

MEMORANDUM

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AFRICA CLINCHES MEGA DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

The Week of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, focusing on the continent's infrastructural development ended today with resolutions that could catapult huge advances for Africa.

The PIDA Week, 13 to 17 November, is the first of its kind since it was endorsed by African heads of state in 2012 and it brings together partners in infrastructure in different areas including energy, ICT and cross-border infrastructure aimed at measuring progress in implementation on the developing continent. A decision to turn the PIDA week into an annual event on Africa's development calendar would help in preparing and formulating measures to be undertaken by African heads of state and governments where high-level political decisions could be fast-tracked to implement PIDA projects.

And an example of a PIDA regional infrastructural project is the 1028km Abidjan – Lagos corridor linking countries such as Ghana, Togo and Benin. The objective of this project is to not only improve roads but to promote trade and ease the customs and data reporting and dissemination.

According to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Nepad, PIDA will help formulate measures that need to be addressed by African Heads of State and Government, including policy decisions necessary for tackling barriers hindering infrastructure development.

PIDA is a brain-child of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) owing to what officials at the PIDA week attributed to delays in development across the African continent.

"The delays that Africa accumulated during colonization gave to the Continent an infrastructure system that harms its own development. PIDA is a strategy to break those barriers and set continental priorities which brought consensus and commitments both at technical and political levels," said Nepad's Chief Executive Officer, Ibrahim Mayaki at the PIDA week.

According to African Union Director of the Department of Infrastructure and Energy, Dr Aboubakari Baba Moussa, PIDA week is also aimed at bringing together all PIDA-related meetings like the Steering Committee, the Council for Infrastructure Development (CID), the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) meetings and the Continental Business Network meeting.

And this year, the PIDA week ran from the 13th of November under the theme, Accelerating Infrastructure Implementation for Africa's Integration.

For this continent, PIDA has fifty-one infrastructure projects in its programmes set for implementation at an estimated cost of 80 billion dollars under the first phase. These are set to be completed in 2040 at a cost of 360 billion dollars.

Thanks to the PIDA meeting, African journalists have also been challenged to tell the continent's success stories.

"Here comes the importance of PIDA because the real challenge to Agenda 2063 is to translate political statements and commitments into concrete actions not just by envisioning several measures at regional and national levels, but by integrating the targets of Agenda 2063 into planning and all implementation levels," said Mekki Elmograbi, PIDA Journalists' Network Coordinator on the sidelines of the PIDA meeting in Abidjan.

Attending PIDA week were representatives from various regional and international organisations, among them were the AUC, Nepad, AfDB, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, regional economic blocs like Ecowas, Sadc, Comesa, Economic Community of Central African States, East African Community, Inter-governmental Authority on Development and the Germany Agency for International Development.

To many independent development experts in Zimbabwe like Precious Mbiza, PIDA spells a new era for Africa.

"PIDA avails readily available frameworks for African stakeholders to set up infrastructures aimed at improving intra-African trade, subsequently upping socio-economic development here," Mbiza told IPS. Mbiza's remarks tally with the AfDB President here in September at his inauguration. "As we open up Africa with high quality regional infrastructure – especially rail, transnational highways, information and communications, air and maritime transport – Africa will witness a phenomenal boost in intra-Africa and global trade; the entrepreneurial spirit of small and large businesses, and millions of our young people, will be unleashed," AfDB's President Akinwumi Adesina said.

Wynne Musabayana, Deputy Head of the African Union's Communication and Information Division, said "The PIDA week will offer vital grounds to communicate on the PIDA activities. Actually our African institutions are doing a lot to drive infrastructure development that will improve the lives of ordinary Africans. We expect that the week will bring greater knowledge on the impact of the African Union through its PIDA projects under the Agenda 2063 framework."(IPS 17-11-2015)

NIGERIA GETS NEW PERMANENT SECRETARIES, TRIMS MINISTRIES

President Muhammadu Buhari has appointed 18 new permanent secretaries to fill vacancies created with the compulsory retirements carried in the federal civil service on Tuesday.

The Nigerian President has also trimmed the number of federal ministries. The new appointments bring to 38 the number of federal permanent secretaries now in the civil service.

They were all assigned to ministries and cabinet offices and directed to resume immediately.

The posting of the super civil servants confirmed speculations that the government has trimmed the number of ministries as a cost saving measure.

Twenty-five permanent secretaries were posted to the ministries and others to cabinet offices.

The Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the President, Mr. Femi Adesina, announced the deployment of the permanent secretaries in a statement released on Tuesday. (APA 11-11-2015)

TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIAN OIL SECTOR DIP BY 20%

The President of Chevron Africa and Latin America Exploration and Production, Mr. Ali Moshiri, says that total investment in Nigeria's oil and gas industry, which stood at \$20bn in 2014, has dropped by 20 percent this year.

Moshiri told the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists' conference in Lagos on Tuesday that Nigeria accounted for \$20bn out of the \$600bn investment in the global oil and gas industry in 2014.

Nigeria's Punch newspaper report quoted Moshiri as saying that Nigeria was the top producer of liquid hydrocarbon in Africa and number three in gas production, stressing, however, that the country's number three position in gas was because of lack of infrastructure and not because of gas resources.

He noted that Nigeria has more gas resources to make it number three or four in the world, but added that the challenge militating against the realisation of this position was gas infrastructure deficit.

According to him, Nigeria has tremendous capacity and resources to produce far above two million barrels of crude oil per day, but added that much investments would be required.

Moshiri said about \$20bn in investment would be required yearly for the country to increase its current production levels.(APA 11-11-2015)

FIRST NORDIC-EAST AFRICA TRADE SUMMIT

The first ever Nordic-East Africa Trade Summit & Expo in Kampala is expected to bring together more than 200 high-level delegates from East Africa and the Nordic region. The two-day event will take place

from November 17 to November 18 at the Speke Resort, Munyonyo. The Nordic Business Association (NBA) in Uganda expects the business leaders from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, and their counterparts from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland to attend. NBA chairperson Rikke Adamsen said: "The aim of this event is to create a Nordic-East Africa B2B platform that will share opportunities and knowledge for business growth in the East African market." Ms Dorothy M. Tuma, the director DMT consultants, a business consultancy, said: "EAC imports from Sweden were valued at just over \$197m in 2014. This figure accounted for 37 % of the EAC's imports from Nordic countries. (...) In the same year, Norway was the primary Nordic destination for EAC exports, accounting for 45 % of exports to that region. Exports, primarily flowers, were valued at just under \$65m." (Allafrica 10-11-2015)

ACCESS INFRA AFRICA SEALS \$100M SOLAR PLANT DEAL WITH NIGERIAN FIRM

Access Infra Africa has signed a joint development agreement with Nigerian Quaint Global Energy Solutions for a \$100m solar power plant of 50 megawatt capacity that is expected to provide electricity for over 600,000 homes in northern Nigeria.

According to local media reports on Wednesday, the ABIBA plant in Kaduna State is expected to be built in the next two years though the partners must still negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) before it can seek financing from banks.

Access Infra Africa, a renewable power developer with a presence in 17 African countries, will contribute the bulk of the 30 percent equity put down for the project.

Quaint has also received a \$1.3m grant from the United States Trade and Development Agency for ABIBA.

The reports noted that if successful, the solar farm would be the first in the country and largest such plant on the continent outside South Africa.

Some renewable energy projects became stuck under the previous administration and stalled due to an unprofitable tariff, but the NERC announced a new feed-in tariff at the start of November for renewable projects up to 30MW. (APA 11-11-2015)

NIGERIA: JAPANESE FIRM TO SET TRUCK ASSEMBLY PLANT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL FIRM

A Japanese automaker, Isuzu Motors Limited, has finalised an arrangement with a Nigerian firm, Kewalram Chanrai Group, to set up a truck assembly plant in the country.

The two firms said at a joint press conference in Lagos that construction work had started on the assembly plant site in Lagos and that the first set of locally assembled Isuzu trucks would be rolled out in the second quarter of next year.

The Deputy Managing Director, Kewalram Chanrai Group, Mr. Victor Eburajolo, told journalists that the project would be fully financed by a subsidiary of the group, Koncept Auto Centre Limited, with technical support coming from Isuzu Motors of Japan.

He explained that the group, after securing the licence from the Federal Government for the project, had been in constant touch with the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC), giving it the progress report.

Nigeria's Punch newspaper report on Wednesday quoted Eburajolo as saying that the firm was encouraged by the determination of the government to ensure the success of its auto policy, which had paved the way for many automakers to establish vehicle assembly plants in the country.

“We’re for the auto policy and are encouraged by the government. We’re in contact with the NADDC and we carry the council along on the project. Two weeks ago, its team was with us. We’re here to stay as Isuzu is known for quality products and we will maintain that standard with the new trucks to be assembled in Nigeria,” Eburajolo said.

Eburajolo said the Isuzu brand had been under the Konzept Autocentre in the past one year, enjoying exclusive showrooms and after sale service outlets different from the other brand being handled by the company.

The General Manager, Konzept Autocentre, Mr. Gaurav Kaul, who provided the details of the Isuzu assembly plant, hinted about the possibility of exporting some of the locally assembled trucks to other West African countries.

“We expect that by 2016, we should be fully operational and running. We’re starting with light duty trucks,” he explained.

Kaul also said the company was interested in making long-term investments in Nigeria, adding, “As we have been doing in the last 100 years, we’ll continue on the growth path.” (APA 11-11-2015)

NIGERIA SEEKS TO ENHANCE ITS N5TN TRADE SURPLUS WITH EU, SAYS OSINBAJO

The federal government on Thursday stated that it was seeking further diversification of the nation’s economy to enhance the existing N5 trillion trade surplus the country currently enjoys with the European Union (EU).

It was however noted that the major export responsible for the surplus was crude oil.

Osinbajo, who was represented by the acting Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Mr. Ajiya Mamman, during the fourth EU-Nigeria Business Forum tagged: ‘Unlocking opportunities for diversification,’ said Nigeria’s annual export to the EU was about €30 billion in comparison with West Africa’s export which stands at around €38 billion.

“EU-West Africa trade has surged over the last decade. West Africa is the EU’s largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa and EU is West Africa’s biggest trade partner.

“West African export to the EU has increased by 280 per cent while EU export to West Africa has also increased by 125 per cent,” he said.

He added that the new administration realised that trade and investment relations between Nigeria and the EU was important, saying that it would provide the conducive environment for the growth and development of the private sector.

According to him, the Muhammadu Buhari-led administration has prioritised the export of non-oil products with value addition in order to create jobs for millions of the nation’s unemployed youth.

He stressed that in the last five years, the EU has provided a €19 million in the form of grants through the National Planning Commission (NPC) to improve the country’s competitiveness for the non-oil diversification of the economy, saying the grants are part of the Nigerian private sector competitiveness support programme.

“On the recent ban of some Nigerian commodities from the EU market till June 2016, our mission is to urgently address trade development related problems and lack of capacity to compete effectively at the global markets,” he said.

He stressed that the federal government was not insensitive to the challenges faced by Nigerian exporters resulting from this suspension, maintaining that the government had mandated relevant agencies in charge of quality control in agricultural commodities for export to ensure strict compliance

with international best practices when inspections are being carried out on commodities for export.

In his speech at the event, the chief host, Governor Akinwumi Ambode of Lagos State, said the theme of the EU annual event which focuses on ways of addressing the challenges affecting the agricultural value chain is not only relevant but apt considering the dwindling oil prices and its attendant impact on government's revenue, stressing the need to look inwards to seek ways of growing the nation's economy and boosting the GDP.

He said the agricultural sector serves as an alternative means of earning foreign exchange for the economy, individuals and private organisations through the various agro-allied value chains.

"I want to commend EU trade delegation and the EU member states for this business forum. The EU relationship with Nigeria is significant not only because Europe remains the top destination for the nation's non-oil export but also because the region accounts for about one-tenth of Nigeria's total trade," he said.

On her part, the European Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmstrom, in her goodwill messages said deepened trade and investment ties with the EU are ways to help achieve economic diversification, adding that last year, EU-Nigeria trade in goods came to almost €40 billion, but stressed that closer and deeper engagement will help Nigeria and the EU do more business, create more jobs and drive both economies forward.

She noted that access to imports was also vital for an economy in its quest to diversify, noting that developed economies are where they are today because they also opened up to imports.

"The reality is that today, it is almost impossible to make a product or deliver a service without some kind of international input. In Asia the model often involved importing high-tech components in order to assemble them into finished products before re-exporting," she said.

In her words: "The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that we have negotiated between the countries of West Africa and the European Union is about bringing benefits to Nigeria. That is why my message today is that signing and implementing that agreement is a clear win for the companies, the workers, the consumers and the government of Nigeria."

She said the EPA will provide duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for Nigerian exports, not just to any market, stressing that the EU's single market of 500 million people is the world's largest.

She noted that the EPA will improve the economic integration of West Africa as a region, saying Nigeria is by far the biggest economy, but said trading with its neighbours was still vital for prosperity and growth.

"The EPA also includes a programme of development cooperation funding for West Africa worth €6.5 billion, and this funding will support infrastructure projects and capacity building in the private sector and civil society," she added.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Architect Sonny Echono, who also spoke at the event said his ministry would create an enabling environment backed with adequate policies to drive local and FDIs to ensure quality business service delivery.

The Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Michel Arrion said EU and Nigeria have developed robust economic relations with very large trade volumes at €40 billion in 2014, saying that Nigeria is also a key beneficiary of EU FDI with FDI stock growing from €25 billion in 2011 to €30 billion in 2013.

"It is with this in mind that the 2015 edition of the EU Nigeria Business Forum tagged "Unlocking opportunities for diversification" has been put together to explore the opportunities available for Nigeria to diversify exports, increase foreign exchange and attract more FDIs," he said.

He added that the most comparative advantage Nigeria has is agriculture, but stressed that the sector must evolve from exports of primary products to value-addition.

He said this year's forum is to deepen the understanding of the role that the EPA can play in supporting the diversification of Nigeria's economy, strengthen EU-Nigeria business relations through identification of opportunities of partnerships and hopefully, address the bottlenecks related to the effective development of agribusiness in Nigeria.(BD 06-11-2015)

[EU-West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement](#)

MOZAMBIQUE TO CRACKDOWN ON THEFT OF DRUGS AT PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Mozambican health authorities say they plan to change procedures for distribution of medical drugs in an attempt to stop theft and mismanagement of supplies, APA learns here on Thursday. Addressing a national meeting of the General Health Inspectorate in Maputo on Thursday, Deputy of Health Minister Mouzinho Saide said distribution and management procedures would be reviewed after serious irregularities were found in the way that the Central Medical Stores (CMAM) was handling the drugs.

"Dispatch notes were issued for medicines which had never been sent from the CMAM to the provincial medical stores and the forms on stocks of medicines were incorrectly filled out and medicines meant for the exclusive use of the National Health Service (SNS) had been sold to private pharmacies," Saide complained.

The official said authorities cracked down on this latter offence, imposing fines on 24 pharmacies, and closing down two pharmacies in the cities of Inhambane and Pemba. Stolen medicines were seized in Maputo and Cabo Delgado provinces.

Saide believed that there has now been a reduction in the sale of SNS medicines in private clinics and pharmacies, thanks to the use of a stamp that declares "for the exclusive use of the SNS".

According to Saide, despite the crackdown, a recent audit showed that there were still problems of theft and the value of the sample audited was about US\$26 million.(APA 12-11-2015)

BANK OF MOZAMBIQUE INCREASES INTEREST RATES TO CURB RISING PRICES

The benchmark interest rates for the Mozambique market were increased by 50 and 75 basis points and the reserve requirements increased by 150 basis points to 10.5 percent, according to the latest decision of the country's central bank.

The Monetary Policy Committee, which met Monday, decided to increase the interest rate on the marginal lending facility by 50 basis points to 8.25 percent and the interest rate on the deposit facility by 75 basis points to 2.75 percent.

The meeting also decided to intervene in the interbank market to ensure that the money supply will not exceed 66.4375 billion meticaais at the end of November.

The statement issued by the Bank of Mozambique said that the international economic climate, combined with the shock felt by the Mozambican economy has been reflected in moderate GDP growth and the deterioration of external sector indicators with an impact on the behaviour of the exchange rate and inflationary pressure.

"In a context where the short- and medium-term forecasts and medium-term show signs of a need to be doubly cautious, the Monetary Policy Committee decided (increases in key interest rates) in order to ensure macroeconomic stability in the country", the document said. (17-11-2015)

INDIAN BILLIONAIRE TO INVEST US\$30M IN ZIMBABWE

Indian billionaire Ravi Jaipuria is set to invest US\$30 million in a Pepsi bottling plant in the country, promoters of the project said.

Entrepreneur Adam Molai, who is the promoter of the project, told business digest this week that Varun Beverages, Ravi's bottling business, would invest US\$30 million in the first phase of the project.

Molai said the US\$30 million would go into the installation of a pet, canning and bottling plant.

Currently, Varun is importing Pet's from Zambia. Varun is PepsiCo's largest franchise bottler in India.

Molai said the bottling plant would create 600 direct jobs and 6 000 downstream jobs.

"We are currently empowering our people. We give vendors ice every morning to cool the products.

Whenever there is a monopoly, opportunities abound," he said. "From the Zimbabwe plant, we are going to supply the DRC and Namibia," he said.

Molai said the second phase of the project would be setting up a juicing plant, adding Varun planned to spend US\$50 million within the next 3-5 years.

He added that he had leveraged his personal friendship with Jaipuria to get him to invest in Zimbabwe.

"We are trying to promote Zimbabwe so that investors come in. But we are doing that at a production level. When you create production, we create jobs and incomes. That helps create consumers," molai added.

Twizza and Pepsi's entry into the market has hit Delta's volumes.

In a trading update for the second quarter ended September 30, Delta said revenue was down 6% in the quarter and down 8% for the six months, reflecting changes in the portfolio mix and the recent price moderations.

"In the short term, there will be pressure on operating margins as we adopt strategies to address affordability and stimulate volume through price reductions and streamlining value chain costs," it said.

Sparkling beverages were down 14% compared to the same quarter last year and down 15% for the six months attributed to increased competition "particularly from imported lower priced alternative offerings".

Jaipuria gets a chunk of his US\$1,5 billion wealth from Varun Beverages, which accounts for 55% of RJ Corporation's revenues. Varun Beverages has 10 bottling plants in India plus an international footprint that includes Sri Lanka, Nepal, Morocco, Mozambique and Zambia.

Molai's savanna tobacco has emerged as British-American Tobacco's stiffest competition in the last century. His company manufactures Pacific brands of cigarettes. (Zimbabwe Independent 13-11-2015)

NAMIBIAN LEADER CALLS FOR RENEWED COMMITMENT TO SACU

Namibian President Hage Geingob on Thursday called on leaders of Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member states to be cognisant of the dangers of unequal economic development.

Speaking at the inauguration of the SACU head office in Windhoek, Geingob also called on member states to work together to strengthen the customs union.

Geingob noted that political will and commitment to the economic integration process would determine the success of the regional body.

"What we want for our union and region are economies characterised by sustained and inclusive growth, as well as stable political climates," Geingob said. "Let us continue to work together as a family in this SACU house to build a strong and prosperous sub-region where nobody should feel left out".

Other SACU leaders – South African President Jacob Zuma, Ian Khama of Botswana, Swaziland Prime Minister Barnabas Dlamini and Lesotho Deputy Prime Minister Mothetjoa Metsing – also attended the official inauguration of the N\$42 million (about US\$3 million) five-storey building. (APA 12-11-2015)

NAMIBIAN POLICE WARN AIRLINE PASSENGERS AGAINST FALSE ALARMS

Namibian police chief Sebastian Ndeitunga has warned airline passengers to guard against making unnecessary jests that might put lives at risk.

The police chief was reacting to a bomb scare at Hosea Kutako International Airport on Wednesday.

A South African Airways flight en-route to Gaborone had to be grounded for several hours after a Belgian passenger made a joke about having a bomb.

The police bomb squad at the airport outside east of Windhoek was called in to search the search the plane, in which the Namibian Health Minister Bernard Hausiku was one of the passengers.

New Era newspaper quoted Ndeitunga as saying the Belgian man had what appeared to be liquid in his luggage. And when the police asked him about the item, he responded by saying it was a bomb.

“This man apparently said ‘I have a bomb’. The police then said, ‘If you have a bomb, we will screen all your luggage’. When he saw it was getting serious, he changed his story to say, ‘I didn’t say I have a bomb.

‘I said I don’t have a bomb’. That brought about a delay, as the passengers had to wait while the police were making sure that all the luggage are properly checked and all security clearances done,” Ndeitunga is quoted as saying.

The Belgium national, who was briefly detained, has been allowed to leave the country with a warning.

“He had to remain behind, as the police had to take statements from him. Everything was clear and we were satisfied with the security,” Ndeitunga said. “We are warning that if you raise a false alarm, you can be arrested and charged. In the world of terrorism, you cannot play with the security of airlines.” (APA 12-11-2015)

NIGERIA: AIRTEL, KIRUSA LAUNCH VOICE MESSAGING SERVICE

Airtel Nigeria, has partnered with Kirusa to launch a voice messaging service, which is aimed at enhancing communication among Nigerians.

The service, which is called InstaVoice, provides communication features for customers; further enabling them to send and receive voice messages in Nigeria, and across the world. According to Airtel, using this service, a customer can record a voice message that will be forwarded and listened to by the recipient.

To send an InstaVoice message, users can just dial ‘star’ followed by the recipient’s number to record and send the message. They can also leave a message if a call goes unanswered or cannot be completed, or use the InstaVoice app on smartphones, press and hold the record button in the app to record and send a message, regardless of whether the recipient has the app or not.

The voice or text message is then delivered to smartphone users with the InstaVoice app, so they can view the messages as part of their chat history with their friends. Those who do not have the app will get the voice message with an embedded number. They will need to click on the number to listen and reply to the message.

Speaking about the product, Ahmed Mokhles, Chief Commercial Officer, Airtel Nigeria, expressed delight at the partnership with Kirusa. He explained that, “InstaVoice gives the power of voice messaging to all our customers, regardless of the device they use. It enables our customers to stay connected and not miss any calls even when their phones are switched off. This is a huge advantage especially for emerging markets, and it is one of the reasons we decided to partner with Kirusa.”

In the same vein, Dr. Inderpal Singh Mumick, CEO of Kirusa, noted that, “We are delighted to launch InstaVoice in partnership with Airtel Nigeria. InstaVoice is an extraordinary product that was developed for the sole purpose of seamlessly connecting people across the world.”

InstaVoice messages can be delivered to users anywhere in the world and to feature phone users in 14 countries, including 10 countries in Africa through the Kirusa Cloud. Also, Airtel Smartphone users can benefit from the data features of the InstaVoice app, which include free texting, voicing, pictures, missed calls, and voicemail.

The InstaVoice smartphone app allows users to get missed calls and voicemails in a beautiful chat like user interface. Users can respond to missed calls and voicemails with a text or voice message, even if the other party does not have the app. Moreover, it is the only app that supports getting missed calls and voicemails to multiple phone numbers within a single app. With its patent-pending User Interface and audio processing technology, it offers the best voicing experience available anywhere. (IT News Africa 18-11-2015)

AUSTRALIAN FIRM DISCOVERS GRAPHITE IN MOZAMBIQUE

The Australian mining firm, Metals of Africa says it has discovered an estimated 6.3 million tonnes of graphite at its Montepuez Central Graphite Project in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado.

In a statement seen by the African Press Agency on Tuesday, Metals Africa estimated that the resource contains 163,000 tonnes of vanadium oxide.

The firm said the deposit contains a higher percentage content of large and jumbo flake size than any published graphite resource in Mozambique.

This is of particular importance as prices rise sharply as size of flake increases.

In a presentation, the company stated that jumbo flakes sell for about \$2,200 per tonne, large flakes for \$1,250, medium flakes for \$1,100 and small flakes for \$900.

It pointed out that more than half of the graphite at Montepuez consist of either large or jumbo sized flakes.

The Managing Director of Metals of Africa, Cherie Leeden, said that this impressive maiden resource positions Metals of Africa as a major player in the global graphite space. Our flake size and quality is exceptional and our deposit clearly boasts the best ratio of large and jumbo flake of graphite deposits in Mozambique• .

The company plans to export the graphite through the port of Pemba, which is 250 kilometres away.

It added that an alternative would be to ship the material through the port of Nacala, in the neighbouring province of Nampula.

Graphite is a form of carbon that is highly valued due to its properties as a conductor of electricity.

It is used in batteries and fuel cells and is the basis for the miracle material graphene, which is the strongest material ever measured, with vast potential for use in the electronics industries. (APA 17-11-2015)

SOMALIA LAUNCHES NEW VACCINE TO ELIMINATE POLIO

The Somali authorities have launched a new polio vaccine aimed at ensuring that Somalia remains free of polio – fifteen months after the last confirmed case was detected.

An outbreak of polio which began in Somalia in May 2013 led to 199 people, mostly children, being affected by the incurable disease. The last case was reported on 11 August 2014 and last month it was officially announced that the outbreak was over.

“The new vaccine is key to protecting children from polio,” said Hawa Hassan Mohamed, the Minister for Health of the Somali Federal Government.

“We are willing to work with all our partners to ensure that we do not see a return of this incurable disease that has devastated so many young lives,” she said in a statement issued in Nairobi on Tuesday.

More than 450,000 Somali children born each year will receive one dose of the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), as part of the routine immunization programme.

The introduction of IPV into the routine immunisation schedule is part of a worldwide roll-out of the vaccine across 126 countries – the largest and fastest globally coordinated vaccine introduction project in history. (APA 17-11-2015)

CHEAPER MEDICINES FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES – COMMISSION WELCOMES THE WTO DECISION

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreed today to grant a waiver to least developed countries (LDCs) in relation to its rules on patents for pharmaceuticals. The move will facilitate their access to cheaper medicines for the next 17 years.

EU Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström said: "Even if this waiver is not quite as far-reaching as we would have hoped, it is very good news that there is a consensus in favour of a very long waiver period. This should provide the legal certainty and policy space needed by the least developed countries to ensure better access to medicines"

The European Union supported the initial proposal by least developed countries for a permanent waiver for as long as they remained LD.

The WTO decision today complements the Commission funded development programmes for supply of essential medicines in developing countries and reinforces the coherence of the EU approach on development policy. This is also good news in the run up to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi. We hope this will be the first of a series of decisions that will be taken there in favour of LDCs. (EC)

KENYA AIRWAYS REGISTERS \$117 MILLION LOSS IN FIRST HALF YEAR RESULTS

Financially struggling Kenya Airways on Thursday disclosed that it has posted 12 billion shillings (\$117 million) losses on its first year half results released in Nairobi.

The once fledgling airline in Africa is now blaming the loss to a dip in reduced capacity by 7.9 percent.

Kenya Airways CEO Mbuvi Ngunze told reporters in Nairobi that the airline administration was working on a turnaround formula that has been registering losses for the past three years.

“We are doing our very best under these circumstances to ensure things change for the better,” he said.

He said the airline is now prioritizing commercial efficiency, network optimization and cost containment to turn around business.

Earlier in the year, the Kenya government sought to bail out the airline by injecting 4 billion shillings (\$39 million) to help finance its operations.(APA 12-11-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE OWES US\$60 MILLION TO ANGOLA

Mozambique's to Angola now totals US\$60 million, said Thursday in Maputo a source from the Mozambican presidency, correcting the amount of US\$600 million announced on Wednesday in Luanda, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

"Angola restated its willingness to pardon Mozambique's, by at least 50 percent, and the part that remains will be transformed into investment," said Wednesday in Luanda the President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, noting that this agreement, already announced in 2014, had been put into writing in the final statement of the high-level talks between the two countries that marked a state visit that began Sunday. This debt relief had already been announced in August 2014 by the Mozambican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Oldemiro Baloi, during the 9th Angola/Mozambique Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

"It is a gesture symbolising friendship and willingness to cooperate and take part in resolving the concerns of the Mozambican people", Nyusi said at the end of the state visit to Angola, during which he met with his counterpart, José Eduardo dos Santos and attended the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Angola's independence on 11 November. (13-11-2015)

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