIGHTS**

Ethiopian Airlines, the largest and most profitable airline in Africa, is pleased to announce that preparations are being finalized to launch service to New York's JFK airport by the end of June. Ethiopian suspended flights to Newark in 2004 to provide nonstop service from Washington to Addis Ababa, with connections to its network in East, Central and Southern Africa. Ethiopian's network will once again provide a vital link between New York and Africa with this new service. Flights from Addis Ababa to JFK will depart Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings, and will return from JFK to Addis Ababa the same evening. Flights will make an intermediate stop in Lomé, home base for Ethiopian Airline's partner ASKY Airlines, in both directions. Passengers from New York will enjoy faster flight options to a variety of cities with this new flight.

There will be three weekly one-stop flights between New York and Addis Ababa, headquarters of the African Union and capital of one of the fastest growing economies in the world. There will be connectivity beyond Addis Ababa to and from major economic and tourist destinations in East, Southern and Central Africa and the Middle East, including Nairobi, Entebbe, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Khartoum, Jeddah, and Riyadh.

There will be connectivity between New York and many cities in West Africa with Ethiopian's partner ASKY Airlines, via Lomé, including Lagos, Abidjan, Dakar, Libreville, Douala, N'djamena, Kinshasa, Bamako, Conakry, Ouagadougou, and Niamey. Ethiopian will be deploying the most modern aircraft in the world on this flight, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which not only offers unparalleled onboard comfort to passengers, but is also the world's most environmentally friendly aircraft with its lower fuel usage and noise emissions. Ethiopian's Boeing 787 Dreamliner is configured with 24 business class and 246 economy seats, all of which are equipped with on-demand video monitors featuring a variety of entertainment options. Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, remarked, "We are thrilled to resume our service to New York, our fourth destination in the Americas. New York is one of the world's most economically powerful cities and including it in our ever expanding network will play a critical role in the expansion of trade, tourism and investment between the fast growing continent of Africa and the United States. I would like to thank all who strived hard to make the route possible."

Ethiopian is a global, as well as a Pan-African, carrier serving more than 92 international destinations across 5 continents and operating the youngest fleet in Africa with less than the industry average age of 5 years. The airline is expanding to new destinations, and in the past year has introduced service to Tokyo, Manila, Dublin, Los Angeles, Cape Town, Durban, Gaborone, Yaoundé, and Goma.

### **About Ethiopian**

Ethiopian Airlines (Ethiopian) is the fastest growing Airline in Africa. In its seven decades of operations, Ethiopian has become one of the continent's leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success.

Ethiopian commands the lion share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 92 international destinations across five continents. Ethiopian fleet includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as the Boeing 787, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200 Freighter, Bombardier Q-400 double cabin with an average fleet age of five years. In fact, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircraft.

Ethiopian is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025 that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with seven business centers: Ethiopian Domestic and Regional Airline; Ethiopian International Passenger Airline; Ethiopian Cargo; Ethiopian MRO; Ethiopian Aviation Academy; Ethiopian In-flight Catering Services; and Ethiopian Ground Service. Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline registering an average growth of 25% in the past seven years. (Permalink 20-01-2016)

## **IMF EXPECTS MOZAMBIQUE TO BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST ECONOMIES IN AFRICA**

By 2028 Mozambique could become one of the largest economies in Africa when production of natural gas discovered in the north reach its peak, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a recent report.

According to the IMF Mozambique's economy will grow 24 percent between 2012 and 2025 before falling back to growth of 3-4 percent in 2028.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) considers that in the middle of the next decade half of Mozambique's GDP will come from natural gas, but recommends a cautious approach given the sector's sensitivity to international conditions.

In 2010, Mozambique found 180 billion cubic metres of gas in the Rovuma river basin, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. This gave the country the equivalent of Nigeria's entire gas reserves.

The IMF also believes that Mozambique may be the world's third largest gas exporter after Qatar and Australia, when production reaches its peak. (22-01-2016)

### **SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA WILL CONCLUDE THE DEMARCATION OF THEIR DISPUTED COMMON BORDER DURING THE YEAR 2016**

The head of the technical committee tasked with redrawing the border between Sudan and Ethiopia Abdullah Al Sadig said it would complete its work on the ground during this year.

He told the media in Khartoum that the border demarcation between Sudan and Ethiopia does not face any further problems.

He pointed out that the length of the border with Ethiopia is about 725 kilometres, saying the process of demarcation is proceeding smoothly.

Farmers from the two sides of the border between Sudan and Ethiopia used to dispute over the ownership of land in the Al-Fashaga area located in the south-eastern part of Sudan's eastern state of Gedaref, which, together with Blue Nile State border Ethiopia's Amhara region.

The borders between Sudan and Ethiopia were drawn by the British and Italian colonisers in 1908.. The two governments have agreed in the past to redraw the borders, and to promote joint projects between people from both countries. (APA 18-01-2016)

### **ZIMBABWE: U.S. PROVIDES ADDITIONAL U.S.\$5 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE**

In response to worsening drought conditions and increased food insecurity, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced an additional \$5 million contribution to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe.

This brings total U.S. Government funding for humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe to \$32.5 million since June 2015 following a poor harvest across the country.

According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee, an estimated 1.5 million rural Zimbabweans will be food insecure in the first three months of this year. This figure is likely to increase if El Niño, as predicted, causes continued drought and a poor April - June 2016 harvest.

USAID's additional \$5 million contribution will support WFP's Productive Asset Creation activity starting in May 2016 and will provide food rations or cash transfers to benefit over 80,000 individuals in eight districts across Zimbabwe over a six-month period. In exchange for the food rations or cash transfers, beneficiaries will participate in the creation or rehabilitation of community assets, including irrigation systems and dams, to improve infrastructure and livelihoods for the future.

"USAID is proud to support the World Food Programme to help vulnerable Zimbabweans cope through this difficult drought," said USAID/Zimbabwe Mission Director Stephanie Funk. "This program addresses immediate food security needs while gradually helping vulnerable communities build resilience to climatic shocks and eliminating the need for food assistance in the long-term."

With total contributions of \$32.5 million, USAID is working with its implementing partners WFP, World Vision, and Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture to scale up food security programs across ten districts in Manicaland, Masvingo, and Matabeleland North and South, reaching 450,000 people with humanitarian assistance.

In order to target and coordinate the U.S. Government's response to El Niño, USAID Director of Southern African Affairs and the leader of USAID's working group on El Niño, Bradley Bessire, is visiting Zimbabwe this week to see first-hand the scope and severity of the current lean season and El Niño's impact on food security in Zimbabwe.(US Emb)

### **MOZAMBIQUE GUARANTEES WATER SUPPLY DESPITE SEVERE DROUGHT**

The general manager of Mozambique's southern regional water board (ARA-Sul) has assured that the supply of drinking water for Maputo is guaranteed despite the current drought ravaging the southern regions of the country, APA observes here on Monday.

According to state-controlled Radio Mozambique, Banze said that, even if the current drought persists, the Pequenos Libombos dam has enough water to supply the city for up to two years.

The dam is on the Umbeuzi River, and controls the flow of the river, which is the main source of the water consumed in the capital.

Banze said currently the dam is discharging a constant four cubic metres of water a second, and that is sufficient for the Maputo water supply, although he also urged consumers to use water rationally.

We are urging people to restrict their use of water, he said in an apparent criticism to those residents of Maputo who are using water for such superfluous activities as washing their cars.

We have to prepare ourselves for the implementation of restrictive measures, he warned.

According to the broadcaster, Banze had returned from visiting the three main dams in the south of the country the Pequenos Libombos dam on the Umbeluzi, the Corumana dam on the Sabie, and the Massingir dam on the Elephants river, the major tributary of the Limpopo.

He warned of impending measures to restrict the use of water for agriculture, in order to prioritise human consumption.

Everywhere south of the Zambezi river, the forecast is for rainfall that is below normal for the immediate future.

The drought is blamed on the El Nino, weather phenomenon, an anomalous increase in the temperature of the surface waters of the Pacific Ocean, which has a major impact on the world's weather patterns.

Scientists say the drought has been worsened by an exceptionally strong El Nino weather pattern, in the eastern and central Pacific that occurs every few years with ripple effects around the globe, scientists say.

El Nino events typically bring drier conditions to Southern Africa and wetter ones to East Africa. The dry, hot conditions are expected to persist until the start of the southern hemisphere autumn in April or May.

(APA 18-01-2016)

### **SONANGOL WILL SEARCH FOR GAS IN 540 SQUARE KILOMETRES OFF THE COAST OF ANGOLA**

The Government of Angola has granted the rights to natural gas development and production in an offshore area of 540 square kilometres to state oil company Sonangol, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

Lusa said mining rights were granted to Sonangol to develop and produce hydrocarbons in the area of block 2/15, in a total of 512.8 square kilometres, and the 6/15 block, with an area of 34.085 square kilometres.

The concessions are for six and three years, respectively, for the research period, and an additional 20 years, in both cases, for production from the date of the declaration of commercial discovery of natural gas.

The first concession (block 2/15 and neighbouring areas of block 3) results from the discovery of gas on drilling the Garoupa Oeste well, in which Sonangol intends to carry out the evaluation, development and production of gas, and to “identify additional resources” in the area.

The second concession focuses on the Cegonha well of block 6/06, where Sonangol is responsible for development and production of natural gas. That area was previously handed back to the Angolan State, after the initial research phase ended, which declared the well in question was commercially viable.

Angola’s total oil reserves are estimated at between 3.5 billion barrels (proven) and 10.8 billion barrels (probable).

The country is the second largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, with daily production of about 1.7 million barrels of crude oil. (21-01-2016)

### **UFM-PALESTINE TALKS ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION AND REGIONAL CHALLENGES**

The Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Riyadh Al-Malki, paid an official visit to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat on 19 January, during which he held talks with the Secretary General, Fathallah Sijilmassi.

The visit provided the opportunity to discuss Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and regional challenges, as well as Palestine’s active involvement in UfM initiatives and projects.

The discussions also focused on the UfM-labelled project “[Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip](#)”, which aims at building a large-scale desalination facility and its associated water supply infrastructure that will supply drinking water to more than 1.8 million Palestinian inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, thereby presenting a long-term solution for the chronic and longstanding water shortage in Gaza. (UfM 20-01-2016)

### **ETHIOPIA GETS \$50M FAO EMERGENCY PLAN TO PROTECT LIVESTOCK**

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on Monday announced a \$50 million emergency response plan to urgently protect livestock and rebuild crop production in drought hit parts of Ethiopia. The plan aims to assist 1.8 million farmers and livestock keepers this year to reduce food gaps and restore agricultural production and incomes.

The first phase of the \$50 million plan will focus on the Meher season that falls between January and June.

The response will include a mix of emergency seed distribution, small scale irrigation projects, backyard gardening initiatives targeted at empowering women's groups with tools, knowledge and access.

As the current drought has not only affected smallholder farmers but also seed produces, it has aggravated already existing seed shortages across the country and made it even harder for farmers to plant.

Another 293 thousand households will benefit from livestock interventions, such as the distribution of emergency animal feed, vaccination drives to protect some three animals against diseases. (APA 18-01-2016)

## **ISRAEL INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE AND WATER IN ANGOLA**

The Israeli ambassador to Angola, Raphael Singer said in Namibe that his country was interested in investing in the agricultural sector and water in Angola contributing to the diversification of the Angolan economy and combating desertification, particularly in Namibe province.

The diplomat recalled that Israel's experience of the wilderness can be used in recovering Namibe desert areas for agriculture through irrigation systems already tested successfully in Israel.

"The technology we are using in irrigation systems in Israel's arid areas can serve as a model for Namibe" the diplomat also said.

Singer said Israel was also interested in investing in the fisheries sector and that would be one of the topics to discuss with the government of Angola in due course. (21-01-2016)

## **ITALY-TUNISIA: CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND THE CHALLENGE OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES**

According to the [Italy-Tunisia ENPI Program](#), "Digital technologies in the field of diagnosis imaging have led to profound changes in hospital services and in the diagnosis capabilities offered to practitioners. In this regard, huge commercial opportunities are open to companies well beyond the Mediterranean." The [AIDA](#) Project was launched for this goal (self-immunity: computer assisted diagnosis); it is funded under the ENPI-CT Italy Tunisia 2007-2013 Program with an amount of 1.7 million Euros for a total period of 30 months. AIDA's initial results were presented on January 12, 2016 in Tunis.

[The Italian-Tunisian cross-border cooperation program](#) (CBC) supported by the EU (in the framework of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) involves five provinces from Sicily (Agrigente, Caltanissetta, Raguse, Syracuse, Trapani) and six Tunisian coastal regions (governorates of Ariana, Béja, Ben Arous, Bizerte, Jendouba, Nabeul). The main goal of the program is to promote the economic, social, institutional and cultural integration between neighboring countries in this part of the Mediterranean.((AIDA 19-01-2016)

## **MINING COMPANY WARNS OF UNFAIR COMPETITION IN MOZAMBIQUE**

Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM), a company that explores ruby deposits in Montepuez, warned the Cabo Delgado provincial authorities of the unfair competition that illegal miners represent, according to a company representative.

MRM, a partnership with Mozambican company Mwiriti Ltd. 75-percent controlled by UK company Gemfields, in February 2012 was granted a 25-year concession covering an area of 33,600 hectares for exploration of ruby deposits in that northern province of Mozambique.

Company director Saul Muchine, told Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias that illegal mining of rubies was increasing, with miners exporting the gems without paying any taxes on them, unlike MRM.

In 2015 Montepuez Ruby Mining was considered the largest taxpayer in the province of Cabo Delgado, having delivered about 320 million meticaís (US\$7 million) to the Tax Authority, due as a result of ruby auctions. (19-01-2016)

## **SUDAN READY FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION OVER BORDER DISPUTE WITH EGYPT**

The Sudanese government said it is ready to go to the international arbitration court to end the disputes with Egypt over the border area of Halayeb triangle.

The head of the border technical committee Abdullah Al Sadig confirmed to the press in Khartoum on Monday that there were documents to prove that Halayeb is a part of Sudanese territory.

Al Sadiq pointed out that Sudan has not engaged in meetings with the Egyptian side on Halayeb, saying the issue could be referred to international arbitration as was the case during the dispute between Egypt and Israel over the Taba area.

“We don’t oppose the referral of the case to international arbitration to resolve the issue particularly as Sudan has maps as well as legal and historical documents proving that Halayeb and Shalateen are part of the Sudanese territory” he said.

Earlier this month, Sudan’s Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour told a group of Egyptian politicians in Cairo that the dispute over Halayeb area cannot be resolved by “imposing a fait accompli” but through dialogue or by referring the case to the concerned international institutions.(APA 18-01-2016)

## **E-COMMERCE DRIVES UPSURGE OF COURIER SHIPMENTS IN KENYA**

In the parking lot outside Africa Internet Express’ (AIX) warehouse in Nairobi’s Baba Ndogo estate, close to twenty semi-trailer trucks and a hundred motorcycles, decorated with logos of different companies providing courier services, wait to be loaded with packages for delivery across the country to consumers who shopped online.

Africa Internet Express (AIX) saw the blessings of e-commerce in Kenya and moved fast to incorporate established and growing logistics providers into a single network to provide a constant stream of business through the consolidation of sales volumes from two e-commerce marketplaces; Jumia and Kaymu and meet the exponential needs of online shoppers and sellers.

Jonathan Parisot, MD Africa Internet Express (AIX) Kenya said, “Every day we process thousands of orders from Jumia and Kaymu customers for delivery across the country within a specified timeline. Customers want delivery made fast and cheap. That efficiency is what our platform is built on and with e-commerce growing fast, it’s going to be one big party for logistics/courier companies that match up.”

AIX Express is also the vehicle Jumia rode in to partner with courier service companies such as Aramex, Posta Kenya and G4S to establish offline pick-up points that would allow customers to shop online and pick up the item from an office near them.

Pulling a similar stunt and in a move to bolster online user safety and ease delivery of goods, OLX signed a partnership with G4S mid this month that will see sellers on the platform deliver shipments to the nearest G4S collection centre for dispatch to the buyers within Nairobi region. This brings to four the number of e-commerce retailers G4S has signed a similar deal, others include Kilimall and Melimu.

Geoffrey Mwove, Chairman Courier industry association and the Director of courier at G4S Kenya said, "We have had a 30% upsurge of courier shipments driven by booming e-Commerce trade. The last half of 2015 as confirmed from industry players data, we saw a reduced traffic due to slow down in government related procurement this was however compensated by e-commerce transactions."

Leading the pack among online food retailers in Kenya is Hellofood a platform that lists hundreds of restaurants across Nairobi and Mombasa on which you can order for food from your favourite restaurant and have it delivered to your office or home across the two cities within an hour where you pay on delivery.

To ensure efficiency, Hellofood outsources the services of maduka a local courier service while restaurants selling on its platform such as Debonairs, Artcaffe and Thai village among others deliver through an in-house courier company.

Duncan Muchangi, MD Hellofood Kenya notes, "Food delivery service is on demand driven by a young middleclass generation with tight work schedules that prefers to have their meals delivered to them, if you deliver on time, they will buy from you again. It's a delicate balance for any efficient logistics company. If you get it right, you win."

According to Mwove, most courier companies have identified e-commerce as a high potential growth driver and are aligning to grow their retail outlets by training personnel, interfacing technology and fleet to deliver in agility and reliability at the lowest price possible. The party is about to begin. is the setup complete? (IT News Africa 19-01-2016)

## **NAMIBIA: CONSTRUCTION OF POWER PLANT TO BEGIN SOON DESPITE CONTROVERSY**

Construction of the controversial power plant by Xaris Energy in the Erongo region is expected to start as soon as the company conclude a power purchase agreement with national power entity, Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower), Xaris CEO Hennie Steyn told the reporters.

Much of the ground work has been done including the necessary environmental impact assessments and putting in place of supplier and partner agreements. Due diligence on the project has more or less been concluded. Construction will commence as soon as the Power Purchase agreement has been agreed between Xaris and NamPower, he was quoted as saying.

The 250 MW gas power projects (including power station, floating storage and regasification unit and pipe line infrastructures) will take 15 months to complete and expected to shield Namibia from total power blackouts expected next year.

Namibia is pondering on long-term generation projects including the much talked about Kudu Power Station, and the Baynes Hydro Power Project in the Kunene region.

The multi-billion dollar power plant to be constructed near Walvis Bay has been surrounded by controversy, following media reports individuals aligned to ruling party Swapo, including the party's secretary general Nangolo Mbumba, have direct interests in Xaris Energy.

On Monday, a local daily reported that President Hage Geingob and Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila arm-twisted cabinet to agree on Xaris project, despite objections from the Ministry of Mines and Energy and energy regulator Electricity Control Board.



Mines Minister has earlier made submission to Cabinet that the project expected to cost N\$7.6 billion (about \$452 million) be scrapped as it was not economically viable. (APA 18-01-2016)

## ANGOLA REDUCES OIL PRODUCTION IN DECEMBER 2015

Angolan oil production declined in December 2015 to 1.751 million barrels per day, 17,200 barrels per day less than in the previous month, according to the monthly report from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) published recently.

All together, the 12 OPEC countries reduced their production from November to December by 210,600 barrels per day. In total, OPEC, citing “secondary sources” in December produced 32.182 million barrels of crude oil per day.

The largest drop in production was recorded by Nigeria (-77,200 bpd) and Saudi Arabia (-57,700 barrels per day).

According to the OPEC report, China’s crude oil imports increased in November from the previous month, reaching an average of about 6.6 million barrels per day.

Angola remains one of China’s leading suppliers, although Angolan exports of crude oil fell in November, as did those of Saudi Arabia and Oman. (22-01-2016)

## VIBER INTRODUCES PUBLIC CHATS IN AFRICA

Viber has revealed that it has opened its latest social channel ‘Public Chats’ to partners in Africa and the Middle East. Brands, organizations, celebrities, public figures and social influencers from these countries can now join Viber’s global platform to reach a local and regional audience.

According to the company, Public Chats are live discussions that Viber users can follow, like and share with their community.

Released in beta version in November 2014 with select global partners, this feature offers a new kind of social experience – tapping into live conversations from celebrities, personalities, brands and organizations. Mobile users can discover new communities, follow interactive chats in real-time and share original pieces of content with friends and contacts.

“The Middle East and Africa are important markets for Viber, and we are pleased to welcome local influencers and brands to our Public Chats platform,” said Mark Hardy, CMO, Viber. “We are sure they will enjoy chatting, commenting and debating live on this active social channel whilst sharing tips, news, and local content to our constantly connected mobile audience across the region.”

Selected partners in Africa, at Pan-African level and in key markets such as South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Egypt, have joined Public Chats for this regional launch in a bid to be the first players to offer local conversations on Viber. African users can now start to follow them from the Viber Public Chats explore page.

Super star of African Music, Youssou NDour, the internationally acclaimed Senegalese singer and composer just joined Viber Public Chats. “The Viber Public Chats channel will enable my fans to follow in real time my music and artistic activities; it will also represent an opportunity for me to engage in discussions designed to forge a peaceful and open world.”

Partners in South Africa include Vanessa Haywood, business woman, sports personality and actress; Cindy Pivacic, HIV awareness creator; Carishma Basday, actress, model and yogi; GreenPop, an environmental NGO on a mission to plant trees; Homeology, an interior design webzine; Gareth Pon, internationally recognised image creator; African Hip Hop music blog; celebrity adventure couple Gugu

and Letshego Zulu; Soul Singer Ms Kelle; Celebrity talent, brand and media management specialist Sheree O'Brien and Hint Business Community founded by Brandon Tancott and Willem Gous.

"I decided to join Viber Public Chats to inspire men, women and children to lead active lifestyles", says Vanessa Haywood. "I have a great love for sport and adventure among other things and Viber Public Chats has an outstanding reach which I am very excited to tap into".

"We're in a new era of HIV care and prevention", says Cindy Pivacic, HIV activist. "Viber Public Chats represent an ideal platform for spreading messages and debating HIV issues." Cindy's decision to go public with her status was prompted by her own experience with the disease. After acquiring numerous illnesses associated with HIV and AIDS, Cindy realised that she would not cope without the help of others. "Through the use of Viber Public Chats, I hope to bring together a group of people who have experiences to share with a young audience and discuss HIV knowledge, stigma and prevention and ultimately call on people to get tested."

With proficient knowledge in the use of mobile photography apps, Gareth Pon is influential both locally and internationally. "One of my many passions is to connect and grow the mobile photography community", says Gareth Pon. "I see Viber Public Chats as a great way to share, learn, explore and spread creativity of photography through mobile. I look forward to growing my Viber community!"

Jumia recently opened Public Chats in Egypt and Nigeria and were one of the first partners to join this new social channel in the Middle East and Africa. Viber users can expect more Jumia Public Chats to open in the African continent in the coming months.

"We are really excited with this partnership," stated Jeremy Doute, CEO of Jumia. "As new African customers discover the Internet first through their mobile, we want to address them wherever they are. Viber is a mobile first company with an outstanding reach in Africa. Jumia is also a mobile first company and the first online shopping destination in Africa. Joining forces will enable both Viber and Jumia to deliver quality content and good vibes to our users."

In the continent, Pan-African media such as AllAfrica.com and TRUE Africa have joined as partners and are now live on Public Chats. "We're excited to be an early adopter of this new Viber platform," said Amadou Mahtar Ba, Chairman of AllAfrica Global Media. "We look forward to inviting African media to comment on current affairs and national events as they happen in their country. Public Chats promise to be an excellent tool to bring together our community of African media."

Other Pan-African partners include Brand Africa a non-profit organisation and intergenerational movement to create a positive image of Africa, celebrate its diversity and drive its competitiveness as well as fashion influencer and stylist Louis Philippe de Gagoue.

In addition, more than 50 partners have joined Public Chats in key African markets. Viber users can now follow Bella Naija, top lifestyle media in Nigeria, Xtian Dela, Radio Presenter, Blogger & Social Influencer in Kenya, Filfan the first entertainment platform in Egypt, Live FM radio in Ghana, WIW Sport the number 1 Sport news portal in Senegal and Serge Beynaud, Afro Pop Musician and Composer from Ivory Coast.

Public Chats are easy to follow from within the Viber app. Anyone on Viber can follow as many Public Chats as they like. Conversations are multi-media and include text, photos, audio, video, stickers, web links and geo-localization. Users can invite friends to follow their favourite Public Chats and share parts of these conversations. The most popular chats are featured on the home screen of Viber's Public Chats section. Users can easily find new Public Chats through the search tab or access a chat directly via a customized URL.

Global brands, celebrities and public figures on Public Chats include online media platforms such as Huffington Post, Mashable, BuzzFeed and the BBC; the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi; Pop star Pixie Lott and Model and Actress Karolina Kurkova. (IT News Africa 19-01-2016)

## **MOZAMBIQUE: CHINA COURTS PARTNERSHIP TO MANUFACTURE BUSES**

A high-profile Chinese delegation representing the Asian nation's Ministry of Trade and the Xiamen Golden Dragon Bus Co. has left Mozambique after a week-long visit to look into the possibility of a partnership in public transport, APA learnt on Monday.

State run daily newspaper, Noticias reported that members of the delegation visited the Matchedje Motor car assembly plant at the weekend, in the industrial city of Machava, in Maputo Province to get acquainted with the unit, whose capacity could be enhanced to produce even more buses in the country.

According to Noticias, the Xiamen Golden Dragon Bus Co., a subsidiary of the King Long Group, one of the largest bus manufacturers in China, will focus the potential partnership in Mozambique on providing technical support to Matchedje Motor Ltd in the bus segment.

The managing director, Sandra Song, said the company was currently operating at a reduced level as it is building a 590-hectare industrial park in Maluana, in Maputo province.

The project involves an increase in production to 100,000 vehicles per year by 2017, following which there will be a new expansion phase to about 500,000 vehicles.

The Matchedje Motor project, established just over four years ago, is the result of an investment by the China Tong Jian Investment Co. Ltd, and at this initial stage is operating with two assembly lines, an painting area and another area for inspections.(APA 18-01-2016)

## SOVEREIGN FUND OF ANGOLA SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS IN SEVEN PROVINCES

The Angola Sovereign Fund for Development (FSDEA) is financing 10 projects in health, education, water supply and entrepreneurship in the provinces of Cabinda, Bengo, Huambo, Bié, Cunene, Benguela and Kwanza Norte valued at US\$12 million.

The Director of the FSDEA funded African Foundation for Innovation (FAI), Carlos Figueiredo, said that about 3,000 farming households and 15 micro and small businesses are being formed by the FAI to supply essential goods and services to communities, in partnership with the FSDEA.

Figueiredo said in Luanda that agricultural rural, economic, healthcare, education, sanitation and water development were the priority areas to be supported by FSDEA in order to find sustainable solutions for a better future for Angolans.

As oat of the FAI's actions the "Kijinga" programme has also been launched, aimed at the reconstruction of the old "Super" soap factory. (21-01-2016)

-----

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by the Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO and NABA, to their Members.



[www.acp.int](http://www.acp.int)



[www.camaratenerife.com](http://www.camaratenerife.com)



<http://www.africacncl.org>



[www.elo-online.org](http://www.elo-online.org)



[www.helafrican-chamber.gr](http://www.helafrican-chamber.gr)



[www.norwegianafrikan.no](http://www.norwegianafrikan.no)

Fernando Matos Rosa

[fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt)  
[fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be)