

MEMORANDUM

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PRESIDENT SIRLEAF COMMISSIONS US\$5.7M COCA-COLA COMPANY INVESTMENT

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has challenged Liberians to create the enabling environment for businesses investing in this country to feel safe, expand and grow.

“It will not work if people are going to destroy businesses; it’s not going to work with placards all over the place; it’s not going to work unless businesses know and have confidence in our policies, laws and in the way that we do things,” she cautioned.

According to a presidential mansion statement issued on Tuesday in Monrovia, the Liberian leader sounded the caution when she officially commissioned a new US\$5.7 million PET (plastic) bottling line, a new science and technology school.

President Sirleaf, who also officially launched the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation’s five new Water Health Centres that will provide safe water access to over 61,000 Liberians at the Liberia Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Duport Road in the Monrovia suburb of Paynesville on Monday, described the new economic and social investment initiatives as the first vote of confidence in Liberia after the deadly Ebola virus disease.

“Today let me say to all Liberians, this is the time for commitment,” the Liberian leader appealed; noting that the country’s economy is going through some difficult times given that our main exports – rubber and iron ore are now facing depressed global crisis.

She noted that with the decline, Liberia must find other initiatives to be able to promote businesses to create those exports and the means whereby the gaps that now exist because of global crisis can be filled by expansion into other areas.

President Sirleaf indicated that though the environment has to be created by government policies and practices, it also has to be created by every Liberian, who wants to see jobs, see business expand and wants to see where we, like neighbouring countries can export to other places.

“The challenge is to every Liberian to make sure that what they do, how they act, how they support, how they join in creating this environment will enable us to achieve our development objectives,” she said.

She urged the Coca-Cola Company to bring in a juice manufacturing plant that will have juices made in Liberia for domestic consumption and possible export to other countries.

“All these years for Liberia not to have a juice producing plant is totally unacceptable,” she said, adding that now is the time to create that plant for the production of juices for us too,” the statement added.(APA 27-10-2015)

INP OF MOZAMBIQUE ANNOUNCES CONCESSIONS FOR OIL AND GAS RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION

The National Oil Institute (INP) of Mozambique announced Wednesday the results of the fifth tender for concession areas for research and production of oil and gas in 11 offshore areas and four onshore areas, which will represent an investment of US\$700 million over the next four years.

Eni Mozambico S.p.A partnering Sasol Petroleum Mozambique Exploration and Statoil Holding Netherlands BV, received the area of Angoche (A5-A area) for a period of four years while Exxon Mobil E&P Mozambique Offshore Ltd, in partnership with RN-Exploration LLC (Rosneft) and Mozambican state oil company ENH received three areas for research and exploration in Angoche district (A5-B area) and in the Zambezi Delta (Z5-C and Z5-D areas) all in Mozambique’s offshore.

Sasol Petroleum Mozambique Exploration Ltd, partnering ENH, received the PT5-C area in Pande/Temane, and Delonex Energy Ltd in partnership with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, received the P5-A area in Palmeira.

The concession areas on land and at sea have a total area of 74.259 square kilometres.

The tender was launched on 23 October 2014 for research and exploration of hydrocarbons in 11 areas in the sea, in the basins of the Rovuma, Angoche rivers and the Zambezi Delta and four onshore in Pande/Temane and Palmeiras. The tender received a total of 23 proposals.

A note from INP said, "the proposed research programmes for the next four years have the potential to enable investments amounting to approximately US\$700 million and are expected to drill a minimum of 10 wells, eight of which in deep water."(29-10-2015)

NIGERIAN REGULATOR ASKS STANBIC IBTC TO WITHDRAW FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Nigerian financial reporting regulator asked Standard Bank subsidiary Stanbic IBTC this week to withdraw two sets of financial statements.

It also suspended the registrations of two directors of the bank who it blamed for the misleading financial statements.

Standard Bank owns 53.25% of Stanbic. The Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria conducted a review of Stanbic's full-year 2013 and 2014 financial statements. After complaints from minority shareholders, the regulator also widened its net to the 2011 and 2012 financial statements.

This found a litany of breaches. Among them was the fact that Stanbic did not disclose the sale of its software to Standard Bank, or record annual fee income from it.

It also paid fees for "other services" to auditors without disclosing what they were, and lumped current and deferred tax together in contravention of international financial reporting standards.

Stanbic also concealed information, such as franchise fees paid to Standard Bank recorded under "professional fees"; donations, penalties and fines, and directors fees recorded under "other expenses"; and other fees paid to Standard Bank under information technology expenses.

The financial reporting council has directed Stanbic to withdraw and restate the 2013 and 2014 financial statements. It has also withdrawn the registrations of Stanbic chairman Atedo Peterside and CEO Sola David-Borha.

Finance chief Arthur Oginga and Daru Owei, another manager within the bank, also had their registrations suspended.

"The council shall require evidence of a second partner review and audit approach that the external auditors of Stanbic IBTC — KPMG Professional Services — adopted on quality control on the said financial statements that could not reveal these infractions," the regulator said.

It also suspended the registration of the KPMG partner responsible for the audit until it concluded an investigation into "the extent of the negligence" of the professional services firm.

In a statement, Ms David-Borha characterised the council's allegations as "inaccurate and unseemly", adding that Stanbic had taken the issue to court.

She denied all allegations of wrongdoing, taking issue with the manner in which the council had publicised the regulatory decision and saying that this was done only where the council and the regulated entity agreed that the accounts needed to be rectified.

"That is not the case here, because Stanbic IBTC does not agree that its accounts are defective or require rectification," she said. "Moreover, regulation 27 makes clear that where a reporting entity does not accept (the council's) position, (the council) 'shall institute a legal action against the entity'. (The council) has ignored this laid-down process in preference for self-help and media publicity."(BD 27-10-20159

ETHIOPIA, SWITZERLAND KEEN TO BOLSTER TIES

Ethiopia and Switzerland have expressed their commitment to strengthen bilateral relations covering various regional and global issues of common interest, according to a joint statement issued on Tuesday by the two countries.

The communiqué was released after talks between Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga and Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, on Tuesday said the two countries have agreed to enhance their relations and intensify economic and development cooperation through investment and

commercial activities.

The two leaders also agreed to expedite the process of finalizing draft agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Air Services.

Prime Minister Hailemariam noted this would cement the long-standing and historic ties between Ethiopia and Switzerland, dating back over a century, would now be cemented in various ways.

President Sommaruga acknowledged Ethiopia's role as a haven for refugees in the region, referring to Ethiopia as a key stabilizer in the region in recognition of the 720,000 refugees it currently hosts, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.

She said Ethiopia is a priority country for Switzerland in terms of its migration policy, which involves assistance on the ground and protecting refugees in their region of origin.

In September, the Swiss government decided to allocate an additional CHF19 million for aiding refugees in the Horn of Africa region with \$6.1 million pledged for refugee protection in Ethiopia.

President Sommaruga visited the Sheder refugee camp in Jigiga on Sunday (October 25), where around 12,300 refugees, most of whom come from Somalia, base.

According to the UNHCR, the Ethiopia hosted 106,670 Eritreans in January 2015, and providing a refuge to fleeing Eritreans is an important component of Swiss-Ethiopian cooperation on migration.

Of the 23,765 people who applied for asylum in Switzerland in 2014, 6,923 (almost 30 percent) were Eritreans, by far the largest group of asylum seekers.(APA 27-10-2015)

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PORT OF MACUSE, IN MOZAMBIQUE, DUE TO BEGIN IN 2016

The President of the Zambezi Integrated Development Corridor (CODIZA) Abdul Carimo announced the launch of work to build the future deep-water port of Macuse in Quelimane, on the coast of Zambézia province in 2016.

According to the same official, cited by the city of Quelimane bulletin, construction of the port will bring great benefits not only to Zambézia province but also to the Zambezi corridor and a tender may be launched for the work later this year.

The deep-water port, capable of receiving vessels with an 80,000-ton draft, will make it possible to transport material for construction of the railroad linking Macuse and Moatize, in Tete to transport coal. The future port will be able to process 100 million tons of cargo per year when fully implemented. Initially it will have a handling capacity of 25 million tons per year.

Carimo said in April this year that US\$4 billion were needed to kick-start the Zambezi Integrated Development Corridor (CODIZA).

At the time Carimo suggested the involvement of Indian consortium ICVL (International Coal Ventures Limited, which has coal mining interests in the Tete area.

Previously Thai group Italthai Engineering had shown interest in investing in the project but so far there have been no new developments.

The railroad, which extends over 525 kilometres, will link the provinces of Tete and Zambézia, making it possible to transport 100 million tons of coal per year. (29-10-2015)

ZIMBABWEAN COMPANIES CALL FOR SALARY CUTS, BLAME FALLING RAND AND KWACHA

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI), which represents the country's biggest industrial companies, wants the government to enact laws to cut salaries and utility costs after the plunging currencies of neighbours SA and Zambia made them uncompetitive.

Zimbabwe abandoned its own currency, the Zimbabwe dollar, in 2009 in favour of the use of a number of currencies, mostly the US dollar, after inflation surged to an estimated 500-billion percent, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates. The economy has halved since 2000, according to the government, and low-cost imports have contributed to 11 consecutive months of deflation.

"We are trying to have prices of salaries and utilities moved downwards through a legal instrument," confederation president Busisa Moyo said by phone on Tuesday. "Prices of goods and services can be forced downwards by 25%-30%."

Over the past three years the Zambian kwacha has fallen by 57% against the dollar while the rand has declined 37%. Imports from Zambia had an 8% market share of Zimbabwe's manufactured goods market, compared with 4% last year, while SA had a 37% share, the confederation said in a report released on Wednesday.

"The crash of the South African rand and the Zambian kwacha has caused more complex challenges to the Zimbabwean economy," the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries said. "There have been calls to devalue internally and CZI has gone some strides in exploring the possibility of such an initiative given that Zimbabwe is using a stronger currency."

Mr. Moyo said further discussions would be held on December 7, without being more specific. (Bloomberg 28-11-2015)

B/FASO OPENS AFDB-FUNDED PRIVATE SECTOR DEV'T PROJECT

Burkina Faso has launched the Support Project for the Transformation of the Economy and Job Creation (PACTECE) funded by the African Development (AfDB) to the tune of 7.3 billion CFA francs, the Ministry of Industry told APA on Tuesday.

The objective of the funding is to promote the development of the private sector, with a view to inclusive growth, capable of generating sustainable jobs.

PACTECE, the duration of which is four years revolves around the consolidation of private sector support institutions and the promotion of the structural transformation of the economy through the establishment of a link between vocational capacity-building and the institutions supporting the private sector. (APA 27-10-2015)

SEYCHELLES VP CALLS FOR FRAMEWORKS THAT FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Vice President of Seychelles, Mr. Danny Faure, has said that Africans have a collective responsibility to put in place frameworks that will foster economic growth on the continent.

Declaring open the second Annual Customer Due Diligence and Corporate Governance Forum organised by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) on Thursday in Mahe in Seychelles, Faure said that such frameworks would lead to the establishment of environments in which winners could grow in order to lead to improved living standards for all.

A statement by Afreximbank on Thursday quoted Faure as saying the Seychelles was committed to devoting the time and effort to develop customer due diligence and corporate governance principles and was already working to beef up its legislation to incorporate those principles.

He noted that Seychelles recognised that the private sector held a lot of the power for growth and, as such, had a strategy that counted on small and medium sized enterprises as the backbone and engine of growth.

In his speech, Dr. Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank, told the participants that the adverse effects and costs resulting from new regulatory challenges in the global financial environment had been significant for African countries, particularly with regard to trade, trade finance, economic growth and development.

According to him, the new regulatory challenges have increased the marginal cost of trade financing by global banks because to the fact that, although none of the fines that had been levied under these regulations had been for dealing with an African country, international banks are now unwilling to expose

themselves to such risks, especially in what they consider high risk jurisdictions that contribute very little to their overall revenues.

Oramah noted that in line with its *raison d'être*, and its responsibility to remove the constraints to trade and trade finance for African entities, Afreximbank had launched a African Customer Due Diligence Repository Platform (ACDIRP) with the aim of providing a centralized single source of primary data required to conduct customer due diligence checks on African counterparties.

"Ultimately, the platform will make it possible for lenders, who are participating in the arrangement, to have access to important information needed to undertake their due diligence and, therefore, reduce their costs of compliance," he said, noting that a decrease in cost of compliance would lead to a decrease in the cost of trade finance in Africa and, therefore, increased access to trade finance.

He added that Afreximbank was also expanding activities under its African Correspondent Banking initiative which delivers a co-branded product targeted at expanding access of African banks to correspondent banking services tailored to their specific needs.

The Forum, which is being organised in collaboration with the Central Bank of Seychelles, follows an initial edition held in Dakar from 28 to 29 October 2014, which led to the establishment of ACDIRP. (APA 29-10-2015)

TOTAL TO RESUME SOUTH AFRICAN OFFSHORE DRILLING NEXT YEAR

French oil major Total is expected to resume drilling offshore SA in the second half of 2016, part of a broader campaign to explore in Africa, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Total last year stopped drilling off the southern coast of SA after experiencing mechanical problems with its rig during high winds and rough seas in the Outeniqua Basin, about 175km off the southern coast of SA.

"Our plan is to drill next year but only if those conditions are met. I think it is better to think second half than first half," Kevin Mclachlan, Total's senior vice president for exploration told Reuters on the sidelines of an African oil and gas conference in Cape Town.

Total is the operator of Block 11B/12B, where it holds a 50% stake in the field with equal partner CNR International, a subsidiary of Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.

Mr. Mclachlan said the company planned to drill between 10-15 wells over the next three years across the continent, including in Africa's top two oil producers Nigeria and Angola. (Reuters 28-10-2015)

EU ADOPTS HORN OF AFRICA ACTION PLAN

The Council of the European Union has adopted its Horn of Africa Regional Action Plan 2015-2020, the EU said Tuesday in a statement.

EU Foreign Affairs Council for Development said that "This Regional Action Plan reasserts the importance which the EU attaches to continuing close co-operation with partners across the region in using all available instruments to support and encourage peace, stability, sustainable growth and prosperity throughout the Horn of Africa.

"The Council also expressed readiness to continue working closely with countries and regional organizations such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the African Union in support of efforts to achieve peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa.

The statement said "While the Gulf States have always had interests in the Horn of Africa due to their geographic proximity, the politics and security of the Horn of Africa are today increasingly and visibly intertwined with those of the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt."

It also mentioned the recent crisis in Yemen as affecting the security of northern Somalia and the

geopolitical position of both Sudan and Eritrea. The Horn of Africa Regional Action Plan outlines the EU's approach to address key issues throughout the region.

It calls for the EU to give priority to regional security and stability, migration and forced displacement, counter-radicalization and violent extremism, youth and employment, and human rights, rule of law and democratic governance.

It says eradication of poverty is a precondition to addressing these challenges effectively and that will remain the central objective of the EU's development co-operation.

The Council said addressing these challenges would require interventions in peripheral regions and across borders, and will demand a better synchronized approach to political, development, economic, migration, gender-based and security aspects.

The Action Plan will be implemented through the EU Trust Fund to be presented at the Valletta Summit on Migration on November 11 to 12.(APA 27-10-2015)

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT LOWERS GROWTH FORECAST FOR ANGOLA TO 2.7 PCT IN 2015

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Wednesday lowered its growth forecast for Angola's economy to 2.7 percent in 2015, assuming a recovery of 4.3 percent in 2016 and an average expansion of 6.3 percent by 2019.

"Given the continued context of low oil prices, we expect growth of 2.7 percent in 2015, reflecting lower than expected public spending, and an even greater decline in oil prices in 2015, of about 46 percent along with technical constraints on local production," said the EIU analysts.

The Angolan Government projects a growth rate of 4.4 percent in 2015 and 3.3 percent in 2016, according to the state budget and also anticipates a deficit of 5.5 percent of GDP.

In its commentary on the development of Angola's economy, the EIU said that between 2017 and 2019 the economy will grow, on average, by 4.3 percent, "based on sound public and private spending and in a context of a recovery in oil prices."

The EIU also reviewed the oil production forecast downward estimating that Angola can produce 1.79 million barrels per day, compared to 1.82 million in 2015.

Inflation, which should end 2015 at 10.1 percent, remained at double digits in August, reaching 11 percent year on year, up from 10.4 percent the previous month, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. (29-10-2015)

NEW GUILD TO ENCOURAGE BLACK INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA DIAMOND SECTOR

South Africa has launched an association for young, mainly black entrepreneurs to boost the processing and manufacturing of rough diamonds, the mines ministry said on Tuesday.

Manufacturers and middlemen who buy rough stones, polish and resell them to retailers struggle with a stronger dollar and liquidity problems, having to rely on bank loans to cover purchases until they can sell their finished goods.

Launched at the first South African Diamond Indaba, the South African Young Diamond Beneficiators' Guild aims to help start-ups led by mainly black entrepreneurs to cut and polish diamonds.

The government in Africa's second largest economy is pushing to revitalise industrial capacity by encouraging companies to process or add value to minerals — a process referred to as "beneficiation" locally — before exporting them.

Processing diamonds could help ease unemployment which stands at around 25%, although analysts say this is higher.

Global diamond demand growth has declined over the last few years owing to slower interest from China. Mining companies have slashed output in response as they also battle rising costs.

SA's diamond manufacturing industry now employs about 200 workers from a peak of 4,500 about 20 years ago, losing ground in Africa to Botswana, the ministry and industry players said.

"SA has been muscled out of its status as the world diamond destination. We have to re-capture that legacy," Dolly Mokgatle, chairperson of the diamond mining conference said.

Mining in SA contributes about 7% to the gross domestic product and is the world's fifth largest producer of rough diamonds.

President of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses Ernst Blom told delegates that processing of the precious metals locally had to be economically viable for companies and that the South African mining industry should introduce measures such as tax incentives to attract investment.

"Enabling firms to process diamonds means costs have to be reduced on them to make it profitable for them to do so," he said, adding that SA had to cut the red tape related to diamond mining and to align costs with global peers. (Reuters 27-10-2015)

IMF PREDICTS ECONOMIC GLOOM FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Economic prospects for sub-Saharan Africa in the coming years will be "difficult" if the predictions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are anything to go by.

Speaking at the launch of the IMF report on the economic outlook for sub-Saharan Africa, in Dakar on Tuesday, the Deputy Director of the Africa department of the fund, Mr. Roger Nord declared: "Sub-Saharan Africa's economic growth has weakened".

He said the IMF expects gross domestic product growth (GDP) in 2015 to be 3 percent, 4 percent in 2016 compared to 5 percent in 2014.

North said that these overall difficult prospects may show considerable disparities between countries.

"In most low-income countries the economic growth is maintained by continued investment in infrastructure and vitality of domestic consumption," North observed.

He recognized that within some African countries, many states have suffered from "falling prices of commodities they export even if the decline in oil prices reduces their bill for energy imports."

For the eight oil producing nations contributing half of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP, Mr. North pointed out that they were the hardest hit by falling revenues from export.

They include Nigeria and Angola, the two largest producers on the continent.

"Middle-income countries such as South Africa, Ghana and Zambia are facing fall in the prices of basic commodities, the tightening of financial conditions against a backdrop of persistent imbalance coupled with electricity shortages," Mr. North explained.

"The margins for manoeuvres are lower than prior to the 2008 global crisis", he added.

In response to this situation, Mr. North recommended that sub-Saharan countries should adapt their public policies to the new environment.

"In the short term, an adjustment is inevitable for oil producing countries" he warned, advocating the close monitoring of the risks to the financial sector due to the fall in commodity prices.(APA 27-10-2015)

ANGOLA WANTS TO MAKE USE OF INDIA'S EXPERIENCE TO DEVELOP THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Angolan Minister of Agriculture, Afonso Pedro Canga, said in New Delhi that India could contribute to the development of agriculture in Angola given its experience as one of the largest producers of agricultural products.

The minister was speaking on the sidelines of the 3rd India-Africa Summit taking place in the Indian capital, which is attended by a delegation from Angola.

“Angola needs to increase production to meet the growing needs of the population but also to export and India is available for this partnership,” he said.

The minister recalled that “India is a major agricultural power, it occupies one of the top places in grain production in the world, it has the technology, expertise and workers, and it is therefore advantageous for Angola to have a partnership for the development of agriculture and agro-industry.”

“Countries are interested in taking advantage of India’s ability and India is available to pass on its experience and knowledge as well as providing financial and technological support to agricultural development with mutual benefit,” Canga said. (29-10-2015)

CLIMATE FINANCE IN FOCUS AT EGYPT EXPERT WORKSHOP

The EU has organised an expert workshop to discuss Climate Finance with representatives of the Egyptian government, climate experts, civil society organisations and representative from academic institutions. Experts discussed projects in the area of climate mitigation and adaptation, currently financed and implemented by various international organisations in Egypt.

Climate change is important priority for EU in Egypt. The value of currently ongoing and projects in preparation exceed €700 million in grants for the benefit of Egypt. This has also helped leveraging additional concessional loans from the European Investment Bank and other EU development banks for some €4.65 billion.

These projects work in areas such as renewable and clean energy, energy efficiency, transport, sanitation, water and waste management, pollution abatement, housing and agriculture. (EU Neighbourhood 28-10-2015)

NAMIBIA FORGES AHEAD WITH FOOD BANKS

Namibia has set aside about \$364, 635 for the establishment of food banks across the country in a bid to feed the poor, President Hage Geingob has revealed.

The establishment of food banks will enable the country to alleviate hunger and provide for the basic needs of the vulnerable, Geingob said in a statement seen by the African Press Agency on Tuesday

His speech was delivered at the National Conference on Wealth Distribution and Poverty Eradication underway in Windhoek since Tuesday.

President Geingob rubbished fears in some quarters that such a facility will result in a dependency syndrome'.

He emphasized: The government will implement measures to ensure that within the communities only the most vulnerable are assisted.

He said this assistance will be accompanied with initiatives to make vulnerable members more independent and able to provide for themselves.

According to him, the government has earmarked a piece of land near the SWAPO headquarters and the Shoprite Shopping Centre for the construction of the first food bank in Windhoek.(APA 27-10-2015)

CHINA SUPPORTS ARTISANAL FISHERIES SECTOR IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Last Tuesday China offered Guinea-Bissau personal protection equipment for artisanal fishing, with an estimated value of US\$30,000.

The donation to the National Association of Artisanal Fishermen (ANAPA) of Guinea-Bissau consists of cotton gloves, rubber gloves, raincoats and boots.

The equipment was delivered by the Chinese ambassador in the country, Wang Hua, to the Guinea-Bissau Secretary of State for Fisheries and the Maritime Economy.

The Chinese diplomat recalled the relations between the two countries since the independence of Guinea-Bissau and stressed China would always support the country regardless of the problems it had experienced in the past.

In turn, the Secretary of State for Fisheries and the Maritime Economy, Ildefonso Barros, stressed that the Chinese gesture responded to the government's concern about ensuring the safety of fishermen.

Barros said that at present, the State Secretariat for Fisheries and the Maritime Economy and the Ministry of Economy and Finance were studying the possibility of creating a credit line for fishermen and women engaged in activities related to fisheries. (29-10-2015)

MUGABE'S INDIA FALL DOWNPLAYED BY HARARE

The government of Zimbabwe has downplayed reports of a tumble by President Robert Mugabe while attending a summit in India earlier this week.

President Mugabe was seen falling in New Delhi as he stepped up a podium, prompting the brief intervention of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who attempted to steady him.

It was his second fall this year.

Mugabe was attending the India-Africa Summit with other African heads of state this week and was seen in the official group photograph at the end of the event.

Speaking to The Herald on Saturday, government spokesman George Charamba described 91 year old Mugabe's latest fall as a minor incident.

He assured Zimbabweans that their president was as fit as a fiddle and that his detractors have nothing credible to feast their mouths on but minor incidents that serve no purpose.

"President Mugabe is well and has accomplished his mission," Charamba said.

President Mugabe who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 fell in Harare earlier this year after addressing members of his cabinet on his trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he was made chairman of the organization.(APA 01-11-2015)

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